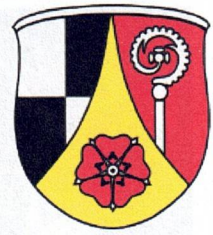




# KONTAKT



**WELCOME TO THE 2023/2024 EDITION OF  
KONTAKT!**

**WELCOME**

**WILLKOMMEN**





**Dear friends,**



It with some regret that I can tell you this is my last editorial as I have decided to resign as Editor.

I am, however, happy that I am leaving at a time when the future for the Town Twinning Association looks bright.

We are solvent.

There was a most enjoyable visit to Roth in 2023 with several first-time visitors in the group.

We have a new, younger committee who are working in a more collegiate fashion, all done under the genial guidance of Tony Sleep.

The arrangements that are being made for the Roth visit this year will be spectacular.

We are very grateful to the Mayor, Gareth, and his brother for their wholehearted support and genuine interest in our connection with Roth, evidenced by them both coming to Roth in 2023.

Finally, we are at last creating a new website and Facebook page.

I must make my last thankyou's now, first, to all members of the committee, contributors and photographers who helped me so kindly while I was Editor of Kontakt, in particular Jane Winter who, as secretary, works tirelessly for the Association and draws all the threads together for us; and second, Judy Withyman without whose help Kontakt would not have existed. She is responsible for layout, sourcing missing illustrations, proofreading and just makes the whole exercise such fun.

All the very best to you all,

**Elizabeth**



## **LUNCH AT THE ALMA ARMS: Saturday, 21<sup>st</sup> January**

**by Judy Withyman**



Alma Arms Freehouse  
Steak and Stilton Pie



We celebrated the start of 2023 with a lunch at the Alma Arms in Navestock, a pub famous for its pies.

We had all ordered our main courses in advance to speed things up. The service was excellent and the young waitress kept tabs on who was who and what we had ordered.

We needn't have worried though, as many members were late and arrived quite stressed as their Satnavs had taken them on various detours in the Essex countryside. One car of VIPs (no names given) even found themselves heading towards a different Alma Arms in the direction of London!

The mystery trips made for very amusing conversation. But there is a moral in this: perhaps we Silver Surfers should stop trying to live up to the Millennials and go back to our Girl Guide and Boy Scout skills, using maps and compasses.

All in all, however, a very good lunch!





## STRAWBERRY TEA: Sunday, 2<sup>nd</sup> July

by Elizabeth Scannell



*Oh the strawberry teas! The strawberry teas!  
At Tony and Jean's, they are certain to please.  
You'll find bowlfuls of cream and bowlfuls of fruit  
And sponges and traybakes, created to suit.  
As in Tony's pavilions we lounge at our ease  
We chat and drink Pimm's at those strawberry teas.*

*We buy recycled books and go in for the raffle.  
First prize is a bottle, some remnants can baffle,  
Shall I go for that lampshade or those purple socks?  
Dare I bring them back next year if I keep the box?*

*Oh the strawberry teas! The strawberry teas!  
Will we mow grass for ever, hear buzzing of bees?  
And will our grandchildren taste strawberry teas?*





## VISIT TO LANDKREIS ROTH

27<sup>th</sup> July – 1st August

DATE	TIME	ACTIVITY
<b>Thursday 27th</b>	18.25	Flight lands Coach to Roth Evening with hosts
<b>Friday 28th</b>	10.00	Meeting at the Landratsamt in Roth Guided tour round the Franconian Lakes („Fränkisches Seenland“) Evening with the hosts
<b>Saturday 29<sup>th</sup></b>	08.30	Trip to Amberg by bus. Amberg is situated in the east part of Bavaria called Oberpfalz. It is famous for its breweries and for special boats on the river Vils, Plätten,
	19.00	Back home
<b>Sunday 30<sup>th</sup></b>		Day with the hosts: relaxing, chilling, drinking tea, hiking, ...
<b>Monday 31st</b>	9.30	Together with the hosts we´ll meet the Mayor of <b>Greding</b> . The small town is situated in the southern part of Landkreis Roth.  Visit to a vineyard above Greding. The region is not really famous for wine growing, but nevertheless wine is cultivated there; you may taste it.
	18.30	All the guests, hosts, friends meet in <b>Alfershausen</b> , a small village between Greding and Heideck. We´ll enjoy a Franconian buffet; we´ll talk and spend a relaxing evening.
<b>Tuesday 1st</b>	11.00	To the airport by bus.



## **A CAUTIONARY TALE**

### **by Elizabeth Scannell**

On 27<sup>th</sup> July 2023, I woke up as happy as could be, my little case packed, a warm email from Heike detailing the delicious meal she would have waiting for me and my first trip on the Elizabeth Line direct to Terminal 5, Heathrow.

Things didn't go well from the start at Heathrow. The automatic scanner at the barrier did not accept my boarding pass, spat it out and I could feel the resentful eyes of hurrying passengers glaring at my back as I struggled. I had printed the boarding pass with the code too near the edge of the paper! Several moments of panic, but I found an official who told me to join the long queue of people checking in baggage. Eventually I arrived at the front of the queue, the cheerful clerk said she had made the same mistake herself, and presented me with an impressive cardboard boarding pass to feed into the barrier scanner.

Still in good time, thank God.

No problems with security. Once through, I did what I (stupidly) always did, put my passport and boarding pass in the front pocket of my case so that they were 'handy', but not just for me, I was to learn.

I made my way into the waiting area and I was surprised not to see any one from our party. Where were you ? you can't all have been ensconced in one of the terminal pubs!

I sat down to wait and heard that our flight was delayed. Things got boring, so I went to the Smith's book shop, had a browse and bought a book.

At last, our flight was called, I checked my documents and the front pocket of my case was empty!

With a horrible sinking feeling, I fled to the Ladies so that I could unpack my case in privacy, no passport inside and I knew in my heart of hearts that the documents had always been in the front pocket.

I rushed back to Smith's, no passport had been found there. I rushed around to find a help desk, the staff were not helpful, they assured me that nothing was ever stolen at Heathrow and advised me to go back to Security. I ran back, against the tide, to Security. The officials there were surprisingly kind. I guess most lost documents are left in the trays there. Two of them donned rubber gloves and searched my case, I knew it was a waste of time, but I let them do it.



I then thought I ought to phone one of our party to say I was stuck at the airport. I phoned three people, all of whom had switched to flight mode.

It then dawned on me that I would have to get out of Heathrow without my passport. Three ghastly help desks hadn't a clue what I should do. I walked miles. Finally at the fourth I was told that if I went and waited by a certain coffee shop an official turned up once an hour to take passengers out who were in transit.

I waited 45 minutes and joined a jolly party of Americans who were staying overnight at an hotel. We trudged through Heathrow's concrete back passages, down flights of concrete stairs and finally our guide pointed the Americans towards an exit. I told the man my problem. A lot of tooth sucking and "This is going to be difficult" We finally reached passport control and for the tenth time I explained my problem. After a lot of hard looks, typing on his terminal and inspecting my credit card, the border guard set me free, to go home on the Elizabeth Line.

Neither my passport or boarding card ever turned up on the Lost Property Website, although I did see a Spanish and a British passport listed there. Thinking things over, I do recall that a young well-dressed girl kept bumping into me in the narrow aisles of Smith's, while I was choosing a book. Perhaps she just dipped her hand in the outside pocket of my case? I don't know. Obviously, I notified the Police, but have never heard from them.

People have been very kind and generous, but I could not avoid feeling guilty about the inconvenience I put Heike and Michael through and I was very disappointed at missing what sounded a lovely visit to Roth and especially not seeing Heike and Michael.



## **FRIDAY, 28<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST: A Day at the Lakes**

### **by Alan Smith**

At its height the Roman Empire stretched from the rain and windswept hills of northern England to the sands of Syria. Just inside the Empire's North Eastern border was the land which is now Gunzenhausen in Bavaria. The area had a large lake which required frequent patrolling to repel the barbarian hordes who lived outside the Empire. Boats were more practical than marching across boggy land so the Romans employed small craft that were capable of carrying up to 50 soldiers with their weapons.

We were asked to volunteer and become Roman legionaries for the day, and learn to row the Roman way. The rain was relentless but we did not allow this to dampen our enthusiasm as we took command of a replica Roman boat.

We were all novices but fortunately we were given good directions. The commander gave instructions to move forward, turn left, turn right, reverse and go in circles. And before we knew it we were acting as one, at one point we moved at double quick pace to ramming speed.

Interestingly a small group of rookies were able to make a good fist of handling the craft. All down to the quality of the orders given. I must say it was an unforgettable experience, albeit a very wet one.

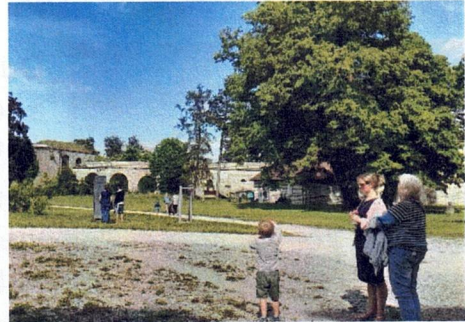




## SUNDAY, 30<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST: My Free Day

by Diane Matthews

Of all the places they could take me to, they took me to **PRISON** !!!  
Thankfully, now a museum, perched on a hilltop with the most beautiful viewpoints. Peace and tranquillity for us, torture for the prisoners as they were not allowed outside the high prison walls.



On site was a lovely cafe, a converted prison dining hall, where we all had an afternoon coffee with cake and ice-cream party. I say party because we were all together with my dear hosts' family, Susanne and Hans, their daughter and son-in-law and 3 grandchildren. The little boy was a tad nervous of me at first and hid behind grandma - but eventually he asked me if I would like sugar in my coffee and, when I answered in German, he became my new best friend 😊.



After looking at all the horrible parts of the prison, we went outside and walked around the walls to enjoy the most stunning hilltop views. We had clear visibility and could see for miles in the distance. The weather was very kind to us that day as we had experienced some wet and windy days before.

Thank you to my hosts and family for a lovely family day out.



## **MONDAY, 31<sup>ST</sup> AUGUST: Visit to Greding**

**by John Saxton**

### **Roman Basilica church St. Martin, Greding**



Our last full day, Monday 31<sup>st</sup> August, was dry and sunny. About 30 kilometres north east of Roth, Greding is an attractive town with handsome civic buildings. After a warm welcome by the deputy mayor in the town hall, we made our way to the XIIth century Roman basilica church of St Martin. Although not of cathedral status, having been declared

a basilica church in acknowledgement of its architectural pre-eminence by the pope, it retains that title in perpetuity. An enthusiastic guide asked why Mary was never depicted in yellow garments. Apparently yellow indicated intimate favours were for sale. I glanced around to see one of our group in a jaunty floral dress with a yellow background, smiling broadly. In a XIIth century painting Christ was shewn enthroned on a rainbow, one hand holding the world, the other aloft blessing mankind. But a few yards away was the charnel chapel of St Michael containing the bones of about 2,500 people. From the XIVth century overcrowding of the graveyard led to exhumation of bones and storage in the small chapel, which existed before St Martin's. Thenceforth only the wealthy made it into the graveyard. There are many charnel houses in the UK but many were "re-purposed" after the dissolution of the monasteries by Henry VIII.

### **Römische Basilika St. Martin, Greding**

Unser letzter voller Tag, Montag, der 31. August, war trocken und sonnig. Ungefähr 30 Kilometer nordöstlich von Roth liegt Greding, eine schöne Stadt mit hübschen Bürgergebäuden. Nach einem herzlichen Empfang vom stellvertretenden Bürgermeister im Rathaus gingen wir zur römischen Basilika St. Martin aus dem 12. Jahrhundert. Obwohl sie nicht den Status einer Kathedrale hat, da sie vom Papst in Anerkennung ihres architektonischen Werts zur Basilika erklärt wurde, behält sie diesen Titel auf ewig. Ein begeisterter Führer fragte, warum Maria nie in gelben Bekleidung dargestellt wurde. Anscheinend deutete Gelb darauf hin, dass intime Gefälligkeiten zum Verkauf standen. Ich schaute mich um und sah eine aus unserer Gruppe in einem flotten Blumenkleid mit gelbem Hintergrund, die breit lächelte. Auf einem Gemälde aus dem 12. Jahrhundert wurde Christus auf einem Regenbogen thronend dargestellt, wobei eine Hand die Welt hielt und die andere die Menschheit segnete. Ein paar Meter entfernt befand sich die Beinkapelle St. Michael, in der sich die Gebeine von etwa 2500 Menschen befanden. Ab dem 14. Jahrhundert



fürhte die Überfüllung des Friedhofs dazu, dass die Knochen exhumiert und in der kleinen Kapelle aufbewahrt wurden, die vor St. Martin existierte. Von da an gelangten nur noch die Reichen auf den Friedhof. Es gibt viele Beinhäuser im Vereinigten Königreich, aber viele wurden nach der Auflösung der Klöster durch Heinrich VIII. „umgenutzt“.

## **MONDAY, 31<sup>ST</sup> AUGUST: Franconian Farewell Evening**

**by Christine Minns**

Our final evening get-together, was as convivial as ever. This time we met in Alferhausen, a small village between Greding and Heideck. We gathered outside the venue with our hosts until most guests had arrived, some hosts sporting Franconian dress. We then mounted the stairs to the room where the buffet was to be served. With our hosts, Monika and Wolfgang, we found seats together at the long tables. Our former hosts, Margot and Herbert from Eysölden, had come along to join us for the evening and it was lovely to be able to introduce them to Monika and Wolfgang. So, lots of chatting, merriment and glass-raising ensued.

Then, two entertainers in striking medieval-looking costume appeared, wearing masks. After introducing themselves they explained that they were on a mission to revive old local customs. They then invited us to come outside to a whip-cracking demonstration. It was very impressive - the whips were large, thereby producing very dramatic cracks when waved above the head. Soon it was the turn of the onlookers if they wished to have a go. It all looked quite hard work, but with a bit of practice, most who tried managed to produce a resounding crack - including our mayor, Gareth Barrett.

Having then built up an appetite, we went back upstairs to resume the chatting and merriment, and to enjoy the buffet which was being laid out.

A fairly early start for departure home the following morning meant that we could not linger too long. So, it was fond farewells to our German friends until next year.





## **FIRST EXPERIENCE OF A VISIT TO LANDKREIS ROTH**

**by Patricia King**

Unlike many other members, this was my first visit to Roth as part of the Town Twinning contingency. Double excitement as this was also my first experience of being able to travel directly from Brentwood to Heathrow on our new Elizabeth Line. It proved to be amazingly simple. It was however with bitter disappointment that we discovered the events that caused the absence of Elizabeth on our trip.

We arrived with some delay in Roth. It was here that I had my first taste of what the Association has become over the years. FRIENDSHIPS, WARMTH, HAPPINESS.

I was greeted by my host Heidi and taken to her charming house in Georgensgemund, where she then proceeded to create delicious bruschettas for a rather late supper. Made even more enjoyable by the addition of a glass of red wine, or two. I am unsure whether it was the wine or the excitement of the day which ensured a great sleep that night.

The next day introduced me to the more formal but heartfelt greeting at the Landratsamt in Roth. A quick group photo before boarding our coach to visit the Franconian lakes. Our raincoats and umbrellas were widely used but the sun did make an appearance as we headed for a delicious lunch.

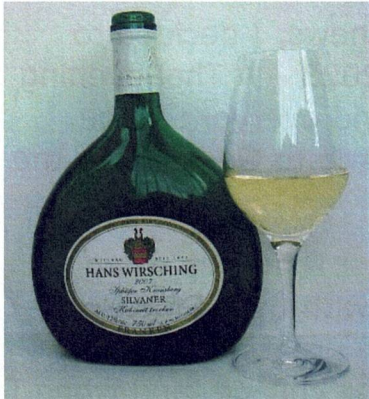
But then came "the challenge" from our German friends which was to row a Roman boat across the lake. It was now raining again but eighteen of us took up the challenge, unsuspecting victims, not realizing how difficult the task would be. At this point I realised that my raincoat was anything but from rainproof. It was an unforgettable experience and yes I would do it again. A peaceful evening with my host followed. A chance to prepare for the next adventure.

Amsberg proved to be a more peaceful day finishing with a more relaxed experience in a Platten boat. My host prepared a typical Franken dish for supper. It was normal sausages cooked in a broth, vinegar, spices and more sliced onions than I could count. It was very different to anything I have eaten before but very tasty.





My free day with my host was spent mostly walking, discovering the town, large park and well-kept Jewish cemetery. There was a large selection of statues along the main road leading into town as well as



many statues in the town and park. It occurred to me that a trip to Barnards Farm, famous for its many differing forms of statues, might be a possible trip of interest for our German friends next year.

Our last day was again a visit to a Town Hall where we had a very warm welcome from the Mayor. Again, the importance of the Town Twinning was acknowledged and the wish to continue this very special link.

We proceeded to a vineyard, had a guided tour, followed by a most delicious platter of cold meats and cheese. It was accompanied by an amazing Sylvaner wine.

The farewell Frankonian buffet gave us all many opportunities to speak to other members of the German contingency; some had not hosted this time. I was particularly interested in a couple I spoke to. Their English hosts had sadly passed away and they thought it would not be possible to come on the return visit to Brentwood next year as they do not speak English and would need to be hosted by a family who speaks German. Perhaps the committee could bear this in mind and also mention this to Anna.

Unfortunately, the journey home did not go smoothly as hoped. It ranged from a detour to avoid the motorway to excessive queues at airport security and of course the baggage chaos at Heathrow. All beyond our control.

The hugs, sadness, love during the goodbyes before we boarded the coach in Roth just added to my feelings of the importance of our German/English community. Long may it bring the hope of peace and unity to our world.

I look forward to hosting next year.



## **FIRST EXPERIENCE OF A VISIT TO LANDKREIS ROTH**

**by Colin Barber**

Following much friendly persuasion from Diane Matthews, I decided to come along to a Town Twinning event back in May 2023 – A Thai evening hosted by Elizabeth. I enjoyed the evening, and found everyone to be very friendly and welcoming, so decided to join the trip to Germany in the summer.

I had already visited Germany several times. The first time was when I was 15 years old and travelled on an exchange trip with the school to St Georgen in Schwarzwald - a trip which I still recall in great detail with many happy memories. I went on to study German at college, and when I was 18, I spent a summer working in a restaurant on the shores of a lake near Munich.

I have also spent time working with English school groups on ski trips to Austria, so have managed to retain my knowledge of German, and told Jane that I did not mind staying with a family who did not speak English.

When we arrived in Landkreis Roth I was met by my hostess, Elka, and could not help laughing when we got in her car, and the first thing that she said to me was "Mein Englisch ist Schlecht"!

She told me that her husband Rudi could speak English, but in order to include Elka in our conversations, we spent the whole weekend talking in German, which was excellent practice for me.

On our 'free day', on Sunday, I accompanied Rudi and Elka on a cycle ride, using electric bikes, which was my first experience of this mode of transport, and something to consider when I get older and less fit!

Being a lover of beer, one of the highlights was a visit to a beer festival in a tiny village near Landkreis with lots of beer, sausages and traditional music.

I thoroughly enjoyed the trip, and it was a pleasure to meet so many happy friendly people. As well as making new German friends, it also gave me the opportunity to get to know more people from Brentwood.

As Chairman of Brentwood Chamber of Commerce, I am always looking for ways to help stimulate business in Brentwood, and am now interested in exploring ways of generating business links between the two towns.

Many thanks to everyone, whose hard work made the trip possible.

I look forward to meeting the people of Landkreis Roth when they visit us this summer.



## **SATURDAY, 1<sup>ST</sup> OCTOBER: The 2023 Bierfest**

### **by Anne Long**

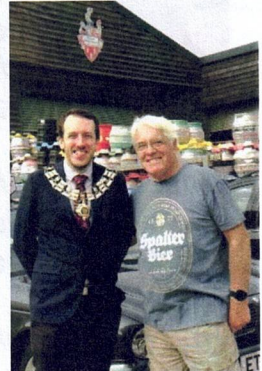


What a brilliant day.!!. We were very lucky to have such good weather and so many people to come to enjoy the Beer, the Food and the Music. Our thanks to Jon Cloke for organising it and who did so well to get the advertising out. He also spent most of the afternoon grilling hundreds of sausages!

The food was excellent having been provided by Noel and other members with their contributions. A great thank you to all those who contributed. It all went so well. A special thanks to Tony & Jean for supplying some excellent apple strudel, the apples coming from their own garden. We were pleased to see Gareth the Brentwood Mayor as well as so many old friends that we hadn't seen for a while. I even tried to encourage people I spoke to in considering joining the Association. I will keep my fingers crossed on that one!

This year, for the first time the Brewery booked a band which greatly added to the festive mood. All in all, it was a great success.

We left at 3.30 and it was all still going strong.





## TUESDAY, 3<sup>RD</sup> OCTOBER: German Reunification Day

The Association carried out a little ceremony to celebrate the German reunification. It is clear from Anne Klier's message below how much they appreciate us recognising its importance to them. Thanks for organising this together with the Mayor and Roger Winter.

*The 3rd of October is an important day for our country - after terrible years of separation. It is a great joy for us to know that our English friends celebrate this day with us. It means a lot to us.*

*Thank you so much.*

*Kindest regards from Landkreis Roth, Anne*



The Mayor, Gareth, spoke the words below after raising the flag:



*Am Tag der deutschen Einheit mochte ich die Gelegenheit nehmen, mit den Burgern von Landkreis Roth und mit den vielen Freunden, die ich neulich bei meinem Besuch gemacht habe, die deutsche Wiedervereinigung feiern.*

*Unsere älteren Mitglieder des Freundeskreises haben mir klar gemacht, wie wichtig diesen Tag für unsere Freunde in Landkreis Roth und überall in Deutschland ist.*

*Im Namen vom Bezirk Brentwood freue ich mich, mit Euch zu feiern. Wie schicken euch allen unserem besten Wunsche.*





On German Unity Day, I wanted to take the opportunity to join our twinned community of Landkreis Roth, and the many friends I made visiting earlier this year, in celebrating German Reunification.

I know from our longer serving Twinning members how important this day was to our friends in Landkreis Roth and across the nation.

On behalf of the Borough of Brentwood, I am pleased to join you in these celebrations and send you all our best wishes.

Hello, all you friends in Brentwood!

You are in our newspaper - great, isn't it! 😊

Regards from Germany, Anne

## RHV 06.10.23 Auch die Freunde gratulierten

TAG DER DEUTSCHEN EINHEIT Mayor of Brentwood sandte Grüße

**ROTH/BRENTWOOD** - Heute hier in Deutschland wurde der Tag der Deutschen Einheit gefeiert. Anne Klier, Vorsitzende des Freundeskreises Brentwood im Landkreis Roth, erhielt hierzu von Councillor Sarah Barrett, der Mayor of Brentwood, eine E-Mail mit folgenden deutschen Text: „Am Tag der deutschen Einheit möchte ich die Gelegenheit nutzen, mit den Bürgern des Landkreises Roth und mit den vielen Freunden, die ich persönlich bei meinem Besuch getroffen habe, die deutsche Wiedervereinigung zu feiern. Unsere älteren Mitglieder des Freundeskreises haben mir klar gemacht, wie wichtig dieser Tag für sie und überall in Deutschland ist. Im Namen des Bezirks Brentwood freue ich mich, mit euch zu feiern. Wir unterstützen euch die besten Wünsche.“

Der englische Originaltext lautet: „On German Unity Day, I wanted to

take the opportunity to join our twinned community of Landkreis Roth and the many friends I made visiting earlier this year, in celebrating German Reunification. I know from our longer serving Twinning members

how important this day was to our friends in Landkreis Roth and across the nation. On behalf of the Borough of Brentwood, I am pleased to join you in these celebrations and send you all our best wishes.“



Freundliche Worte zum Tag der Deutschen Einheit schrieb Councillor Sarah Barrett, nachdem die deutsche Flagge in Brentwood gehisst worden war



## **SATURDAY, 7<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER: Town Twinning Congress**

**by Diane Matthews and Elizabeth Scannell**

Brentwood/Landkreis Roth Town Twinning Association is a member of the Essex and Suffolk Town Twinning Congress. Meetings take place annually for associations in Essex and Suffolk to meet, discuss and exchange ideas to further promote exchanges with partners in Germany, France and further afield.

In 2023, representatives from 14 different associations attended the meeting held at Galleywood Heritage Centre. We were charged jointly with Great Waltham association with providing refreshments, coffee and tea on arrival and a cold lunch.

We were welcomed by the Mayor of Chelmsford, Councillor Linda Mascot. She is an enthusiastic member of her Town Twinning Association and opened her speech by fulsomely praising Brentwood for producing our promotional flyer which we had distributed on every chair and table in the room. Linda is a primary school head teacher and has been able to set up a successful Zoom link for her pupils with German children at her twin town school.

Our guest speaker was Dave Monk who arrived dressed in his elegant uniform of a Deputy Lieutenant of Essex. He gave a most interesting talk about his experiences in the position. Apparently among other things DL's are royalty's listening posts as to how things are going on in each county!

As we were deputed to organise lunch, the attention we could pay to the AGM was limited, but it was clear that it was a rather stormy meeting as many representatives from both counties wanted a split for logistical reasons. This idea was strongly resisted by the Chair and it was finally agreed to postpone a final vote until 2024.

After lunch we were divided into groups to discuss given topics and then briefly to outline to congress what conclusions had been drawn. Many useful ideas were exchanged, and lessons learned from other associations. One group from Suffolk even took a band away with them every visit! Another group organised a language competition for school children in their town and donated English books for a similar competition by their twin town.

Congress was a very enjoyable and interesting event and we hope that some of the ideas taken away can be taken on board by our own Town Twinning Association. The next event is taking place at Bury St. Edmunds College on Friday 4th October 2024 and it is hoped that language students from there will attend. This event is open to anyone who might be interested, so please contact our committee for further information.



**THURSDAY, 22<sup>ND</sup> FEBRUARY: Thai Evening**



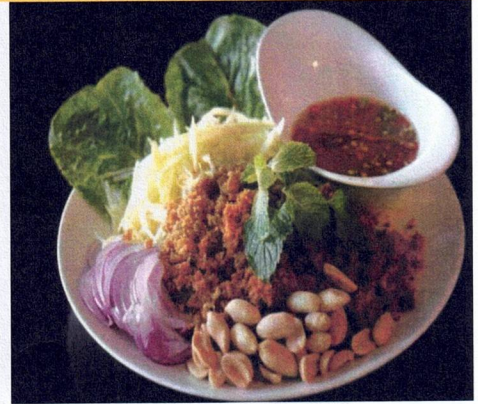
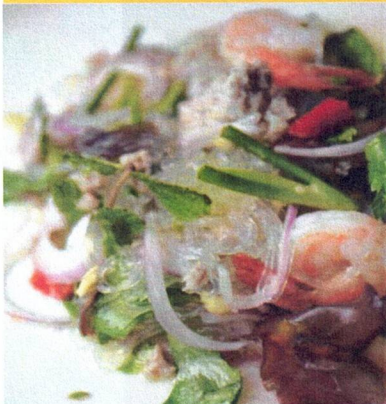
## **Brentwood Landkreis Roth Town Twinning Association**



**Presents:**

# **A Thai Dinner night**

All funds raised in aid of the Town Twinning Association



Thursday 22nd. February 2024 6:30 for 7.00 P.M.

At the home of Tony & Jean Sleep, Clouds, New Road, CM4 0HH

### **MENU**

Starters: Spring Rolls (V)

Mains: Padang Chicken Curry & Massaman Curry (V)

Both served with plain Rice

All freshly cooked by a highly recommended Thai

Chef. Bring your own tipples please.





***Members enjoying their Thai Dinner at Tony & Jean Sleep's home***



## **SATURDAY, 23<sup>RD</sup> MARCH: German Wine Tasting**

**by John Hamilton**

Crown Street has long been an attractive little patch of Brentwood, with its terrace of small businesses, a community bookshop and a popular Italian restaurant at its southern end.



Then just over a year ago, in March 2023, this small road was treated to the opening of Taylor Wines, and Ed Taylor's shop is now a major contributor to the quality of life in the street and the town.

The fifteen of us who attended this Twinning Wine Tasting were treated to six quality German wines: two white, two rosé and two red, with a welcoming glass of sparkling white being poured on arrival!

Ed's inputs about the wine are brief and informative, ensuring that the focus is always on the appearance, smell, taste, and, of course, the overall enjoyment of the wine itself.

His guidance on how to do justice to a tasting stays with you and can enhance enjoyment of wine generally, as much as during the event itself.

Water is provided throughout, not only to help with hydration, but also to rinse out glasses among tastings if desired.

Generous cheeseboards, with biscuits and grapes, add to the quality of the event, which takes place on the first floor of the 19<sup>th</sup> century building, and plenty of time is allowed among tastings to relax, socialise and enjoy.

For the connoisseurs, the wines sampled were as follows; prices are per bottle, and cases of 6 are discounted:

HS 2021 Riesling Sekt Trocken, £21

HS Gewürztraminer 2022, £16

Gebr. Ludwig Ritsch Riesling 2017, £16.50

Johann Rolf Rose 2022, £11.90

HS Spätburgunder 2022, £19

2022 Villa Wolf Dornfelder 2022, £13.5

Here's hoping there'll be a repeat in the future!



## THURSDAY, 25<sup>TH</sup> APRIL: Curry Evening

By Alan Smith

### Never a *dhal* moment with the German association

They say laughter is the best medicine; for us curry is the next best thing. Twenty curry lovers and some *naan*-believers came together for a social event at the Balti House in Brentwood. The event was a great way to chat with fellow members and raise money for the association whilst also being treated to some excellent Bangladeshi food.

Mary and I have been going to the Balti for 20 years and we thoroughly recommend it. The decor is slightly basic – but, where it may lack in ambience, it delivers in serving consistently great food and you can also bring your own alcohol.





## FORTHCOMING EVENTS



### **Strawberry Tea** **Sunday, 30th June: 2.30–5.30 pm**

*By kind invitation of  
Tony and Jean Sleep  
'Clouds' New Road, Ingatestone CM4 0HH*

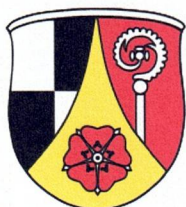
## AGM

### **Friday, 5<sup>th</sup> July: 7 pm** **at the Town Hall**



### **Portuguese Wine Tasting** **Saturday, 6<sup>th</sup> July: 2.30–5.00 pm**

*At Taylor Wines  
20 Crown Street, Brentwood*



### **Visit of our friends from Roth:** **Thursday 8th August – Wednesday 12th August**

*The programme will include:*

- *a visit to Blenheim Palace.*
- *a visit to Clare College, Cambridge, followed by a pub lunch in Great Dunmow, a 'Bee Experience' and a cream tea.*
- *a celebration evening on 12th August at Ingatestone Hall with fish and chips and a Dixieland Jazz Band.*

**We shall keep you posted about other events, as and  
when they appear**