

Dartford and District Twinning Association

Contact



NEWSLETTER

Chairman: Cllr John Muckle (01322 403229)

Secretary and Membership: Gilbert Louzado (email: gblouzado@live.com)

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Hi Everyone,

The Annual General Meeting of the Association was held in November 2010 at the Civic Centre where a report of our very successful visit to the Hanau Burgerfest was given and was attended by thirty members, mostly of whom travelled by coach, with the remainder travelling by air from London City Airport. The weather being very good added to the enjoyable programme of events arranged by our hosts. Five members were making their first visit to Hanau and each one said they thoroughly enjoyed the experience and looked forward to repeating the visit.

This year it is the turn of our friends in Hanau to visit us in early July, i.e. 1st to 5th July, and we are planning the programme for the visit to include a social get together and a coach trip on Monday to the coast. As usual we will be looking to members to help with accommodation for our guests for the four nights stay they are with us.

The A.G.M. also saw the retirement of our long serving Secretary, June Munden, who together with her late husband Roy, has given many years of service to our Twinning Association and we are most grateful for all the work they carried out on our behalf. June is continuing to serve as a committee member where her knowledge and experience will be invaluable.

Our new Secretary who has taken over is Gilbert Louzado who will be a great asset to the Twinning Association in so much as he is a fluent speaker in German and also has a very good understanding of French, which makes for a better understanding in electronic communications with our two twin towns. The other Officers of the Association remain as previous and all their details are on our website **www.dartford.gov.uk/twinning**

It was very disappointing that the visit by a party from Gravelines Twinners had to be cancelled in December which resulted through the heavy snow fall here and in Gravelines. Our Christmas Party was also cancelled the same weekend. However, there had been a trip to Gravelines by a party of Dartford Twinners in September to celebrate the Icelandic Festival and this was successful. This event was also attended by the Mayor and Mayoress of Dartford and is held every year in memory of all the fishermen who have lost their lives over the decades. The Festival also celebrates the continuing work carried out by the Fishing Industry in Gravelines. This coming year is also the 20th Anniversary of Twinning with Gravelines.

The membership drive for new members last year had some success. Members will recall we set up a stall at all the local Fetes and Festivals throughout the Borough and in addition to recruiting 12 new members we spread the awareness of the Twinning Associations work to many people. We also had a draw over the summer period to encourage people to talk to us about our Organisation which was quite successful. The draw was for two tickets to the Orchard Theatre which was drawn by The Mayor at our Annual Meeting.

As a result of the draw we have now obtained an e-mail list of over fifty new people who we will continue to communicate with encouraging them to become further involved.

Three General Meetings, to which every member is invited, have been arranged during this year, where at the conclusion we hold a small cheese and wine social gathering. The dates of these meetings are as follows:

**THURSDAYS: 17th MARCH, 2011,
21st JULY, 2011
17th NOVEMBER, 2011 (A.G.M.)**

These meetings are held at DARTFORD COUNCIL OFFICES, CIVIC CENTRE, DARTFORD, commencing at 7.30pm.

All Members are welcome to attend these meetings.

In addition to this a programme of other social events takes place throughout the year as under:

**STRAWBERRY TEA ON 19th JUNE, 2011
FRIENDS FROM HANAU VISIT TO DARTFORD ON 1 – 5TH JULY, 2011
BARBECUE ON 21ST AUGUST, 2011**

We also hope to continue our campaign to promote our activities to the wider community and to recruit new members, especially younger members, by attending all the Dartford and District Festivals and Fetes, as under:

SWANSCOMBE FESTIVAL:	25th JUNE, 2011
STONE FETE:	3rd JULY, 2011
DARENTH VALLEY LIONS FETE:	9th JULY, 2011
DARTFORD FESTIVAL:	16th & 17th JULY, 2011
WILMINGTON FETE:	29th AUGUST, 2011
BEAN FAIR:	11th SEPTEMBER, 2011

We hope all members will visit us at these events and all other social gatherings and meetings throughout the coming year. We look forward to seeing you.

John Muckle

Chairman