

# ROYSTON AND DISTRICT TWINNING ASSOCIATION



Royston



Großalmerode



La Loupe



Villanueva de la Cañada

## Summer Newsletter 2015

### News from the FRENCH LINK

Our friends from La Loupe visited Royston for the May Day weekend. Their coach arrived right on time at 6:30pm on Friday evening 1st May and the 46 passengers including many old friends were warmly greeted. That evening was spent with host families.

Next day the party visited Kentwell Hall in Suffolk. The weather was kind and the stop for a buffet lunch at the 5 Bells at Cavendish en route was perfect. At Kentwell Hall some 100 re-enactors, suitably attired in Tudor clothing, celebrated May Day Tudor style, and gave demonstrations of Tudor crafts and pastimes: baking, cooking, basket making and blacksmith skills and even a Tudor banquet. Many of the twinningers, both English and French joined in the procession and coronation of the May Queen, and watched a performance of St George slaying the Dragon.



Our visitors spent Sunday with their host families. Some took part in activities in Royston: tennis, fun run or the museum. Others went further afield: Cambridge or London.



On Sunday evening a barbecue and official reception was held at the Heath Sports Club. Speeches were given by Royston's Mayor Cllr Victoria Hulstrom-Allen, and the presidents of the two Twinning Associations, Mr. Paul Rydon and Mme. Sophie Lereau.

Our French guests left early Monday morning 4th May, with fond farewells.

## News from the GERMAN LINK

In May 2014 the Großalmerode Band visited Royston to take part in concerts with the Town Band and in June 2014 their U14 football team came over to compete in a local tournament.

The Town Twinning Association welcomed 18 visitors from Großalmerode on 3rd-7th October 2014 to mark the 40th Anniversary of twinning between our two towns. Guests included Andreas Nickel, the Bürgermeister of Großalmerode and two town councillors.

The weekend started with a rather wet walking tour of Saffron Walden, a visit to the town's museum and afternoon tea. In the evening, more than 50 friends and guests enjoyed dinner at the Old Bull, Royston.

A wonderful concert took place on the Sunday with choirs from Greneway, Roysia and Meridian Schools plus Royston Youth Choir and Guy Sing.

At the Civic Reception during the interval, the Bürgermeister of Großalmerode, Andreas Nickel and Royston Town Mayor Councillor Victoria Hulstrom-Allen exchanged gifts on behalf of their respective towns.

A second half performance by the excellent Royston Town Band rounded off the afternoon.



On Monday the group enjoyed a visit to Sandringham House and a late lunch at the Folkes Arms, Hillington. The party left for their return journey to Germany at 7am on Tuesday.

The celebrations marking 40 years of twinning with the town of Großalmerode have been a great success. Links with our German friends are very strong with a third generation of the same family joining us last year and many old friendships renewed.



## News from the SPANISH LINK

The link with our Spanish twin, Villanueva de la Cañada, is still very recent in comparison with Großalmerode and La Loupe. It's now 4 years since the twinning agreement was signed.

This year, a small group of 3 from Royston joined in the celebrations of the Fiesta of San Isidro on 15th May, together with 4 French twidders and representatives from Mexico and Jordan. Unlike Royston, Villanueva de la Cañada likes to invite small groups from all its twin towns every year on the same weekend.

We started the visit with a formal dinner where we were welcomed by the mayor and twinning association. The celebration of the local saint's day, San Isidro, started with mass in the park, with a wonderful flamenco style choir. Later we enjoyed sangria and paella, followed by a concert. On Saturday we visited the historic town of Chinchón, where the main square is used for bull fights in the summer. There was a concert of songs from Zarzuela (romantic light opera) on Saturday evening. Sunday morning's visit to the palace of Marquis of Linares in central Madrid was followed by a stroll through the centre of Madrid, visiting two roof terraces with the best views of the city and its surroundings.



**Celebrating  
San Isidro  
Patron Saint of  
Villanueva**



**Visit to  
historic  
Chinchón**



Our Spanish counterparts are always very keen to promote individual youth exchanges. Last year there were 4 exchanges and two of these are continuing this year. We are still looking for partners for 3 more Spanish youngsters aged 14-15 through local schools and youth groups. Villanueva de la Cañada's excellent young band is interested in visiting Royston and the possibility of a basketball team visit was also mentioned.

Although there is an invitation to San Isidro every year, we invite a group from Spain every two years. For 2015 we have agreed the dates as 29th October to 2nd November, which coincides with the last weekend of half term and a Spanish bank holiday on 1st November. If you are interested in hosting Spanish visitors please contact Jane Dottridge.

## Other News

### Quiz night

A very enjoyable quiz night was held at Market Hill Rooms on Saturday 28th February attended by nearly 100 people (13 teams) with questions devised by Quiz Masters Adrian and Sally Jones. The winning team was 'Tube of Smarties', runners up were 'Can't remember' and winners of the marathon round were 'The Young Ones'. The evening raised over £500 for twinning funds.

### Boules evenings

Every Tuesday from April to October a small group of Twinning members meet at the Green Man pub in Royston to play a friendly session of boules, the traditional game of France. We start at about 8pm and usually play until about 10pm.

These are friendly games only, played amongst ourselves over a friendly drink. The game is similar to bowls, except that the balls are made of steel and they are lobbed at the small target ball. We play on a track, called a 'piste' made of small gravel, approximately 14m long and 2m wide, although in France the game is often played on any hard surface, car parks being popular.

In July 2014 we hosted the inter-twinning boules tournament. Five local Twinning Associations participated on a fine Sunday afternoon.

We are always looking for new players and all ages are welcome. Instruction will be willingly given and we have spare boules, so there is no need to buy your own.



### Forthcoming Events

**Annual Association dinner** 7:30 for 8pm on Friday 20th November at the Heath.

**Trip to Großalmerode 2nd-6th Oct 2015** Anybody interested in joining this trip, please contact Elizabeth Freeman by 31st July 2015.

**Visit from Spain 29th Oct-2nd Nov 2015** Anybody interested in hosting our Spanish visitors please contact Jane Dottridge.

**Trip to La Loupe 27th-30th May 2016** Anybody interested in joining this trip, please contact Keith Ginsberg.

### Twinning Committee

Chairman:	Paul Rydon	<a href="mailto:chairman@roystontowntwinning.org">chairman@roystontowntwinning.org</a>
Vice-Chairman: France:	Keith Ginsberg	<a href="mailto:france@roystontowntwinning.org">france@roystontowntwinning.org</a>
Vice-Chairman: Germany:	Elizabeth Freeman	<a href="mailto:germany@roystontowntwinning.org">germany@roystontowntwinning.org</a>
Vice-Chairman: Spain:	Jane Dottridge	<a href="mailto:spain@roystontowntwinning.org">spain@roystontowntwinning.org</a>
Treasurer:-	Paul Brown	<a href="mailto:treasurer@roystontowntwinning.org">treasurer@roystontowntwinning.org</a>

The committee meets once a month on the second Wednesday evening at Tesco. There are currently some vacancies on the committee. If you are interested in joining the committee please contact one of the officers.

For more information and link to the twin towns visit [www.roystontowntwinning.org](http://www.roystontowntwinning.org)

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