

ROYSTON AND DISTRICT TWINNING ASSOCIATION



Royston



Großalmerode



La Loupe



Villanueva de la Cañada

Summer Newsletter 2016

News from the FRENCH LINK

A total of 31 Town Twinners headed to La Loupe on Thursday 26th May, travelling by coach, private plane and car, to celebrate the 30th anniversary of twinning between the two towns. An hour's delay due to a door on 'Le Shuttle' that wouldn't open didn't dampen their spirits although they arrived at La Loupe a little later than expected. Refreshed by a drink and the pleasure of meeting their hosts and other friends the Royston Twinners left to spend the evening with their hosts.

Friday was spent visiting places of local interest: markets, chateaux, car boot sales or learning how to keep bees! In the evening all the twinners met in the centre of La Loupe to witness the unveiling of the plaque of the newly refurbished square, renamed 'Royston Square' to celebrate 30 years of twinning.



**Ceremony of
naming
Royston Square**



They then travelled to the nearby village of Manou for the official reception and speeches, and the singing of the two countries' national anthems. The La Loupe band, ably supported by Royston's Larry Lamb, entertained them with a variety of songs, including 'Land of Hope and Glory' which was particularly well received.



La Loupe Band

**Land of Hope &
Glory**



On Saturday morning the twinners and hosts visited Villebon Castle for a tour given by the English-speaking owner. Unusually the castle was brick built, but nevertheless it had withstood several sieges including an unpleasant visit by the Gestapo in 1944. Lunch was followed by a visit to the abbey and gardens of Thiron Gardais.

Departure for home on Sunday morning was followed by a leisurely lunch in L'Albatross Hotel at Berck sur Mer, near Calais, where all the ladies were presented with a rose as it was Mothers' Day in France. The group arrived back in Royston that evening, having had a fun time together and enjoyed good weather throughout. The trip was judged by all to have been a great success.

News from the GERMAN LINK

The past 12 months have brought mixed results for the German twinning link.

In June 2015 Royston Town Band took part in the Heimatfest in Großalmerode together with a party of local people who travelled independently. Amongst them a large group from the King family headed by Norma and her husband, long time supporters of twinning. This music festival takes place every five years and Elizabeth Freeman was pleased to be able to attend.



Following the very successful 40th anniversary celebrations during 2014 we unfortunately had to cancel the trip to Germany planned for October last year due to lack of support despite extensive publicity and advertising.

On a happier note we are very pleased to report that a joint visit by Großalmerode Musikzug (band) and their twinning association will take place in October and we are expecting more than 50 visitors. Ruth Brown and Elizabeth Freeman are working with Royston Town Band to produce a varied and interesting programme of events and find hosts for everyone wishing to visit Royston.

News from the SPANISH LINK

It's now 5 years since the link with our Spanish twin town, Villanueva de la Cañada was formalised. Unfortunately since May 2015 there have been no trips or visits, although there have been invitations from both towns.

In 2015 we invited a group from Spain to visit at the end of October, to coincide with school half term but eventually postponed the visit when we still had no details of how many or who was coming with only 5 weeks to go. Our second proposed date towards the end of June this year clashed with a visit to their French twin town. We hope to be able to agree a date for 2017.

As usual we were invited to join in the celebrations of the Fiesta of San Isidro on 15th May, but in the end no one from Royston was able to attend. We did send greetings from the mayor and contributed the chairman's speech, which was read out at the dinner in Villanueva de la Cañada.

Our Spanish counterparts are always very keen to promote individual exchanges of teenagers aged 14-17. There have been four very successful exchanges, two of which have continued with several visits each way. Despite the enthusiasm of both youngsters and parents who've taken part, there appears to be little interest in future exchanges in the Royston area. This year 7 Spanish boys and girls have requested exchanges and are still looking for partners through local schools.



Other News

Quiz night

A very enjoyable quiz night was held at Market Hill Rooms on Saturday 19th March attended by 10 teams with questions devised by Quiz Masters Adrian and Sally Jones. The winning team was 'Northern Lights', runners up were 'Tuba Smarties'. The evening included a Fish & Chips supper and raised over £300 for twinning funds.

Boules evenings

Every Tuesday 8-10pm from April to October a small group of Twinning members meet at the Black Horse pub in Melbourn to play a friendly session of boules, the traditional game of France, over a few drinks.

This year's Inter-Twinning Association competition between Royston, Knebworth, Hitchin, Welwyn and Letchworth was hosted by Knebworth. Each Association sent 2 teams, which played in 2 leagues. It was a fine, sunny afternoon and all players had an enjoyable time.



Our teams were Keith Ginsberg, Sue and John Bishop (pictured), who came 3rd and Mike & Jane Dottridge and Tony McMurray in the other. The winners were Welwyn. We look forward to next year and hope to do better, when the hosts will be Letchworth.

New players of all ages are always welcome. Instruction will be willingly given and boules can be provided.

Forthcoming Events

Visit from Großalmerode 21st-25th Oct 2016

This year we are hosting a joint visit together with the Royston Town Band, which will include a programme of rehearsals and concerts as well as visits to London and Cambridge. We are delighted that there are already enough Germans coming to fill the coach and most have hosts. If you are interested in hosting or joining in with any of the programmed events please contact us.

Annual Dinner at the Heath Sports Club on Friday 18th November 2016

Twinning Committee

Paul Rydon retired as Chairman at the AGM. We are very grateful to him for many year's service in this role and previously as Vice-Chair, France.

Chairman:	Elizabeth Freeman	01763 241721	chairman@roystontowntwinning.org
Vice-Chairman, France:	Keith Ginsberg	01763 231650	france@roystontowntwinning.org
Vice-Chairman, Germany:	Ruth Brown	01763 230290	germany@roystontowntwinning.org
Vice-Chairman, Spain:	Jane Dottridge	01763 242902	spain@roystontowntwinning.org
Treasurer:	Paul Brown	01763 230290	treasurer@roystontowntwinning.org

The committee meets on the first Wednesday evening of the month at Tesco. There are currently some vacancies on the committee including Publicity Officer and Social Secretary. 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

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