



CHAIRMAN'S VIEW

This first edition of our newsletter in 2017 comes with best wishes to our members and to all others who are interested in Bromley's town twinning link with Neuwied. To mark the 30th anniversary of our partnership we have contributions from Oberbürgermeister Nikolaus Roth, a frequent visitor to Bromley and an ardent supporter of everything to do with Bromley; from Bromley's Mayor Councillor Ian Payne, and also from Inge Gütlér, former Chair of the Freundeskreis Neuwied-Bromley. Our programme of events for the year will have several themes – a celebration of 30 years of town twinning, involvement of

more of our members in the events which we organise locally, and an expansion of contacts with our friends in Neuwied. The highlight of our twinning year will doubtless be the visit by the group from the Neuwied association at the end of September, which will conclude with a dinner to which all members of the association will be invited. This will give Bromley and Neuwied people a wonderful opportunity to reflect back over past events but at the same time to consider how, in the changing political and social environment of post-Brexit Europe, the special nature of a town twinning movement can move forward.

FREUNDESKREIS NEUWIED-BROMLEY BIENNIAL VISIT THIS AUTUMN

Steam train, wines and a castle for our visitors

A TRAIN and English wine for our German friends. That's the outline for the long weekend of the biennial visit to Bromley this autumn. And this year, the long weekend lasts another day as the Monday is a national German holiday – German Reunification Day – so our guests don't have to hurry home.

Our plans are in outline so far but we will use the Sunday for an outing to Tenterden in Kent to the Chapel Down vineyard and winery with sampling, followed by "steam and tea" on the Kent & East Sussex Railway and a visit to the moated Bodiam Castle in Sussex. The welcome ceremony is on Saturday morning at Bromley Civic Centre with

most of us probably then splitting into groups to take our guests to London. Monday will be a free day with opportunities for hosts and their guests to arrange their own programme before we meet up for a social evening (venue to be announced).

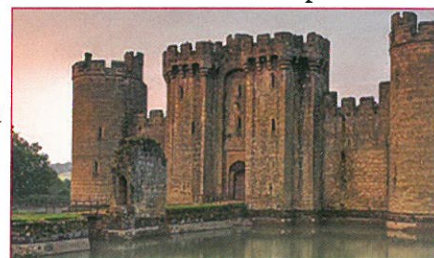
As always, some of our guests enjoy staying in hosts' homes while others prefer a hotel. Please volunteer now if you can host in your own home.

● Think of the south-east coast of England and you imagine the White Cliffs of Dover. The Chapel Down vineyard sits on this iconic chalk soil strata of the white cliffs – which just so happens to be the same as that of the Champagne region in France – roughly 90 miles south.

The owners of Chapel Down claim that coupled with a cool climate they are able to produce world class sparkling wines. We're sure our German visitors will put them to the test.



Vineyards on chalk



Moated Bodiam Castle



"Steam and tea" in the countryside

We need hosts for this visit both for accommodation for our guests and for showing them around. Time passes quickly. Please volunteer now