

## **“JETZT ERST RECHT” from NIKOLAUS ROTH page 1**

Especially now it is important to bring people closer together through a partnership of this kind, and to negate the consequences of an unfortunate political situation.

In Neuwied we will nurture and expand existing contacts, as the saying goes “jetzt erst recht” – “now more than ever.”

We look forward to and value the visits by the people and organisations of Bromley, from the mayors to school groups and musical and sporting organisations.

It is always a pleasure to show everybody the beauty of our Neuwied surroundings and of our country.

Our thanks for a friendship which has lasted so long go to the Bromley Town Twinning Association and its Chairman Peter Brown.

## **And a view from the Mayor of Bromley, Councillor Ian Payne**

**I AM happy to follow on the remarks of Nikolaus Roth, a man who has forged both personal and civic links with our borough.**

This year marks the 30th anniversary of our twinning with Neuwied in October 1987. One of my first introductions to the BTТА was to attend, as Deputy Mayor, the 25th Anniversary dinner held at the Château restaurant. What a delightful evening that was and it gave me the opportunity not only to meet with the Bromley side of the BTТА but the Neuwied visitors.

It was so lively, such a friendly evening, that from that moment I was sold on supporting the BTТА and keeping alive this very important relationship that exists.

Since becoming Mayor in May 2016 I have visited Neuwied on two occasions and received excellent hospitality from the Oberbürgermeister Nikolaus Roth and his wife Agnes, and from the Neuwied Freundeskreis, the town twinning association of Neuwied.

I am delighted that I am the Mayor as we reach this milestone in the history of the twinning association and this gives me the opportunity to thank those in Neuwied and Bromley who have given the past 30 years to making sure that this unique relationship stays strong and firm.

We have learnt a lot from each other and have had many projects, visits, exchanges, school partnerships, challenges and many adventures along the way.

So well done and thanks to all – I look forward to the celebrations that will be coming our way in September and October.



*A frosty welcome to Bromley. A view of the snow and the Bromley and Neuwied signs on Bromley's border at Westerham Heights with the county of Kent, taken during the recent snowfalls. We can assure all our friends in Neuwied that there will be a much warmer welcome when they come here in the autumn. Our thanks to Ralph Palfrey for the picture*

## **INGE'S JOTTINGS FROM NEUWIED**

**Inge Güttler of the Freundeskreis tells how they run a beer fountain and Speakers' Corner at the town's summer festival**

**EACH YEAR we in the Freundeskreis enjoy a very high profile indeed at the town's annual festival, the Deichstadtfest (Dyke Town Festival), in July. Come along some time. You'll enjoy it.**

For many years we held a “hat parade,” sometimes sponsored by a leading hat manufacturer, but always great fun as people would create all kinds of creations to show off! Then in 2013 we embarked on something different. We changed into a “Speakers' Corner,” modelled on the Speakers' Corner in London. The same rules apply as in London – no criticism of the Queen, no racial discrimination, no inflammatory speeches. Soap boxes are provided and speakers come forward, from many nationalities, watched over by a cardboard effigy of Queen Elizabeth II.

But there's one thing that doesn't change at our festival. Our association has been for many years the focal point of the “European Village” – a gathering of Neuwied's twin town activists, where we run a beer bar or “Bierbrunnen” (beer fountain). Over the four days of the festival, members spend their time selling beer to the thirsty citizens of Neuwied.



*Inge meets the Queen*