



## CHAIRMAN'S VIEW

As you can see we have had a most enjoyable visit to Neuwied, and I thank the Freundeskreis for the excellent hospitality and programme. The tennis players from The Park Langley Club also had a successful visit, playing their fifth annual match in a sequence that goes back to our 25th anniversary visit in 2012. I am very conscious that not all our members are able to travel to Neuwied or to open up their homes as hosts when visitors come from Neuwied. If you are one of these members, please do not feel excluded from our activities around the 2017 group visit from Neuwied. When we announce the programme for the visitors, I hope

that as many members as possible will take the opportunity to meet with our visitors. More immediately, do join in our programme of autumn events – the Bromley Music Makers concert on November 11, and our quiz night on November 19. Next year will start with our New Year Dinner on January 24 with details coming soon. This summer saw us hold our traditional garden party, kindly hosted by Peter and Barbara Woods, and, in our efforts to widen public awareness of our twinning, we have taken stalls at Petts Wood May Fayre, Keston Countryside Day and Cudham Village Fete. A busy year, and an even busier one planned for 2017.

## Julia Knox looks back on her very first visit to Neuwied and John Evans



*On the terrace at Drachenfels – “Dragon Mounain”*

### Julia writes

**IT WAS** my first visit to Neuwied and I had a wonderful time. The weather was very hot, about 30°C, and we were able to get a taste of high summer in September. The weekend was full of activity and we really did gain a great impression of the region.

On Saturday we first visited a Roman villa which was fascinating and we then visited Drachenfels which gave us all a panoramic view of the Rhine and surrounding scenery. We then visited Konrad Adenauer's house which I personally really enjoyed, gaining an insight

into the private life of the leader who had played such a vital role in rebuilding Germany.

My hosts were so welcoming and they had created such a wonderful garden at their home. They showed real “Gastfreundlichkeit” and I hope I will be able to return the hospitality. On Saturday evening a group of us went to an Italian restaurant in Neuwied and had a meal and long chats till late in the evening.

On Sunday we had a relaxed morning with a leisurely breakfast with my hosts and Debbie Breakspear who was staying in the same village as me, Strassenhaus, with her host family.

In the afternoon we went to Leutesdorf to the wine festival which was so jolly and good fun. It was lovely to see all generations enjoying the festival and for two euros you could buy a wine glass and then fill it up with the different wines from the different wine producers



*Roman snack – Julia is third from left and Debbie fourth*

of the region, which was a very good system and we enjoyed saying “Prost” many times.

In the evening which was our last we went for a meal with all the hosts and visitors and heard from the mayors of Neuwied and Bromley, the horn band and the Jazz choir. I really enjoyed the music and I sing in a local choir with a similar type of repertoire to the Jazz choir, so it would be nice if we could reciprocate next year on the return visit with a little concert.

The organisation of the whole weekend was excellent and Peter and Sheila Brown and our German hosts worked very hard to make the trip run so smoothly.



*Steep way up to the lovely Adenauer House*