



Bromley and Neuwied News



RUNDSCHREIBEN DER STÄDTEPARTNERSCHAFT BROMLEY-NEUWIED – HERBST 2018

A message from Neuwied's new Oberbürgermeister

“Der Brexit kann unsere Freundschaft nicht zerstören”
– “Brexit cannot destroy our friendship”



United in friendship, from left: Peter Brown, Chairman, Bromley Town Twinning Association; Susanne Jung, Vice Chairwoman, Freundeskreis Neuwied Bromley; Councillor Mike Botting; Michael Mang, Bürgermeister, Neuwied; Councillor Kim Botting, Mayor of Bromley; Jan Einig, Oberbürgermeister, Neuwied; Jo Hofmann, Chairman, Freundeskreis

A personal regret from our long-standing Chairman

– “Our country is in a very strange and uncomfortable position”

CONTINUED OVERLEAF



MAYOR RENEWS TWINNING CHARTER

THE TWO Mayors of our towns took the opportunity of our visit to sign a renewed friendship agreement.

Bromley Mayor Kim Botting said: “It was going to happen anyway but, as Jan is a new Oberbürgermeister, it's only right that it did.”

She said that the May local elections in Bromley had brought in new councillors and she hoped that they too would get to know the value of our partnership.

Tennis club win Shield of Honour



The Bromley Shield of Honour is given to individuals or organisations who have given us exceptional support. This year, the deserving winners are Tennis Club Neuwied.



CHAIRMAN'S VIEW

This newsletter is rightly devoted mainly to photos, reports, and reflections on our visit to Neuwied for their celebration of the 30 years of our partnership. Among several highlights was the re-affirmation of our town twinning in the joint declaration made by Oberbürgermeister Jan Einig and Bromley Mayor Councillor Kim Botting, who had been specifically invited by Herr Einig to join the BTTA group on this visit and to attend the formal reception he hosted to mark the occasion. The link with Bromley is clearly as important to Jan as it was to his predecessor Nikolaus Roth, and we look forward

to working with him and with the Neuwied twinning association (Freundeskreis Neuwied Bromley) on future events. Future planning was an important feature of our visit, with time spent by committee members on both sides in talking about what we have to do to ensure that our relationship continues to thrive. The annual exchange visits by our two associations are a very important part of this relationship, as was reflected in the extensive coverage given to the visit by the local Neuwied press. Plans are already being made for the visit next year by the Neuwieders – more of that to follow.

Brexit cannot destroy us

FROM PAGE 1

THE SHADOW of Brexit hanging over us made it all a little strange as we gathered in Neuwied with our partners from the Freundeskreis (Friends) of Neuwied, our sister organisation. But we rose defiantly to show pride in our friendship and vow that it would last.

It was the first time we as an association had officially met the new Oberbürgermeister of Neuwied and it gave us an immense boost.

The speech Jan Einig gave was a powerful one. He used one of the strongest words in the German language – zerstören 'to destroy' – to ram home an uncompromising message. The friendship of the two towns would go on and grow stronger. There would be no 'zerstören'.

The BTTA is not a political body and opinions within it are personal, but our Chairman Peter Brown has spent a large part of his life promoting Anglo-German friendship and he spoke from the heart of the depth of his feelings.

"I am sometimes asked how did Bromley and Neuwied get together – we seem so different, and indeed we are, but the fact that we continue a close relationship after all these years suggests that there is a very strong will and interest to maintain an international friendship.

"For reasons which I personally deeply regret, as do many people, our country is in a very strange and uncomfortable position in Europe – an important member of a very successful union of nation states but yet wanting to cut ourselves off from this union and sever vital trading links, without being able to define what our future relationship will be with a group of countries with whom we have a vast array of historical, cultural and economic connections.

"I like to think that, even if only in a small way, gatherings such as this can help to maintain those essential connections. Let us think of ourselves as a symbol of friendship and future co-operation."



Rob is pictured with Zena's sister Dawn Wisbey, his champion's cup and German four-star shirt

Rob wins top player award

EIGHTEEN PARKLANGLEY tennis members attended our seventh annual tournament with TC Neuwied and what a good one it was. We won 14-13 in matches so very close, gaining our first win away.

The tournament consisted of singles and then doubles, and well done to players who don't normally play singles. They faced very strong opposition and the weather was gorgeous – in fact just a bit too hot.

We were presented with team tops donated by TC Neuwied which we wore on the day and Rob Dagwell won player of the tournament so well done to him.

As always, we were entertained on Saturday evening with a band, dancing and buffet/BBQ and we all danced the night away, ending very late in the evening.

On Sunday we were invited on the Rhine cruise which was magnificent. Five Parklangley tennis players chose to stay in Neuwied and play tennis alongside members of TC Neuwied in friendly games.

Our thanks to BTTA for organising the coach trip and to all members of TC Neuwied for the excellent organisation of the weekend.

Zena Wisdom, The Parklangley Club

What a present!

Our journey to the Rhineland took in three visits - to the historic Sayner Hütte ironworks near Neuwied, a wonderful butterfly farm nearby and to the mighty Rhine itself. And there was a present for Neuwied...a vintage London bus stop sign, We asked one of our new members – song writer TAMARA GALLOWAY – to tell us what she made of the visit

MIKE AND I thought the journey to Neuwied would be a very long time stuck on the coach. Did it turn out that way?

There was an early start, but once on the journey we seemed to get to Folkestone rather quickly. The coach drove into an extremely tight tunnel, doors closed and nothing seemed to happen. We waited and waited, and still nothing.



Tamara and Mike with their Rhine map

Then I noticed a square window in the tunnel wall, with lights flashing behind it. Although we couldn't feel it, we were moving underground! Then I saw the lads from Park Langley Tennis Club get off the coach, each with his own racket. I couldn't resist going to see what they were doing. In what looked like a 4.5m by 3.5m space behind the coach, they were practising their tennis. Bop, bop, bop. That's dedication!

On Saturday there was a reception in the 'Bootshaus' (Boathouse). 'Da Capo' string quartet performed Nimrod and played a lovely piece by Karl Jenkins where the repeated note in the cello bassline sounded like a regular beat. I am studying the works of hit songwriters. Currently I'm learning 'Skyfall', sung by Adele. So I couldn't believe it when for their finale, the quartet struck up with 'Skyfall'.

Bromley has given Neuwied some typically British items in the past, including a post box, telephone kiosk, a traffic sign and this year...it was a London REQUEST bus stop sign. Our coach then took us to the Sayner Hütte iron foundry. The symmetrical iron and glass foundry hall was the first industrial hall in the world with a supporting cast iron structure. We also went to the lovely Butterfly Garden nearby.

On Sunday the coach took us from Neuwied to Koblenz, where the two rivers, the Rhine and the Moselle, meet.

We took a 'Romantische Rheinreise', a romantic cruise to the Loreley rock. The cruise really was romantic, in the imaginative, emotional and nature-loving sense of that word, as this is the most picturesque part of the Rhine. On the Loreley a beautiful maiden was said to comb her golden hair to a haunting melody which lured boatmen to their deaths in the rocky currents. In 1824 Heinrich Heine wrote a poem on it. Later Friedrich Silcher set it to music. It's the most famous of the many beautiful folk songs the Germany have. The river trip was a wonderful way to end our weekend.



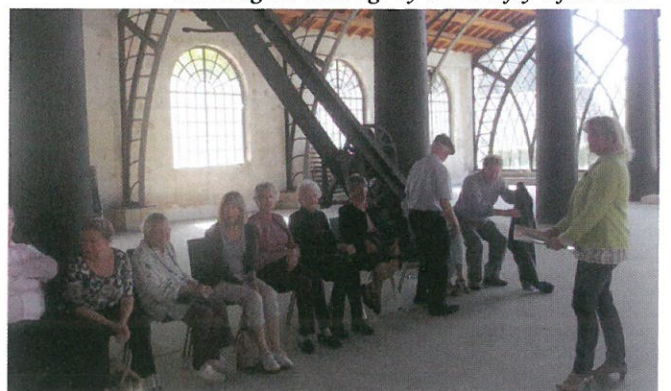
Waiting for a bus: the Mayor of Bromley, Kim Botting, Peter Brown (BTTA), Jo Hofmann (Freundeskreis) and the Oberbürgermeister of Neuwied Jan Einig with the special gift



Our Rhine trip boat, Deutsches Eck (German Corner)



Watching the Rhine go by as we enjoy a fine meal



Gudrun Peifer, right, was our guide at the Sayner Hütte foundry

OUR BROMLEY ASSOCIATION OFFICERS FOR 2018/19

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Council nominees

Councillor Kathy Bance MBE
Councillor Mary Cooke
Councillor Suraj Sharma

Committee members (non office holding): Ruth Bennett, Sheila Brown, Norma Classen, David Noble, Ralph Skelton, Joe Weiss and Peter Woods. Three councillors are also chosen to serve by Bromley Council

Annual General Meeting

– PETER WOODS STEPS DOWN AS VICE CHAIRMAN

THE AGM was well attended, with a lively discussion both during the meeting and at the Wine & Cheese reception afterwards.

The meeting was chaired by our then President, the Mayor of Bromley, Councillor Kathy Bance MBE, who spoke warmly of the welcome she had received on her visits to Neuwied, although they were tinged with sadness – for the funeral of Oberbürgermeister Nikolaus Roth and then for the inauguration of his successor Jan Einig.

The meeting paid tribute to Peter Woods on his retirement from the position of Vice Chairman, after many years of service to BTTA and to the twinning partnership, firstly as Mayor – he was the driving force behind the big celebrations and visit exchanges for the 10th anniversary in 1987 – and then as Councillor, committee member and Vice Chairman.

Jane Beckley was elected Vice Chairwoman, and will continue as Membership Secretary. Other changes to the Management Committee saw the election of Ruth Bennett, for some years one of the councillor representatives on our committee but no longer a councillor, and the resignations of Jane Harding and Julia Knox.

OLD FRIENDS JOIN US ON THE RHINE

LEN AND Rita Morland no longer live in Bromley but on our 10th anniversary trip to Neuwied they were part of the large group who went there. They had kept in contact with the family with whom they stayed but had not been back to Neuwied. So they asked if they could join us. Len writes:

Back in 1997 we went as part of the Pipeband contingent. It was during this visit that we were introduced to the Hartenfells family and a strong bond was created. In 1997 we enjoyed the celebrations on the sports area behind the Eishalle and we were also delighted to be on the Rhine trip that culminated in the festival in Leutesdorf.

This year, we were delighted to be with you all. The highlight was the trip to the Loreley and back. A memorable journey to revisit parts of the Rhine last visited in 1997.

...OUR NEXT DIARY DATE

A SPECIAL date for the New Year: Thursday, January 24, when we will be going to Westminster.

No not to see politicians but to enjoy a Choral Evensong at Westminster Abbey, followed by a private tour of the Abbey by the Dean of Westminster, the Very Reverend Dr John Hall, who has specially made himself available for us on that day.

Numbers will be limited, and there will be a small charge as a donation to the Abbey – full details and a reply slip will be sent nearer the time.

EVENT REPORTS

We held two successful events in the summer: a Garden Party and a Chinese Evening. The party was hosted by Lynne and David Noble – in very hot summer weather. Then the rains came down but didn't stop the event. The Chinese Evening was at the Parkside Restaurant in Orpington, organised by our President, Mayor and councillor, Kim Botting.

Congratulations!

OUR WARMEST congratulations to Susanne Tibus and Andi Jung on their August marriage. Both have been very much involved in our sister organisation, the Freudeskreis. Susanne is Vice Chairwoman and a great and much appreciated organiser.

From just £10 to join us

IF YOU would like to join our association, annual subscriptions are £10 for individuals, £15 for families, and £20 for organisations. Contact our Membership Secretary.



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