



Welcome to the latest edition of our Newsletter.
Keep on reading for all the latest news and views from within BETTA

About BETTA



BETTA is here to aid the local community in forming relationships with our twin towns of Offenburg in Germany and Fontenay-aux-Roses in France.

BETTA works hard to ensure individuals and groups have the opportunity to develop their cultural knowledge. We strive to produce opportunities for the community both here and in our twin towns. We will continue to make sure BETTA goes from strength to strength. All members of the committee have a wide and varied range of skills and abilities which contribute to the running of the association.



Rammersweier Musikverein in The Ark Theatre as part of the Civic Festival 2014

Borehamwood & Elstree Twin Town Association Committee 2013-14

Chair

Martine Eni

Secretary

Jane Strongman

Treasurer

David Brown

Schools Links Coordinator

Irmine Mason

Membership Secretary

Rex Dunwoody

Hertsmere Borough Council Representative

Cllr. Sandra Parnell

Elstree & Borehamwood Town Council Representative

Cllr. Charles Kelly

General Committee Members:

Rev. Richard Leslie

Josie Shingles

Nick Male

Andrew Grady
(Vice-Chair)

Nigel Clark (Co-Opted)

In this Newsletter

- Report on recent Visits & Events
- Minutes of last AGM
- Report on Families Day 2014
- Club Escargot News
- Details about French Language Sessions
- School Links update

www.betta.org.uk

Event Report

BADNER LEADERS

Report by Nick Male & Photography by Andrew Grady

We have our National Anthem, they have their 'Badnerlied', But the musical communities of our twinned towns are certainly singing in unison these days.

In this unfolding relationship, it is the Borehamwood and Elstree Twin Town Association that is leading the way forward.



The recent visit of the 55- strong Musikverein Rammersweier was a resounding success,

A village of around 2,000 people, near our German twin town of Offenburg, has produced a leading wind band of truly outstanding ability.

From West End show music to military marches and from movie themes to opera, they covered an enormous range.

A near-capacity concert in the Ark Theatre inspired thunderous applause and a standing ovation, from a delighted audience, including the Deputy Mayor of Hertsmere and the Mayor of Elstree and Borehamwood, as well as our MP James Clappison.

Says BETTA Chairman - Martine Eni, "Once again, the BETTA team pulled it off.

Thursday morning, at 9am, saw BETTA Vice- Chairman Andrew Grady and committee member Nick Male, frantically waving a huge German flag at every coach turning onto Londons' Hyde Park Corner.

Finally arrived at the Travelodge, Studio Way, the German visitors were serenaded by local bagpipe maestro George McGregor.

Rested after their journey, the guests enjoyed a Folk Night in the Ark Theatre Bar.

Hosted by Hertsmere Acoustic Music Club, the evening featured traditional and modern songs in both English and German.



On Friday morning, the party split into two groups for a Film History walk. The German visitors were very interested in all the locations they visited in this the centenary year of film making in Borehamwood.

Next stop was Fairway Hall. The Elstree and Borehamwood Town Council were hosting a Civic Reception for our visitors.

Speeches were made and gifts exchanged.

After the concert, musical memories were ensured and tummies filled with takeaway pizza delivered to the car park of the Toby Grill!

Dancing also had its place in the fun-filled schedule.

St. Teresa's Parish centre was the venue for a Barn Dance on the Saturday night

'Do-si-dos' were the order of the day, while thirsts were quenched from a charity bar, run by local Peace Hospice support group 'The Sunday Club.'

Martine, again with a final summing - up.

"BETTA is a great organisation, but this weekend proved the central importance of working with our community partners.

The Joint Catholic Parishes, the Rotary Club, the Sunday Club, the Town Council, the Borehamwood Brass, and the Ark Theatre.

We are 'BETTA together' "



Club Escargot



Our aim is to introduce children to the fun of learning French as early as possible, as well as discovering the culture and customs. The general ages of those attending the club are between 6 and 12 years old but this is flexible. The classes are held every Saturday during term time at St Paul's Church Hall, St Paul's Close, (corner of Cranes Way and Furzehill Road) each one is 2 hours long (from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.). The classes cover the basics of the language (e.g. parts of the body, colours, numbers, positions, greetings, animals, clothes, transports, weather, etc.) through songs, rhymes, activities, cooking sessions, and traditional dances. The classes are run by qualified and fully trained teachers who have a lot of experience teaching children AND are all NATIVE FRENCH SPEAKERS. Children play, learn and are immersed in the French Language throughout the sessions. These activities actively help children with their communications skills and school progress. The adults who run the club are subjected to Enhanced C.R.B. checks, so you can drop the children off with the knowledge that they are in safe hands and go and have some much needed time alone!



It is with regret that the committee of the Association is suspending the Autumn Term of the Club Escargot, in an effort to streamline our costs, but it is hoped that we may be able to re-start the lessons in early 2015.

Keep posted for further information.

If any member of the association is interested in assisting to run the Club Escargot, please contact BETTA on

Tel. 0203 441 6510 Mob: 0771 717 6869

Session Dates 2014

Tuesday 29th July

Tuesday 30th September

Tuesday 28th October

Tuesday 25th November

(No Session in December)

Language Sessions

Due to the numbers attending our language sessions we have decided this year to run only the French language session. This French session is held on the last Tuesday of each month. It is intended for adults and lasts approximately two hours. Attendance is free. The session starts at 2.30p.m. And is held in the café area of 96 Shenley Road, Borehamwood, Hertfordshire, WD6 1EB

We will keep an open mind about the German session. If you would like to learn or practise your German, then please contact us at the address below, as we may reconsider starting these sessions again.

BETTA Membership

Not a member yet?

If you would like to become a member of Borehamwood & Elstree Twin Town Association, please fill in the form below and send it to us.



BETTA MEMBERSHIP FORM

Borehamwood & Elstree
Twin Town Association (BETTA)

Twinned with Fontenay aux Roses (France)
and Offenburg (Germany)

Title: _____ Name: _____

Representing an Organisation? Yes No

Name of Organisation:

Address:

Postcode:

Home Tel:

Mob:

Email:

Please indicate any particular skills or interests:
(e.g. foreign language, sports, arts, international business etc.)

Agreement:

I support the broad aims of the association:

"The promotion, on a non-political basis, of close relationships between the United Kingdom and other nations."

"I also support the furtherance of international understanding."

"I agree to pay annually, by cash or cheque (made payable to BETTA), the membership fee (as agreed at our Annual General Meeting on 28 May 2008)."

Please tick one of the following:

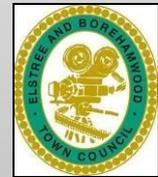
- Individual Membership £10.00 Family/Household Membership £20.00 No of Occupants: _____
- Organisations £20.00

Signed: _____ Dated: _____

Please send form and fee to BETTA, Fairway Hall, Brook Close, Borehamwood Hertfordshire WD6 5BT or email enquiries to bettagroup@hotmail.com

Borehamwood & Elstree Twin Town Association

is grateful for the financial assistance we receive from our partners:



Borehamwood & Elstree Twin Town Association



Other News and Information.....

Flower Festival & Families Day 2014

Again this year the Association entered the Flower Festival this year. The theme this year was based on the 100 Years of the film industry, our entry was based on "One Million Years before Christ". Betta's arrangement around vertical planting was a great success with a planted frame of 4 by 6 ft.

We also held our usual stall at Families Day, held this year on Saturday 28th June.

On Sale on our stall was a selection of Cakes, and some BETTA branded Hi Visibility Jackets.



School Links Activities



The role of school links coordinator is to get in touch with schools in Elstree/Borehamwood and in Fontenay in France, to establish pen pal exchanges between pupils from our two countries.

The idea is to expose the children to a different culture, open their minds, broaden their horizon and of course improve their language skills, this being particularly important from an early age, at primary school level.

We have, until now, put in place links at schools from Borehamwood like Kenilworth, Parkside, Monksmead, Fairway and also at St Nicholas in Elstree.

At secondary school level, Hertswood Academy has also exchanged with a "Collège" in Fontenay and the teenagers are finding the links very rewarding.

Overall, our school exchanges continue to be a very beneficial experience for all involved.

We will be contacting new schools in September to broaden the scheme and offer this wonderful opportunity to even more children.

Irmine

Schools Links Coordinator

Chez Ton-Ton

BETTA Bastille Meal 2014



On the 15th July 2014 a group of members from the association celebrated Bastille Day with a luxurious meal at Chez Ton-ton restaurant in East Barnet.

Also present was The Mayor of Elstree & Borehamwood Cllr Pat Strack, accompanied by her husband, Geoff.

Along with our friend Rosweta Lamb, who playing her accordion enhanced the evening with some wonderful traditional French folk songs.

AGM Report 2014

1. Introduction and Apologies

Attendees: David Brown (Treasurer), Clive Butchins, Elaine Butchins, Nigel Clark, Slavica Clifford, John Cowan, Sue Dane, Lydie de Smet, Father Dominic, Rex Dunwoody (Membership Secretary), Martine Eni (Chair), Sophie Eni, Victor Eni, Andrew Grady (Vice Chair), David Lightfoot, Lynda Marshall, Irmine Mason (School Links Coordinator), Catheline Moffat, Nicola Parkins, Jane Strongman (Secretary), and Josie Shingles.

Apologies were received from Charles Kelly and Nick Male.

2. General Report (Secretary & Chair):

I want to start this with telling you that we live in times where nothing is certain!

We do not know what tomorrow will bring and nobody in this room can predict the future...

In these times of uncertainty I am glad to announce that there is one organization which has survived many many mayors, many many gov and even more councillors... It is BETTA!

We unlike other are here to stay, and in my book it boils down to 3 simple points: Paste... generosity... discipline.

Paste because we continue to plough on year after year...we regroup and grow...we are here because we are able to adapt and adjust and this is missing in many organisations from the smallest to the top gov institutions....

Generosity...our members are coming to our events, some of our kids at the club escargot are there for years! And all our committee members are committed...

Discipline: yes I am putting my foot down sometimes... but never for me or myself but because the reputation of this organization has become exemplary and I as well as the committee are conscientious that this need to be preserved. We have put our name to BETTA and people respect BETTA.

It is therefore essential that all what we do and organize benefits from complete transparency and accountability!

We are strong by our actions...it goes from the selling of cakes at events to who is providing the music....we have a great team, let's make a greater one!

Since the last AGM we have had a few well attended events, we have created new ideas. Jazz at the Ark is one...we have also helped other prestigious organisations to go to visit our twin town for example the Rotary went to Offenburg thanks to the connection to Offenburg and should we claim a partial fame from the Cycle Race the Borough mayor

organized from Fontenay to Borehamwood which raised hundreds of pounds for charity?

We are going to meet the new mayor of Fontenay this week end and we will look into org another Christmas trip to Offenburg.

Many more events in the pipe line and the newsletter will inform you more of this

We have kids from Elstree and Borehamwood corresponding with kids in schools in France and we have a healthy membership who is committed as much as to actually pay to be members of BETTA.

This is a proud organization to be chairing when pay to be part of it! I want to thank you all but specifically

>David for taking the hold of our finances and holding these reins firmly!

>Rex and Jane for the secretary positions! Sadly Jane and Rex due to ill health have to resign this year. We have a plan b no worries!

>Irmine for doing a great job with the adult French class and the school communications

>Nick Male on the entertain committee

>Andrew for jumping in when I can't (sometimes even when I can...) and running an efficient news letter

Nigel Richard and all for your support

We need to thank our council for allowing us to use the Town Hall for our post which allowed us to save some

substantial money and for installing the first annual grant of

£1000 toward costs and £1000 towards entertaining International guests

We are still working on this scheduling of spending...

We are functioning well because of some administrative rules

One email

One phone number

One website

This is clarifying the communications and stopped misunderstandings I am going to continue to work on this.

I am actually asking Andrew to implement these rules even more in the future year.

David Brown our treasurer will now explain his treasurer report

Irmine has a report on her activities for you now

Now I would like us the committee to clap and thank the ones of our members who are here.

On the posts allocation for the New Year:

The changes are for Membership secretary and secretary

David Brown has accepted to write up the minutes for the time being

Annie Lalova has accepted to take over the membership secretariat and we thank her for this. She is not here but I

want to insure you she is a great girl and will keep us all in check!

Rex is going to continue with the secretariat duties until such time we have a volunteer secretary please ask your

friends if they would like to take this position of trust.

I finish this report in thanking you all for coming and we will publish these minutes in the next newsletter.

So I would like a toast!

Here is to another year!

Here is to another year!

3. Treasurer's Report:

DB presented a report on the finances for 2013 - 2014 to date.

4. School Links Coordinator's Report

My role as a school links coordinator is to get in touch with schools in Elstree/Borehamwood and Fontenay, to establish pen-pal exchanges between pupils from our two countries.

The idea is to expose the children to a different culture, open their minds and broaden their horizon and of course improve their language skills, this being particularly important to start from an early age, i.e at primary school level.

We have, until now, put in place links at schools from Borehamwood like Kenilworth, Parkside, Monksmead, Fairway and also St Nicholas in Elstree.

At secondary school level, Hertswood Academy has also exchanged with a "Collège" in Fontenay and the teenagers are finding the links very rewarding.

Last September, a group of pupils went over to France and spent a few hours in the French school they are linked with and thoroughly enjoyed meeting their pen-pals for real. They were made to feel very welcome and they look forward to welcoming the French pupils over here, should there be an opportunity in the future.

Overall, our school exchanges continue to be a very beneficial experience for all involved.

We will be contacting new schools in September to broaden the scheme and offer this wonderful opportunity to even more children.

With a different hat on my head as a volunteer at BETTA, I'll also mention the free conversation sessions which are running smoothly in our new Community venue, 96 Shenley Road.

As some of you will know, we meet in their café on the last Tuesday of each month, from 2.30pm till 3.30pm and we were delighted to meet several new participants last time, following the article about BETTA in the Town Crier. It is always a pleasure to welcome new faces so please spread the word!

Thank you!

Irmine Mason

Irmine Mason

5. Acceptance of last AGM Minutes (8th May 2013)

The minutes of the last AGM were accepted by all present (proposed by Nigel Clark & seconded by Sophie Eni).

6. Formation of New Committee

The new committee was formed:

Name	Position	Proposed	Seconded
Martine Eni	Chair	Nigel Clark	David Brown
	Secretary		
Andrew Grady	Vice-chair	Lynda Marshall	Rex Dunwoody
David Brown	Treasurer	Martine Eni	Josie Shingles
Annie Lalova	Membership Secretary (committee post 1)	Martine Eni	Andrew Grady
Irmine Mason	School Links Coordinator (committee post 2)	Martine Eni	Josie Shingles
	Committee post 3		
Nick Male	Committee post 4	Martine Eni	Rex Dunwoody
Jane Strongman	Committee post 5	Martine Eni	Nicola Parkins
Josie Shingles	Committee post 6	Lynda Marshall	Clive Butchins
Rex Dunwoody	Committee post 7	Nigel Clark	Sophie Eni
Nigel Clark	Co-opted	Josie Shingles	Nicola Parkins

7. Q & A (End of formal meeting)

DB was asked to clarify the dates in the treasurer's report. The report was from 1/5/13 to 30/4/14 and the income for the 2014 Fontenay trip was wrongly printed on the report as Club Escargot membership income.

ME was asked if we were doing a student exchange. BETTA will facilitate such events but doesn't plane to org itself.

CB thanked BETTA for it's work over the year.

ME mentioned the Ark event and lunch.

AG mentioned the entertainment events being organised at the time of the German visit later in the year.

Sophie was thanked for her culinary contributions later enjoyed by all.

The formal part of the meeting ended at 20:10