

## **EVENT report - DIVAS**

The date was Wednesday 16 September 2009 and the location was Allum Hall in Elstree. The event was called the 3 Divas: Concert and Dinner and this amazing evening was held in order to raise valuable funds to achieve the aims of BETTA (The Borehamwood and Elstree Twin Town Association). The months of hard work by volunteers, guided by the event organiser, Martine Eni (chair of BETTA) ensured that all those who attended the evening truly had one to remember.

The attendees were delighted as they walked through the doors to the hall which was filled by large round tables covered in pure white linen. In the centre of each table was a spectacular floral arrangement consisting of either long vases or large round glass bowls, filled with lights, water and light reflecting material and peaked with beautiful red Gerbera. Making a circle round these centre-pieces were wine glasses topped with red and white napkins designed to look like more flowers. The corners of the hall were filled with illuminated greenery and it was clear that the decorations for the hall had been well thought of by '51 Acres'. The stage was also suitably decorated with greenery and made to look like a country garden. The main centre piece on stage was a delightful, rustic looking garden swing. A champagne bar had also been set up with a red banner with the words 'Bar a Champagne' written in gold lettering. The hall had also been set up with speakers and audio equipment by Andrew Grady to ensure all could hear the beautiful melodies coming from the stage.

During the evening everyone's senses were delighted as they listened to a combination of relaxing and inspiring music performed by the Divas: Samantha Rice and Joanna Raworth, the Borehamwood Brass Band and International Harpist, Robin Ward. The head waitress and Elstree Productions ensured all tables were efficiently attended to in Tudor style serving costumes. All those who attended were served a generous and appetising 3 course meal, especially prepared on site by the well reputed German Chef Jo. The attendees were given both red and white wine but many treated themselves to the champagne and extra wine on offer as they relaxed and thoroughly enjoyed the evening.

The night ended with the giant raffle and many were pleasantly surprised by being able to take away a prize donated by local businesses as well as abundant memories of the evening.

BETTA is very grateful to its sponsors who made this event possible.

## Thank you for twin town event success

11:24am Friday 2nd October 2009

 Comments (0) [Have your say »](#)

The Borehamwood and Elstree Twin Town Association (BETTA) held their 3 Divas event on September 16 at Allum Hall.

BETTA would like to show their appreciation to all sponsors, businesses, associations and individuals who have continually supported BETTA throughout the preparations for the event and who gave up their time to help us in the evening. The efforts and skills of those who helped behind the scenes contributed to the amazing classical, decorative and gastronomic standards.

We are also grateful to the mayors and ex-mayors of Elstree and Borehamwood and Hertsmere and other dignitaries for their continuous encouragement and support for our association.

BETTA would also like to thank the wider community of Hertsmere for its support in attending this event which was deemed a huge success.

Superb community spirit was displayed at the event by those who came together to show support for the twin town association and its aims. The community feeling shown during this event is what twin town associations are truly made of.

Special thanks go to our divas, Samantha Rice and Joanna Raworth, the Borehamwood Brass Band and harpist Robin Ward for their outstanding performances.

For information on BETTA membership, future events and our free monthly German and French conversation afternoons, call 020 8381 5222 or 07717 176 869, or email [bettagroup@hotmail.com](mailto:bettagroup@hotmail.com)

**Martine Eni, chairman of BETTA**

## **Divas put on a show for classical music evening in Elstree**

By Kevin Bradford »

A CLASSICAL music evening went down a storm yesterday evening despite going through rough waters in the build up.

The 3 Divas show was thrown into crisis when Soprano and key organiser Adria Jackson had to leave the country with her pastor husband after their working visa ran out at the end of August.

Borehamwood & Elstree Twin Town Association (BETTA) pulled together and with Mrs Jackson helping from her native Canada, the show went ahead and resulted in huge acclaim from the audience.

"Everybody was amazed by it," said organiser and BETTA chairman, Martine Eni, after the show at Allum Hall, in Allum Lane, Elstree.

"They didn't expect this level of entertainment in Borehamwood and everything looked fantastic.

"People were very happy and they have been sending me through their congratulations."

More than 160 people were in the audience to see the performances of soprano Joanna Raworth, mezzo soprano Samantha Rice, New Zealand harpist Robin Ward, and pianist Derek Holland, who helped organise the musical arrangement of the Borehamwood Brass Band.

And Mrs Eni said it was down to the hard work of everyone involved that ensured the evening went ahead following the news Mr and Mrs Jackson had to leave the UK.

"It was a bit of a nightmare but because of all the help it all went very well in the end," said Mrs Eni.

"I was proud to see the association putting this show on.

"The public didn't see any difference to the performance and they got a show above the average."

BETTA, which is twinned with Fontenay-aux-Roses on the outskirts of Paris and Offenburg in south-west Germany near Strasbourg, aims to support exchanges between pupils, students, sporting, musical and arts groups.

Councillor Pat Strack, Elstree and Borehamwood town mayor said the association has done a lot of good work and added Wednesday's show was "absolutely amazing".

She said: "It was very professional. There was a very high standard considering it these people are volunteers or amateurs.

"What I was heartened to see was the engagement of the community, with so many people from different groups and societies.

"We have a very diverse community and people from all walks of life came along to the event."

She was also concerned to hear of the circumstances surrounding departure of Mrs Jacksons, who had been working with her husband at St Paul's Lutheran Church, in St Paul's Close, Borehamwood.

Mrs Strack said: "It saddens me that people who put time and effort into the improving the community can be whisked away at the drop of a hat."

## **Last chance to buy tickets for twin town event**

7:20am Sunday 13th September 2009

 Comments ( ) [Have your say »](#)

By [Suruchi Sharma »](#)

TODAY is the last day to buy tickets for a classical music evening organised by Borehamwood & Elstree Twin Town Association (BETTA) to be held on Wednesday.

BETTA is staging The 3 Divas evening with French cuisine to celebrate its links to its twin town Fontenay-aux-Roses.

Borehamwood and Elstree is twinned with Fontenay-aux-Roses on the outskirts of Paris and Offenburg in south-west Germany near Strasbourg. The main focus of the association is to support exchanges between pupils, students, sporting, musical and arts groups.

The event will be held on Wednesday, September 16, at Allum Hall, in Allum Lane, Elstree, at 7.30pm.

Tickets cost £29 or £50 per couple.

For tickets, call 020 8381 5222 or 07717 176869; alternatively, email [bettagroup@hotmail.com](mailto:bettagroup@hotmail.com)

## Show will go on for classical music event

2:24pm Thursday 10th September 2009

 Comments ( ) [Have your say »](#)

By [Suruchi Sharma »](#)

THE SHOW will go on at a classical music evening organised by Borehamwood & Elstree Twin Town Association (BETTA) next Wednesday, despite the event losing an opera singer last week.

Soprano Adria Jackson had to leave with her pastor husband two weeks ago after their two-year working visa ran out at the end of August.

The pastor, who had been working at St Paul's Lutheran Church, in St Paul's Close, Borehamwood, did not receive the appropriate documents in time and the couple were given just 12 hours to leave the UK to return to their native country, Canada.

BETTA is staging The 3 Divas evening of which Mrs Jackson was one of the key organisers. She has been working from Canada to help with the event.

BETTA is twinned with Fontenay-aux-Roses on the outskirts of Paris and Offenburg in south-west Germany near Strasbourg. The main focus of the association is to support exchanges between pupils, students, sporting, musical and arts groups.

Organiser and BETTA chairman, Martine Eni, said: "Everyone has worked really hard to change the programme and to adjust the music. People coming along will receive more than they expected and it will be a fantastic event.

"We hope Adria and her husband will sort everything out and will make it back very soon."

Tickets can be bought for the event up until Sunday, September 13.

The event will be held on Wednesday, September 16, at Allum Hall, in Allum Lane, Elstree, at 7.30pm.

Tickets cost £29 or £50 per couple.

For tickets, call 020 8381 5222 or 07717 176869; alternatively, email [bettagroup@hotmail.com](mailto:bettagroup@hotmail.com)

## **Watford businesses sponsor Borehamwood and Elstree Twin Town Association event**

9:11am Thursday 20th August 2009

 Comments ( ) [Have your say »](#)

By [Michael Pickard »](#)

Businesses in Watford will sponsor a classical concert and dinner hosted by the Borehamwood and Elstree Twin Town Association (BETTA).

Silver Images Photography, Rumball Sedgwick and the Three Compasses pub in Patchett Green have all backed the classical concert and dinner evening, which will take place on September 16, at Allum Hall in Elstree.

The event will feature performances from sopranos and mezzo sopranos, a harpist and the Borehamwood Brass Band.

BETTA has been twinned with Fontenay-aux-Roses, near Paris, and Offenburg, in south-west Germany, since 1982.

For more information, telephone 020 83815222 or 07717 176869 or email [bettagroup@hotmail.com](mailto:bettagroup@hotmail.com).

## Twin town association holds classical music evening

12:08pm Wednesday 8th July 2009

 Comments ( ) [Have your say »](#)

By [Suruchi Sharma »](#)

A TWIN town association is asking for more volunteers to help with a classical music evening event to be held in Elstree in September.

The Borehamwood & Elstree Twin Town Association (BETTA) is staging The 3 Divas — an evening of classical music and French cuisine.

Guests include sopranos Adria Jackson and Joanna Raworth, mezzo soprano Samantha Rice, pianist Derek Holland and New Zealand harpist Robin Ward, as well as the Borehamwood Brass Band.

Chairman of the group Martine Eni said: "The twin town association is a phenomenon created after the war to make sure there were better relations between countries in Europe.

"I feel the twin town association here has been a little dormant when in earlier years there was such a community spirit to get involved.

"I want people to join who have perhaps newly moved to the area and commute to work and only therefore use their home town to come back to sleep.

"It will be fascinating for many people to learn about another culture, learn another language and also to maybe introduce this to their children."

BETTA is twinned with Fontenay-aux-Roses on the outskirts of Paris and Offenburg in south-west Germany near Strasbourg. The main focus of the association is to support exchanges between pupils, students, sporting, musical and arts groups.

Mrs Eni added: "Many people have already got involved with this event, including one lady who is doing the dresses and another who is cooking free of charge.

"We are trying to create something that is more than just about twinning. It's about creating unity in the community and sharing an evening with people who want to be entertained but also to learn.

“We want businesses to get involved and sponsor the event. The music at The 3 Divas will not be too heavy so people will enjoy it even if they are not seasoned classical music fans.”

Councillor Sandra Parnell is part of the BETTA committee. She said: “It is going to be a wonderful event and I’m really looking forward to it.

“I hope as many people who can help and who want to attend the evening do so, as it will be very enjoyable.”

The event will be held on Wednesday, September 16 at Allum Hall, in Allum Lane, Elstree, at 7.30pm.

Tickets cost £29 or £50 per couple. For tickets, call 020 8381 5222 or 07717 176869; alternatively, email [bettagroup@hotmail.com](mailto:bettagroup@hotmail.com)

New members will be entered into a draw with the chance to win a free ticket.

Hi Martine

Thank you for your email and you and your team for a fantastic event on what would normally be a boring Wednesday. I really enjoyed it and for the price I paid £25 it was real value for money. Would you be thinking about holding another event like that in 2010? If so please count me in. I really enjoyed the company of the people I was sitting with (you and your husbands family relations) they were such sweet people and very interesting - if you were having another event make sure they come and sit them next to me again.

Thank you once again for a fantastic event that I know took a lot of organising let alone the time spent before the event even happened, I really appreciate it and 10 out of 10 for effort, commitment and organising.

Kind Regards Shaz

An excellent evening. Thank you so much for your hard work.

The room looked amazing. The food was excellent, although too much.  
The music was good.

You had an excellent turn out of the movers and shakers, good support  
form other local groups.

My friends and family enjoyed the occasion.

Whether you ever think you could go through that again I don't know.  
But well done

regards Pat

**Cllr. Pat Strack**

Martine

Thank you and everyone else for last night. It was a fabulous evening and we know that evenings like that do not just happen. They take a lot of sweat, blood and tears.

Well done and thanks

Best regards

John & Claire

Hi Martine,

I hope you were pleased with the event. We certainly enjoyed it and the music was excellent.

Best Regards,

Richard

**Richard Lee**

**General Manager**

**Ibis Hotel London Elstree-Borehamwood**