



## **Borehamwood and Elstree Twin Town Association**

### **BETTA Newsletter – Winter 2009/2010**

Dear Friends of BETTA,

Welcome to our Winter newsletter.

#### **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 the Elstree Productions actors 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.

### **Website and Membership**

Plans are well in hand for a BETTA website. This will gain us better publicity and make us a more professional organisation. On the subject of professionalism, a new style membership card has been devised and will be issued to all members when they renew.

### **Meet and Chat in a language.**

BETTA has had an amazing response to our language chat sessions. Over 30 adults now attend these sessions where they are able to improve their German and French language skills.

The sessions are held at the Ibis Hotel (next to the Venue in Borehamwood) and start at 2.30pm (approx 2 hour session) every last Tuesday and Thursday of the month. We aim to make these sessions accessible to all adults, whatever their knowledge of French or German. If you would like to know more or if you know someone else who might be interested, please contact BETTA (contact details at end of newsletter).

### **Member News**

BETTA would like to congratulate some of our member organisations for their recent achievements! The Lutheran Church held another outstanding concert lead by soprano Adria Jackson and also exhibited some amazing iconic art by Fadi Mikhail on 10 November 2009. The churches' Junior Choir will be singing at Tesco from 4 p.m. on 9 December 2009. A spectacular show was put on at the new Ark Theatre at Hertswood school on 10 November and many of our local schools and community groups took part. Eblos (Elstree and Borehamwood Light Operatic Society) also took part and gave a brilliant performance.

Pat Strack (Town Mayor) and Cllr. Sandra Parnell, who have been very supportive of BETTA, helped to organize a Jazz evening in aid of Woodcock Hill Conservation Group. Many of those involved with BETTA attended this event and it was enjoyed by us all. Rosemary Gilligan (Hertsmere Mayor) has also been very supportive of BETTA and will be opening a Craft and Gift Fair

on Sunday 29 November 2009 at Allum Hall. The event will run from 10.30 a.m to 3.30pm.

### **BETTA Open Meeting**

BETTA is holding an open meeting for all members and those interested in BETTA to celebrate our achievements for this year. This will give people a chance to informally chat about the plans we have for next year. It will be at Fairway Hall on 9 December 2009 and will start at 8 p.m. Light refreshments will be provided. Please email [bettagroup@hotmail.com](mailto:bettagroup@hotmail.com) or telephone 0208 381 5222 or 0771717 6869 to let us know you are coming!

### **New and Exciting Opportunity for Children!**

BETTA is working on an exciting new opportunity for children aged 6 to 12 years old. The French Club L'Escargot, consisting of French language activity sessions will be held on Saturdays, 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. or 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. These will give children the opportunity to learn a language whilst taking part in activities in French!

### **BETTA is offering an exciting opportunity for the local community!**

After our very successful German and French nights and the 3 Divas concert and dinner, we are back with this wonderful offering:

### **FRENCH WEEKEND**

We are working very hard to give all of our community the opportunity to visit this amazing corner of France at the best value price.

### **The weekend will have the themes of culture and international awareness.**

We are running a trip to Fontenay-aux-Roses (in the suburbs of Paris) from Friday 4 June to Sunday 6 June 2010. The approximate cost for this will be only £100 and include 2 nights' hotel accommodation on a B&B basis, channel crossing and travel expenses. During this trip, we are planning a thorough visit of Versailles and Le Louvre! All in English! You will be able to experience the French culture and the local customs of Fontenay-aux-Roses as the trip will take place on the weekend of their Town Festival. Book early to secure a place, as places will be limited! BETTA is also planning to run a trip to Offenburg in October 2010. Just in time for their Harvest Festival!

Please contact BETTA at [bettagroup@hotmail.com](mailto:bettagroup@hotmail.com) or telephone 0208 381 5222 or 07717176869 for more details and to sign up for these fantastic opportunities to visit our twin towns and experience other cultures first hand! Alternatively, fill in the form below and send to: Jane Strongman at 14 Dales Road, Borehamwood, Herts., WD6 2SG.

Your BETTA Committee

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I would like to book \_\_\_\_ adult and \_\_\_\_ child places for the Fontenay-aux-Roses Trip (4-6 June 2010).

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Tel: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Thank you for your support.

***To contact BETTA committee***

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