



Borehamwood and Elstree Twin Town Association

Autumn Newsletter 2011

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Club Escargot Website: www.clubescargot.org.uk

Tel: 0203 441 6510

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Borehamwood & Elstree Twin Town Association Committee 2011-2012

| | | |
|--|-------------------------|---|
| Secretary Jane Strongman | Chairman Martine Eni | Treasurer Marlene Scott – Norman |
| School's Links Coordinator Irmine Mason | | Membership Secretary Rex Dunwoody |
| Hertsmere Council Representative Cllr. Sandra Parnell | | Elstree & Borehamwood Town Council Representative Cllr. Anne Mitchell |

General Committee Members:
Rev. Richard Leslie
Nick Male (Head of Social Committee)
Pastor David Jackson
Josie Shingles
Andrew Grady (Vice – Chair)
David Brown
Nigel Clark (Co-opted)

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.

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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!

We have a special offer for members of BETTA:

Pay for one of your children and another one can go for free!" Please contact us if you would like to know more and book a place for next term!

Language Sessions

BETTA runs two language sessions each month. These sessions are for adults and last approximately 2 hours. These sessions are free to attend and some refreshments are provided. The French session is held on the last Tuesday of each month. The German session is held on the last Wednesday of each month. These sessions start at 2.30 p.m. on each day and are held in the bar area of The Ibis Hotel, Elstree Way, Borehamwood, WD6 1JY. In November, the French session is on 29 November and the German session is on 30 November. (N.B. There are no sessions in December).

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Fantastic Sporting Opportunity: Offenburg “Schools Olympics”

Offenburg are organizing a Schools Olympiad in 2012, not to coincide with a larger event being held in London next year! For this event, Offenburg invites older children from their twin towns to take part in sports and also a chance to see Offenburg first hand. This event will be held from 14 to 16 June 2012 and we are looking for children to take part. Please get in touch if you are a sporting group for children and are interested in taking part in this fantastic opportunity. Our aim is to encourage the youth of Borehamwood and Elstree, regardless of whether they can speak German or not, to take part in this event. They will meet youngsters from not only our twin town of Offenburg but other towns twinned with Offenburg, which include: Altenburg in East Germany; Lons-le Sauer in France; Olsztyn in Poland; Pietra Ligure in Italy; and Weiz in Austria. Please contact BETTA for more details if you are interested in this event.

Accommodation for Students from Offenburg

We are looking for accommodation for two students from Offenburg who will be spending three months here from February next year for their work experience. If you can help, please contact us! Thank you.

BETTA School Links News

Exchange between Schools in Elstree/Borehamwood and Fontenay in 2012

We have been approached by Fontenay and have exchanged emails regarding a potential school exchange between our twin towns next year. Three forms from two primary schools in Fontenay are very keen to come over to England in 2012. If this materialises, we would put in place a pen pal exchange first so that the children from both countries get to know each other in advance. More on this as we hear back from Fontenay...

Exchange between secondary schools from England and Germany

We are looking to put in place some links between secondary schools from Offenburg and schools from our borough. This could solely involve English if the school doesn't teach German. It would still be a very enriching experience to strengthen the links between our two countries and would provide an opportunity for English students to get to know another European culture as well as being a potential opportunity to travel abroad.

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German News

Lesewelt e.V Win 1000 € funding from Commerzbank Foundation



Lesewelt Ortenau eV is an independent, non profit making organization, funded entirely by donation, providing a network for reading and reading promotion in the Offenburg area for the youth and their enthusiasm for literature. On 21st September 2011, the group was presented an award in recognition of the work promoting reading. Lesewelt Ortenau eV was awarded in the category "Outstanding Initiatives" with an award of 1,000 €! Prize money is donated by the Commerzbank Foundation. The jury particularly liked the "extraordinary diversity" Regional reading promotion - such as readings in asylum seekers. A prominent approach is also their integration of visually impaired people. For more information on Lesewelt, please go to their website: www.lesewelt-ortenau.org

Christmas in Germany by Vera Sauer



During Advent, we prepare ourselves for Christmas. The city streets are brightly lit with lights and colourful ornaments hang everywhere. In the windows, stars and figures made of paper are hung. From many kitchens, beautiful aromas waft where people are baking Christmas cookies and special Christmas cakes. Many children have an advent calendar.

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For each day of the 24 days in December until Christmas Day, you will find a small piece of chocolate or other treat behind a little door. There are also Adventskalender made by mothers or older children and filled with nuts, fruit, chocolates and small toys.

In many homes during these weeks, there is a holiday wreath, tied with green pine branches with four candles on it and a new candle is lit on each Advent Sunday. If all four candles are burning, then it is almost Christmas. The children sing: "Advent, Advent, a light is burning, first one, then two, then three, then four, then the Christ child is coming."



The 6th December is St. Nicholas Day, celebrated in Germany as the commemoration of the Bishop Nicholas of Myra who lived in the 4th Century who took care of lots of children. On the eve of St. Nicholas Day girls and boys put their boots and shoes outside the door and St. Nicholas fills them with candy and fruit. In the evening, sometimes Santa Claus comes to the house himself or instead he goes through the city, dressed with a large cloak and a bishop's mitre. He always carries a rod for naughty children and a bag full of small gifts for the good children.

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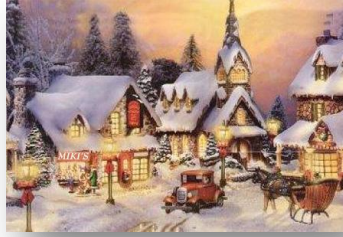
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From a large book, he reads to them the good and bad things they have done and he also distributes small gifts - mostly everyone gets something. Sometimes Santa Claus is accompanied by a helper, a servant called Rupright. The tradition started in the last century and came from "Santa Claus" who brings the Christmas presents. In Offenburg Christmas the gifts are brought from the "Christ Child". In Germany, on the morning of 24 December the Christmas tree is decorated with ornaments and in the evening the gifts are added.



Christmas markets are widespread in Germany. Famous Christmas markets are the Stritzel market in Dresden and the Christmas Market in Nuremberg. The first Christmas market in Offenburg started in the 1970's. Since Offenburg's redevelopment, the Christmas market is held every year from the first Sunday in Advent to Christmas Day at the new market place. Many booths invite you to purchase Christmas items. Numerous stalls promote the culinary specialties for the Christmas season, for example, the sweet Striewile (waffle baked in fat) and Gluwein (mulled wine).



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Since Offenburg is located in one of the largest wine-growing regions in Germany, a separate Offenburger mulled wine is offered. Christmas markets provide a platform for clubs and organizations, giving them the opportunity for musical and folkloric performances.



A highlight is the large ice rink in the centre of the Christmas market. Young and old can safely appreciate skating on the runners. For the last few years, the Open Christmas market experienced a highly valued addition: The adjacent Vinzentiusgarten at the old city wall is a place of peace and tranquillity.



Here you can enjoy the water games, or listen to one of the many book readings for children and adults. Last year, our very own Irmine Mason was reading English Christmas Stories to children. The German children had no trouble understanding the stories from the pictures.

Last year a group of 30 citizens from Borehamwood and Elstree visited the Christmas market in Offenburg. This year the Open Christmas market there takes place from 29 November to 23 December.

Frohe Weihnachten!

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Review of Past Events

Club Escargot Market Day

Venue: St. Paul's Lutheran Church

Date: 24th September 2011

Review by David Brown

A French Market appeared in Borehamwood at St Paul's Church Hall, in St Paul's Close on Saturday 24 September when Club Escargot held their open day, celebrating the second year of the market.



This, opened from 10am until 12pm, sold coffee, croissants and cakes made by members of the French language Club Escargot. Children as young as six spoke French to practise their language skills and exchanged play Euros to learn about foreign currencies. Club Escargot is part of the Borehamwood and Elstree Twin Town Association (BETTA), which aims to build relationships between its twin towns of Offenburg, in Germany and Fontenay-aux-Roses, in France.

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One of the local dignitaries sampling the coffee and croissants was the Mayor of Hertsmere Cllr. Peter Knell who, then and there, decided to become a member of BETTA.



The committee would like to take this opportunity to welcome Peter and his wife June to our association. Teachers at Club Escargot create a wonderful atmosphere where children have fun learning and we want more kids and parents to discover the good work we do for our community. For more information please contact us.



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TESCO'S COMMUNITY DAY, A BETTA OFFER?

Venue: Tesco's Extra Store, Borehamwood

Date: 4th September 2011

Review by Nick Male



Information on the full range of BETTA's activities was on offer at Tesco's recent Community Day. Through our good friend Marion, the company has been great supporters of our work. The stormy weather did nothing to dampen the enthusiasm of the visitors to our stall or our members running it. The lively music made for a very happy atmosphere and many useful contacts were made. Our Vice Chairman even managed to pour the rain out of the top of our gazebo without getting it down our necks.

Apres moi le deluge !

BETTA PRAY FOR SUNSHINE

Venue; St Teresa's Catholic School Playground, Brook Road

Date: 17th September 2011

Review by Nick Male



This was the message from Father Dominic, gathering his flock for the Catholic Parishes Part, and those prayers were answered by the brilliant sunshine illuminating the BETTA stall. St. Teresa's school playground was the place to find out about BETTA that day. We feel that it is very important to be present at these community events.

So - is there an event you're involved with where we should be?

We're happy to bless it with our presence.

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Forthcoming Events

Remembrance Sunday – 13th November 2011.



As usual, members of the Twin Town Association will be laying wreaths at the “Service of Remembrance” on 13th November. Our “Vice Chair” Andrew Grady will be playing the “Last Post & Reveille” at the ceremony to be held at the Cenotaph on Shenley Road at 11am.

Christmas Extravaganza



BETTA will be holding a Christmas Social at St. Michael’s Church Hall on 17th December 2011. The event will start at 7 p.m. and end at 11 p.m.

This event will be different to previous Christmas BETTA ones, as we will not be charging an entry price. Instead, we ask for everyone to bring English, French or German food or drink e.g. a box of mince pies, French cheese, German Lebkuchen, French wine, German Glühwein, English alcohol, soft drinks etc. etc.! Many of you may have attended a ‘Potluck’ lunch and this is similar. We will have local entertainment and also a raffle.

So, please come along and help us to celebrate the end of another successful year for BETTA. Come and look at the photos we have taken over the year - we are sure they will evoke fond memories for many of you!

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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 £5.00
 Family/Household Membership £10.00 No of Occupants: _____
 Organisation £10.00

Signed: _____ Dated: _____

Please send form and fee to BETTA, Kinetic House, Theobald Street, Borehamwood, Herts., WD6 4PJ or email enquiries to bettagroup@hotmail.com

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