

The European award-winning ...



# TWINNING ASSOCIATION OF RUSHMOOR

Annual Report 2017



**Exchange partners: Farnborough's Rendez-Vous  
and Meudon's Breaktime groups**

**Amboise, June 2017**

## Foreword by Alison Boukhobza



The Twinning Association of Rushmoor continued its core work in supporting and assisting local organisations to maintain and extend links with Rushmoor's twin towns.

2017 saw the Twinning Association doggedly determined to redouble its efforts to preserve and improve twin town links for Rushmoor's community associations and schools. Interest and support from local politicians has been most welcome and we realise that we need to take every possible opportunity to show the value of what the Association does which is so often misunderstood.

European links and friendships bring many benefits to students and young people in particular and while those links remain strong and secure, they can provide inspiring and exciting opportunities which may not be available otherwise.

On behalf of the Association, I would like to thank all the volunteers and members of the community who continue to contribute such valuable support.

Look out for us on:



The Twinning Association's purpose is to facilitate and support European links for local clubs, schools and organisations. It is an independent organisation and meets six times a year to review and plan activities. All of its members are volunteers, supported by one part-time member of staff.

Any Rushmoor resident, member of a club, organisation, society or school can become a member and have a say in twinning activities and how they are organised.

The Association receives no funding and relies solely on its own efforts to fundraise and bid for grants.



The Twinning Association raised £1675 and £335 was used to help host groups visiting Rushmoor.

## SOME HIGHLIGHTS

Many visits and exchanges took place over the year (an average of two per month), with participation from at least 350 Rushmoor residents. Hundreds of others were involved in the form of audiences, school communities, host families and helpers.

New partnerships were made -

### Blackwater Valley Runners : Association Sportive Meudon



BVR at Meudon Fun Run  
March 2017



ASM at Rushmoor 10K  
October 2017

### Meudon Historical Society : NE Hants Historical and Archaeological Society



Meudon Historical Society visits Rushmoor Sept 2017. Return visit planned for NEHHAS in autumn 2018.





Congratulations to **Farnborough Sixth Form College** for sending groups of students to all three twin towns in 2017. The Twinning Association is delighted to see that such a well-respected and admired educational establishment sees the value and opportunities that our twinning partnerships can offer.

## *Oberursel student exchange*



FSFC German exchange students in Oberursel  
March 2017



Oberursel students in Rushmoor  
June 2017

## *Sulechów Chopin Festival*



Meeting students at Sulechów's  
Liceum College Nov 2017



Farnborough student being filmed for  
Polish TV at the Chopin Festival Nov 2017

## *Meudon Christmas Tour*

*Jazz band on tour in  
Meudon Dec. 2017*



# Benefits of twinning

This is what people taking part said:

**About Farnborough Sixth Form Meudon trip: Seth Husband, second year student** said, *"It was a fantastic experience musically, culturally and socially. The highlight of the trip was performing with my friends after we'd put so much hard work into the rehearsals. It was a weekend I won't ever forget!"*

**Curriculum Manager for music, Ben Dowsett,** remarked, *"Our musical links started with Meudon in 2011 and now playing at the Christmas markets is something students look forward to every year. I never fail to be impressed at how they rise to an occasion, even in unfamiliar situations. In every respect, they have been great representatives of both their college and community."*

**About Farnborough Sixth Form Sulechów trip: First year student Matthew Quilliam** said, *"It was amazing to perform in another country to a new audience and it was wonderful to see how much they enjoyed listening to us. I have so many happy memories to treasure from the trip."*

**Ben Dowsett, Curriculum Manager for music** commented, *"It was an intense four days for the students, but as always they performed brilliantly and astounded the audiences. It was also a significant cultural experience thanks to the generous welcoming nature of our hosts. I am indebted to The Twinning Association of Rushmoor for their support for the trip."*

Some other examples of 2017 events are:



- In January and October, **Farnborough Camera Club** met up with its partner club Photo-Cirkel in Oberursel and they both exhibited photos in each other's photo exhibitions.

- In June, an **under 12 team football team** went to Oberursel to play international football.



- In July, **Southwood Golf Club** visited its partner golf club in Oberursel for their annual golf tournament.

- In August, the **Twinning Association** hosted a group of 15 members of Oberursel's Twinning Association for five days. The group was given tours of Aldershot and Farnborough as well as days out to Portsmouth and Winchester. New contacts and friendships were made.

- **Hawley Badminton Club** hosted its partner club from Oberursel at the same time as the Twinning Association visitors were in



Rushmoor and arranged a BBQ for members of both Oberursel groups, host families, Twinning Association members and friends. It was a great evening of Anglo-German friendship.

- In September the **Twinning Association** hosted a group of nine members of Meudon's Historical Society, Les Amis de Meudon. The group enjoyed historical tours round Aldershot and Farnborough.



- In October, a member of the **Twinning Association** gave his annual music lecture in Meudon on Claude Debussy.

- In December, a team from the **Twinning Association** manned a stall at Oberursel's Christmas Market.



#### Nearer to home, the **Twinning Association**

- manned an information stand at Aldershot's Volunteer Fair
- attended the British-German Association Twinning Conference in Bristol
- attend a regional twinning meeting in Woking
- did presentations to two local organisations interested in twin town activities

See the full list of current and past twinning events on [www.rushmoortwinning.org.uk](http://www.rushmoortwinning.org.uk)

#### Membership



Any resident of Rushmoor or individual interested in twinning can become a member. Application forms can be found and downloaded from [www.rushmoortwinning.org.uk](http://www.rushmoortwinning.org.uk)

#### Facebook – Twinning Association of Rushmoor



#### Website - [www.rushmoortwinning.org.uk](http://www.rushmoortwinning.org.uk)

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