



# WHITSTABLE TWINNING ASSOCIATION *Newsletter* Issue 92 ~ JUNE 2015

Partnership Towns: ALBERTSLUND (Denmark), BORKEN (Germany), DAINVILLE (France), GRABOW (Germany),  
MÖLNDAL (Sweden), ŘÍČANY (Czech Rep)  
Link Towns: Sisimiut (Greenland), Bolków (Poland), L'Viv (Ukraine) East Renfrewshire (Scotland)

## AGM ~ held at the Tankerton Evangelical Church in March *A year of transition goes smoothly*

### Editor's Summary :

**Roger Annable**, as the new President, welcomed members to the meeting, especially the several Honorary Life Members who were present. He also took the opportunity to thank everyone who had organised his unexpected "send-off party". Not surprisingly, he issued Graham Nicholson with a gentle challenge to complete the agm in the same sort of short duration that he had always maintained. However, Graham had incorporated into this year's agenda reports from all of the coordinators of the twin towns, which extended the meeting but proved a useful and interesting innovation.

Following Roger's introduction, **Chairman Graham Nicholson** admitted that succeeding Roger was "*a hard act to follow*". He said: "A crucial test for any organisation is to safely negotiate a change of leadership". But he was pleased to say the year had gone smoothly.

He thanked the committee and members for helping WTA through the period of transition, saying that without their hard work and support the organisation could not continue. In particular he thanked the "conspirators" who organised Roger's "retirement" party which had contained a number of carefully kept surprises.

Graham summarised the year's events, all of which were reported in the Newsletter. He stressed that although car parking at the Junior School in the town was a valuable income stream it was important not to rely on it. "*We need to put on fund raising events from time to time. We try to separate events which are social – for members to enjoy, from fund raising, where we hope to part people from their spare cash. We want to remain an organisation with people at the centre and, as such, we want them to have a good time and provide interesting and different things to do. We do not want to target our members who are already supporting us through their membership fees*".

He thanked John Horstkamp for his running of the Borken branch and for keeping members in that town informed of WTA's various activities.

The Chairman regretted to record the deaths of Pam Savage, who was a long serving member of the Dainville group, and Lars G Andersen, of the Mölndal Twinning Association

**Gillian Michael, Secretary**, also thanked the committee for their support. She emphasised that it was now possible to keep up to date with the organisation not only through the Newsletter but the web-site ([www.whitstabletwinningassociation.eu](http://www.whitstabletwinningassociation.eu)) and facebook, which had allowed WTA to

Cont on p. 4

**Masthead:** This new beacon on Tankerton Slopes has recently replaced the one that was destroyed in gales a couple of years ago. The previous one was lit, along with over 1,000 others nationally in October 2005 as part of the celebrations of the 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Battle of Trafalgar.



*Independent and Self Funding  
Fostering International Friendship*

## Obituary



1900~2015

### Ethne Pearce

Ethne Pearce, who died in April, was the quiet, friendly, supportive wife of WTA stalwart Arthur Pearce who tirelessly spent more than 25 years in Whitstable racing around developing The Oyster Festival, the Twinning Association and the Chamber of Commerce.

She created the warm, homely Chestfield relaxed atmosphere into which they welcomed many guests from the Partnertowns. Here, whilst Arthur was out busy with doing things and seeing people in Whitstable, Ethne cooked and looked after the house, answered the many telephone calls but also indulged her love of gardening. Having, in early times, spent time in a plant nursery, she had the knowledge and energy to completely design and develop the previously neglected large garden of which she was justifiably proud. Very patient, putting up with Arthur always being out, she saw a good opportunity to get in the garden.

Of course she came to enjoy and support the whole idea of twinning which her husband was so passionate about. She knew his involvement in the war included time in the Rhineland and that he was committed to building bridges. Since 1987 they built a really special friendship with Hinrich and Susanna Petersen who themselves continued to look after Ethne after Arthur's death in 2000. They also had a special love for Říčany in Czech Republic and made several visits there.

Everyone loved Ethne and will remember her with a twinkle in her eye.

**Roger Annable (President WTA)**

### Contacts

**Chairman:** Graham Nicholson

[granich@globalnet.co.uk](mailto:granich@globalnet.co.uk)

(T: 01795 420809)

**Secretary:** Gillian Michael

[JOGI102@aol.com](mailto:JOGI102@aol.com) (T: 01227 793212)

**Treasurer:** Carol Tadman

[caroltadman@hotmail.com](mailto:caroltadman@hotmail.com)

(T:01227 791912)

**Membership secretary:** Judy Sutton,

[tandjsutton@sky.com](mailto:tandjsutton@sky.com)

(T: 01227 276659)

**Social & Fund Raising Secretary:**

**Position vacant.**

**Volunteer needed.**

### PARTNERSHIP TOWNS

#### CO-ORDINATORS

**Albertslund** David Carter

[davidcarter401@hotmail.com](mailto:davidcarter401@hotmail.com)

(T: 01227 272903 or 771022)

**Borken :** Stephen and Janet Lloyd

[stephen.john.lloyd@gmail.com](mailto:stephen.john.lloyd@gmail.com)

**Borken Membership Secretary:**

John Horstkamp, [jolabodo@t-online.de](mailto:jolabodo@t-online.de)

**Dainville:** Richard and Lizzie Hubbard.

[richardhubb@gmail.com](mailto:richardhubb@gmail.com)

(T: 01227 275036)

**Grabow:** Sylvia Carter

[sylviancarter@hotmail.com](mailto:sylviancarter@hotmail.com)

(T: 01227 272903 or 771022)

**Möln dal:** Gill and Norman Fox

Co-ordinators (as below)

**Říč any** Gillian Michael (as above)

#### YOUTH CO-ORDINATOR

Charlotte Howell

[chowell1980@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:chowell1980@hotmail.co.uk)

#### NEWSLETTER EDITOR:

Norman Fox [nafox@tinyworld.co.uk](mailto:nafox@tinyworld.co.uk)

(T:01227 265301)

**PRODUCTION** : Gill Fox, (as above)

#### **WTA WEBSITE:**

[www.whitstabletwinningassociation.eu](http://www.whitstabletwinningassociation.eu)

**Also FACEBOOK**

## Obituary ~ Finn Aaberg

**Roger Annable, President, WTA writes:**

Whitstable Twinning Association expresses its sadness at the passing of dear Finn Aaberg. He was Mayor of Albertslund, serving successive periods of office during the crucial early stages of forming a brand-new town on the edge of Copenhagen, and right up to recent times.

We recognise the legendary role he played in the development of the new town of Albertslund for which its townsfolk will be eternally grateful. We watched the rapid recognition that the new Albertslund acquired under his leadership, locally, within Denmark and internationally in its wide Twinning with towns throughout Europe. His partnership with Chief Executive, Kai Nielsen, was the most significant contributing factor in Albertslund's rise. Finn used his financial and media expertise in his role as Mayor to gain every advantage for Albertslund.

We first began meeting Finn in 1986 and Whitstable joined Albertslund to simultaneously sign Twinning Agreements with Borken in 1987. Over subsequent years we were always meeting him in Germany and furthering our friendship. This led to Whitstable and Albertslund signing our Official Partnership Agreements in 1995. I and many people had great respect for Finn and his achievements. He visited Whitstable as well as welcoming me into his home.

Whitstable and the European Partnertowns join many friends in Albertslund and throughout Denmark in paying tribute to a great man who worked hard to build and develop Albertslund.

**David Carter, WTA co-ordinator for Albertslund adds:** Finn was a very popular Mayor and strong supporter of the Twinning idea. Well known in all the twin towns and always ready to go to, or send someone to represent their town and keep involved. He will be greatly missed by all, with his easy going manner. That is how I remember him. Very much a Dane. I add my condolences to his family and friends.

### **Changes at the Borken Partnerschaftsverein**

*Graham Nicholson writes:* - I would just like to pass on a big thank you from all at WTA to the Board members of the BorkenPv who have recently stepped down from the posts that they have held. The people concerned are Siegbert Hohaus, Willi Deckers, Christa Schmäing, and Antonius König.

The work of all people in an organisation is important but Siegbert especially has done so much over a very long period of time. In particular his work with the schools, and music, has been much appreciated. Willi has also done much to link the fire brigades of Whitstable and Borken and has been a keen supporter of twinning. Christa has visited us in Whitstable many times and, again, has often helped at events, and Antonius König is also a long serving Board member.

To all of you, many thanks for your hard work and we look forward to seeing you soon, when perhaps you will be less preoccupied with organisation.

### **INTERNATIONAL PARTNERSHIP NETWORK MEETING**

**Friday November 13th – Sunday 15th November at Tankerton Evangelical Church.**

**It is WTA's turn to host the International Partnership Network Meeting this year and delegates from all the twinned towns will be invited for the weekend.**

**On Friday evening there will be a group promotion night in the form of a Reception for guests and hosts to which Whitstable Associations and Clubs will also be invited to meet our twin town friends.**

***It is hoped that WTA members will ask any other group that they belong to, to come along as well.***

**Members will be needed to host, cook and assist with lunch and afternoon tea during Saturday's conference.**

**All hosts and members will be invited join us for Dinner on Saturday night.**

**Full details will be distributed nearer the time, but please contact Gillian Michael now if you are able to help in any capacity.**

**N.B. IMPORTANT!  
Advance information**

Cont: from front page catch up with old friends and remain in contact with new ones.

Gillian said that the coming year would involve a host of activities including the exchange visits organised by Tankerton Football Club and Canterbury Harriers to and from Dainville. She added: *“It’s really encouraging to see the development of these partnerships and we hope that as they grow in confidence they will start to visit the other twin towns”*.

There had been many requests from the twin towns for groups (clubs and associations) of like-minded people to become involved in exchanges.

Amongst the plans for the summer was a proposed visit to the Rhine/Mosel area for sightseeing and a wine tour, also a stall at Harbour Day (selling jigsaws, jewellery and good children’s toys). September would be the busiest month with a 1940s event at All Saints Church Hall (September 12) and the annual Clubs and Associations Fair in the grounds of St Alphege Church on the September 26.

November 13-15 will bring the annual International Network Meeting to Whitstable. Each of the twin towns has been invited to send four representatives to discuss common issues and plan future events. Volunteers would be needed to host the visitors, also help with catering. All members would be invited to a dinner to mark the occasion.

As well as the Christmas Market in the grounds of the Castle on December 6th it was planned to have a coach trip to Arras for their Christmas Market on December 13th.

**Albertslund Co-ordinator David Carter** said that this year it will be 20 years since the signing of our partnership agreement between Albertslund and Whitstable, though we have known and worked with them since 1986 when he was billeted with Albertslund scouts in Borken. Keeping in touch with Kai Nielsen led to the official twinning. We have had a few exchanges with Albertslund and this year we look forward to Danish guests coming to Whitstable from 26<sup>th</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> July to celebrate the Anniversary. It will be chance to renew old friendships and build new ones with Danes for whom it is the first visit to Whitstable.

**Borken Co-ordinators Janet and Stephen Lloyd** -The relationship with Borken continues to remain strong. There was a successful visit from Whitstable to Borken in January and a schools visit which went very well (see p 5). After many years of being the Borken co-ordinator Sylvia Carter stepped down, but she has retained the role of co-ordinator to Grabow. The folk of Borken arranged a wonderful 'retirement' presentation for Sylvia and welcomed her replacements, Janet and Stephen Lloyd, and also Graham Nicholson as the new WTA Chairman, with open arms. Later in the year Janet and Stephen arranged a well attended German evening in conjunction with The Ship Centurion in Whitstable High Street. Janet and Stephen would like to thank everyone that supported the event. If you would like to be involved in setting up a Borken sub-committee please contact Janet on 0786031809

**Dainville -Richard and Lizzie Hubbard** - Regrettably, Ann Moulton stepped down as co-ordinator of the group in July 2014. We took over jointly, for the time being. Fundraising and socials followed the usual pattern with the attraction of an owl and his keeper at the Autumn Social in October. Our Dainville friends arrived in May and thoroughly enjoyed themselves. The other highlight of the year was our visit to Dainville for the centenary remembrance of the beginning of the First World War. Graham gave his speech in French, and presented a framed photograph of the Tower of London ceramic poppies to Louis Demailly, president of the area FNACA.

**Grabow Co-ordinator Sylvia Carter** reported: “We signed our friendship agreement in 2007 with the beautiful town of Grabow. Since then there have been several visits between our two towns and all who were able to go there will remember the great hospitality and friendships formed. Four people from Grabow came for the farewell do for our retiring chairman Roger last year. This year four representatives from Whitstable Twinning Association have been invited to visit in September for the opening of the newly renovated Schutzenhaus. I am sure there will be an invitation some time for Whitstable to visit again and it is something not to be missed if at all possible. We had many calendars as Christmas Gifts from Grabow for our members and friends showing the renovations that have taken place since the reunification and the real beauty of this medieval town.”

**Möln dal- Co-ordinator Gill Fox** reported: “The Twinning Association committee in Möln dal has changed a lot during the year and we are very pleased that Michael Klein is now Chairman and has gathered together an enthusiastic committee. The enjoyable visit to Möln dal in August to celebrate the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of their twinning was fully reported in the Newsletter. In November the International Network meeting was held in Möln dal attended by Gill, Graham, and Gillian. St Lucia’s Day was celebrated as usual, but Gill and Norman have decided to have a break from it in the coming year, which

will also see a visit to Mölndal by WTA members.”

**Říčany – Co-ordinator Gillian Michael said:** “Communication between Říčany and Whitstable is very good but I am afraid that apart from Říčany arranging a dance workshop, which we hope will be attended by Phoenix Performing Arts in June, we will only see our friends at the Network meeting to be held in Whitstable in November. Říčany are keen to get in touch with, and exchange with, likeminded groups, especially table tennis and chess. It is hoped we can arrange a Czech themed evening in January 2016.

**Carol Tadman (Treasurer)** reported a small financial loss for the year (£396.07) but it was decided not to increase membership fees.

The following were re-elected to the committee:-

Chairman: Graham Nicholson	Secretary: Gillian Michael
Treasurer: Carol Tadman	Membership secretary: Judy Sutton
Albertslund co-ordinator: David Carter	Borken co-ordinators: Janet and Stephen Lloyd
Grabow co-ordinator: Sylvia Carter	Molndal co-ordinator: Gill Fox
Dainville co-ordinator: Richard Hubbard	Říčany co-ordinator: Gillian Michael
Youth co-ordinator: Charlotte Howell	Newsletter and Website: Gill and Norman Fox

Borken Membership Secretary: John Horstkamp,

After many years service as Social coordinator, Dave Parris had decided to stand down. The committee is looking for a volunteer to take over as Social Secretary.

The Chairman said that there was also a vacancy for another committee member and suggested that anyone interested could attend a couple of meetings to see whether they were prepared to join.



With the Lord Mayor and Sheriff at the Guildhall Council Chamber

## Varied attractions for Remigius Hauptschule students

At the end of March we had the regular visit from students of Remigius Hauptschule, Borken. This year they stayed in a hotel and a hostel as we could not find hosts for them. Having arrived on Wednesday evening, the students crossed the road for a traditional fish and chip supper.

**Thursday was a Whitstable Day.** It started with a walk around the town centre, exploring the intricacies of Squeeze Gut Alley and ending with a sea food tasting at the Harbour. The students then made their way up to the Community College. The Head of

Modern Foreign Languages, Alison McGuicken, met them and they were shown around the College. They also experienced a school lunch after which there was a meeting with students at the College who were learning German. It gave both sets a chance to show off their linguistic skills. In the evening a picnic tea and beetle drive was put on in the Community Space at Tesco.

**Friday was a Canterbury day.** A walk into the city centre was followed by an appointment at the Guildhall with the Lord Mayor. As always this was very successful. The Lord Mayor, Ann Taylor, was extremely welcoming despite having a sore throat. She was accompanied by the Sheriff, Tony Austin, who explained the role of the Lord Mayor in excellent German. After a considerable time, which was much appreciated by all, the group moved on to Canterbury Cathedral. They had a small tour and also had the opportunity to look at the two new statues of the Queen and Prince Philip which had been unveiled the previous day.

After an evening meal at the Hostel, the group went to Whitstable where they met up with some Scouts and Guides at the St Vincent's Parish Social Centre. A number of interesting games had been planned by the scouts and the guides and much fun was had by all. A particular favourite was the Human Hungry Hippos.

**Saturday was a London day.** A hosted trip on the London Eye was followed by sight-seeing at ground level on foot. Some time for shopping was allowed before mixing with the stars at Madame Tussauds. Then it was time for home.

Everyone appeared to have a good time. Many thanks to all who helped in whatever way with this trip.



Human Hungry Hippos was a favourite game

G.N.

## WTA award for Phoenix Performing Arts

Secretary Gillian Michael and former WTA Chairman Roger Annable took to the stage at Phoenix Performing Arts tenth anniversary evening of song and dance at the Marlowe Theatre in April, but not to sing or dance. In front of a large audience, they made a financial presentation to PPA in recognition of the group's involvement with the partner towns. It was received by WTA's good friend Sophie Guariglia (PPA's Principal). The PPA have made a total of eleven visits to the partner towns. Gillian said: "The students are excellent ambassadors and a credit in their behaviour. They are highly thought of in the partner towns. We are recognising the significant contribution they have made to our network".



### A DATE FOR YOUR DIARY .....

On 12 September 2015 ~ 6.00pm for 6.30pm  
WTA will be hosting

### A 1940's Themed Dinner and Dance

At All Saints Church Hall CT5 1PG  
1940's Costume (optional)~1<sup>st</sup> Whitstable Scout Band  
Themed Quiz ~ Raffle in aid of Help for Heroes  
Full details will be circulated later.

## Don't forget .....

### WHITSTABLE HARBOUR DAY STALL

15<sup>th</sup> AUGUST ~ This is an important fund-raising opportunity for WTA  
Please help with a donation of jigsaws and dress/costume jewellery.

Contact Carol Tadman to let her know if you are able to help or need further  
details: [caroltadman@hotmail.com](mailto:caroltadman@hotmail.com) or 01227 791912

### COME AND VISIT THE STALL



### Tankerton Youth F.C. to host F.C. Dainville

Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> June ~10.00am ~ Seaview Caravan Park  
*Annual fun and presentation day.*

FC Dainville will be bringing two or three teams of 10 to 12 year olds to take part in football matches, including fun events such as parents v kids, and over 35s v U18s.

Also ..... football kick speed gun, coconut shy, obstacle course and other stalls. They would be pleased if WTA members volunteer to help where they can as well as promote WTA. Some of the committee will be there on what promises to be an enjoyable day out. Why not come along too?

Contact Norman Fox ~ [nafox@tinyworld.co.uk](mailto:nafox@tinyworld.co.uk) 01227 265301

# A special visit to Dainville

Our visit to Dainville this year in May was something special. We travelled by coach instead of in our own cars. Graham Nicholson kindly offered to be our driver of a Regents coach – what a luxury, thank you Graham! We gladly accepted. For once the drivers could enjoy a drink or three.

On arriving at Calais at about mid-day we headed off in the direction of Boulogne for the first of the individual visits. This was to Hardelot Castle, Le Centre Culturel de l'Entente Cordiale. It is an interesting place, built for a French Anglophile in the 19<sup>th</sup> century on the site of a mediaeval castle. The various rooms all have a blend of English and French decorative styles. After about two hours we resumed our journey to Dainville to rendezvous with our hosts.

On Saturday afternoon we assembled at Arras museum for a guided tour of an exhibition, Versailles and its Court. How amazing and beautiful life was for those who had wealth, and how easily it was lost by losing wars.



That evening we were welcomed at the new Library for a private view, with refreshments, of a new exhibition only open three days, 'So British'. It is a view of their 'neighbour in different aspects: history, geography, culture, sustainable development, science, technology, art, music, and literature of the country. Through a photo exhibition and a retrospective, a focus will be made also on Whitstable, the Kent partner town of Dainville of almost 30 years.'



Marie-France Potdevin, David and Sylvia, meet the Giants at Arras.



Sunday morning was used for a visit to the recently dedicated International Memorial for the First World War at Notre-dame de Lorette, an Ellipse of Remembrance.

We finished with a farewell lunch of friendship at the Ferme de St Jean Community Centre, in Dainville, before making our way home.

*Richard Hubbard*



## EVENTS 2015

### June

- 14 Dainville Youth FC to visit Whitstable. See page 6  
26-28 Albertslund members to visit Whitstable – contact David Carter

### July

- 4 Dainville Group Summer Lunch – See below.  
11 Car Parking, Junior School. Please contact Norman Fox if you can help for a short time.  
Wine tasting tour in Germany - List now CLOSED

### August

- 14-16 Whitstable members to visit Mölndal- contact Gill Fox  
15 Harbour Day-contact Carol Tadman—see page 6  
22 Car Parking-Junior School. Please contact Norman Fox if you can help for a short time.

### September

- 3 Car Parking, Junior School. Please contact Norman Fox if you can help for a short time.  
12 1940's Dance with 1st Whitstable Scout Band -All Saints Church Hall– see page 6  
26 Whitstable Clubs and Associations' Fair- St Alphege- contact Norman Fox  
26 Cake Stall at Dainville – contact Ann Moulton

### October

- 16 Dainville Group Autumn Social– contact Richard and Lizzie Hubbard

### November

- 7 Car Parking, Junior School. Please contact Norman Fox if you can help for a short time  
8 Remembrance Day  
11 Armistice Day - contact Richard and Lizzie Hubbard  
13-15 International Partnership Network Meeting, Whitstable-see page 3

### December

- 6 Tankerton Christmas Market  
13 Coach trip to Arras Christmas Market—see below

### January 2016

- TBC Czech themed event

**Other Events in Whitstable**  
**Oyster Festival**  
Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> July – Friday 31<sup>st</sup>  
**Carnival** Saturday 1st August  
**Regatta** 15<sup>th</sup>/16<sup>th</sup> August

## *Dainville Summer Lunch*

*4th July,*

*at Tricia Martin's, The Old Parsonage, Church Street.*

*12 for 12.30pm.*

*For full details please contact Richard and Lizzie Hubbard.'*

[richardhubb@gmail.com](mailto:richardhubb@gmail.com) [lizziehubb@gmail.com](mailto:lizziehubb@gmail.com) (T: 01227 275036)

## ARRAS CHRISTMAS MARKET

Sunday 13 December 2015

Further to the flyer distributed at the beginning of May, if you haven't done so already, please let Gillian know if you are interested in this trip. As we are travelling by coach we need to know numbers as soon as possible in order to know what size to order.

Gillian Michael [JOGI102@aol.com](mailto:JOGI102@aol.com) (T: 01227 793212)

