



# WHITSTABLE TWINNING ASSOCIATION *Newsletter* Issue 76 ~ MARCH 2011

**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)

## Tankerton Christmas Market



*Gillian Godley reports:* This year was certainly different. For a start it was a different venue. Instead of Tankerton High Street, it was held in Whitstable Castle and grounds. The advantage for us was we could put the marquee up the night before, albeit in the rain. But it was great not having to hurry and put it up before being able to set up the stall. So when we arrived on Sunday **Continued on p.4**

**Masthead photo:** WTA held its New Year Lunch (see page 10) at The Monument in Church Street. The pub was first licensed in 1731, having previously been a cottage with a forge. The name of the pub is thought to be associated with the Wynn Ellis mausoleum, which was built in nearby All Saints churchyard in 1875.



*Independent and Self Funding  
Fostering International Friendship*

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**INTERNATIONAL TWINNING**

**PARTNERSHIP NETWORK:**

[www.vuxenutbildning.molndal.se/  
twinning/](http://www.vuxenutbildning.molndal.se/twinning/)

# ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

to be held

**THURSDAY MARCH 24th**

at

**Whitstable Castle**

7 for 7.30



*Please contact a  
Committee member if you want  
a lift.*

*If you have not received your AGM papers  
by 11 March please contact Gillian.  
All AGM papers have been emailed  
to known email addresses.*

## HAVE YOU VISITED THE WTA NEW WEBSITE YET?

Norman Fox, webmaster, is including  
new material regularly  
including photos in the "Gallery".

Your comments and suggestions  
are welcome: [nafox@tinyworld.co.uk](mailto:nafox@tinyworld.co.uk)

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

# David Carter sets up shop in Albertslund for ASSOCIATIONS' DAY



The original plan was to go to the August event with two other members. However, that did not work out and so, in the end I travelled alone. Well, not quite, as I learned the two girls from the “Biennale” group had planned to go too.

So after a few false starts, I made contact and arranged to meet them at Stansted just before the flight out. This we did, at the departure gate, so not much time to get to know each other. But by finding three seats together, it worked out fine. Hitherto I had not a great deal of knowledge of what their mission entailed. So, on the flight I soon caught up.

As it turned out, it was not possible for them to be met on arrival at the airport, so we bought our tickets together for the train to Copenhagen. Then, having put them on the right train to Albertslund, I found mine to Naestved, my hostess, Christina, having had to work an extra shift until noon.

On Friday I had a chance to look around the town before going up to Albertslund for the evening dinner at the Town Hall. This was not the first time I had been to this venue. There was an excellent dinner, with each course explained by the chef.

Saturday was an early start, building up the stall, this time in, or rather, under the town hall as the marketplace is being renovated.

The Associations' Day is a chance for all clubs and associations to “set up shop” and show what they do and give an insight about their activities. In all I think about forty clubs had stands, which included Whitstable, Borken, Grabow, East Renfrewshire, Mölndal and our hosts, Albertslund. Everyone seemed very busy, with many people asking about what we do and about the towns. A chance, too, to go round the other stalls and meet leaders of those clubs. Hopefully interest will develop between at least some of them.

Packing up late in the afternoon, we had an invitation to coffee with Poul and Annette Aramark before catching the train to Copenhagen for dinner as the guests of the Twinning Association. We walked through the brightly lit streets to the restaurant. Later we went through the city again to Tivoli, the sometimes noisy, sometimes very peaceful, always beautifully lit, pleasure gardens right in the centre of Copenhagen.

Sunday was a chance to meet a few more people and visit Copenhagen again and relax with a walk by the yacht marina; very nice.

The ‘girls’, Leah Elsey and Sonia Uddin, had an “Arts” programme and were shown round various galleries, met artists and were also included in the civic and association dinners. I am sure they had a memorable and enlightening visit. Good luck with the “Biennale”

Many thanks to Aase Möller and the Albertslund Twinning Association for their generosity and kindness and also to my hostess, friend and chauffeuse, Christina. I look forward to the next chance to go to Denmark with perhaps a few more people?



**Cont. from p 1:** morning all we had to do was unload the van and display our wares. There was no rain, no wind and, most importantly, no snow, but it was cold.

We were ready to go by 11.00 and waiting for customers. As it was a new venue, this year was like starting again. There had been some publicity but we were still unsure about how successful it would be.

Soon people started to arrive and we did sell out of all the food items, but it did not have the same buzzing atmosphere that we got in the High Street and I am sure that there were a lot people who normally come along for a glass or two of Glühwein but missed us as we were in the Castle grounds.

Some people said that we were the only stall that looked Christmassy, which is sad considering it is called a Christmas market. As most of the stalls were in the Castle building, it was a really weird atmosphere.

When it comes to this event, we are now self sufficient as we have the 10x4m marquee, weights and an 8.5KVA generator, and providing John does not sell the van, a vehicle to transport all of the necessary equipment. The marquee, weights and generator were paid for by a donation from a Borken member. Thank you very much.

The organisers tell me the market will be held in the Castle again next year.

I have to say thank you very much to John Michael, who spent four weeks one way or another working on the market; Carol Tadman, who help me bag up some of the foods, and Channel Weighting Ltd who opened up his business on the Saturday afternoon and sold us the weights. Thanks also to those people who braved the cold weather to help us sell all our wares.

***A week later (Saturday 11th December) there was a second event at the Castle.***

*Gillian Godley writes ~*

## **Castle Christmas Food Fair**

This can only be described as a disaster for us. The event was a last minute idea by the Castle and held a week after the Christmas Market and there was certainly not enough publicity promoting it. As we used one of the gazebos instead of the marquee, it did not take us long to set up and then we waited and waited for some action. It did not happen and by three o'clock we were packing up, having almost had to force people to come and look, let alone purchase. We did feel sorry for the Sea Cadets who played their little socks off in freezing temperatures to a tiny audience.

As we had cleared the stock the first weekend, we had to purchase a small amount more to see us through this day and were left with it. Fortunately some of it can be stored until next year's Tankerton Christmas market. As to a Castle Christmas event next year, we will have to wait and see.



**CAR PARKING.....IS AN  
IMPORTANT FUNDRAISER FOR VERY LITTLE  
EFFORT, ESPECIALLY IF LOTS OF MEMBERS  
GIVE A HOUR OR SO. PLEASE LET GILLIAN  
KNOW (Tel: 01227 793212) IF YOU CAN SPARE  
SOME TIME ON ANY OF THESE DATES:**

**Sunday April 17th ~ Monday May 30th ~ Saturday June 11th**

**VENUE : WHITSTABLE JUNIOR SCHOOL**



Sylvia and Judy, seen here with Linda and Sylvy, are once again arranging the .....

**WTA ANNUAL**  
**COFFEE MORNING**  
**and SALE OF GOODS**

at

**St Alphege Church**  
**SATURDAY MARCH 19TH**  
**9am-12.00**

**Members are requested to support this important fund-raising event as below .....**

**PLEASE MAKE A CAKE** for slicing, or little ones, or biscuits for sale with a cup of coffee, and for a cake stall.

**ALSO NEEDED :~DONATIONS of books, toys, and bric-a-brac (not jumble)**  
**:~WTA MEMBERS TO HELP** on the day to assist on stalls or in the kitchen, even for a short time. First timers very welcome.

For information regarding delivery of your goods, and offers of help  
**PLEASE CONTACT:** Sylvia Carter Tel: 01227 771022 or 272903  
or Judy Sutton Tel: 01227 276659

**If you can't help, Sylvia and Judy will be delighted if MEMBERS call in to have a coffee and cake in support of this event to raise essential funds.**

*Why don't you get more involved?*

*During the next quarter we need members to:*

Help run the charity car park ....see p 4  
Assist at the Coffee Morning .....see above  
Make a cake for Gillian's Tea Party .....see



**Gillian Godley explains the background to the item below:** *When WTA made the official agreement with Mölndal they also made one with Canterbury City Council. The deputy head teacher Rosemary Welch and assistant head teacher Julie Holder had as part of their on going training programme the need to learn and see first hand a Scandinavian school system. So with this in mind and being a governor of St Stephen's Infant school, I let the school know that I could arrange for them to visit Mölndal schools and see at first hand how Sweden's schooling system operates.*

*When Lars Samuelsson came over a couple of years ago with a group of students from Brattasskolen for an exchange visit with Whitstable Community College, I arranged for Rosemary and Julie to meet them all. The following report is the result of that meeting.*

## **St. Stephen's teachers visit Mölndal**

**Rosemary Welch, Deputy Head Teacher, St Stephen's School, Canterbury, writes :** Our trip to Sweden began with Lars, the Headteacher of the Brattasskolen, meeting myself and Julie Holder at the airport and taking us to the hotel he had kindly booked for us.

The following day we were again met by Lars and driven to his school.

Brattasskolen is set in beautiful grounds, with a forest bordering the playground where the children are free to play and explore both during their lesson and recreation times.

We spent two interesting and delightful days observing the way the children were taught in Sweden.

Lars had organised an interesting programme, with time to spend with the younger children in three different classes.

In Sweden the children start school at six years of age, spending their younger years at Kindergarten. There were many interesting differences:

- Class sizes are a lot smaller compared to class sizes in England, with larger classrooms.
- The teachers use the outside environment to enhance and extend their lessons.
- The children are free to play and explore the forest at playtimes.
- Play equipment is exciting, with less emphasis on health and safety.
- Each child is sent to school with weatherproof coats and suitable footwear for outside work. All the children change their shoes when they enter the classroom.
- The day begins in a very relaxing way with candle light and singing.
- The children are very well behaved, independent and very polite at all times.
- ICT does not feature so strongly in the younger classes. There are no interactive whiteboards, but there are computers in each of the classrooms.
- All children have a hot lunch that is paid for by the government. Lunches are staggered and start at 10:30am and there is a separate dining room.
- The school day begins at 8.00am and finishes at 1.00pm for the younger children.
- Most of the children attend breakfast club and afterschool clubs which are run by the teaching staff.
- There are no government tests for the younger pupils

Lars and Titti also spent time showing us the sights of Mölndal. We had a delightful afternoon visiting a castle and the local museum and mill. On our last afternoon we were taken out to lunch by Lars and Titti and then spent time exploring Gothenburg, with its broad boulevards, green parks and stone houses. Both Julie and I had a wonderful time and would like to thank Lars and Titti for their generosity and hospitality and look forward to them both visiting us at St Stephen's.



*“The night treads heavily around yards and dwell-ings/In places unreached by sun, the shadows brood/Into our dark house she comes, bearing lighted candles, Sankta Lucia, Sankta Lucia!”*

Mölndal co-ordinators Gill and Norman Fox once again held a brunch to mark St Lucia Day with a Swedish style buffet, on Sunday 13th December.



Not at the crack of dawn however as in the song above! With the St Lucia song playing in the background, over twenty members enjoyed a wide range of typical food, including the special Lucia Day saffron buns, Luciakatte, with lots of coffee, finishing up with



a warm glass of glögg. Everyone agreed it was a great way to spend Sunday morning and raise funds for WTA.



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The Dainville Section  
will be holding their annual  
**BISTRO EVENING**  
On the revised date of  
**Friday MARCH 18th.**  
To be held at the  
Parish Social Centre, Castle Road  
at 7.30pm

Three courses ~ Water and glasses provided ~ Bring your own tippie  
Tickets £12, and details from Ann Moulton  
Tel:01227 77318 or email: admoulton8@googlemail.com  
ALL WTA MEMBERS WELCOME TO THIS POPULAR EVENING  
OF GREAT FOOD AND GOOD COMPANY!

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# “Cool” Teachers retire!

Headteacher Christof Schmiechen and his Deputy Siegbert Hohaus said goodbye to students, staff and invited guests at retirement celebrations in Remigius High School, Borken at the end of January.

Asked on Borken TV what they thought of the pair, two youngsters commented that they were KÜHL teachers (obviously great street cred!) WTA Chairman Roger Annable, who had been invited with his wife Linda, told the assembled



guests that Siegbert had been organising annual exchanges with Sir William Nottidge School, later to become Community College Whitstable, since 1988...twenty three years, during which hundreds of pupils had stayed in each others homes. They had learned about life in each others schools; made visits to industries and even visited the former East Germany in 1990 shortly after the fall of the Wall. Siegbert was only able to complete this valuable international work because at an early stage Christof had decided this was important for pupils, featuring as a highlight of their school career. He knew that pupils learned more in a trip to Whitstable than they would in a month in the classroom.

Mentioned in Dispatches were the people at the Whitstable end who worked organising with Siegbert, including Roger, followed by Graham Ralph and currently Graham Nicholson (who was taken ill at the last minute and unable to travel).



Teacher exchange visits and biennial International Teachers Conferences had also been organised.

Roger paid tribute to their outstanding contribution, presenting each with a specially commissioned painting by Whitstable Artist John Cann on behalf of WTA and CCW.



# Canterbury Harriers

## A thriving club with strong European links

I am delighted that Canterbury Harriers have recently joined WTA following our attendance at your conference last November and I have been invited to write a few words about the club.

We currently have 122 members of all shapes, sizes, ages, abilities, and this being Canterbury, nationalities. The club draws in members from a wide area in and beyond Canterbury, including the surrounding villages as well as Faversham, Herne Bay and of course Whitstable where both our current Chairman, Marco Keir, myself and a number of Harriers all live.

The ethos of the club is to support all runners, irrespective of their natural ability, to achieve their running goals whether that is to get fit, achieve personal bests, win competitions or simply to run faster or longer. The Harriers meet to train twice a week on Tuesday and Thursday evenings from the Kings School Recreation Centre in Canterbury. Training is led by the club's fully qualified coaches. Club members participate in running events all year round both in Kent and further afield, including abroad. We take part in road running events over various distances including 5k, 10k, 10 miles, half marathon and full marathon being the most popular. Our members regularly win age-related prizes and our women's teams in particular very often appear on the podium with a trophy. The club is also an enthusiastic participant in the Kent Fitness Cross Country League which is held in seven locations across Kent each winter, including the Blean Woods event which we organise.

The Harriers host two major road running events, the Whitstable 10k which is long established and held each May Day Bank Holiday and the Mount Ephraim 10k each July. The Whitstable 10k in particular brings over 600 runners along with their friends and family into the town. A percentage of the entry fee is donated to local charities from both these races. Club members also support the organisation of community events such as the Herne Bay Race for Life and Man on the Run charity events, and some of our members have recently instigated the weekly Whitstable Park Run which you may have seen taking place on Saturday mornings on Tankerton Slopes.

I should also say something about the club's overseas activities. In 2010, forty nine Harriers took part in events overseas. The biggest participation was in the annual trip to the Le Touquet 10k in France. We also had members participate in eight city marathons including Barcelona, Paris, Krawkow, Dingle and Venice. We also took thirteen Harriers across to Canterbury's twin town of Reims in France to take part in their annual running festival – [Reims a toute jambes](#) (all legs) – which is a major event in the French running calendar. We were privileged to be hosted by the Reims-Canterbury Twinning Association for the weekend which included a visit to a small champagne producer, several champagne tastings and receptions and a pre-race dinner. The majority of Harriers stayed with host families, sometimes for the second or third year running. We were able to reciprocate this hospitality last year by hosting thirty five runners from Reims at our Mount Ephraim 10k event and look forward to doing so again this summer.

I hope this has given you a little insight to our activities and we look forward to a long and fruitful relationship with WTA and your partners in the future.

Please do have a look out our website: <http://www.canterburyharriers.org/>

<http://www.canterburyharriers.org/whitstable-10k-road-race-entries-now-open-20110108> **Bob Pullen**

This Newsletter is Quarterly, so keep in touch between issues by checking out the website:-

**[www.whitstablewinningassociation.eu](http://www.whitstablewinningassociation.eu)**

## Excellent New Year Lunch enjoyed by too few

This year's New Year event, held on Saturday 5th February, broke new ground, being held at The Monument at lunchtime.

Disappointingly, only twenty seven members attended, which was partly because of the late confirmation of the date and the fact that several people were away. However, those who decided not to come missed a convivial lunch with a good choice of excellent food.



Secretary Gillian Godley said that while the event was enjoyable it was discouraging that so many members did not attend, especially as the change to mid-day was in response to members who had said they were in favour of holding the event at lunchtime because they did not want to go out after dark.

Obviously, it's impossible to satisfy everyone. Any comments or ideas for next year's members' annual get-together would be gratefully received by Gillian.

A raffle raised £42 for WTA funds.

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### Partnership Association in Borken Growing

The first meeting of the Partnerschaftsverein of the year was very well attended as members enjoyed a meal and drinks together in the Heimat House Marbeck. It was even on Borken TV! Siegbert Hohaus (Chairman) welcomed members, the two young London Artists and English guests who were attending his retirement function the next day. The gathering learned how the New Year was celebrated in all the partnertowns, although Roger (in German) skirted around that to draw members (not going to be present the next day) attention to the twenty three years of outstanding international work completed by Siegbert in schools, supported completely by Christof, who had made everything possible that Siegbert and his staff wanted to do.

Later, members knowledge of the Partnertowns was challenged in a fun quiz. It was great to be there on such an evening, seeing friends enjoying themselves and scurrying around doing jobs themselves, just as we operate in WTA.

*Roger Annable*

# TWIN & LINKED TOWNS' BULLETIN BOARD

## Whitstable



The British registered general cargo ship 'Velox' docked on the East Quay in January. Just under ninety metres long and with a gross tonnage of 2033, this was one of the largest ships to have visited Whitstable Harbour. The ship's deep draft necessitated careful manoeuvring. The 'Velox' was in the harbour to carry out routine engineering maintenance.

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A controversial plan to turn the former cinema called The Oxford into a pub has been approved by Canterbury City Council. The 1936 art deco style building ceased to be a cinema in 1984 and became a Bingo hall. The new owners, JD Wetherspoon, have given assurances that externally the building will not be drastically altered (the company has a reputation for retaining the character of properties they purchase). Opposition has come mainly from people who believe that Wetherspoon's policy of low price drinks and food will harm the existing pubs, but others believe it could kick-start the less 'trendy' end of the town.

## Möln dal

New plans to redevelop the

entire centre of the city have gone on show at the town hall. Construction will start next year, with a new central building planned to be open in 2014. The overall building project includes 480 flats, 140 shops and a twenty five storey building. The flats should be ready for occupation in 2017.

## Borken

There is also news of redevelopment in Borken. Meetings have been held between the City Council and investment companies regarding the proposed development of the southern section of the market place. The public were also invited to an exhibition detailing the proposals, with a virtual 3D model.

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Mayor Rolf Lührmann has opened a travelling exhibition by the Economic Development Corporation for Borken dedicated to the women entrepreneurs of the district. The aim of the exhibition, which is called "How women lead companies" is to inform more people about the successful work currently being done by women.

## East Renfrewshire

*John Queen reports:*

Following the Network conference held in Whitstable in November, East Renfrewshire have started to make more links with Whitstable through Swalecliffe and Mearns Primary Schools. The Primary schools have been in touch and hope to use email links and try

to include the beginner reception classes by swapping pictures etc.

We are also looking forward to a visit from Albertslundkoret (choir) in September.

## Dainville



While there has been news from Möln dal and Borken about new town centre developments, Dainville is not to be left out because the Town Hall (the *Mairie*) is being almost completely re-built.

For many years it was well known that working conditions in the town hall fell below modern expected standards. The reception areas for visitors and regular users did not give a very good impression.

When it was built in 1880 the *Mairie* was not only the town hall but a school, with accommodation for teachers. At that time it was common for schools to have living quarters for teachers. The office used until recently by the Mayor, Françoise Rossignol, was originally the lady teacher's flat. All of the old building apart from the facade was demolished. Rebuilding is well advanced and completion is expected later this year. The improved premises will provide far more and better accommodation for civic functions and local organisations.

## W.T.A. EVENTS 2011

<b>March</b>	18	Dainville Section Bistro, at Parish Social Centre, Castle Road.
	23-27	Borken students visit Community College Whitstable
	24	AGM at Whitstable Castle - see p.2
<b>April</b>	3	Canterbury Harriers first visit to Dainville for The Foulees Dainvilloises - see p.9
	13-17	CCW students visit Borken
<b>May</b>	17	Fund-raising car parking, Whitstable Junior School
	13-15	Visit to Dainville
	22	Afternoon Tea Party, courtesy of Gillian and John (see below)
<b>June</b>	30	Fund-raising car parking, Whitstable Junior School
	11	Fund-raising car parking, Whitstable Junior School
	11-12	Tankerton Youth Football Club visit to Dainville
	16-19	Whitstable Firefighters visit Borken
	20-26	International Youth Summit (Canterbury)
<b>July</b>	22-26	Volkschochshule (adult students) visit Whitstable
	TBC	CCW students exchange visit to Mölndal.
	9	Dainville Section Summer Lunch
<b>August</b>	21-24	Albertslund Partnership Association to visit Whitstable (during Oyster Festival)
	13-14	Regatta
<b>September</b>	24	Dainville Braderie - Tea and cake stall
<b>October</b>	21	Dainville Section Autumn Social at Parish Social Centre, Castle Road.
	24-28	DLRG visit to Whitstable
<b>November</b>	11	Armistice Day visit to Dainville
	TBA	International Network Partnership Meeting in Grabow
<b>December</b>	4	Christmas Market

**John and Gillian cordially invite you and your friends and family to join us for an**



# Afternoon Tea Party

**on SUNDAY 22<sup>th</sup> May 2011 ~ from 3pm**  
**at 51 Goodwin Avenue, Swalecliffe**

Cost of the event is by donation, but a minimum of £5.00.  
A themed raffle will take place during the afternoon.

Should you wish to make a cake for the day or for us to sell on the afternoon  
please let Gillian Godley know on 01227 793212 by 14<sup>th</sup> May 2011

Cut here\*\*\*\*\*

**Please return this slip to the above address by 14<sup>th</sup> May 2011.**

Name .....

Number of guests attending.....

Telephone number.....

