



## Radlett and Aldenham International Friendship Association

Twinned with LAUTERTAL Bergstrasse  
and LOUVECIENNES, Yvelines

# Newsletter Autumn 2006

It has been a busy few months for RAIFA. We hosted a group of 35 visitors from Lautertal to celebrate the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our twinning at the beginning of September and later that month sent Georgina Thornton as our representative to the annual Fête de Fleurs in Louveciennes. My article in "Round Radlett" seeking suggestions for a possible new twin town in Central or Eastern Europe produced a number of responses, one of which I was able to follow up almost immediately.

We are still looking for some help for the RAIFA Committee. In particular, we are looking for someone with book-keeping skills to take on the position of Treasurer and someone with a flair for writing to take on the editing of this newsletter. We would also like some volunteers to help run our social events please. Do contact me if you would like to help.

***Clive Glover, Chairman***

### French Links

*My Experience Of Louveciennes - "Fête De Fleurs" 2006 By Georgina Thornton*

We set out from home at 6 'o' clock in the morning and started the nine-hour journey to Louveciennes (including getting lost around Paris, which stressed my dad out!). We arrived at Benôit and Catherine Dujardin's house and met their lovely Family, Fanny, Marie and Perrine. They had prepared a delicious meal for us after which we all went to the super lotto (bingo), which was held in the local town hall.

There I met the girls from the other Twin Towns, Bierte, from Meersburg in Germany, Anka from Vama in Rumania and also Catarina who was the Queen of the Flowers for Louveciennes. Together we all called out the numbers in French and the announcer said I had 'the most interesting accent in the house'. It was a lively good humoured and fun evening. When the lotto finished we went back to Benôit's house and my brother and I went straight to bed and slept like logs.



The next morning we had a traditional French breakfast and then went for a tour around Versailles, which was lovely, the inside was brilliant and the gardens were breathtaking. That evening we went to Jean- Marie Saunier's house for dinner. We had a lovely meal prepared by his wife Annick that was very nice and then went on to a fantastic cabaret show called La Belle Époque. It was a combination of French Cabaret acts, and I danced with one of the dancers when they came amongst the audience. The next day was the big day for us; we woke up a little late, but managed to squeeze a walk around Marie-Antoinette's estate at Versailles before returning to Louveciennes for lunch in the town square. After lunch I went with the other girls to get changed into our outfits for the main event. They were beautiful outfits made by Rachel Durand and must have taken her many hours of hard work.

Once we were on the floats (ours was a giant motor car) the atmosphere was amazing but I think the highlight of my day was the lantern parade and fireworks, I really enjoyed these because the light shining out of the multi coloured lanterns in the dark was so beautiful and also because the fireworks have to be the best I've ever seen in my life and they lasted for absolutely ages. A wonderful ending to a fantastic weekend enjoyed by the whole family. We are very grateful to our French hosts for their kind friendship and hospitality over our weekend in Louveciennes.

## German Links

*Ian Macdonald* reflects poetically on the very successful 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary visit :

They came!

from Radlett's twin town **Gemeinde Lautertal** on 31<sup>st</sup> August by air and through the Channel Tunnel – 35 people in all, members of APEG .

They saw!

from the London Eye much of central London and far beyond.

They came down to earth for a tour of Tate Modern and viewed the exterior of Shakespeare's Globe Theatre.

Without a wobble they crossed the Millennium Bridge to St Paul's Cathedral.

They were entertained by Radlett Fire Service at the Red Lion.

They were conquered!

By a magnificent piano recital at Delrow by Michael Harvey

which followed a wonderful Reception at Radlett Centre hosted by Chairman of Aldenham Parish Council, Ron Worthy.

They departed

Having enjoying a superb Celebratory Dinner at Porters Park Golf Club. New friendships were forged. Old ones strengthened.

They left behind

A really happy atmosphere engendered by their friendliness and appreciation of RAIFA's efforts at entertaining them in celebrating 25 very successful years of the Twinning of our communities.

Their plaque commemorating RAIFA's most enjoyable visit to Lautertal in 2005 and our's marking this year's events in Radlett. Representatives from CJL, Louveciennes also joined in the festivities.

## New Links

Following my article in "Round Radlett" I received several suggestions for possible new twins. One suggestion, made by Suzanna Connett, was the Hungarian town of Dunaharaszti, located just outside the capital, Budapest.

By coincidence, I was due to go to Budapest at the end of October for a family wedding. I therefore took the opportunity – along with my father in law, Ron Worthy (also Chairman of Aldenham Parish Council!) - to make a short visit to Dunaharaszti.

It certainly seems a pleasant town in the countryside outside the city and without the ugly tower blocks of most of the suburbs around Budapest.

I have now written to the Mayor of Dunaharaszti to ask whether they would be interested in developing some links with us and, perhaps, in due course, become formally twinned. Suzanna delivered the letter personally and we await his response with interest.

However, this does not mean that anything has been decided. Other towns have been suggested – particularly in Poland – and I am following up on them (but I may not be able to visit them all personally!)

**Clive Glover**



Guess where I am!

## Dates for Your Diary

20 January 2007 - New Year Party

We are also planning an "International Evening" in February/March including international food tasting!

### RAIFA Contacts:

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