

Annual General Meeting

The meeting accepted with acclamation the annual reports by Stella Malhotra for French links, Ian Macdonald for German links, Mary Bolt for social events and Philip Booth who presented the healthy annual accounts. Stella was thanked for her contributions over fifteen years in dealing with French links and Dick Bolt agreed to look after our Louveciennes link on a temporary basis.

We were delighted to welcome Clive Glover as Chairman and to re-appoint existing committee members. As some have warned that this will be their last year, it is imperative we find replacements during the year.

Following the brief AGM, Vivienne Franks entertained us with a most enjoyable tasting of German wines from Franken, Pfalz and Rheingau. Hopefully we shall enjoy some of the Hessen wines in September.

Starting with a delightful kabinet Silvaner - not available in the UK, we explored two other varieties followed by classic and spatlese Reisling (the latter with a distinct taste of diesel!). The final wine, an earthy Rose, was very acceptable but again not available in the UK.

Paul Marley

Social

Full details of the following events will be circulated nearer the time, but in the meantime, please make a note of the following dates in your diary:-

13th August, 2005	Progressive Lunch
22nd October, 2005	Wine and Cheese evening
21st January, 2006	New Year Party - please contact Joan Doughty if you are prepared to help with the organisation. (NO HELP - NO PARTY!)

Committee

Clive Glover	Chairman	01923 853483
Joan Doughty	Secretary	01923 855102
Philip Booth	Treasurer	01923 856323
Dick Bolt	French Links (temporary)	01923 854302
Ian Macdonald	German Links	01923 852140
Les Richardson	Membership Secretary	01923 856382
John Howley	Council Representative	01923 857853
Rod Kirkland	Publicity	01923 854898
Mary Bolt		01923 854302
Joyce Marston		01923 857601
Stella Malhotra		01923 855481

Ex officio:

Paul Marley	President	01923 469361
Beryl Marley	Vice-President	01923 469361



Radlett and Aldenham International Friendship Association

Newsletter - May 2005

Welcome to the Summer 2005 edition of the RAIFA Newsletter!

I am delighted to have been asked, at the AGM, to become Chairman of RAIFA with such a busy year ahead for us all. My main priority will be to try to ensure the long term future for the Association by encouraging more people to join us, particularly younger people with families who have moved into the area in recent years.



We will have an opportunity to highlight who we are and what we do at this year's Radlett Festival on Sunday 12 June, when we shall have a stand at the Phillimore Recreation Ground. I hope that as many of you as possible will come along to say hello and help us sell RAIFA to our friends and neighbours.

The other major event for us this year will be our visit to Germany in September to celebrate the 25th anniversary of our twinning with the people of Lautertal. This is part of the beautiful Odenwald area of the country and I am sure that we can anticipate having a wonderful time there. We are hoping to send a party of 40 or more, but places are filling up fast so please make sure you let Ian Macdonald know if you would like to join us!

I look forward to meeting those of you who don't know me over the next year. I and other Committee members will be happy to receive any suggestions for future activities to help RAIFA keep up its work in bringing together people from our community and our good friends in France and Germany.

Clive Glover

German Links

25th Anniversary Visit

To celebrate 25 years of twinning, a long weekend visit to Gemeinde Lautertal will take place from Thursday 1st to Monday 5th September 2005. This is a fantastic opportunity for you and your friends to visit the beautiful Odenwald area of Germany. A return visit to Radlett will take place in 2006.

Our visit coincides with the wine growers' festival, giving the chance to enjoy the local wines and join in the festivities. Accommodation will be provided in the homes of the friendly Lautertal community. Places are limited and interest is already high. Please telephone as soon as possible to register your interest and to receive further details of the full programme and costs as they become available.

Contact Ian Macdonald (01923 852140)

Commemorative Apple Trees

RAIFA marked the silver anniversary of twinning with a gift to Lautertal of two apple trees. These were sent in advance of our September visit so that they will be safely established before the summer season. They were planted with due ceremony on 17th April.

The varieties, chosen from a nursery near Radlett, were Lord Derby and Sunset. The former produces large firm green fruit for cooking. The latter is similar to Cox, but with fewer problems in growing, and is an excellent eating apple with lovely red colouration.



Ian Macdonald

French Links

Madeleine Carbonel

We were saddened to learn of the death, at age 97, of Madeleine Carbonel. She was Secrétaire Générale of the Louveciennes committee from the start of twinning until recently.

Madeleine was in the first party to visit Radlett, when we were her hosts, and came on many subsequent occasions. She welcomed ourselves and many other RAIFA members warmly to her home.

She had been a teacher in her younger days and had been involved with educational tours for children aboard cruise ships. She had spent time in England - in fact her mother was English although she herself seemed very French.

She spoke excellent English - a great help to her English friends! - and was anxious to keep up this linguistic ability. She enjoyed browsing around bookshops over here looking for English books to take home. She brought groups of teenagers to Radlett. She helped to organise the joint holidays in France and England.

Madeleine was a great character. She had a strong personality, a great sense of humour and a lot of energy. We were very fond of her.

Joan & John Doughty

Stella Malhotra Stands Down

After 15 years as the committee member responsible for our links with Louveciennes, Stella has finally passed on the baton. She took over from Fred and Jean Whitham in 1989.

Apart from numerous sporting and social exchanges, Stella organized the celebrations in Radlett and our visits to Louveciennes for the 10th, 15th and 20th anniversaries of our twinning. She also arranged, over a period of ten years, for a teenage girl from Radlett to be one of the Maids of Honour to the Queen of the annual Louveciennes Fête des Fleurs. The first Maid was Alison Templeton in 1994. Stella organized the first 'joint holiday' in England in 1991 when the Anglo/French holiday group stayed at Bourton-in-the-Water in the Cotswolds.

At the last Management Committee meeting, Stella was presented with a set of table mats and coasters depicting works by Monet.

We all wish Stella a happy retirement from her 'linking', but she will remain on the RAIFA Committee.

Dick Bolt

Louveciennes Accueil

Louveciennes Accueil is an association of artists and crafts people. In March they held an exhibition of their work and invited people from Radlett with similar interests to visit. Unfortunately, my husband and I were the only members of our community free at that time.

On the evening of our arrival the exhibition was formally opened in the Maison de L'Etang by the mayor M. Vanhollenbeke and we were warmly welcomed by him and the lady president of Louveciennes Accueil. At the opening reception, a champagne buffet was served in an adjoining marquee and there was a large attendance of local people. The standard of the paintings, in various media, engraving, ceramics, box-making, patchwork quilting etc was superb. We spent a considerable time admiring the work and talking to the participants. They even made space for a few water colours I had taken with me.

During our stay in Louveciennes we were very well entertained by members of CJL. I hope that when this exhibition is staged again, probably in two years' time, there will be a more positive response from Radlett people who would undoubtedly enjoy the experience as much as I did.

Valerie Macdonald

Radlett Choral Society

A group of 47 singers, supporters and orchestra players will travel to France for a joint concert with the Choeur de Louveciennes. The concert on Sunday 29th May will be at the Eglise de Beauregard at La Celle St Cloud, as the Louveciennes Mairie will be coping with the French EU referendum.

Musical director Clive Fairburn will conduct the Choral Society for Charpentier's Te Deum, the Choeur de Louveciennes under its new musical director Louis-Juan Tillet will sing Puccini's Messe de Gloria, and the combined choirs will sing the Pergolesi - Magnificat.

As always our Louveciennes friends are planning a packed weekend with a rehearsal and the concert, a special evening dinner and possibly visits to Versailles and Paris by night. We will no doubt return to Radlett completely exhausted!

Beryl Marley

