



SPRING NEWSLETTER 2017

CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS



Its early Spring and we are all looking forward to better weather.

Our AGM was held in November and a new committee was elected and I am pleased to be your new chairman. My first task is to thank Lis Goodwin who has served for three years as chairman and done a wonderful job. I have a hard act to follow but Lis is staying on as Vice Chairman so I can call on her for advice.

I must report a most successful visit to Eppingen in October of last year. Those who went had a wonderful time. For some it was their first visit and I am sure not their last.

Our year has already been marked with sadness. Ralph Dulwich a founder member sadly died in February. He will be deeply missed.

We have kicked off the year with a wine tasting event. I do hope to see you at one of our other events later on.

CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL ST JOHN'S CHURCH DECEMBER 2016

The association participated in the Christmas festivities by entering a decorated Christmas tree into the festival. Many of our Christmas decorations were lovingly made by our Eppingen friend Lis Palm. Thank you to Lis for authentic German adornments.

There were many other imaginative contributions by various societies and groups in the Epping forest area. Unfortunately our tree won no prizes but we enjoyed being involved.

Thank you to those who helped decorate and also who took down the tree afterwards.

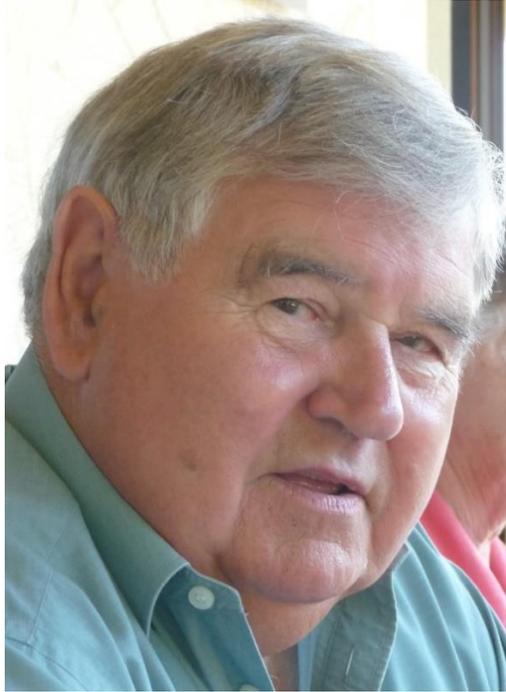


OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE 2017

President	Humphrey Wheeler
Vice presidents	Letitia Berry Denys Favre
	Uschi Jesson
Chairman	Joy Eldridge
Vice Chairman	Lis Goodwin
Hon. Secretary	Barbara Lane
Hon, Social secretary	Vicki Corbett
Committee Members	Brian Eldridge Jim Heath Derek and Jeanie Humphrey Barbara Scruton Michael Wright

SADNESS AT THE LOSS OF A VALUED CO-FOUNDER MEMBER

RALPH DULWICH sadly died 16th February 2017 age 85 after a long and fulfilled life.



Ralph was a co-founder of the Epping Eppingen Association, being a much valued member, and served as chairman, vice chairman and president. It is difficult to imagine the association without him.

Ralph was a member of the town council when the first approaches were made with regard to a twinning between Epping and Eppingen. In 1979 he travelled with Gerald Church to Eppingen where they were instrumental in the implementation of the town twinning and a Twinning document was signed. Later he was involved in both the 10th and 20th anniversary celebrations. When Eppingen celebrated the millennium of their founding he together with Shirley participated in the festive procession being drawn through the town by a carriage and four horses.

It was Ralph's idea to be involved in the Altstadtfest in Eppingen suggesting Epping sell fish and chips. The association has continued to be involved to the present day.

Ralph was also instrumental in the organisation of school and youth exchanges between the two towns. For many years when a group from Eppingen visited he would conduct an informative guided tour of London by bus.

Ralph also initiated an art exhibition in Eppingen presenting English artists. This format was repeated later on with an art exhibition in St John's church exhibiting work by Eppingen artists.

When the two towns celebrated their 30th anniversary Eppingen recognised Ralph's work and commitment by awarding him the town's Gold Medal of Honour.

For more than thirty years Ralph had friendships in Eppingen, especially with Margarete and Werner Lang with whom he stayed; and Klaus and Anne-Marie Zöller. At one time he travelled to the German border in Berlin with Klaus. He was invited to speak at birthday parties for Klaus when he celebrated his "round" birthdays. Margarete mentioned his meticulousness citing how he would note down everyone's dishes when visiting a Chinese restaurant so all was in order. They all remember him with a good deal of affection and expressed sadness at his passing. A moving tribute to Ralph was posted in the Epping Anzeiger which reflected their sorrow.

More recently Ralph has been unable to travel to Germany but his commitment to the association has remained constant. He would discuss the best ways to ensure that the Association would continue to thrive. Ralph's attention to detail was always helpful. At committee meetings he would mention an aspect that others had overlooked. He will be deeply missed for his contribution to the many long term friendships that now exist between the two towns. His support for our fund raising events both by attending and his generous donations. Ralph was one of a rare breed that once committed gave it his all.

A Wonderful Weekend in Eppingen

Once again this year, it was the turn for the Epping members to visit Eppingen on the weekend 28th – 31st October. For those of us choosing to fly from Stansted on the Friday we had a delay at Baden-Baden airport, caused by a holdup on the autobahn which turned the normal 1hour route into a 4-hour journey for those coming to meet us and also a very slow return trip to Eppingen. .

A bright and early start on the Saturday saw a coach party on its way to the Bavarian town of Würzburg. We enjoyed a tour of the magnificent Residence, which sadly was bombed in 1945, but now restored to once again display the wonderful ceiling frescoes. The dazzling display rooms, including the Mirror Cabinet where the scenes are painted on the backs of the mirror panels with gold decoration, were quite breath-taking. A delayed lunch meant that time in the afternoon was slightly curtailed, but we had time for a train tour of the main sights of the town and some free time to wander around. Mike and I were particularly intrigued by the German Saturday afternoon ritual of meeting on the old town bridge to indulge in sampling the excellent local wine. (German shops close early on Saturdays, so the feeling in town by then was very relaxed).

Mike and I were staying with Almut and Karl-Martin Vielhauer, and in the company of Elka and Uwe Frey we headed off for the evening to a Besenwirtschaft. I was slightly concerned by the sight of a birch broom outside, but I was reassured that we were not entering a witches' coven, rather that this signified that the restaurant was open. Besenwirtschaft, literally translates as broom tavern, usually a restaurant on a farm or vineyard that is only allowed to open for a few months of the year and where the food and drink are mostly home-grown. Beer is not actually allowed to be served, but the locally grown Riesling wine went down very well. Along with traditional home cooking, the farmer and his wife provided the entertainment accompanied by friends on the accordion and mouthorgan, which led to a very spirited evening with lusty singing from the customers, especially when the local anthems were being sung.

Sunday was another lovely day and we set off to Ludwigsburg, (north of Stuttgart) to visit the annual pumpkin festival, held in the grounds of the stunning baroque Ludwigsburg Palace. From the moment that you enter the beautifully laid-out palace gardens, pumpkins are everywhere to be seen – all shapes, sizes, colours and varieties. This year the theme was "A Visit to the Circus". Amongst the displays were acrobats, bare-back horses and riders, an elephant, knife thrower, stilt walker, tightrope walker and performing tiger. Most of the 800 types of pumpkins and squash (approximately 400,000 pumpkins in all) are grown locally and amongst the other exhibits are a display of the many varieties and the German pumpkin weigh off, where the largest we saw was 512kg. (This has been dwarfed by a 605kg pumpkin grown at Hyde Hall, where the Eppingen language course enjoyed a visit in the summer). There was a large food area for all things pumpkin and the pumpkin burgers were enjoyed by us all. Sadly, a bit early in the day for pumpkin wine! However, I did purchase some pumpkin tea.



Following a visit to the craft fair at Kleingartach, Karl Martin provided us with the ultimate Eppingen grand tour. As a fruit and vegetable wholesaler, he was delighted to show us the harvesting of the first fields of carrots to be grown in the fertile Eppingen soil, which were to be transported to his warehouse for winter storage. Certainly much envy was expressed by our colleagues from Epping when they heard of our unique excursion!!

Our trip to Eppingen closed with the traditional evening meal at the Villa Waldeck, where both the meal and company made for a very enjoyable evening. Following my return from the previous Eppingen visit, I told Mike that words alone could not describe the hospitality extended to us and now that he has had the chance to join in the twinning exchange, he can't agree with me more.

Irene and Michael Measor.

WINE TASTING EVENING MARCH 2017

We began this year's events with a wine tasting evening.

As one would expect it was a most convivial evening. David Goodwin led us through wines from the Baden area of Baden Wurtemberg. First of all, we sampled a Kraichgauer rose wine and then the white wines of the area. We should now know our Grauer Burgunder from a Gewürztraminer.



After a short break, we sampled the red wines. Germany is not particularly known for its red wines as generally they do not produce huge quantities, so it is mainly for the home market. We sampled Lemberger mit Trollinger, Schwarzriesling, Lemberger Spätlese and finally a top quality Kaiserstuhl Pinot Noir.

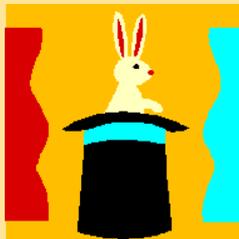
We hope we are now more knowledgeable about the regions wines



Thank you David for all the information and to Derek who expertly poured the wine.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Magic Evening Saturday May 20th. Supper followed by magic presented by David Hatch at the United Reform Church..



Tickets £12.50p

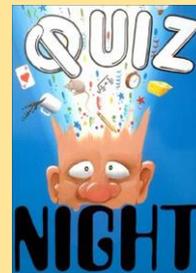
Language Course in Eppingen June 20th-27th

Town Show July 2nd

Altstadtfest July 21st-23rd

Eppingen Guests visit Epping September 21st-22nd

Quiz Night Roman Catholic Church Hall



Saturday 7th October

AGM Saturday 25th November. United Reform Church.

AGM will be followed by supper and after dinner speaker Maggie Ratcliffe who will talk on Lawrence of Arabia

More details will follow by e-mail.

Contacts

Chairman 012709428622
Vice chairman 01992812083
Editor 01279 428622
Social secretary 01992 571324