



# NEWSLETTER

## Next Event: – A weekend in Spijkenisse 17th – 19th November

Although this is still a little way off we are trying to arrange transport as a group. The following options assume travelling out on Friday and returning on Monday. *(All costs are subject to change and we should book as soon as possible to get the best fares)*

- 1) Fly – Stansted to Rotterdam, currently approx £40 return per person, with Transavia, Depart 07:45, arrive 09:40. (plus costs to and from Stansted).
- 2) Dutch Flyer rail and sail. Train from Bury St Edmunds, ferry from Harwich to Hoek van Holland, train to Rotterdam Centraal and metro to Spijkenisse. £50 return (if booked in advance) plus metro ticket and travel to and from Bury. Alternatively drive to Harwich and leave car parked there for about £20.
- 3) Ferry/drive – either Harwich to Hoek van Holland; dep 10.40, arrive 15.20, £136 based on car and 4 passengers, or Dover to Dunkerque (£54 based on four sharing a car, plus travel to Dover and on to Spijkenisse).
- 4) Eurostar to the Gare de Bruxelles Midi Station then connection to Rotterdam. £30 – £40 depending on departure time, plus cost of journey/parking at Ashford and The Thalys InterCity Brussels train to Rotterdam (cost not yet known).

### Or maybe travellers would prefer to make their own way there?

On the visit we will be staying with hosts, and the weekend will include a concert by the popular Dutch Sixties band, The Timebenders. For more information or to be included on the trip, phone Janet on 01842 820335 or e-mail [janet.smithgibbons@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:janet.smithgibbons@tiscali.co.uk).

## THIS YEAR'S PROGRAMME

There is not much left of this year, but in addition to the Spijkenisse visit we hope to arrange a quiz sometime in the autumn, and a Christmas party in early December.

For next year, the AGM will take place in January or February, and we are looking into the possibility of a trip to Les Rendezvous de Senlis. See overleaf for more information. .

## FUTURE EVENTS

We will soon be planning events for next year. We are aware that whilst we have many members, and we often have quite good attendance at local functions, not many people come on trips abroad or take part in visits and exchanges, which are, after all, what twinning is all about – the others are merely social events to raise funds towards visits of people here. If you are one of those people who doesn't take part in exchanges, could you tell us why? What would make you change your mind? And are there other events you would like us to put on? Make your comments or suggestions to any member of the committee.

## POLISH VISIT

The visit from our Polish visitors went off well, despite airport security scares and the weather. We would like to thank everyone who turned up at the barbecue, in spite of the atrocious weather that night. Many people had not paid in advance and we would not have been surprised if people had not turned up, but everyone did – thank you all very much.

# Tour de Picardie/Valois regions of France

Discussing possible projects for August 2007, including (possibly) Bank Holiday, Catherine wishes to exploit a long weekend at Senlis and Chantilly. We have concluded it would make sense to combine this with other places in the area such as Beauvais and Compiègne. also beautiful destinations, up to a period of 5 nights in all. The adjacency of Paris itself would also lend itself to greater possibilities such as Asterix Park for younger members. To illustrate, we have taken the opportunity to attach a limited map of the area. (Senlis and Chantilly are north of Paris).

## Transport :

Although there are airports at Charles de Gaulle 25km, Aéroport du Bourget is 30 km. and Beauvais is 50km from Chantilly, flights from Stansted have to be looked at and details sent in due course

Speed Ferries go to Boulogne which is served by A16.

By car, autoroute. Take sortie no7 Survilliers (coming from Paris) Sortie No8 Senlis. Asterix theme park is 10km from Senlis. It makes sense to travel in carloads of 4. Compiègne is 35km on the motorway from Senlis and has the Imperial Palace and a Vehicle Museum.

Coach hire might be feasible though expensive,, either here or in France – the latter we speculate, might be cheaper.

Eurostar to Gare du Nord which is 25 minutes to Chantilly. Fares vary but booking ahead can produce great savings.

These proposals need your comments, and impressions and questions by 15 September please. Please address them to Catherine at 01842 750866 or to cathdesenlis@yahoo.co.uk

NB being this close to Paris and in a tourist area, we need to book hotels/restaurants early as there is only limited availability locally. Thus the project will need finalising by January 07 – which will help to spread the cost .

Further information such as details of routes, will be provided in due course and you are invited to get in touch whenever you wish.

Barrie

