



# NEWSLETTER

This newsletter is a change to the usual format as it covers issues raised at the recently held AGM.

## *Committee Elected at AGM:*

**Chair:** Graham Sigley  
**Vicechair:** Janet Smith Gibbons  
**Secretary:** Margaret Ince  
**Treasurer:** June Lewis  
**Representative for Les Ulis:** Graham Sigley  
**Representative for Hürth:** Gerald Bass  
**Representative for Spijkenisse:** Janet Smith Gibbons  
**Representative for Skawina:** Jennifer Bullock  
**Civic Links Liaison:** Albert Paines  
**Social Secretary:** Ray Key

THETFORD TWINNING ASSOCIATION



## Trip to Hürth



At the AGM provisional details were given of a possible coach trip to Hürth in September to include the Hürth European Days/Hürth International (16 & 17 September) and also spend a few days touring the area. There was not a lot of interest from members at the AGM but Jennifer Bullock agreed to get more information to send out with this newsletter. Having received more details we feel that the trip is not viable on cost grounds, at £399 per person for six days, B&B only, so not including either lunches or evening meals nor entrance fees for excursions.

As the Association has been officially invited to Hürth for their European days, we therefore propose that members wishing to go to Hürth contact our German representative, Gerald Bass, to show their interest. There is a limited number of places and these are offered on a first-come, first-served basis. We will arrange host families and do our best to arrange transport through car sharing.

Anyone wishing to fly to Cologne from Stansted must book their own flights. We *may* be able to help co-ordinate travel from the airport to Hürth.

Contact Gerald on 01842 752947 or email: [gerald.bass@talktalk.net](mailto:gerald.bass@talktalk.net).

## Subjects raised at the AGM:

1. During the AGM there was a very positive and engaging discussion about arrangements for hosting visitors from our twin towns. It was agreed that twinning does involve hosting and that successful twinning visits depend on members being prepared and able to host our guests. It was agreed at the AGM, though, that hosts do have additional costs such as food, for example, and that in the current financial climate this may prevent some members being able to host.

It was established that the Association should pay for visitors and their hosts to attend paying events but there was no agreement about whether the Association should pay a 'hosting grant' of, say £5 per guest per night which would probably not cover all costs but would help.

It was decided to ask all members the same question through the newsletter.

Please tell us (by email if possible to the Secretary, Margaret Ince - [margaretince@btinternet.com](mailto:margaretince@btinternet.com)) your answer to the question:

*'If the Treasurer confirms that there are sufficient funds, should the Association pay a 'hosting grant' of, say £5 per guest per night when visitors come over on twinning events?'*

We asked our twin towns what happens there and were told that neither Les Ulis nor Hürth do, or have ever, paid hosts a fee for hosting. We will let you know Spijkenisse's reply when we receive it.

2. It is felt by many members that Thetford has too many twin towns for the size of the town and that it is difficult for the Twinning Association to manage this. The AGM agreed to enter into a conversation about this with the Town Council.
3. The AGM feeling was that there is not much enthusiasm for twinning in the current town council. It is proposed that a letter should be sent to all prospective candidates on behalf of the membership of the Association, asking their views on twinning and what they would do to support it, if elected.