



# NEWSLETTER

## SPECIAL EDITION



THETFORD TWINNING ASSOCIATION

### TRIP TO BRUSSELS WITH VISIT TO THE EU PARLIAMENT

As you'll know from previous newsletters, we have been planning a trip to one of the European Parliaments. Our Twinning Association has been fortunate to have received EU grants for two of our events and it would be interesting to have a greater insight into how the Parliament works. The *draft* programme is:

- Travel to Brussels on Sunday 1st December.
- Stay for 3 nights, in hotels which will cost around £70 per night, per room (not per person).
- Monday free for sightseeing and/or shopping (the Christmas market will be on).
- Visit the EU Parliament and EU Commission on Tuesday.
- Travel home on Wednesday 4th December.

The Parliament visit takes approximately 90 minutes and will include a 45 minute briefing by a member of the Parliament's staff and then a 45 minute presentation from our MEP host. We would like to include a visit to the EU Commission and to the Parliamentarium if we can arrange it.

Travel is by train (Eurostar) direct to Brussels. Eurostar ticket prices are between £35 and £144 per person depending on the date the ticket is booked, the date and time of travel, ticket type and age of traveller, so we won't know the exact price until the bookings are made. Bookings must be made as soon as possible to get the best prices.

We receive a subsidy of €135 (about £115 at today's rate) from the EU towards our expenses.

Other costs/things for you to consider:

- Travel to the Eurostar terminal (we will co-ordinate this as far as possible).
- Meals
- Travel insurance

**We're limited to a maximum of 20 people** and it's going to be **first come, first served**. Please let Graham or Janet know **BY RETURN**, and no later than **Friday 12th July**, if you wish to come. We will need the payment for the Eurostar ticket in advance, which will be **NON-REFUNDABLE** once the tickets have been booked.

We will need to know:

- Full names and dates of birth of those travelling.
- If you are prepared to take your car (and passengers). If not, travel will be by Eurostar. It would be helpful to know how you would prefer to travel to the terminal (shared taxi or car, coach to Stratford for Ebbsfleet, or train to King's Cross St Pancras) as this will determine the departure location. It would be easier, but not essential, to travel together.
- If you have a specific need regarding hotel room/type/beds (although we cannot guarantee this) or if you would be prepared to share a room.

**None of the above costs and arrangements can be confirmed until we have details from those wishing to join the group.**