

# Bonjour!

[www.beaconsfieldtwinning.org](http://www.beaconsfieldtwinning.org)

## Bastille Day 2023 Visit Report

We now have photos and a report on the visit to Langres on the 14 July to celebrate France's NATIONAL DAY.

The report is from Deborah Sanders and Philip Smith. It takes us through the events of visit and reminds us how twinning and our friendship links continue to reward and delight.

Read the full report on the following pages.



## Thank you for renewing your BTA Membership.

If you have paid, thank you for remaining with us for these difficult years!

If you still need to renew, here's a reminder of the details.

Individual Membership £10.

Joint Membership £15.

You can pay by Standing Order or Bank Transfer.

Beaconsfield Twinning Association

Sort code: 30-96-54 Acct no: 00518497

Ref: Membership

Or, if you don't have internet banking, you can pay by cheque to:

Treasurer BTA, Mr P. Smith,  
44 Gregories Road, Beaconsfield, HP9 1HQ

We look forward to seeing you soon at one of our events. The September Spitalfields guided walk and lunch will be followed by other events to take us through to the end of the year. More about these in our next newsletter. If you've a suggestion for an event do let us know. We'd love to hear your suggestions.

## Beaconsfield Twinning Association

Beaconsfield Twinning promotes educational, cultural, sporting and friendship connections with our twinned town Langres in the Champagne-Ardenne region of France.



Beaconsfield twinned with Langres

## DIARY DATES

**Have you booked?**

London Guided Walk - Spitalfields  
+ Fish 'n Chips at legendary 'Poppies'



**Monday 11 SEPTEMBER**

• We'll travel to Liverpool Street on the first off-peak train from Beaconsfield. Buy your own ticket to take advantage of any Travel Card discounts you may have.

• Tour starts at 11am and lasts approx 2hrs.

• Lunch after at 'Poppies' famous '50's themed Fish & Chips restaurant. Lunch is not obligatory but a delightful addition to your Spitalfields experience.

Cost. Just £12 for BTA member (guests £15) for the guided tour. Plus rail travel and lunch costs.

Please pay by Bank Transfer:

Beaconsfield Twinning Association

Sort code: 30-96-54 Acct no: 00518497

Ref: Your name + Tour

Alternatively, by cheque to: Treasurer BTA, Mr P. Smith, 44 Gregories Road, Beaconsfield, HP9 1HQ

*If you haven't already done so, please book now to secure your place.*

If you have any questions, please contact:

Phillip Sheahan – Chairman: 01494 673649 or 07973 562308

email: [phillipsheahan@psacreative.co.uk](mailto:phillipsheahan@psacreative.co.uk)



# "Fête Nationale" 14 Juillet



## Beaconsfield Twinning Association

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langres

Beaconsfield twinned with Langres



## A Celebration to Remember





# "Fête Nationale" 14 Juillet

## A Celebration to Remember

It's been sometime since a delegation from Beaconsfield visited Langres to share the celebrations of France's NATIONAL DAY. Following an invitation from the Mayor of Langres, Mme Anne Cardinal, it was an honour this year to have BTA Committee members Deborah Sanders and Philip Smith (accompanied by their spouses Peter and Marina) attend this important event in the French calendar.



By all accounts it was a busy few days and most importantly productive too. It was the first opportunity for BTA committee members to meet with the new Langres Twinning Association. The Association connects with and co-ordinates the links with the three towns to which Langres is affiliated: Beaconsfield, Ellwangen (Germany), Abbiategrosso (Italy). The new Association has around twenty members drawn from the local community and a pleasing complement of younger people with fresh ideas and an eagerness to explore new opportunities for the role of twinning in our respective communities. As the old saying goes, 'where there's a will, there's a way'. What a delightful thought as we rekindle the flame of friendship with our twinned town.

As for the NATIONAL DAY celebrations, they began the evening before with an official reception at the Mairie. It was an occasion for speeches (with multiple translations), toasts, and the warmest of welcomes to all three twinned towns.

On the day, the celebrations followed the NATIONAL DAY tradition of a parade that involved all of Langres' civil services and many community organisations. A high point was a presentation of the La Légion d'Honneur to a distinguished retired serviceman. The formalities over, there was a call for a 'glass of friendship' on the green outside the Tourist Office. A leisurely al fresco lunch followed with the chance for all to mix and mingle and enthusiastically practice their language skills.

Deborah and Philip summed up their NATIONAL DAY celebration very warmly. "The spectacular evening fireworks provided a fitting end to the formalities of the day. Once again, the Langres committee took special care of us and provided transport to the venue and a comfy bench to sit and enjoy the evening's colourful entertainment. We felt very privileged to be so well looked after."

The next day was equally busy. It began with a trip around the town in 'Le Petit Train'. The train follows the route of the town's historic ramparts and provides spectacular views of the surrounding countryside. The ramparts also include the 'Promenade de Beaconsfield': a pedestrian section re-named in 2016 in honour of our association and friendship with Langres.

Lunch, in a popular restaurant in the main square, was followed by an afternoon visit to the house and gardens of Chateau du Pailly – a splendid 16th century building now undergoing renovations by an enthusiastic team of volunteers.

The day ended with a relaxed meal in the company of Langres friends. Deborah and Peter caught up with Janine Marillier, a great friend to Beaconsfield and a founder member of the first Langres Twinning Committee. Philip and Marina were entertained by Andrée and Jean-Claude Michel who are both key members of the new Langres Committee. They'll be our primary contacts for liaising on future events and work in harmony with our formal contacts with the Mairie.

This NATIONAL DAY visit has proved to be an ideal companion to the Coronation Visit we hosted in May. Both offered the opportunity for old friends and new friends to connect in celebration and experience just how rewarding our town twinning experiences can be for everyone involved.



Marina, Philip, Peter and Deborah enjoying the lantern parade and fireworks with Langres' Mayor, Anne Cardinal.