



Priory Post

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rotary international
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Supplement

Twinning
Presidents Speeches

Priory President's address

It gives me much pleasure as President of Chichester Priory Rotary Club to welcome President Ove and Margit from Aschaffenburg and President Paul- Eric and Claire from Bar le Duc- and also their fellow members who have joined us for the weekend. I also of course welcome my own members and their partners

We live in troubled and turbulent times and I am quite certain that economic pressures has prevented the usual attendance from our twinning partners. The RI conference at Birmingham this June must also have played its part.

Nethertheless we have enjoyed good friendship and fellowship so far and I am sure there will be further cementing of relationships as always on these occasions. I'm delighted that we have been able to introduce you to two of the many charities that we support – I think I should add a very special thank you to Malcolm Wells for allowing us to be here in Canine Partners magnificent facilities for the evening and especially for arranging the demonstration.

Our Club is in good health- we have four new members this year and two more in the pipeline. Our fundraising has also been very successful-last year we were the second biggest fundraiser in our district of 60 clubs and although some downturn has occurred we shall probably repeat this. We were the biggest contributor to Foundation for the second year running. Forgive me for sticking my chest out but I am very proud for our Club.

I won't mention politics- I think we are ashamed of the deeds of so many of our politicians recently exposed in our newspapers. One is perhaps used hearing such things at

Brussels but not in our own Parliament.

On a more serious note the members of our three Clubs like many are getting older- we have been twinning for 16 years now! It maybe that our newer members are not so interested in Twinning weekends- after all the freedom to travel is now the norm for them. For us especially in our younger days these International exchanges were exciting.

It may not quite have the attractiveness for them that it did for us. Should we start to plan for the future! Perhaps meeting bi-annually- one thing is certain – the twinning is still an important part of my Rotary –long may it continue and I think I speak for many of us.

Meanwhile if our calculations are correct the twinning in 2012 is in the UK- which is the year of the London Olympic Games- perhaps we could build the visit around the games?

So to conclude please enjoy the rest of the evening and we look forward to meeting you again in the morning- sadly the time passes all to quickly.

Following the kind presentations made to us by the Aschaffenburg and Bar le Duc clubs a donation of £300 each will be made to Canine Partners and Lodge

Twinning: The final accounts show an under-spend of around £800 which will remain in the Twinning fund and reduce the need for subsidy at our next hosting. There is talk of a neutral venue next year, possibly Luxembourg, so watch this space.



Aschaffenburg Presidents Address

Ladies and gentlemen, dear Rotarian friends,

It is the third time that my wife and I have the great pleasure to come and enjoy a Twinning-Weekend here in Chichester. This time joy is linked to duty - I am the president of the Rotary Club Aschaffenburg, and I have the honour to say some words to the audience.

I've read quite a few speeches held by former presidents of the Rotary Club Chichester Priory, the Rotary Club Bar-Le-Duc and the Rotary Club Aschaffenburg, and I must say: All of them found very kind and suitable words to emphasize the deep and firm friendship between our clubs, to praise the imaginative program the hosting club had composed, to describe vividly the many good memories attached to earlier meetings.

And rightly so, one of the most important and attractive reasons for joining the Rotary family is the chance to meet friends in other countries, to share their experiences, to get to know different ways of life.

Everything has been said, so I will not repeat it, for I couldn't say it in a better way.

I found out that the first twinning meeting here in Chichester was held on May 14th to 16th 1993, which is 16 years ago, and you hosted 40 guests from Aschaffenburg.

Today we find ourselves as a party of 12 visiting Chichester. My Rotarian friends in Aschaffenburg and I have discussed about the relatively small attendance of this Twinning Meeting. One of the reasons could be, that this year's World Convention in Birmingham is ahead of us, and several friends plan to go there. Another reason is a road race which every year is planned around this time, this year it was scheduled on May 15th, with more than 4000 running persons. It has been organized by our friend Günter Guderley, it also is a benefit race and Rotary is participating.

But mainly young and new members seem to hesitate and refuse to go abroad. Maybe it is time to think about new forms of Twinning Meetings in order to keep friendship and relationship of our clubs alive and lively.

Maybe we should meet at other venues, maybe we should try and organize rather informal holidays for the whole family, maybe we should think about organizing a walk through the Vosges mountains in remembrance of the first walk in October 1992, when the Rotary Clubs of Bar-Le-Duc und Aschaffenburg decided to enlargen the twinning across the Channel.



I would like to suggest that our International Services come together and try to find a solution. With regard to our Rotarian spirit it is of personal concern to me that our Twinning Meetings – in which form ever – go on, for I wouldn't want to miss any of them and I am looking forward to meet friends from Bar-Le-Duc and from Chichester again and again.

I know it is a major effort to compose a reasonable and attractive new program every three years. For this time the Rotary Club Chichester Priory again solved that problem in a very convincing way, and I want to thank president Bernard Stoneham and his team very much: You did a wonderful job. I would like to express my gratitude for your very kind hospitality.

This Rotarian year finds the world in an economical crisis. We had to notice a global economic downturn, and nobody can say when we will hit the bottom. There has been a big surprise all over the world, people asked how this could happen. Well, I personally am surprised that our system did last for such a long time. It is not a firm and solid strategy to buy a house, pay 300.000 Dollars and need to take a loan of 350.000 Dollars. I am not at all convinced that the political programs which were set up to cure our economies really will help. They also are based on the idea to spend even more money, money which has not been earned first. People used to buy things without regard to their financial possibilities, and many economists assumed people would continue to spend on cars, clothes and latest digital toy even in harder times. As a matter of fact: Some of them do, but a very reasonable part of them depends on welfare aid and is far away from increasing their rate of consumption.

This new economical situation is a huge challenge for all of us; we see many more people in need than before. We see whole countries in need, hit by the economical situation much more than we are. .

Let us open our eyes and get aware of need, of injustice, of fear, trepidation and exploitation.

Let us get aware of irresponsible use of the resources of our world!

Let us notice people in social exclusion, for they are our neighbours!

There is plenty opportunity to do something in favor for a better world – let us find and take it!

Let us continue to follow the Rotarian idea, and let us keep the Rotarian wheel in motion!

Dear president Bernard Stoneham, my friends gave me a check to hand it over to you. May the amount mentioned on it enable you to do some more good works.

Bar le Duc Presidents address

Dear Friends, ladies and gentlemen,
Dear Gill and Bernard, dear Margit and Ove,

My first words will be to say how happy I am to be with you all, not just as the Bar-le-Duc Rotary president, but also from a personal point of view. I've been a Rotarian for five years now. And the Bar-le-Duc President since last July. Promotion comes quickly within Rotary... Unfortunately, my professional activities did not allow me to go to Chichester four years ago. I still do wish I had done so. But I was then fortunate enough to meet some of your members in Bar-le-Duc soon afterwards. We had a great time. And then in Aschaffenburg last September and the year before. So it is now as if I had known you all for a long time. I am delighted to be here accompanied by a group of motivated Rotarians who have been looking forward to being here with great gusto and much impatience. Going to the UK is something exotic for us, French people. Crossing the Channel, even under the sea, is fraught with mystery ; it is a thrilling sensation but the sceptred isle, an island of friendship, is worth reaching.

Such enduring and blessed friendship between our clubs is all the deeper as it is associated with our simultaneous friendship with the Aschaffenburg club which, by the way, I have known ever since I was a child. And, I also do feel I belong to the British Rotary. I used to be a member of the Perth Rotaract Club in Scotland when I was a student.

Such is the miracle of Rotary friendship that I am now in a position to simultaneously greet two clubs at a time and feel as if I were with close members of a family.

I do think that such twinnings are most essential to Rotary as an institution. More than the numbers of participants, what matters is the enduring symbol that is rooted in reality : allowing people to meet, not just formally but within the scope of families.

Such opening to the others is our brand image as Rotarians, if I can call it like that. This is what paves the way to peace. When we all look back upon our previous Rotary experience – emotion recollected in tranquillity - what usually stands out unaltered and pristine is usually the memory, sometimes vivid, in spite of the years, of our twinnings. A mere photo will remind us of the sundry signs of warmth and friendship we encountered. It triggers off memories of the love and care that were lavished upon us. Why is it that a just few hours abroad bear such significance and are unforgettable? The answer is evident. There's something deeper and more sincere in international relationship.

Up to now, I've been using the « I », the first person pronoun. Of course I should have said « we » because this experience is to be shared by the older members, but also by the new ones, the fledgeling ones of our clubs. Their presence is essential. Whoever has had the opportunity of sharing such a week-end is to be convinced of the importance of twinnings.

A Rotary twinning is thus pregnant with meaning. It entails having fun but also paying tribute to the Rotary motto : « Service ». As you know being a Rotarian is a strange blend of the two, and this is what makes it such an original institution that has managed to survive by being open to the others, whoever they may be.

That is why I'd like, dear President, in the name of our Bar-le-Duc club, to heartily thank you for the sincere warmth of your welcome. We are aware of the difficulty of organising such events and we are all the more grateful for that You have managed to perfection and we have had a great time. Yestersday, the weather was dreary but the quality of your organization has succeeded in offering us a sunny day. How can we ever thank you? By inviting you to Bar-le-Duc, of course, whether it be with Rotary or on your own. And by presenting you with a small gift of ours, some money for your charities. We know that you are a dynamic club and you deserve it. We know that you are a kind club, the original word meaning natural and humane. You thus deserve to share your kindness with the others. Rotary means "service" and we are happy to encourage you to go forward and help you succeed in your Rotary actions.

To conclude, I'd also like to tend our warmest greetings to Ove Kraak, his wife and the whole Aschaffenburg club. Their very presence only serves to highten the joy of being together.

Merci beaucoup, thanks a lot, vielen Dank, Paul-Eric Morillot

