

PETERSFIELD TWINNING ASSOCIATION

What are our aims?

To foster and promote goodwill and friendship between ourselves and organizations and individuals of Barentin in France and Warendorf in Germany.

The Association encourages families and groups within the town to liaise with their European counterparts, linking clubs, individuals and companies wishing to make visits and offering the opportunity for work placements and language learning.

Who can join?

Any person, family or organisation interested in furthering these aims, regardless of whether or not they speak any other languages.

What do we do?

As we do not rely on council funding, we organise social events to raise money in order to ensure that we can always give a proper welcome to our visitors and reciprocate their hospitality. Past activities have included local walks, quiz evenings, barbecues, skittles and an annual international supper. We are always open to new ideas, however, and welcome any suggestions to vary our programme each year.

How can you contact us?

To find out more about us, go to our website at:
www.petersfieldtwinningassociation.org.uk
or you can email us at :

honsec@petersfieldtwinningassociation.org.uk

What do you get as a member?

A quarterly Newsletter provides members with information about past and future events and also the chance to join in the activities of the Association, as well as giving precise details of visits to and from our twin towns. We host our French and German guests in alternate years and are hosted by them similarly.



HISTORY OF THE ASSOCIATION

The idea of twinning with a French town was put to councillors in the early 1980s and finally bore fruit in 1989. Encouraged by a seminar run by the Local Government Twinning Bureau, those concerned set up a steering committee representing organisations within the town: schools, sports clubs and commerce as well as interested individuals. Delegations from both towns were dispatched to investigate their prospective twin and the Twinning Charters were signed in Petersfield in October 1992 and Barentin in April 1993.

Both ceremonies were great occasions, with expressions of hope that the friendships already formed would flourish and that more and more

people would enjoy the benefits of the twinning between Petersfield and Barentin. Since that time, there has been a continuing exchange of individuals, families, clubs, choirs and sports organisations back and forth across the Channel and many firm friendships have been created.

Barentin has been civically twinned with Warendorf in Westphalia, Germany, since 1965. From the start, both the French and the Germans were keen that Petersfield should also twin with Warendorf, so completing a triangle of friendship. Once the success of the French connection was proven, we were ready to embark on a second. Negotiations took place with Warendorf in the late 1990s and an unofficial friendship link between the Germans and Petersfield was formed. In 2001, the first Warendorf group came to Petersfield for a week and the visit was a great success. In October 2003, the first group from Petersfield spent a week in Warendorf, receiving tremendous hospitality. Friendship links became firmly established and by April 2006 both Town Councils had agreed to proceed towards the signing of Charters which took place in Petersfield in July that year.



BARENTIN



Barentin lies about 45 miles east of Le Havre, 26 miles south of Dieppe and 10 miles north of Rouen on the N15. It has a population of some 15,000 (similar to that of

Petersfield) and is situated in the pretty valley of the Austreberthe, a tributary of the Seine. It is a former cotton mill town, but the old industrial buildings have been cleared and regenerated.

The town has an impressive *Mairie* (town hall) overlooking a central square, complete with a 17th century fountain. It boasts over 200 statues and is dominated by a road and rail viaduct designed by the English civil engineer Joseph Locke.



Rouen, the capital of Upper Normandy, was one of the largest and most



prosperous cities of mediaeval Europe. It is in Rouen that the English burnt Joan of Arc in 1431. Nowadays, it is noted for its Notre Dame Cathedral and Abbey Church of Saint Ouen as well as its Astronomical Clock and its half-timbered buildings.

WARENDORF



Warendorf is a town of some 30,000 inhabitants in North Rhine-Westphalia, about 30 minutes east of Münster by road. It is a clean, friendly town with a beautiful mediaeval centre and pleasant modern suburbs. The surrounding countryside is known particularly for its old moated castles and manor houses as well as for



the breeding and training of horses for dressage, eventing and show jumping. The *Landesgestüt* (state stud) and

the National Olympic Committee for horse riding are both located in the town.

It was an important trading centre in the late Middle Ages and even today there is a *Fettmarkt* (livestock market) and stallion show in October.

Bicycles are a very common means of transport in the town and, in the centre, bicycles share the space with pedestrians. The countryside around Warendorf is agricultural and the local river Ems flows past several nearby villages.



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