



**BUCKINGHAM**  
*Twinning Association*

**FEBRUARY 2025**

[www.buckinghamtwinning.org.uk](http://www.buckinghamtwinning.org.uk)

# QUIZ NIGHT

**Saturday 8th March 2025**

**Quiz starts at 7.00 pm**

**Akeley Village Hall**

Tickets £12.50 - Food included (Italian theme)

Bar & Raffle

Teams of up to 6

Tickets available by

email [chair@buckinghamtwinning.org.uk](mailto:chair@buckinghamtwinning.org.uk)

or tel: Lorna Joy – 07917 002101

Jo Veglio – 07783 361223

## What's inside

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Events past and present:

**Mouvoux & Neukirch-**

**en-vluyn Chrstitmas Markets**

**Valmadrera - Twinned at**

**last!**

**Upcoming events**

**Next Twinning Meeting:**

**Wednesday 5th March 7pm Chantry Chapel, Market Hill, Buckingham**



Buckingham - Valmadrera

# Twinned at last!

**On the cold afternoon of 17th January,** Steve and Tania Haines, Lorna Joy and Buckingham's Mayor Anja Schaefer set off from Luton to Milan. There was already snow around when we arrived, but the warmth of the welcome in Valmadrera at the small reception late on Friday night made us forget the weather.

However, Saturday dawned bright and sunny, and at 10am sharp, in the new community space at Fatebenefratelli, Valmadrera, the solemn ceremony of the Signing of the Twinning Agreement between Buckingham and Valmadrera brought nearly 3 years of hard work to fruition. Speeches were given in Italian and English, the documents were signed by both parties and the Mayor and Chair of Twinning were presented with ornamental keys to mark the connection between our two towns. In our turn we presented gifts of pictures of Buckingham and Stowe.

it specially for us!), so we were allowed to take pictures at the new twinning signs.



The day included lunch at the Tennis Club, with a few of the players who came to Buckingham last May, a visit to the top of the church tower, and a shared meal with many members of the Valmadrera Twinning Committee. We met a member of their U3A and a representative of an art group.

A visit to the work cooperative on Sunday morning, where talks were also held about plans for future events, and a stupendous concert by Valmadrera's wind band on Sunday afternoon rounded off a very eventful weekend. We returned with many ideas for plans for the future.



Taking a photograph near the new signs at the entrance to the town would normally be quite hazardous due to the heavy traffic, but as luck would have it, the road was closed due to maintenance (at first we thought they had closed





**Once again, we took part in “le marché de Noel” meeting our friends from Mouvaux and Neukirchen-Vluyn.**

Being in the middle of so many busy weekends (St Martin’s market, Christmas parade and Christmas parties) it has been difficult this year to put a team together... Henry came to the rescue and we successfully packed the car with so many home-made products.



Thank you to all who contributed, many hours kneading dough or stirring the Marmalade but I promise you it hasn’t gone unnoticed: So many admirers of your culinary skills were eager to lay their hands on your delicacies. Barely time to unpack, the first customers were there (some tips on



France

# Mouvaux Marche de Noel 2024

how to queue might have been handy) with their list which was heart-warming to witness.

Old friends and new faces to have lively conversations with, trying to promote twinning and our lovely town of Buckingham.

A special thank to Mouvaux jumelage for looking after us during the weekend and for the fun and lively evening on Saturday which saw all of us on stage singing in French, German and English...French wine and beer do help with singing in tune!



Reine Parmentier joined our small team on Saturday, a welcome relief for Henry and me and also time to visit the many wonderful stalls around.

We sold absolutely everything, testimony to the power of English produces on the French...who would have thought this day would come!

Hopefully the few photos and the write up will help you get a picture of a wonderful weekend and maybe you would like to take part next year? Don’t hesitate to get in touch.

Bonne annee 2025 a tous et a toutes

Buckingham

# Tombola 2024

**Our Christmas Twinning Stall 2024 was a delightful success, raising £770—slightly lower than last year, but still a fantastic achievement as it's all profit.**

A heartfelt thank you to our newest members, Sari and her daughter Nounouk, for their dedication in wrapping, collecting, and donating to the lucky dip. Their efforts brought joy to many children, proving that this event, while not profit-making, is invaluable in creating magical experiences for the little ones.

A special shoutout to Lorna, whose annual contribution of a hamper and cake remains a highlight for all. Her ability to “pull it out of the basket” every year never ceases to amaze us.

Stephanie, Steve, Udo, and Valerie—whose behind-the-scenes support is crucial. A huge thank you to everyone who donated to our tombola; your contributions are the backbone of what we offer each year. Lastly, a warm thank you to Jane and Howard for consistently booking and reserving our table, ensuring that our stall runs smoothly. Your collective efforts made this year's event a truly memorable one for everyone involved.

Buckingham

# Santa Collection

**Our Rotary Santa Collection this year was a smashing success, raising £440—a notable increase from last year. The revised date and spot provided by the Rotary significantly improved our visibility and engagement.**

A heartfelt thank you to Lorna for her organisation of the volunteers this year, and a big shoutout to Cliff, Jane, Howard, Robert and Steve for their invaluable help.

Once again, our dedication and time were the only investments required, as we had no overhead costs, resulting in pure profit for our coffers. We're excited to replicate this success in December 2025!



We couldn't have done it without our silent yet indispensable helpers—Adib, Isabella,

Germany

# Martinsmarkt Neukirchen-Vluyn 2024

**Everyone in Twinning now knows about the infamous journey via Le Shuttle, to Neukirch Vluyn in 2023!** Songs have been written about it and rumour even has it that a famous director is making a feature film called "The Darkest Train". Anyway, I digress. This year our intrepid team was full of hope for a really good time.

The journey aside, we had actually thoroughly enjoyed our time at Martinsmarkt and so were really looking forward to repeat or even improve on the experience. Cider didn't sell very well last year, and neither did apple pies. It turns out that our German friends are not cider drinkers and grow even more apples than we can imagine. So this year we concentrated on marmalade, especially prepared in the Lorna Joy marmalade factory, as well as mince pies, a walnut tray bake, from Sally's bakery, Christmas puddings (from a real factory) and a number of other tasty British treats.

And so on Friday 1st of November, our little team consisting of Lorna Joy, who, having heard about last year's Shuttle debacle, opted to fly, and Isabella Wright, along with Udo Dölz, who, undeterred risked it all again, but this time it couldn't have been more efficient, phew!

We all arrived in Neukirchen Vluyn in good time to be wonderfully received by our various hosts, and this time we really did have a lovely traditional evening meal. One of the best aspects of twinning is that our hosts have become special friends, and enjoy our visit as much as we do.



The official start time for Saturday was 1:00 pm and we arrived in plenty of time together with our twinning friends to jointly set up the market stall, and many hands certainly made light work. We were blessed with beautiful weather and so there were plenty of visitors to our stand. It was a particular pleasure to have so many visitors from CHORact, the choir who had visited Buckingham on the previous weekend, for their wonderful concert with the Lenborough Singers in the Roxburgh Hall at Stowe. Everything was selling well and marmalade was first to go.

Throughout Saturday there were music performances in the Dorfkirch, organised by our friend Rüdiger Eichholz, master of music for Neukirchen Vluyn, and then at 5pm it was my turn to play for an hour. It was my third year and this time the local sound engineer really did



Germany

# Martinsmarkt Neukirchen-Vluyn 2024

me proud by connecting my small amp into the main sound system. Many of our twinning and CHORact friends came to see me play and even my own cousin Claudia and her family. Claudia was actually born in Vluyn!



Sales had gone so well that on Sunday (another lovely day) we took delivery of more marmalade made by our friend Gerd Messner, and Lorna really excelled herself by baking about 50 scones at the home of her host Karin. With clotted cream kindly provided by Christian Berges, we were once again in business, and by the end of the day we had actually sold out of everything, thanks to those lovely cakeaholics from Neukirchen Vluyn. Closing time was 7pm and again we had plenty of help from our local friends so that we were fully packed up very quickly, aided of course by not having to pack any produce!

Sunday ended with a lovely meal in a local restaurant, organised by Christian and Dorothe and of course included our lovely hosts. Many thanks to Christian for the pictures.

This year we all decided to extend our stay for another couple of days so Lorna visited friends in Berlin while Isabella and I enjoyed some extra time with our hosts, Bruni, Günter and Christel. I must mention another amazing coincidence.

During our chats, it transpired that both Christel and I have ancestors with the same surname who actually lived in the same town, so we could even be distant relatives! How wonderful is that?



I must just say a huge thank you to Lorna and Isabella, who both did all the clever stuff on our stall. Isabella and I returned home on Wednesday and had an uneventful journey, but spent the day in the car recounting the lovely time we had, and even talking about next year...

## ***Please help!***

***Could you host a guest from one of our Twin Towns for "Buckingham Ablaze" 14-19th March 2025?***

We have invited guests from Mouvaux, Neukirchen-Vluyn and Valmadrera to take part in the celebrations to mark the 300th anniversary of Buckingham being saved from the Great Fire in 1725!

If you have not hosted before and would like to find out more about what is involved, please contact a member of the committee, or by sending a request through the contact page on our website at [www.buckinghamtwinning.org.uk](http://www.buckinghamtwinning.org.uk)

Buckingham

# 2 Choirs Twinning Event 2024

**This event was organised between two choirs, Buckingham's Lenborough Singers and its German twin town choir of Neukirchen-Vluyn, called "CHORact" with around 20 members, most staying with English host families.**

A programme of visits and social events unfolded: (Friday) a walking tour of Buckingham led by Howard Mordue, a visit to the Old Gaol (also with afternoon tea), a social and singalong evening at Akeley Village Hall, with both choir members and host families; finally, (Saturday) a visit to Stowe Gardens for the German choir.



The main Twinning event was the Saturday evening concert at the Roxburgh Theatre at Stowe, in which the two choirs sang a range of songs, some together (mostly in English but with Ode to Joy in German at the beginning), and also some songs sung separately (with CHORact singing mostly in English but also a Swedish song and a French song).



Both musical directors and both choirs found the experience really uplifting, with the audience delighting in the varied mix of songs and choral styles. Another joint choral concert with the two choirs is planned for a year or two's time, but on that occasion in Buckingham's German twin town.

# 10th Anniversary of the Mouvaux Jumelages

Would you like to travel to Mouvaux to help our Twin Town celebrate 10 years of their Twinning Association on 21st-23rd/24th March 2025? Please call Lorna on 07917002101.

Pay for your own travel (e.g. Eurostar approx. £120 return), accommodation is offered at no cost with families in Mouvaux. A comprehensive programme which includes a Bach concert, an anniversary banquet and an evening of accordion music are all included. If you wish to stay the Sunday night, there will be a supper available for €20. Only a few places available. First come, first served! Contact Lorna without delay.

Find out whats going on

# Upcoming events

## Twining Social Night

Thursday February 20th 2025  
The Mitre Pub, Buckingham

## Quiz Night

Saturday March 8th 2025, 7.00 pm,  
Akeley Village Hall

## Buckingham Ablaze

Sunday March 16th 2025

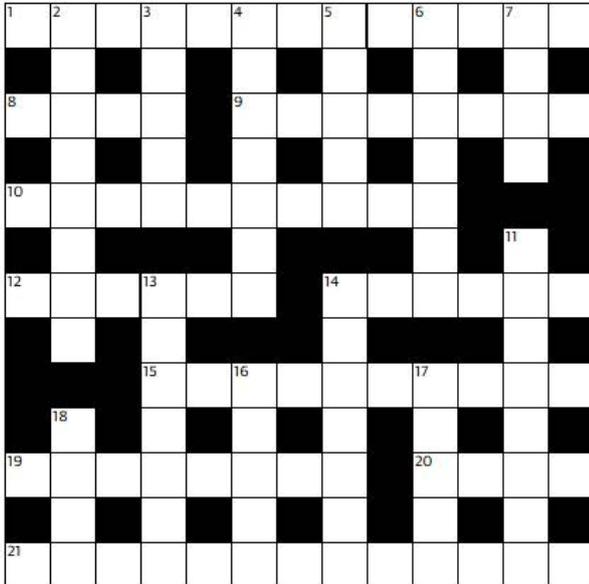
## Mouvaux – Jumelages 10th anniversary celebration

Friday March 21st 2025  
Mouvaux

## Tennis tournament – Neukirchen-Vluyn

Saturday April 26th - 27th 2025  
Neukirchen-Vluyn

# Crossword Puzzle



### Across

- 1 Top GP's intense (anag) - it helps one get on (8,5)
- 8 Cream or Crosby, Stills & Nash (4)
- 9 Surveillance operation (8)
- 10 Probability (10)
- 12 Scoundrel (3,3)
- 14 Sad story or film (6)
- 15 Hurdle (10)
- 19 Agent of change (8)
- 20 Grow sickeningly sweet (4)
- 21 Globe-trotting - Etonian griper (anag) (13)

### Down

- 2 The end of the line (8)
- 3 It's not poetry (5)
- 4 Giving out (7)
- 5 Bird and bat droppings used as fertiliser (5)
- 6 Foot-operated lever (7)
- 7 Common sense (4)
- 11 Demonstrating exceptional skill (8)
- 13 Last stages of a contest (7)
- 14 Set down on paper (7)
- 16 Cinema or theatre lobby (5)
- 17 Not censored (5)
- 18 Bones or necessities? (4)

To find out more:

✉ [chair@buckinghamtwinning.org.uk](mailto:chair@buckinghamtwinning.org.uk)

📷 @twinningbuck

Next Newsletter - April 2025

Next Twinning Meeting:

Wednesday 5th March 7pm Chantry Chapel,  
Market Hill, Buckingham