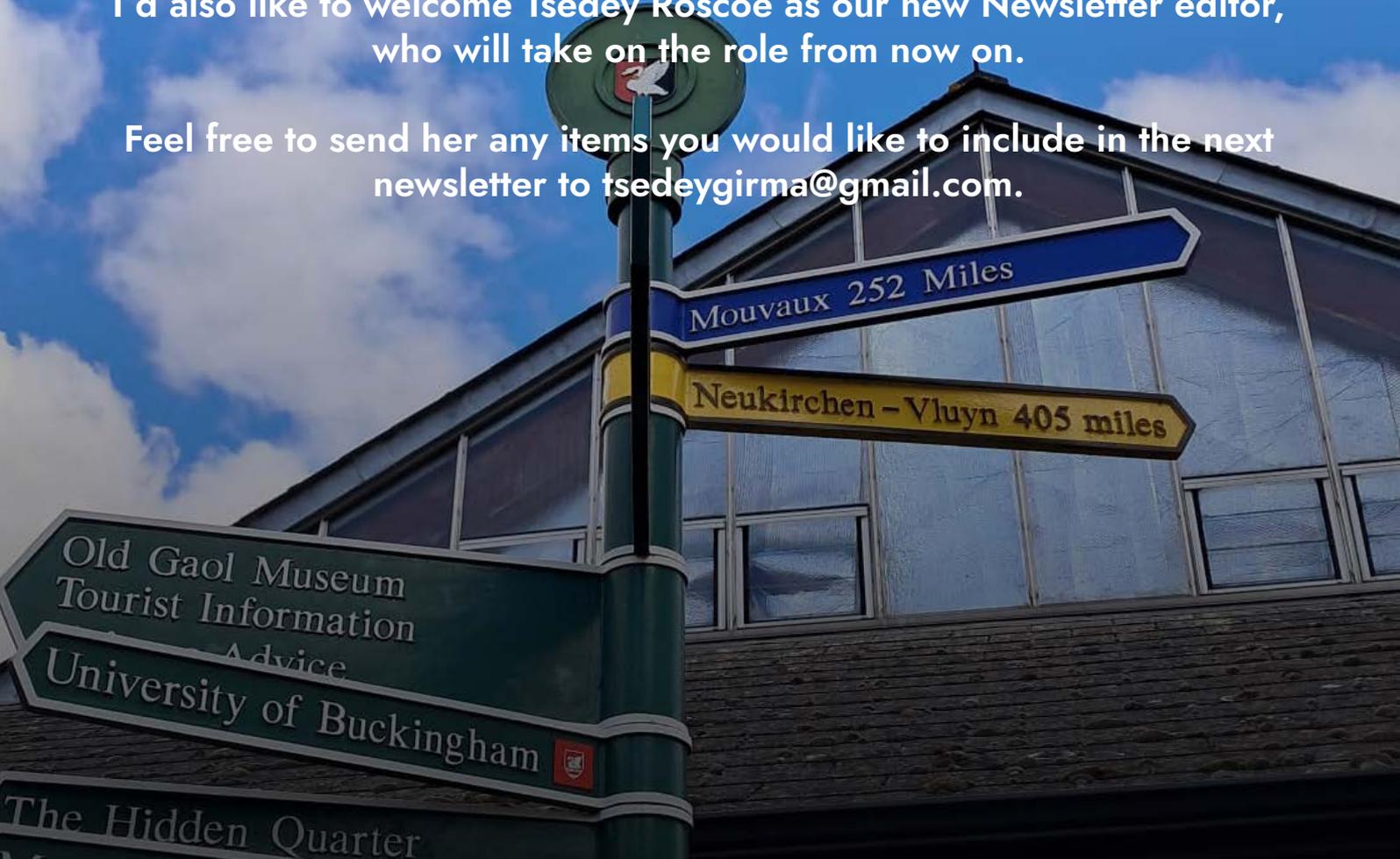




After much delay, we are pleased to present all Twinning members with the latest Newsletter, reporting on all our events so far this year. And it has been a really busy time as you can see. May I take this opportunity to thank everyone for their continued support of Twinning, culminating in the completion of the Twinning formalities at "Celebrate Buckingham Day" on 21st June, to make Valmadrera Buckingham's third Twin Town!

I'd also like to welcome Tseyey Roscoe as our new Newsletter editor, who will take on the role from now on.

Feel free to send her any items you would like to include in the next newsletter to [tseyeygirma@gmail.com](mailto:tseyeygirma@gmail.com).



## What's inside

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**Next Twinning Meeting:**

Wednesday 3rd September 7pm Chantry Chapel, Market Hill, Buckingham



Valmadrera

# Valmadrera Twinning Signing

After 5 years of preparation and the Italian signing of the Twinning Agreement in Valmadrera in January, a small delegation arrived from Italy on 20th June 2025 to sign the UK part of the Agreement and thereby fully implement the Twinning of the two towns.

After an inauspicious start due to a severe delay on the flight from Milan, the guests including the current mayor and his predecessor, were delivered safely to their accommodation, ready for an early start on Saturday 21st June.

The day started with a quick guided tour around Buckingham, then the visitors and hosts converged at Bourton Park, where the members of the Twinning Association had already set up the stall as part of "Celebrate Buckingham Day"! The signing of the Agreement was heralded by the Town Crier and featured the mayor and officers in full regalia. After speeches from both mayors and chairs of each Twinning Association, the official documents were signed and gifts were exchanged. Buckingham's gift to its new Twin was an original water colour by the renowned local artist John Whitehead.

The guests were then able to take part in the remaining celebrations, where they joined in with the Morris dancing, enjoyed fish and chips for lunch, and gave an interview of 3Bs Radio! The afternoon saw a visit to the Art exhibition in Gawcott Church, and a visit to the Buckingham Parish Church for a demonstration of bell-ringing.



After a quick rest, the guests and many of the members of the Twinning Association were welcomed by Stephanie and Henry Scrase, who kindly offered to host us all for an evening meal, prepared by Stephanie and eaten outside on what was a beautiful summer's evening. The evening also featured a great deal of singing (mostly in Italian) and a good deal of laughter, culminating in our teaching the guests how to do the Hokey Cokey!

Sadly, their flight was early on Sunday, so we bid them a sad farewell after breakfast. And now the real planning begins for future exchange visits, and there were many informal meetings during the weekend, e.g. with the Tennis Club and with U3A, ready for the real





Mouvaux

## Visit to Mouvaux, 21-23 March

### Wow! What a weekend!

What a wonderful mixture of languages (French, German, Walloon, English) and all accompanied by copious hugs and broad smiles as visitors from all three of Mouvaux' twin towns helped to celebrate Mouvaux Jumelage's 10th anniversary of independence.

A banquet was the highlight: on entering, everyone was given a garland of paper flowers with a name attached: we had to find its owner - a good mixer! An excellent 3-course meal and musical interludes from talented twinningers followed, finishing with a DJ who got absolutely everyone on the floor dancing and waving their arms to YMCA.

But celebrations had already started the previous evening with a remarkable concert by "Bach Mirror", an engaging duo on piano and marimba who transformed bach pieces into virtuoso jazz performances. Of course being in France, representatives from all four towns retired to a restaurant for a convivial (very) late-night supper.



Friendships forged over the years and the opportunity to make new international friends in an ambiance of warm goodwill: this must surely be what Twinning is all about future.

**Valerie Shaw**





Neukirchen-Vluyn

## Tennis - April 2025

James and Chris, from Buckingham Tennis Club, hit the road early on the morning of Friday the 25th April heading for the Eurotunnel and from there, onwards to Neukirchen-Vluyn. Whilst not taking the numbers that travelled for the inaugural trip back in 2023, the Club were extremely keen to maintain the connection with our German friends and tennis playing counterparts.

Aside from hideous traffic around Antwerp, the journey was smooth all the way to Werner and Jing's house where we were greeted with a warm welcome, and then joined by Peter and Christian from their Twinning Committee. After a lovely Bavarian style meal, a few pilsners and a trip to the next door Irish pub (can't get away from them!) we turned in, ready for a long weekend of tennis and socialising.



Saturday saw the sun shining bright, as it did for the whole trip, and after a gourmet breakfast we set off for the club to get stuck in on and off the court, joining in with their men's team practice and the post-practice beers. It was great to see some familiar

faces and make some new friends – and show the Germans that we were still highly competitive on the court! That evening had us heading to a traditional (one week late) Easter bonfire at the local castle, hosted by the junior division of the CDU political party. We had a quick snoop at the castle, only to find later that the owner was attending the event, as was the local MP. On hearing about our trip, we were dragged into the photo call – although I have no idea if we made the paper the following day!

Sunday was the opening day of their tennis club's season; they play on clay courts which are closed over the winter. So the whole club turned out, each providing some food for the all-day buffet and with everyone joining in some friendly, semi-competitive, mix-in, mixed doubles tennis. James and I were fortunate enough to be asked to play in the first match of the season on their #1 show court, with James and his partner deservedly coming out on top. As the day progressed, the prosecco came out and the tennis wound down for the presentations. Not content with stopping, James and I had one more friendly match before finishing for the day. That even we went with our hosts, and Peter and Christian to the local brauhaus, in a beautiful setting as the sun went down – a fitting end to a great weekend.

We can't thank everyone enough for their friendship, hospitality and, of course, impeccable English. However, special thanks must go to Werner and Jing for their generous hosting, Jing's cooking and Werner's whisky collection. Likewise to Christian for taking us out for multiple dinners and making us feel so welcome. We also tentatively offered to invite our German counterparts back to Buckingham next year. Next stop for our tennis club is a trip to Valmadrera in September – maybe we'll see you there!



Buckingham

# Buckingham Ablaze

**Having recently joined the Buckingham Twinning Association, we were thrilled to host Fiorenza, who came over from Valmadrera for the Buckingham Ablaze weekend.**

She spoke good English, making conversation much easier and she was a model guest. She gave us a selection of gifts from Valmadrera, including a lovely print of their church.

We attended most of the Buckingham Ablaze events with her, where Fiorenza gained an insight into our town's history and English culture. She particularly enjoyed the fish and chip supper on Saturday evening!

Overall, we felt the weekend was well organised and gave us the chance to meet folk from our French and German twin towns too. We look forward to joining in with future twinning visits.

**Ann Hubbard**

## Neukirchen-Vluyn Call for hosts

**The next twinning visit from Neukirchen-Vluyn will take place over the weekend of 3/4/5 October 2025.**

This will be a walking weekend, and will include short and longer walks around the local area. We are looking for volunteers to host visitors over that weekend. Please register your interest by contacting [gateleym@gmail.com](mailto:gateleym@gmail.com)



Walking group in 2023



Buckingham

## Quiz thank you!

### Dear All - A Heartfelt Thanks for a Wonderful Quiz Evening

I just wanted to extend a huge thank you to everyone who made our quiz evening such a fantastic success.

Firstly, David and Steve, your help in setting up was invaluable, thank you! Also a special shout out to Pete and Aimee for organizing the music and helping with the setup, your efforts truly set the tone for the evening.

A big thank you to Lorna for her amazing ticket sales push, reception and welcoming chat skills. Chantal, Stephanie, and Lorna for their delicious lasagnas, which were a big hit. Jane and Sari, your Tiramisu, fruit salad, and biscotti were simply delicious. The evening wouldn't have been the same without our incredible servers, Valerie, Cliff, and John—thank you for keeping everything running smoothly.

Howard, your bar management was top-notch, but your marathon washing-up skills stole the show—what a star! And Henry, thank you for your quiet and steadfast assistance throughout.

Steve, you made an exceptional quiz master, thank you for all your research throughout the year on quiz questions. Thanks to Henry for assisting you with adding up the numbers, the icing on the cake on helping the quiz run smoothly. Thank you so much to Stephanie, Jane, Cliff and Lorna who kept up with Howard's washing up and dried up everything.

A heartfelt thank you to our mayor, Anja, for graciously presenting the prizes and adding a special touch to the evening.

A big thanks also goes to everyone who donated raffle prizes—your generosity made a real difference. But most importantly, to all the ticket buyers who attended, thank you. Without your support, this event simply wouldn't have been possible.

This was truly a team effort, and I'm so grateful to everyone who helped make it such a memorable evening.

Thank you - we raised lots of money

**Jo Veglio**

Buckingham

# Buckingham Ablaze

They say that sometimes a spontaneous decision brings the best results, and when Udo suggested at the beginning of the year that it would be a good idea to invite people from our three twin towns to help celebrate the once-in-a-lifetime "Buckingham Ablaze" event marking the 300th anniversary of the "Great Fire of Buckingham", we had barely two and a half months to pull it all together!

But teamwork was the key, with many twinning members offering to host, to help with organisation, including guided walks pointing out all the features of the great fire.

The efforts by the "Buckingham Ablaze" organising committee, the local schools, the library, the Old Gaol and many others were tremendous, and 5 visitors from Valmadrera, 5 from Neukirchen-Vluyn and 3 from Mouvaux took part in the celebrations. Of the Valmadrera visitors, 2 came from their local fire brigade, and were treated to a visit to the Buckingham Fire Station on the Saturday morning.

In spite of the cold wind, the weather stayed fair and there were plenty of activities to enjoy around the Market Square, especially once the road was closed off. The Fire Fighters gave a demonstration of rescue from a burning building, there was dancing in the Square, and then the actual events of that fateful day in 1725 were dramatically reenacted. The day ended in traditional style in the Chantry Chapel, with fish and chips eaten from the paper. This gave the chance for visitors from all four countries to mix and exchange stories.

Some people had to leave early on Sunday, so the group divided, with some taking part in the guided walk around Buckingham following

the trail of the fire, while the French visitors met together with their hosts for an early Sunday lunch. A younger contingent of English, Germans and Italians went to Silverstone track for a visit and landed back in Akeley, where the



roast beef managed to stretch to hungry Italian firefighters as well as the German guests, the host family and a number of others.

A good time was had by all, and there was barely any time left to rest before the grand finale, which was a tremendous concert given by the West Midlands Firefighters Band, who presented a versatile range of music, presented with humour and panache.

With amusing commentary by the famous TV personality, Charlie Ross, it marked the end of a perfect weekend! It was indeed a triumph to have all 3 twin towns represented.

Buckingham

# Buckingham Ablaze

Buckingham was all ablaze on the weekend of the 15th of March, in celebration of the Great Fire of 1725! We invited our friends from France, Germany and Italy to come and celebrate with us and I was fortunate enough to have a lovely young French woman to come and stay.

She had never been to Buckingham before and so this was a great opportunity to show off the town, its inhabitants and what we can do to come together and enjoy ourselves as a community.

We of course took her to Stowe, had a fish and chip supper in the Chantry Chapel and took part in the festivities which were held on Market Hill in the afternoon. The highlight for me was circle dancing – young and old, good friends and people I had never seen before, our guests from Europe – we all joined in, helped along with music from the accordion. When do you see the reticent British spontaneously dancing in the street? Not very often!



We rounded off the weekend by having a very convivial lunch together with guests and hosts and then waved our friends off on their journey back to France. A very memorable weekend. And I am sure my new French friend will be coming back for more!

**Sandra Truscott**

Find out whats going on

# Upcoming events

**Tennis trip to Valmadrera**  
September 20th - 22nd 2025

**Walking group from NV to Buckingham**  
October 3rd - 5th 2025, 7.00 pm

**Martinsmarkt**  
November 7th - 10th 2025  
Neukirchen-Vluyn

**Neukirchen Xmas market**  
November 28th 2025  
Neukirchen-Vluyn

**Mouvaux Christmas market**  
December 5th - 6th 2025  
Mouvaux

**40th Buckingham Christmas Parade and Community Fair**  
December 13th 2025  
Buckingham

**Mouvaux March 2025**



To find out more:

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

📷 [@twinningbuck](https://www.instagram.com/twinningbuck)

**Next Twinning Meeting:**

Wednesday 3rd September

7pm Chantry Chapel, Market Hill, Buckingham