



BUCKINGHAM

Twinning Association

Newsletter - January 2026

www.buckinghamtwinning.org.uk

Winter Edition

I would like to take a moment to offer a very special thank you to Lorna for the huge amount of time and energy she has given to the Twinning Association over the years, first as Secretary and then as Chairman. She has always led with a smile and a steady hand, and we are extremely grateful for everything she has done. I'm also very pleased to say that Lorna remains an active and valued member of the committee.

As the new Chairman, I'm finding the role busy but very enjoyable. I've been involved with the Association for around seven years and, although full-time work and travel mean I can't always be at every event, we've had a very successful November and December thanks to a fantastic committee and committed members, including visits to the markets in Neukirchen-Vluyn, Mouvaux and Buckingham.

I was also able to coordinate the BTA's four-hour stint at Rotary's Santa Float collection at Tesco just before Christmas, and my thanks go to the volunteers for collecting, it was a very welcome boost to our coffers.

Here's to an even more active and productive year with our twin towns in 2026.

Steve Haines

In This Newsletter:

Martinsmarkt, Neukirchen-Vluyn

7th - 10th November 2025

Mouvaux Christmas Market

5th, 6th and 7th December 2025

Christmas Fair & Parade

13th December 2025

Santa Float Collection

13th December 2025

Next Buckingham Twinning Association Meeting:

**Wednesday, 19th March 2026
at 7pm in the Vinson Centre,
University of Buckingham**

Martinsmarkt, Neukirchen-Vluyn,

7th - 10th November



Saint Martin

To begin, I'd like to share a little about how Martinsmarkt came about. Saint Martin was a knight of the Holy Roman Empire in the 4th century AD. According to legend, he was riding along on horseback when he noticed a beggar by the roadside, cold, naked, and in need. Martin cut his cloak in half and wrapped the beggar in it. He was later sanctified for this act of kindness.

Today, St. Martin's Day is celebrated in many German towns on the 11th of November with fireworks, re-enactments, and, of course, street markets. In Neukirchen-Vluyn, the Martinsmarkt is always held on the weekend closest to the 11th.

We arrived on the evening of Friday 7th November. Sally and I came by train from Berlin after a five-night excursion, so we couldn't bring perishables, but we were loaded with marmalade. Our hosts welcomed us with a lovely evening meal, and it was wonderful to see friends again, some of whom had visited Buckingham for the walking weekend in early October.





Lorna was once again our Marmalade Queen, though we've agreed to share the workload more evenly next year. We had barely set up on Saturday when a very determined gentleman arrived wanting to buy ten jars of marmalade, complete with last year's empty jars.

Our Twinning stall was ready before the 11am opening, manned by Lorna, her friend Christine, Isabella, Udo and Sally. We were well stocked with marmalade (with and without whisky), quince jelly, Christmas puddings, mince pies, Bakewell tarts and more. As always, the stall drew plenty of interest and gave us a chance to practise our German.

Another highlight of Martinsmarkt is the music in the Dorfkirche, organised by our good friend Rüdiger Eicholtz. Performers included a ladies' choir from Ukraine, CHORact and the choir from Neukirchen-Vluyn, and I also played for an hour on Saturday afternoon.

I was amused to be described in a newspaper cutting as "der bekannte Gitarrist Udo Dölz aus der Englischen Partnerstadt Buckingham", which made me think I'd better not play too many bum notes.



We were back on the stand on Sunday, though having sold plenty the day before and with duller weather, it was a little quieter. Once again, Lorna used her host's kitchen to bake scones, which were quickly snapped up. Many Vluyners asked for clotted cream, though sadly that now has to be smuggled!

We all enjoyed ourselves and look forward to next year. Huge thanks to our hosts for looking after us so well.

Udo Dölz





Mouvoux Christmas Market

5th, 6th and 7th December

December is always a busy month in the Twinning calendar, starting with the Marché de Noël in Mouvoux.

Our little team of seasoned stall holders, Jane Mordue, Cliff Dammers and I, was joined by Chantal Robinson, her first visit to Mouvoux, but definitely not the last.

We set off early on Friday 5th December, a car packed with delicious English Christmas treats: cakes, puddings, mince pies, marmalade, crackers and more. On arrival, we unpacked quickly alongside our friends from Neukirchen-Vluyn and Mouvoux, surrounded by the gorgeous smells of crêpes, mulled wine and smoked sausage, a wonderful way to start the weekend.

The success of the stall relies on homemade goods, much prized by French customers who arrive early with baskets and shopping lists. Thank you to our fantastic bakers, Lorna, Jane, Robin, Chantal and Sheila, your contributions were very much appreciated.

A huge *merci* to Annie and Mouvoux Jumelage for organising a lovely Saturday night gathering with friends from our twin towns. With everything sold, we left early on Sunday, a busy but fun weekend. Tempted? Will you join us next year?

Bonne Année 2026 to all,
Stephanie Scrase





Christmas Fair & Parade

13th December

Buckingham Christmas Fair

Every year the Association takes part in the Buckingham Christmas Fair with a stall at the Buckingham Community Centre, and this year's event on 13 December was another great success. That was entirely down to the generosity of members who helped on the day and donated prizes for the tombola and children's lucky dip.

Jane Mordue arrived early and secured us a prime spot right by the entrance, then sold tickets after the parade. Margaret Gateley ran the tombola, Sally Dölz kept a careful eye on the cash box, and Adeeb Fallouh set up the stall and sold tickets alongside Gilly St. Ledger. Lorna Joy put together two lovely Christmas hampers, which were raffled off during the day.

Cliff Dammers

As well as being a great opportunity to promote the Association, the stall raised a very welcome sum for our funds. Many thanks to everyone who contributed and helped make the day such a success.

Buckingham Santa Float

13th December

Buckingham Santa Float

On a bitterly cold Saturday morning just before Christmas, a group of very kind volunteers, Ade and his partner, Howard, Margaret, Sally, James, Robert, Chantal, Udo and myself, took turns collecting for the Buckingham Twinning Association outside Tesco. Many thanks go to the Rotary Club for allowing us to collect under their auspices, to Tesco for their support, and of course to all our volunteers. We were really heartened by the generosity of everyone who stopped to donate.

Jane Mordue



Upcoming events

Quiz Night, Akeley Village Hall, 6pm on 27th February 2026

Students from Aldo Moro School, Valmadrera - 9th - 12th April 2026

Cycling visit to Buckingham, 8th - 10th May 2026

Tennis tournament, 6th - 7th June 2026

Boules tournament, Date TBC

To find out more:

Email: chair@buckinghamtwinning.org.uk

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

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