

The Richmond in Europe Association



FONTAINEBLEAU



KONSTANZ



RICHMOND-UPON-THAMES

Patron: The Lord Watson of Richmond CBE President: The Mayor of Richmond upon Thames

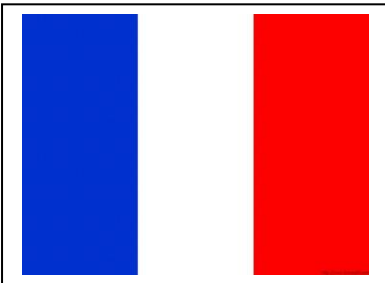
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Newsletter January 2017

Dear Member,

This is the first REA Newsletter I have produced since I stepped down as REA Chairman in 1992. Please note: from 13 January to 9 February I shall be in China celebrating the Year of the Sheep; on 6 February, Alan Mockford returns from New Zealand. If you have any queries, please contact REA's Secretary Carol Wain (above).



Fontainebleau

September 13th - 17th: Cycle Tour from Fontainebleau to Richmond in aid of StreetInvest (linked local charity). A Reception is planned in Richmond. This is a preamble to the Twinning Anniversary during October 2017. (Details to follow.) Cyclists & friends wishing to go, please contact info@streetinvest.org.

Konstanz

Europakonzil (European Council)

In **November**, a great European Council will take place on the occasion of the second Constance Council Award. The European Council aims to bring together young people and young adults from Constance and its four European twin cities – Fontainebleau (France), Richmond (Great Britain), Tábor (Czech Republic) and Lodi (Italy). During the event, which will last several days, the young people will exchange views on communal and European policy.

Plans are afoot for four pupils from the Richmond Academy to attend.



Past events

November Wednesday 9th The 39th AGM of the Richmond in Europe Association, held at York House, was well attended. Bernd Steinlechner was thanked for stepping in as Acting Chairman after the death of Helen Evans. Alan Mockford was elected Chairman; Helen Baker, Vice Chairman; Carol Wain; Secretary (including Membership); and David Ferguson and Rodney Mantle, Committee members. A Treasurer is still being sought.

A Wine and Cheese Party followed.

December, Thursday 1st: REA visit to German School, London. See my report below.

December, Tuesday 6th: Several REA members attended the Mayor's Evening of Festive Music. The concert theme this time was Charles Dickens' A Christmas Carol, enjoyably performed by a band and reader from Kneller Hall.

Future events

February, from Friday 3rd at Watermans: Irreplaceable (Médecin de campagne), a French comedy.

February, from Friday 10th at Watermans: Toni Erdmann, the German Oscar-nominated film

February, Wednesday 23rd February to 1st March: Fasnacht (Carnival) in Konstanz. Have you been yet? I organised the first two REA Fasnacht groups, and Bernd Steinlechner led more recent visits. We can both confirm that the warm welcome REA groups have had in the past and the jolly atmosphere, making it great fun! Carol Wain adds: "if you enjoy German beer and bands."

March, Thursday 23rd 12:30 for 13:00: Helen Evans memorial lunch at Côte Bistro, Richmond. To learn more and/or book, contact Carol Wain (contact details in header).

March (no dates yet) at Watermans: French film Elle starring Isabelle Huppert and French-Canadian film It's only the End of the World (Juste la Fin du Monde)

April, Saturday 1st: Unveiling of new memorial to the "Belgian Village on the Thames": Richmond and Twickenham's First World War Belgian Refugee community, at Warren Gardens, East Twickenham (small venue, by invitation only). Public exhibition afterwards: 14:30-16:00.

April Tuesday 11th 20:00: Richmond Film Society, Room G5, St. Mary's University, Strawberry Hill, Twickenham, TW1 French film: Marguerite (2015) Tickets: Guests £6 or students £4, at the venue.

Advance Notice

March to October 40th Anniversary of the Twinning (*actually in Oct.*): events commemorating the Twinning of Richmond (LBRUT), Fontainebleau and Konstanz. A LBRUT Reception is planned, plus cultural and sporting events organised by linked groups or clubs over this period. Details will be added when known.

August, Saturday 19th Luncheon Garden Party at Brenda Morris' home in Richmond, with members of Twickenham and Richmond United Nations Association. To learn more and/or book, contact Carol Wain (contact details in header).

Very best wishes,
Rodney Mantle
REA Committee

REA group visits German School

On 1 December 2016, a group of 26 Richmond in Europe Association members and their guests, some from Richmond U3A, visited the German School London in Ham. Our President, the Mayor, was clearly delighted by his third visit to this island of German education.





After a welcome by the Headmaster, Herr Christian Nitschke, the REA visitors and guests were introduced to our friendly and well-informed student guides Carl Funke, Jonas Nebel, Charlotte von Dewitz, Kara Quast, Leonie Hieker and Niklas Sillertook. They took small groups on tours through the impressively modern and well-equipped premises: doors and gates were opened by fingerprints, which also were used for bills from the school cafeteria. All the guides were outstandingly bilingual.



Classroom observation of a German lesson by Mrs Ditas Amry (left) showed “anti-authoritarian education” in action, with the 14-year-olds being encouraged to be questioning and critical in their use of the Internet.



Apart from excellent music and sports facilities, the school also boasts a section of the Berlin Wall.

Lunch in the school cafeteria ended for one of the visitors with three-candle birthday cake, provided by the school. 84 candles were missing, according to REA Chairman Alan Mockford.

The reactions of the REA members were summed by one of them: “I am now even more impressed with German education.”

Alan Mockford commented afterwards: “I have received lots of positive feedback. My only regret is that I could have spent longer looking around the school and chatting to the students. I do hope we can engage further with the school in the future.”