



May 2026 Newsletter

Spring Quiz

Our spring quiz took place on 14th March at Springfield Parish Centre, with around 60 people enjoying the evening. In a close contest over five rounds and a 'marathon', the winning team was 'the Young and the Old' who retained the trophy won last year. Many thanks to Gloria Nichols for once again acting as quiz master, Pam Forrester for organising the venue, Liz Sutton and Jackie Arnot for running the raffle and to everyone who put a team together and bought raffle tickets!



Backnang Councillors visit Chelmsford



Over the weekend of 21st/22nd March, Backnang Oberbürgermeister Maximilian Friedrich and five councillors came to Chelmsford on a Civic visit. On the Sunday evening members of CTP were invited to join them at the County Hotel for a relaxed social evening.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Chelmsford Twinning Partnership AGM, Saturday 15th August, 3.30pm at Galleywood Heritage Centre, Full details to follow.

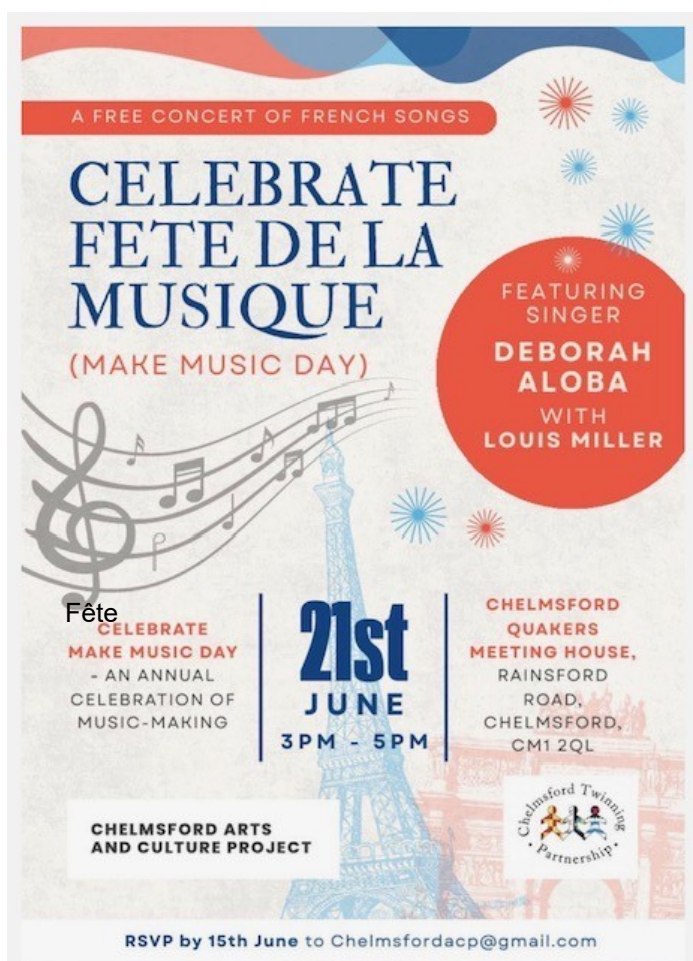
Vol Fest, Thursday 4th June, 9.30-4pm, Chelmsford High Street. A Showcase of local charities and Community groups, including CTP.

Caprice Summer Concert, Saturday 6th June, St Andrew's Church, Melbourne Avenue. Caprice have longstanding twinning links with both Annonay and Backnang.

Fête de la Musique, Saturday 21st June, Chelmsford Quakers Meeting House, Rainsford Road, 3-5pm. (see poster below).

Backnang Strassenfest, 26th-29th June, with Chelmsford band Electronique playing on the Saturday evening.

Cheese and Wine evening, date to be confirmed, watch this space.



On the same day a Chelmsford singer will be taking part in the Fête de la Musique in Annonay



A SUCCESSFUL EXCHANGE FOR CHELMSFORD WALKERS



Six intrepid ramblers from the Chelmer and Blackwater group recently ventured over to Germany to participate in setting up a hiking partnership with the Schwäbischer Albverein (Alp Association). Knowing that the town of Backnang in Baden Württemberg is already twinned with Chelmsford it was thought it might be fun to add rambling to the other activities already taking place between the two places.

And fun it certainly was! Apart from a minor hiccup when we arrived at Stuttgart airport and found that one of our suitcases had not made it over from Heathrow, it was evident that the German contingency, ably led by Walter, had gone all out to make our four night stay interesting and enjoyable.

In the four days of our stay, we fitted in a 14-mile walk in the rain with a lunch stop mid-forest for local wine-tasting and pretzels, followed by a tour of a vineyard and more wine-tasting with a complimentary bottle of wine to take away, a 30-stop guided tour of the picturesque and historical town, and a visit to Marbach, where the German playwright and poet Schiller was born. In the evenings we were able to sample typical Swabian cuisine, including tripe soup and 'Maultaschen' (pasta pockets filled with meat and spices), in traditional 'Kneipen' (pubs) and in the convivial company of members of the Albverein and twinning committee, the language difference proving to be no obstacle.

Members of the Backnang Albverein hope to make a return visit to Chelmsford this autumn, when for the C&B group, the important question will be, "Can we sufficiently rise to the occasion in providing a suitably stimulating programme"?!

Barbara Cummings



Springfield Football Club's U13 tour to Backnang



Outside the Mercedes-Benz Museum

Springfield Football Club's U13 tour to Backnang proved to be a truly unforgettable few days for players, parents (some of whom had been involved in Backnang visits as young players themselves) and coaches alike, with the group immersing themselves in everything the experience had to offer, both on and off the pitch.

One of the highlights was a visit to Tripsdrill Theme Park, where players and parents spent the day enjoying rides, attractions and entertainment alongside their new German friends. The day perfectly captured the spirit of the tour, with laughter, bonding and friendships at the heart of everything. Next was a visit to the Mercedes-Benz Museum, offering a fascinating journey through automotive and world history. This experience proved a hit for everyone - not just car enthusiasts!

In a moment that will live long in the memory, the boys were also given the opportunity to meet players from VfB Stuttgart following a training session. Autographs were signed, photos were taken, and the young Springfield players experienced first-hand the inspiration of being up close with professional footballers.

Reflecting on the trip, Vice Chairman Ian Bull summed up the experience: "An amazing tour for all the boys and parents. From the theme park to Stuttgart and the Mercedes-Benz Museum, to meeting VfB Stuttgart players - it's been a trip full of memories.

The boys played with spirit right to the end, even with just ten players. This trip has been such a success and we were extremely spoilt by our TSG Backnang hosts."

Special thanks were also paid to Owen Bull, whose efforts in organising the tour helped create lifelong memories for everyone involved, as well as to all the volunteers and families who supported the fundraising events that made the trip possible.

The club would also like to place on record its sincere gratitude to hosts TSG Backnang for their incredible hospitality throughout the visit. Springfield now looks forward to returning that generosity when welcoming their German friends to Springfield next year.

Chelmsford and Annonay Artists news

During their visit to Annonay in November 2025, Gloria and Edith connected with local artists at the gallery “La Moustache et les Dentelles”, situated in the historic part of the town. Details were exchanged, including with mural artist Anne Henry, and discussions took place about the creative events organised in both cities. Anne expressed particular interest in Concrete Canvas, Chelmsford’s street art festival, which takes place each May.

Edith subsequently liaised with Jennifer Flint, trustee of Chelmsford Arts and Culture Project, to facilitate Anne’s participation in Concrete Canvas and to organise a venue for her work.

Edith met Anne at King’s Cross station on Friday 15 May. Ruth Sabey kindly hosted Anne, as Edith’s house was already full, as usual.

On Saturday, Anne spent the day painting the Montgolfier brothers on a giant canvas at Bond Street Bowl using spray paint. Fortunately, the weather held, which was a real bonus. Many people stopped to admire the artwork as it progressed. Marc De’ath, Assistant Director of Culture at Chelmsford City Council, commented, “I was entranced”.

On Sunday, David from Chelmsford Twinning Partnership joined Jennifer Flint, Lynn Excell, Ruth Sabey and Edith for a hearty brunch at Tearoom Talks before embarking on a three-hour exploration of Chelmsford’s history and street art. Once again, the weather was lovely.

Anne’s painting even made the French news.

Anne’s visit was a great success and significantly boosted the enthusiasm of the twinning team in Annonay. Despite being extremely busy with the celebrations marking the 60th anniversary of the twinning between Annonay and Backnang, the team took the time to repost the event on social media and share it with local media outlets. We are looking forward to building on this success and hope that the Mayor of Annonay will be able to visit Chelmsford this autumn.

Another artist, Deborah Aloba, is due to give a concert in Annonay in partnership with the Annonay choir. The event is being organised by Patrick Charrier from Annonay’s twinning association.

Edith Miller



Anne's mural of the Montgolfier brothers, inventors of the hot air balloon, who came from Annonay.

