

# Abingdon and District Twin Towns Society



## Newsletter

November 2025

Guest Editor: Brian Read

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## From the Editor

Summer has ended and the schools are already into half-term. Our winter programme continued in October with an enjoyable and educational wine tasting evening. See the full report from Neil Hancox. In this issue we also hear about the *Fascht* organised by Colmar.

The next fixture for ADTTS is the town's annual Remembrance ceremony when, after the civic service in St Helen's Church, the Society participates in the wreath laying at the war memorial.

The evening meeting in November will be a games evening – quite simple games but with the challenge of playing them in the languages of our twin towns! It promises to be fun.

After the summer lull, the calendar is fast filling with events and activities. Abingdon has a rich cultural scene with many meetings and entertainments to choose from. Indeed, for November, Nick Marsh has compiled a bumper list of events. It's worth highlighting one: the recital on 3<sup>rd</sup> November by Old Abingdonian Guy Cutting. Michael Matthews reminds us of that wonderful Puccini Recital in [November 2008](#) that we organised in St. Nicolas' Church with the Italian Soprano Silvana Froli from Lucca. [Guy](#), now a distinguished international tenor, was at that time a sixth former at Abingdon School and we roped him in on the recommendation of Michael Stinton as Silvana needed some backing. Little did we realise how brilliant he would be at this his first public recital.

Looking ahead, it's not that long to Christmas. All our twin towns will have Christmas markets. Is this an opportunity or excuse for a visit? Certainly, we understand that Argentan would welcome visitors from Abingdon to its Christmas market. All we know so far is that it's the weekend of 21<sup>st</sup> December, so rather close to the holiday.

Importantly, Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> December is the date of the ADTTS Christmas Lunch at the Hilton Garden Inn. Details have been sent to members, so do book your places!

*Brian Read*

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## Forthcoming Events (November 2025 – December 2025)

Sunday 9 <sup>th</sup> November	Remembrance Ceremony at the War Memorial
Thursday 20 <sup>th</sup> November	Evening Meeting at PRCC – Languages Games
Sunday 21 <sup>st</sup> December	Christmas Lunch at the Hilton Garden Inn

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## Evening Meeting: Languages Games

### **7.30 for 7.45 pm Thursday 22 November at Preston Road Community Centre**

Enjoy playing in convivial company five different games as might be played in our twin towns. The games are each timed to last fifteen minutes, and, while simple in concept, have the challenge of using key words (such as numbers) in five different languages. Be warned, some games test memory, in others quick reactions are crucial! Full instructions and a cheat script will be provided. Richard Smart will provide directions and ensure (more or less) fair play.

Note the prompt start at 7.45 pm, so arrive in good time. Expect appropriate refreshments.

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## Membership Subscriptions 2025/2026

**Subscriptions for members for the year to August 2026 are due.  
The current rates are £7.50 per person or £15.00 for a family.**

They can be paid with a Banker's Order. A Banker's Order form can be found on the ADTTS website [adtts.eu](http://adtts.eu) under Contacts. If you already pay by Banker's Order, could you please check that you are paying at the current rate.

**Payment can also be made directly to our Bank account by BACS to:**

National Westminster Bank plc, Market Place, Abingdon

**Account:** *Abingdon & District Twin Towns Society*

**Sort Code:** 60-01-01 **A/c No:** 08616752

Please use your name as a reference.

Payment by cheque, payable to ADTTS, should be sent to: Rosemary Jardine, Membership Secretary. (See [Contacts List](#).)

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View of the **Long Alley Almshouses** from the garden. (This photograph was taken just recently through the keyhole of the back gates.)

Visitors to Schongau may have been taken to Augsburg to visit the **Fuggerei**, which is claimed to be the world's oldest social housing complex still in use, having been founded in 1516 and opened in 1521. However, Long Alley was constructed in 1446-47 and still today provides sheltered accommodation for residents.

## Twin Towns Tasting Event - 16th October 2025

Twenty-five members of ADTTS enjoyed a pleasant evening of wine tasting courtesy of Majestic Wines, Abingdon, and their local manager, Eleanor Maudsley, who introduced us to nine wines, five white and four red. Did you know that your first sip should not be the best, but sufficiently enjoyable for you to continue to keep drinking.

Eleanor, who had only been the local manager for a couple of months, was very knowledgeable, explaining to us the subtleties of flavour/taste and bouquet and which foods partnered a particular wine, though some of the wines could be sipped on their own while simply relaxing. The Italians were particularly concerned with matching the wine to the food. In addition, I learnt that if a wine causes a tingling in your nose this is due to the alcohol, while a tingling in your throat is due to the acidity of the wine.

To complement our tasting Susan and Nikki had prepared some excellent savoury snacks.

We started off with an Italian Spumante, bubbly but drier than Prosecco. This was followed by a Riesling from Mosel and a Gavi la Toledana from Piedmont. The former was a dry wine, the latter not as famous as the more familiar Pinot Grigio. Both were pleasant, though I felt a little thin. My favourite white was a Sauvignon Blanc, from Marlborough, smooth and easy on the palate, though apparently of high acidity. The final white was Icone Vouvray, from the Loire valley. This was a Chenin Blanc, low in alcohol, 11.5%, but too sweet for me.

Now it was on to the reds. The first was a Dr Ernst Loosen Pinot Noir from Pfalz. This German wine was pale in the glass, had a higher alcohol content, 13%, and did not age well. So, if you have a bottle, drink it up! The grape has a thin skin and is suited to a cooler climate. I found it strong with a sharpish taste. The most expensive wine was another Pinot Noir, known as a Parcel Series wine (i.e. not named), from Central Otago. This was again pale in the glass, had less punch, though it was 14% alcohol, and not as strong a taste as the other Pinot Noir. The name Parcel Series refers to the fact that the wine is surplus to the producers' requirements and is sold on in bulk at a lower price to the retailer. However, unlike named varieties, there is no guarantee that the wine will be available for the next season.

The next red was Barbera d'Asti DOCG, from Piedmont (*pictured*). This was the strongest wine we sampled at 14.5% alcohol with a high tannin content and was recommended to accompany a pasta dish. It certainly had a strong taste. My favourite was AG Carignan Reserve from Limoux (Languedoc), an oaked wine with 12.5% alcohol. I would describe it as smooth. Interestingly we were told that this grape grew on older vines, which bore less fruit.

This was an informative and pleasant meeting. I learnt a lot about wines, though, possibly due to age and my forward taste buds being less effective, Eleanor's description of taste and bouquet was a little lost on me. Of course, the comments above are mine, others at the meeting will have different reactions and favourite wines.

Don't get me wrong, I do like a glass of wine!

Our thanks are due to Eleanor for guiding us through the various wines and their properties and to Susan and Nikki for providing the nibbles to accompany our drinks.

Neil Hancox, 17th October 2025





## Colmar Fascht 2025

The third annual [Colmar Fascht](#) took place on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> October 2025. It is an event that celebrates the richness of Alsatian heritage, while strengthening the ties with the twin towns. This year the town invited Abingdon as guest of honour. Although Colmar arranged to host a group of twelve performers from Abingdon, in the event their visit fell through. Fortunately, Angela and Ian Waterhouse were around and were able to represent Abingdon and mitigate the disappointment. Their report on the occasion is below.

Overall, Colmar twinning society found it a "Superbe afternoon". There was an [article on the Fascht](#) in the next day's newspaper. (Ask the newsletter [editor](#) for the complete article.)

### COLMAR TWINNING WEEKEND

At the beginning of October, we visited Colmar on a short holiday, which happened to coincide with the twinning weekend arranged around the Colmar Fascht, a relatively new annual folklore festival. Last year, Lucca had been the guest of honour, and posters around the town announced that Abingdon was this year's special guest.

Local press and town websites announced folklore, English beer and roast beef - but it turned out, because of some unknown circumstances, we were the only 'Abingdonians' present!

So, we were invited to assist with the inauguration proceedings on stage near the Koifhus, along with the Mayor of Colmar, Councillor Sengelen who had visited Abingdon for the Mayors' conference in April, and the regional MP, Mme Brigitte Klinkert.

We spoke briefly about local Abingdon folk traditions, particularly the bun throwing, and represented Abingdon at the town hall reception along with delegates from Sint-Niklaas, Schongau, Princeton, and Győr in Hungary.

Although somewhat unprepared for such formal duties, we were pleased to help out, and enable Colmar to welcome people from Abingdon as 2025 guests of honour as planned.

Colmar and the environs looked wonderful in the autumn sunshine, with beautiful new plantings in the town centre, and, new to us, the very impressive transformation of the Bibliothèque des Dominicains.

As is usual with such events, we were welcomed, wine and dined with great generosity by the town, as well as by our friends in the twinning society, les Amis du Jumelage de Colmar.

Thank you, Colmar!

Angela & Ian Waterhouse



## Twinning Reminiscences

*ADTTS were pleased to receive this interesting email from Roy Beddow, who lives in Port Moody, British Columbia. He describes attending what was probably a youth twinning meeting held in Schongau in 1982. Does any reader remember this occasion or perhaps recognise any of the participants he pictured? If so, do please let us know!*

*Roy Beddow writes:*

I had the pleasure of joining a delegation of sister city guests one evening in 1982 in Schongau, Bavaria. As a young Canadian touring the area (and not knowing anyone or anything!), I was generously invited to partake in a celebration with other young people from Abingdon, Colmar, Schongau, etc. in a hotel restaurant that included dining and dancing. I have enclosed a few photos from that evening (apologies for the poor quality) and I wonder if any of your group attended that event and are still in contact with you? I believe the 1982 gathering took place in the Hotel Alte Post where I will be staying on October 14th, hence this trip "down memory lane".



*From his recent visit, Roy then sent us these pictures of some familiar scenes in Schongau:*





## Church Twinning Weekend in Sint-Niklaas – 2-6 October 2025

Early in the morning of the 2nd of October Ben and I got into the front seats of our van and picked up our 4 travelling companions: Christine Hutt of the Abingdon Baptist Church, Sue Robbins of Christ Church Long Furlong, John Clare of St. Michael's and Maggie Greaney of Trinity. (Ben and I represented Peachcroft Christian Centre.)

We were looking forward to this weekend, which had two themes: the celebration of 100 years of the Evangelical Church and the tighter bonds with the Romanian Orthodox Church, both in Sint-Niklaas.

After a smooth drive and crossing on the Shuttle, we arrived at the deanery for the welcome gathering. Our hosts welcomed not just us, but also 5 visitors from Argentan and 4 visitors from Magura Ilvei in Romania. The contacts in Romania started after the fall of Ceausescu in 1989, when some people in Sint-Niklaas took it upon themselves to 'adopt' this town and give it a lot of much needed support in very practical ways.

After enjoying the cakes baked by priest Jef, we visited the beautifully restored chapel of Saint Lucia, where much ecumenical work is already being done according to Martin Lelie, leader of the Evangelical Church. The chapel is linked to the psychiatric hospital and patients have alternated weekly Protestant or Roman Catholic services.



Chapel of Saint Lucia



Christine and Maggie with their hosts  
Olivier, Lydia from the Evangelical Church



Then it was time to go home with our host families. This time for the very first time there were two host families from the Evangelical Church. Our ecumenical work in Sint-Niklaas has been very fruitful, thanks to Chris de Beer's impressive efforts!

On Friday we visited Antwerp after taking the tram to the centre of town. We were shepherded into a side room inside the cathedral, where we heard a very moving presentation by Marianne van Geert, Roman Catholic chaplain in the large detention centre in Antwerp, (where Chris de Beer works in HR). She explained beautifully how her faith helps her to navigate her interactions with the detainees, both women and men of all faiths and none. Amazing work!

We were allowed to admire the Cathedral with its beautiful triptychs by Rubens.

This was followed by a walking tour of Antwerp and a delicious omelette street-food sandwich.



The various groups gathered again to take the tram to Wilrijk, to visit the Romanian Orthodox church, where we were warmly welcomed by Pope Georg. He had prepared an excellent lecture on the history of Orthodoxy in the world, in Belgium and in Antwerp. I found it absolutely fascinating, and I learned a lot.



After enjoying the Romanian biscuits, we all took the tram back to Sint-Niklaas, where our dinner hosts were waiting for us. A very pleasant evening, making new friends and enjoying the company of 'old' friends.

On Saturday we stayed in Sint-Niklaas and were shown around by a local guide. The weather was atrocious, so we were happy to gather in the Our Lady's Church, which has a remarkable Byzantine interior decoration.



We then walked to the house where the independent volunteer organisation VLOS is located, and we heard all about the hard work that is being done here to support refugees from all over the world that have been denied their official papers but have nowhere else to go. It's humbling to realise how much they are able to help these people who have fallen between the cracks.

Our next stop was the Evangelical Church, which has become a true part of the ecumenical spirit that we are trying to capture with our Church Twinning visits. Martin Lelie, the church's pastor told us about the 100-year history of this church. Again, so much we did not know! Many thanks to Martin for his excellent presentation.



After this visit we hurried to the City Hall after the rain, where we were welcomed by the mayor, Lieven Dehandschutter. He spoke to the whole group in all their languages, including Romanian and Welsh!! We were delighted to be offered a Belgian beer and some Belgian chocolate by the town council! We also visited some of the beautiful rooms in the City Hall.

Our next stop was the Kristus Koning Church where the local Romanian Orthodox community in Sint-Niklaas worships together. We received an explanation about the meaning of the icons



by two Michaelas. The church offered us a sandwich lunch, and we enjoyed making new friends.

After lunch most of the Abingdonians visited Huis Janssens, a restored mansion in the city centre, which is now a local museum. Chris de Beer has been overseeing this renovation for the past 10 years and the end result is stunning!

We then travelled by car to Nieuwkerken-Waas, where we had a very tasty dinner in a local restaurant, followed by the highlight of the centenary celebrations of the Evangelical Church: the Marcus Gospel theatre performance. Even though the performance was all in Flemish, everybody knew exactly where they were in the story, as the acting was clear, smooth and in places even funny. It was a masterpiece, and we were all touched by it. We absolutely loved it!

Traditionally, on Sunday, we choose in which church we want to worship, so John went to the Catholic Church in Tereken, Maggie attended the Saint-Nicolas church with her dinner hosts, and Christine, Sue, Ben and I attended the service in the Evangelical Church. We all had lunch with either our hosts or with lunch host families. Some of us walked lunch off in the Ster, or by climbing the cathedral tower in Mechelen, or just chatted with our hosts.

The closing service in French was led by pastor Christof Bouweraerts, which incorporated a story about Saint-Nicholas, the patron saint of this town.

Our last get-together was at the deanery, where we were served soup and sandwiches and delicious ice cream as dessert. The atmosphere was warm; many lovely words of thanks were exchanged as we looked back to a very successful Church Twinning weekend. Not even the fact that we had to do the dishes could dampen the evening!

On Monday morning we packed the van and clambered in. We waved goodbye to our wonderful friends, Chris, Vincianne and Martin, and set off to Calais. Before we knew it, we reached the shops in Calais, so that we had to make space for quite a number of cases of wine and beer and boxes of chocolate.

The return journey was smooth, everybody was dropped off at their home, and Ben and I returned the van to Kidlington. All our prayers were answered, as we stayed safe and healthy, met new and old friends and delighted in each other's company.

*Astrid Nielsen-Schuurmans*



## What's On in Abingdon in November

Here are just a few of the forthcoming events culled from Abingdon Town's events website, <https://www.abingdon.gov.uk/events>.

Click on the links for further information on each event.

And if any of you have an event you would like put in here – please let us know via the email link at the end of this Newsletter.

Nick Marsh

1 <sup>st</sup> November 2:30 - 5:00 pm 7:30 - 10:00 pm	Amey Theatre	<a href="#"><u>Hello Dolly</u></a> <i>A classic Broadway and West End hit! After its recent box office busting return to London's West End, we're so pleased to be bringing Hello, Dolly! back to the Amey Theatre in Abingdon. Hello, Dolly! made its first appearance on Broadway in 1963 and has been a favourite of audiences across the world ever since. Filled with instantly recognisable numbers such as 'Put On Your Sunday Clothes', 'Before The Parade Passes By' and of course, 'Hello, Dolly!' itself. The show tells the Story of Dolly Gallagher Levi, a marriage matchmaker from Yonkers, New York, who is dead set on making a match for herself, she has her eye on Horace Vandergelder, the well-known half millionaire, who really is no match for the determined matchmaker Dolly. It's one of the funniest musical comedies you'll ever see. £11.50 - £16.00</i>
1 <sup>st</sup> November 7:00 - 11:00 pm	Harwell Village Hall	<a href="#"><u>Edwina Hayes with support from Barton Hartshorn</u></a> <i>One of the finest female singer/songwriters this country has produced in years. Edwina brings together English folk, Americana and the rich Northern singer/songwriter tradition to create a sound that's truly her own. Support is from Barton Hartshorn who has recently returned to Oxford after some years living abroad.</i> <a href="https://wegottickets.com/event/659172"><u>https://wegottickets.com/event/659172</u></a> <i>Doors at 7pm, music at 7:40pm. £19 - £22</i>
1 <sup>st</sup> November 7:30 - 9:30 pm	St. Helen's Church	<a href="#"><u>The Oxford Waits</u></a> <i>An evening of 17th century readings dance tunes &amp; songs on period instruments. Tickets £15 (Under 16's free) at the door, from <a href="#"><u>Ticketsource</u></a>, or the Bookstore, Abingdon. Refreshments available in the interval.</i>
2 <sup>nd</sup> November 3:00 - 4:00 pm	St Nicolas' Church	<a href="#"><u>Yoshiko Endo piano Peter Adams cello</u></a> <i>Sergei Rachmaninov's cello sonata in G minor, Op 19, was completed in 1901 and premiered by the composer himself. Yoshiko trained at the Guildhall School of Music, Peter currently teaches cello for Oxford University and for Oundle School. Tickets £12</i>
3 <sup>rd</sup> November 7:00 - 9:30 pm	Amey Theatre	<a href="#"><u>In Conversation with Claire Balding</u></a> <i>Join us at Mostly Books in welcoming the fantastic Clare Balding to Abingdon to celebrate the release of her debut novel Pastures New.</i> <i>From growing up in a racing yard to commentating in the King's Coronation procession and fronting the Olympics and Wimbledon, Clare Balding's life has been extraordinary. Now, she has written her debut novel</i>

		<p>following a young woman who relocates from London to a struggling farm in Monmouthshire. Discover more in conversation with Clare about Pastures New as well stories from behind the scenes of her 30 years in broadcasting. £10</p>
<p>3<sup>rd</sup> November 7:00 pm</p>	<p>Charles Maude Room, Abingdon School</p>	<p><a href="#"><u>Recital with Guy Cutting</u></a>          Old Abingdonian Guy Cutting returns to Abingdon to give an evening recital of English song entitled 'Whither must I wander?'          Guy Cutting is recognised internationally for his compelling performances and refined musicianship, with a particular reputation in the music of J.S. Bach. Equally at home on the recital stage, Guy has collaborated with a number of the world's foremost ensembles and vocal directors. Further information can be found <a href="#"><u>here</u></a>.          This is an evening not to be missed as one of the most prominent OA musicians returns to Abingdon to deliver an evening of wonderful musicianship accompanied by George Ireland. £7 - £10, Children and students free</p>
<p>5<sup>th</sup> November 7:15 pm</p>	<p>Amey Theatre</p>	<p><a href="#"><u>RBO Live: La Fille mal gardée</u></a>          Lise, the only daughter of Widow Simone, is in love with the young farmer Colas, but her mother has far more ambitious plans for her. Simone hopes to marry her off to Alain, the son of the wealthy proprietor Thomas. Desperate to marry Colas rather than Alain, Lise contrives to outwit her mother's plans.          65 years after its premiere, The Royal Ballet presents Frederick Ashton's La Fille mal gardée. This affectionate portrayal of village life combines exuberant good humour and brilliantly inventive choreography in what is undoubtedly Ashton's love letter to the English countryside. La Fille mal gardée whisks us away into pastoral bliss with Ferdinand Hérold's cheerful score and Osbert Lancaster's colourful designs.          This event will be streamed from the Royal Opera House in Covent Garden. £14 - £16</p>
<p>6<sup>th</sup> November 7:00 pm</p>	<p>Amey Theatre</p>	<p><a href="#"><u>Mrs. Warren's Profession</u></a>          Five-time Olivier Award winner Imelda Staunton (The Crown) joins forces with her real-life daughter Bessie Carter (Bridgerton) for the very first time, playing mother and daughter in Bernard Shaw's incendiary moral classic. Vivie Warren is a woman ahead of her time. Her mother, however, is a product of that old patriarchal order. Exploiting it has earned Mrs. Warren a fortune – but at what cost?          Filmed live from the West End, this new production reunites Staunton with director Dominic Cooke (Follies, Good), exploring the clash between morality and independence, traditions and progress. £13 - £15</p>



6 <sup>th</sup> November 7:00 – 10:30 pm	Unicorn Theatre	<u><a href="#">Chris Fox with support from Wednesday's Wolves</a></u> Award winning 21st Century contemporary singer-songwriter Chris Fox is an independent musician spanning the roots lexicon of Folk, Americana, Country and Blues. A genre defying troubadour, audiences are enthralled by his rich vocals, complex guitar playing, and loop pedal alchemy finding Chris to be humorous & thought provoking in equal measures. His naturally laid back, unostentatious style creates the perfect ambience for an intimate and inclusive live experience drawing listeners in with tales of the everyday and the unexpected. £15 - £17
7 <sup>th</sup> November 7:00 – 9:00 pm	Royse Room, Abingdon Guildhall	<u><a href="#">WW11 History Talk: "1945 – The End of the Third Reich" by Gareth Howell</a></u> "In the West the British, Americans and Canadians have managed to gain a toehold in France, having landed on the beaches of Normandy. In the South the Italian front has stalled, while in the East the Soviets prepare to inflict the greatest defeat of the war onto the German forces, as they plot to destroy the German Army Group Centre. This is the story of the race for Berlin, and the last desperate battles of the Second World War as we finish the story of the Second World War in Europe. A tale of courage, suffering and sacrifice that will redraw the map of Europe, and ensure that nothing will ever be the same again as Hitler's Empire goes down in flames." Booking Essential – Tickets £10
8 <sup>th</sup> November 10:00 am – 2:30 pm	St Michael and All Angels' Church	<u><a href="#">St Michael's Church Christmas Fair</a></u> Please join us for our annual Christmas Fair on Saturday 8 November from 10 am – 2.30 pm at St Michael and All Angels' Church, Park Road, Abingdon. There will be an exciting range of craft and gift stalls plus a raffle with generous prizes. Cakes, bottles, books, plants, and bric-a-brac will be on sale and there will be live music and activities for children. Free parking and refreshments available including our favourite bacon butties. All welcome. Proceeds to church funds and charity Emmaus Oxford. Free
8 <sup>th</sup> November 7:30 – 9:30 pm	St Helen's Church	<u><a href="#">Abingdon and District Musical Society Concert</a></u> Abingdon & District Musical Society ( <a href="http://www.adms.org.uk">www.adms.org.uk</a> ) will hold a choral & orchestral concert at 7:30 pm on Saturday 8 <sup>th</sup> November 2025 in St Helen's Church, West St Helen St, Abingdon OX14 5BS. The programme will consist of Mozart's Requiem and Rachmaninov's Symphony no. 1 in D minor. The concert will be conducted by Alexander Walker and the leader of the orchestra will be Kate Bailey. Vocal soloists will be: Olivia Carroll (soprano), Jessica Ouston (mezzo-soprano), Tim Kingston (tenor) and William Thomas (bass-baritone). Tickets will cost £16 on the door or £14 reserved in advance (children £1). Go to <a href="http://www.wegottickets.com/ADMS">www.wegottickets.com/ADMS</a> (booking fee applies) or email <a href="mailto:tickets@adms.org.uk">tickets@adms.org.uk</a>

9 <sup>th</sup> November 3:00 – 5:00 pm	St Michael and All Angels' Church	<u><a href="#">Music at St Michael's- Pavlova Winds and pianist Glynne Butt perform Mozart's Quintet</a></u> Join us on Sunday, 9th November at 3:00 pm at St Michael & All Angels' Church, Park Road, Abingdon, for a captivating musical performance by <b>The Pavlova Wind Quintet</b> and pianist <b>Glynne Butt</b> . This talented ensemble returns with an exhilarating programme, featuring the celebrated <b>Mozart Quintet for Piano and Winds</b> —a true gem of chamber music repertoire. Bring your family and friends for an afternoon of beautiful music in a charming setting. It promises to be a concert not to be missed! £12
10 <sup>th</sup> November 8:00 – 10:00 pm	Methodist Church Hall, Dorchester Crescent	<u><a href="#">Abingdon Astronomical Society</a></u> Talk by Jon Pineau from Stellar Solutions Aerospace titled 'Visiting Asteroids, Comets, and KBO's'. Meeting starts at 8.00 pm at the Methodist Church Hall, Dorchester Crescent, Abingdon. Details at <a href="http://abingdonastro.org.uk/">http://abingdonastro.org.uk/</a> All welcome. Free for your first visit.
12 <sup>th</sup> , 13 <sup>th</sup> , 14 <sup>th</sup> , 15 <sup>th</sup> November 7:30 – 10:00 pm	Unicorn Theatre	<u><a href="#">Terry Pratchett! A TRIP ON THE STAGE</a></u> This year, with the enthusiastic approval of Terry Pratchett's Estate, Stephen Briggs is dramatising a confection of pieces selected from Terry's writings – novels, short stories, articles – chosen to provide an evening of Terry's wit, wisdom and whimsy. £14
13 <sup>th</sup> – 15 <sup>th</sup> November 10:00 am - 5:00 pm	St Nicolas' Church	<u><a href="#">Abbey Group Christmas Arts and Crafts Exhibition</a></u> Christmas gifts, original art, prints, cards, craft kits, jewellery and glassware FREE ENTRY
13 <sup>th</sup> November 6:00 – 7:00 pm	Abingdon Library	<u><a href="#">Author Event with Kath Crew</a></u> Kath Crew is a former President of the Cambridge Footlights, revue writer and performer and teacher. A Cactus Called Ironside is her first book and is a humorous coming of age story about self-realisation and the consequences of not quite telling the whole truth. Kath will be talking about her experiences of the writing process as well as getting a book published. Tickets £2, including a free welcome drink, available from Abingdon Library or call 01865 815005
15 <sup>th</sup> November 3:00 – 9:00 pm	Abingdon Airfield	<u><a href="#">Abingdon Bonfire &amp; Fireworks 2025</a></u> This year's show features the officially UK's BIGGEST fireworks, light and laser display — a 270° wrap-around experience that surrounds the audience with fireworks, colour and sound. Accept no imitations — this is the real deal. Attractions include: A towering bonfire. Our biggest-ever pyro-musical fireworks show. Full immersive light & laser spectacular. The South of England's largest fairground with 30+ rides. The legendary Oklahoma Willy Jet Engine Van. A warm-up DJ set from Fake Boy Slim. A magical Kids K-Pop Demon Hunters singalong light show with a low-noise fireworks finale. Tickets £10 - £48

17 <sup>th</sup> November 7:30 – 9:30 pm	Long Furlong Community Centre	<u><a href="#">"Children and War: Experiences of WW2 in Oxfordshire"</a></u> <u><a href="#">A talk by Liz Woolley</a></u> Although spared the bombs, Oxfordshire felt the deep impact of World War II. This talk explores how local children and evacuees experienced life during the war – through disruption, adaptation and resilience. It offers a moving insight into childhood on the home front. £5
18 <sup>th</sup> November 2:30 – 3:30 pm	Trinity Church	<u><a href="#">Tim Healey – A Victorian Christmas</a></u> With a wealth of innovations such as Christmas trees, cards and crackers, the Victorians shaped our festivities today. This entertaining talk describes how Santa Claus arrived, with his reindeer sleigh, the plight of the poor and the influence of Dickens, as well as exploring bygone customs such as Goose Clubs and the 'Christmassing' of London costermongers. Tim Healey is one of our most popular speakers and is a writer and broadcaster who has presented many programmes on BBC Radio 3 and 4. He is a frequent contributor to the Oxford Times colour magazine, Oxfordshire Limited Edition, and leads the 17th-century costume band, the Oxford Waits. £4
20 <sup>th</sup> November 7:00 – 10:30 pm	Unicorn Theatre	<u><a href="#">Knight and Spiers with support from Craig Joiner</a></u> We are delighted to welcome the return of the brilliant Peter Knight and John Spiers to The Unicorn Theatre. Last year they played to a sold-out audience. The exquisite explorations of the liminal space that exists between traditional and classical music is what makes the music of Peter Knight and John Spiers so compelling and beguiling, ultimately rendering genres irrelevant. While Peter Knight, as part of Steeleye Span's classic 1970s line-up, helped invent a brand of folk rock that is still influential today, John Spiers as co-founder of the almighty Bellowhead has had an equally profound impact on the landscape of traditional music over the last two decades. Doors and bar at 7 pm, music at 7:15 pm £20 - £23
21 <sup>st</sup> November 7:00 – 10:30 pm	Harwell Village Hall	<u><a href="#">Ninebarrow</a></u> We are pleased to welcome Ninebarrow back to Harwell. Ninebarrow (Jon Whitley and Jay LaBouchardiere) are a multi-award-winning folk duo, who are impressing audiences across the country with their innovative and captivating take on the folk tradition. Doors and bar 6:45 pm, music at 7:30 pm. £18 - £20
22 <sup>nd</sup> November 3:30 – 5:00 pm	Trinity Church	<u><a href="#">Come and sing Handel's Messiah</a></u> Kennington Chorale wish to celebrate with friends and lovers of this wonderful work, the fantastic achievement of this choir since 1973 in raising in excess of £826,000 for local, national and international charities. Please come and join this very special choir and raise the roof on 15th and 22nd November – see poster. Score hire £5.00 or bring your own. Entrance is <b>free</b> with donations asked for: Royal National Institute for Deaf People (RNID).



## Twin Towns Calendar for 2025

Here is an incomplete list of the last few festivals in our twin towns that may be of interest to potential visitors during the remainder of 2025. Do now please tell us about all the major events for each twin town in 2026! Use the email link at the end of this Newsletter.

14 <sup>th</sup> October - 14 <sup>th</sup> December	Thames, Coromandel Peninsula	<a href="#">Coromandel Artbeat Spring Festival</a>
Mid November - 6 <sup>th</sup> December	Sint-Niklaas	<a href="#">Saint Nicholas House</a> open
22 <sup>nd</sup> November - 6 <sup>th</sup> January	Lucca	<a href="#">Christmas Market</a>
25 <sup>th</sup> November - 29 <sup>th</sup> December	Colmar	<a href="#">Christmas Market</a>
December	Sint-Niklaas	<a href="#">Christmas Markets</a>
5 <sup>th</sup> – 21 <sup>st</sup> December	Schongau	<a href="#">Christmas Market</a>
19 <sup>th</sup> – 21 <sup>st</sup> December	Argentan	<a href="#">Christmas Market</a>
Ongoing	Lucca	<a href="#">Calendar of Events</a>

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*Non-members of the Society are also welcome to receive copies of this monthly newsletter. Just email your request to [newsletter@adtts.eu](mailto:newsletter@adtts.eu). Back copies are also available on request.*

*The deadline for copy for the next newsletter is two days before the end of the month. Please send contributions to [newsletter@adtts.eu](mailto:newsletter@adtts.eu). (No publication in August)*

*The Society's website is <https://www.abingdonandvaletwinning.org.uk/>.*

*This address may be abbreviated to <http://adtts.eu>.*

*The programme may be found on the website at <https://www.abingdonandvaletwinning.org.uk/future.htm>.*

*The website also has reports, with pictures, of all twinning events going back to 2007.*