

# Celebrating 25 years of friendship between HASLEMERE and HORB-am-NECKAR

In 1985, after an enormous number of meetings, letters, discussions and visits, **HASLEMERE** signed a charter with **BERNAY**, in Normandy, France marking the beginning of a very happy relationship with a beautiful Normandy town and some lovely people.

After a few years, discussions began concerning the establishing of another twin, this time in Germany. So, in 1987 a group of people from Haslemere left for Germany to visit two towns that had been short-listed as possible twins: CLOPPENBURG near Bremen and POLCH to the west of Koblenz. In the event (and despite the many positive features of these two towns) and after many trips to HORB, letters (no emails then) and visits all the efforts of the Haslemere committee were rewarded when we received a delegation from **HORB-am-NECKAR** from 27<sup>th</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup> September 1991.



At the signing of the Charter between Haslemere and Horb-am-Neckar formerly establishing our cultural and social links were **Dr Hans Horner** (Oberbürgermeister of Horb), **Lyn Bawashi**, Mayor of Haslemere, and **Tom Spencer** the West Surrey Euro MP. A photograph of all three holding the freshly signed charter appeared in the Haslemere Herald the following Friday, 4<sup>th</sup> October 1991 (price 25p!!)

This charter now hangs in the Haslemere Town Hall as a permanent reminder of the friendship struck up in 1991.

Today in 2016, twenty five years later, we are very happy to celebrate this quarter centenary anniversary with a delegation of twenty three wonderful friends from HORB-am-NECKAR. To mark the occasion, the town of HORB offered to purchase the buying and planting of a Lime tree (sometimes called a Linden tree), which has been planted on Lion Green.

A ceremony to receive this gift was held on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> September at which were present:

**JAN ZEITLER**, Burgermeister of Horb-am-Neckar

**Councillor SAHRAN ABEYSUNDARA**, Mayor of Haslemere

**CHRISTINE DIETZ**, President of the Horb-am-Neckar Twinning Association since its inception in 1991

**MICHAEL BAWTREE**, Chairman of the Haslemere & District Twinning Association

**CHRISTOPHER ASHTON-JONES**, of Sheen Botanical Labels, who donated the plaque placed at the foot of the tree, along with numerous others connected with the above or simply members of the twinning associations of Haslemere and Horb-am-Neckar.