



Oberursel, 19.12.2016

To all of our friends in Épinay, Rushmoor and Lomonossov,

Christmas will be upon us in a few days and the year is drawing rapidly to a close so this is a good moment time to reflect on the events of the past year and look forward to the year ahead.

This year has been very busy one for our association. During our New Year's reception in January we introduced Épinay, Rushmoor and Lomonossov through an exhibition of photographs. In the course of the year we organised numerous events, either solely through our own efforts or in conjunction with the town of Oberursel, or at least with its support. We have continued with those things which have been tried and tested and attempted some new ones. It has proved once again that meetings between the inhabitants and administration of our towns are a good way of bringing people together and letting them get to know each better. That is of special importance nowadays.

For us, the highpoint of the year was doubtless the weekend of events celebrating the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our association. We were pleased to welcome many guests and old friends from our twin towns here in October. On that occasion we were able to present our cookery book "Cooking with Friends – a culinary tour through Oberursel and its partner towns". We would like to continue this by translating the cookery book into English, French and Russian next year.

We sometimes wished that the day had more than 24 hours, the week an extra day or the year an extra month, and you probably felt the same. We are looking forward to the Christmas holiday season with a few days to relax so that we can gather strength to carry on with our voluntary work in the New Year. We are more than ever convinced that the ideals of town twinning will continue to play an important role as a means of fostering friendship between people of different nations since there is no alternative to a peaceful coexistence.

In this spirit the VFOS team would like to wish you, your families and friends a merry and peaceful Christmas period and health, happiness and – above all – peace in the New Year.

Best wishes

Birgit Röher,  
Chairperson VFOS