

## **Andrew Lloyd's Speech Citizens' Reception Town Twinning Anniversary 2024**

Frau Bürgermeisterin, Herr Stellvertretender Stadtverordnetenvorsteher, verehrte Gäste, meinen Damen und Herren

I would, firstly, like to thank the Bürgermeisterin and the Stadt Oberursel for inviting Hilary and myself to join you this evening, with the opportunity to represent the Rushmoor International Association at this celebration of the 60<sup>th</sup> and 35<sup>th</sup> anniversaries of the partnerships with Epinay -sur- Seine and Rushmoor.

It is hard to believe that 35 years have passed since Rushmoor and Oberursel first came together as partner towns, and I am pleased and proud to have been involved from the early days.

At that time, I doubt that any of us could have imagined how successful the relationship would become, and how many activities, links and exchanges would take place, involving citizens, organisations, schools, colleges and clubs. For many of us, including Hilary and myself, Oberursel has become an important part of our lives and has led to the creation of strong and enduring personal friendships.

I have also been impressed by, and grateful for, the way in which you have created an international "partnership family" by bringing representatives from each of your partner cities together at many events throughout the years.

At this time of celebration, it is also important to remember those who played an active part in developing and sustaining the partnership, but sadly are no longer with us, including Frank Rust – a past Councillor and Mayor of Rushmoor.

Frank, supported by his wife Carol, was a very active Member of the Rushmoor Twinning Association and well known for his role in supporting the Christmas Market – including - dare I say, the Whisky tasting!!

Sadly, Frank lost his life at an early stage in the Covid Pandemic and he has been greatly missed by us all - however his impact and legacy will remain with us long into the future.

The Rushmoor International Association has valued greatly the support and friendship we have received over the years from VFOS. It is truly a fantastic organisation which has worked so hard to develop ideas and initiatives and then make them a reality – on behalf of RIA, thank you so much.

Abschließend möchte ich mich bei der Bürgermeisterin, dem Magistrat, den Stadtverordneten und den Mitarbeitern für ihr beständiges und aktives Engagement und ihre Unterstützung für die Partnerschaften bedanken.

Felin dank, merci beaucoup, thank you!