Beckenham PS

Entente cordiale

Handsacross the Channel

Two camera clubs separated by language and the English Channel but with a shared love of great food, friendship and photography have developed a successful twinning relationship. Photography News caught up with Beckenham Photographic Society and Image'in Périgny over cream teas during a recent visit to London



> Words by Sheree Dodd

"Photography, gastronomy and fraternity are the three keys to a successful twinning relationship between two photographic 17 Image'in Périgny societies, Beckenham Photographic Society and Image'in Périgny," says Sheree Dodd, members flew over president of Beckenham PS, "and that is deepening the mutual understanding of how we approach our images."

The growing friendship and shared love of photography culminated in a three-day trip to London in May. This successful relationship is due to the enthusiasm of two Beckenham members - Angela and Roger Ford - who are | clubs saying their goodbyes after three days also members of the Périgny Club. Image'in | of great photography and friendship. Périgny invited the then Beckenham president

For the London visit, and enjoyed a busy programme of shooting opportunities

Above Members of the two photography

Polina Plotnikova to France to discuss an the theme of 'blue' to get a taste of the different styles, subjects and techniques enjoyed by the

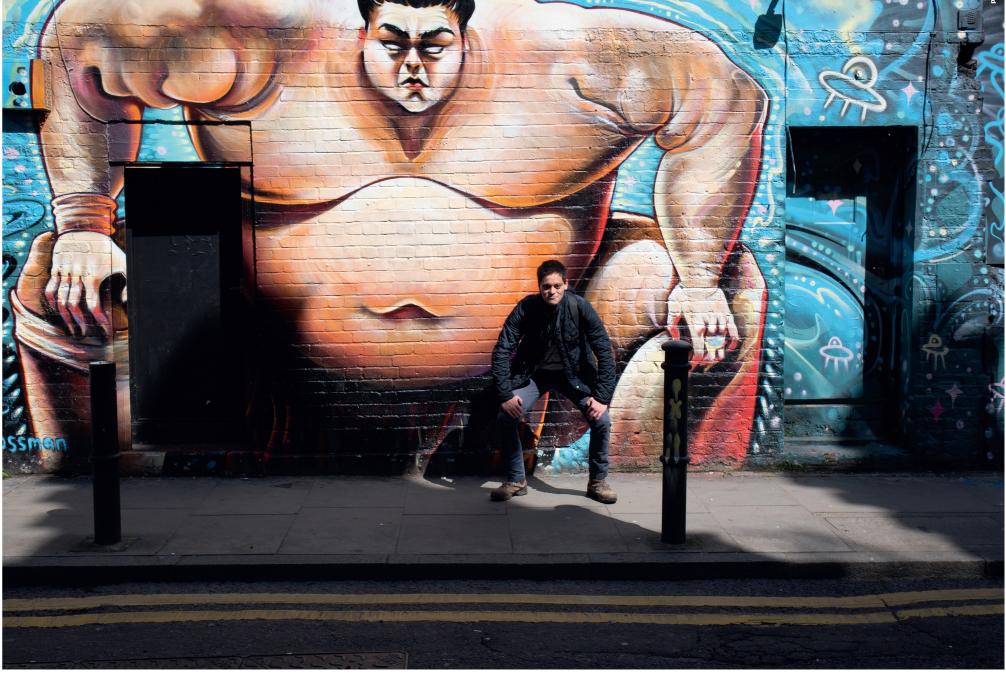
Members of both clubs caught the Fords' enthusiasm and the first twinning visit saw and photo shoots they would not necessarily ten Beckenham photographers enjoying three enjoy on a typical trip to London," says days exploring picturesque sites, both coastal Sheree Dodd. "We started around Beckenham and inland, including a glorious poppy field around La Rochelle.

A return visit and further image swaps were arranged. Image'in Périgny invited Beckenham members to show 15 images at its 40th anniversary exhibition in October and people of Brick Lane and the South Bank 2017 and a group of Beckenham photographers between Tower and London Bridges. judged a series of images sent to them

For the London visit, 17 Image'in Périgny exchange and this led to a swap of images on members flew over and enjoyed a busy programme of shooting opportunities around the capital.

> "In planning the London programme we wanted to give our visitors some experiences with traditional English scenes: a beautiful landscaped park with heronry (Kelsey Park) and village style churchyard at St George's on Beckenham Green as well as lawn bowlers in full kit. The next day we enjoyed the street art

"For the final day we took in some of Westminster's lesser known sights including





The visit from our fellow photographers was a huge success

the newly-installed statue of Millicent Fawcett - the only woman celebrated on Parliament Square - before a boat trip to Greenwich. Alongside the familiar highlights of the Cutty Sark and the Royal Naval College we shot the Brunel Foot Tunnel under the Thames and the Tulip Staircase in the Queen's House.

Exchange coordinator Angela Ford says: "The visit from our fellow photographers at Image'in Périgny was a great success and they really enjoyed discovering photo opportunities with us in and around London."

Perigny president Michel Boucheret says that the truly interesting element of the relationship between the two clubs is the opportunities it provides for meeting each other. "This allows us to know each exchange of images between us allows us to twinning relationship but these had not photography. It is just a feeling, but it seems with Beckenham is that it has combined



e Members of both clubs enjoying London's Brick Lane. Right PN Editor Will Cheung meets Sheree Dodd (left) of Beckenham PS and Estelle Ducept of Image'in Périgny.

her thoughts on what has made this a high standards of photography," she said. successful relationship. "Previously Périgny other better and promotes friendship. The had approached other clubs to create a see differences in the way that we approach succeeded. What has made the difference selecting images with impact for competition. and build friendships, rather than base the Périgny is more about the image of the author." relationship on contests. It is also important friendship alive."

French organiser Estelle Ducept offers that we have two clubs which share similar

"All in all, it was a tiring but exhilarating three days," said Sheree Dodd, "during which those with limited French/English skills found that could be overcome through the language of photography. When the new club to us that Beckenham has a stronger focus on enthusiasm with opportunities to meet up season starts in September we will be looking carefully at future activities to keep our



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