



WIRKSWORTH TWINNING NEWS

Wirksworth Twinning Association

January 05

CHAIR'S MESSAGE

This newsletter comes in time to wish you all a very Happy Christmas and every good wish for 2005.

The Twinning Association continues to have a strong committee, elected at the Annual General Meeting in September: we are lucky in that our committee members are drawn from all sections of the community, and bring a wide perspective to the activities of the association. We all are very grateful for their commitment and energy.

Please remember to fill in your membership forms, and also to send them to the Membership Secretary, now Jon North (address on form). Pat Bate has handed the task over, and is planning a "gap year" with husband Jeremy, for which I am sure you will wish them all the best.

We are asking, on the membership form, for email addresses where possible, so that we can distribute as many newsletters and other communications by email. We do love our walks around Wirksworth, but it is time consuming nevertheless!

FRANKENAU

The process of Twinning with Frankenau is moving slowly but surely. Mike Ratcliffe is heading up the liaison, and the Town Council is very much in support, but affairs are slightly more complex at the German end. We hope that 2005 will see us formally linked to this attractive town and its charming and generous people, completing the triangle with Die.

GERMAN EVENING

On February 11th, 2005, we will be holding our annual members' social and meal. This year it will have a German theme. We hope you will all book your places in advance (cost about £6 a head, children under 10 free, as this really does help us with catering numbers. At the time of writing the entertainment and food have yet to be decided, but past experience suggests it will be GOOD. Your chair has been researching recipes for sauerkraut....

BERLIN

We have a number of names expressing interest in a visit to Berlin in October 2005, to meet with people from Die and Frankenau at the end of their Lutheran Pilgrimage. The list is already substantial, but we are happy to add more to it if you let us know soon. Please contact Mary North—deadline 31 Jan.

FUTURE VISITS TO DIE.

We hear from Annette Martin (via Krys Pochin, who, in spite of having moved to Bourg en Valence, is still i/c the English group in Die!) that Die does not propose to invite a visit from us in 2005, since we will meet in Berlin, but that our next invitation to visit should come for 2006. This does not stop anyone going independently!!

YOUNG PEOPLE

You will read in this newsletter a report from Tim Legaut on his stay in Wirksworth, and Florent, who came on the Twinning Visit,

has been back to stay with the Pollocks. Our thanks to them. A new link is forming between one of the churches in Die and St. Mary's here, and a visit of French youngsters is proposed for next year. The Rector, David Truby, is up to speed with this, and our liaison is Alison Richards.

Young people are the future of Twinning and we feel it is important that we can give them a welcoming experience here. If there is anyone out there who would like to host a teenager in the future, usually for a couple of weeks, no more, please get in touch. Or if you know of young people with their own homes who might be interested to put up a guest of student age, (that is to say, someone who should not need a mother substitute), encourage them to contact us.

TRIP TO ARRAS

Thanks to Ron Williams and Rob Mumford, a number of us joined a Slack's Shopping Coach trip to Arras over the weekend of 4/5 December. The organisation was splendid and the coach as comfortable as could be expected. Happily our driver Malcolm forgot to turn off the autoroute to a beer supermarket, and thus we were able to speed onwards to enjoy the northern French countryside and reach Arras in daylight.

The town centre was beautifully lit for Christmas – lots of little white lights and a very co-ordinated design approach all over the town – and we were enchanted to arrive in town with ample time to stroll around the lovely Christmas market, sample hot wine, watch the champion ice sculptors at work and generally feel ourselves en France. The market had red carpets and outdoor heating stations – very welcome. Arras boasts many fine eateries to suit all tastes and pockets, so everyone ate well that night.

On Sunday we visited the beer and wine supermarket, and then on to Cité Europe, a vast shopping centre near to the Eurostar terminal. Your scribe was terminally over-

whelmed by the experience, but others revelled in the variety and number of purchasing opportunities. Among the more unexpected souvenirs of this temple of Mammon were a mixing bowl, a silver blouse, tins of petits pois and a radio controlled dump truck.

The Trip was another occasion to enjoy the friendship and camaraderie of the Twinning Association, one which we hope to repeat.

A VIEW FROM FRANCE

I spent two weeks in Wirksworth to improve my English before studying to Sheffield. I met a lot of nice people during my stay. I was able to improve my English with the help of my David and Pam. I worked in the Leisure centre and that was a really good experience. Everybody tried to help me, to make effort to understand me. Even though a puppy tried to bite my laces every time I have really enjoyed my time in Wirksworth. I have got to know a different way of life and it's a real pleasure to live with so nice people. The town is small so it's very easy to go out to visit around. David and Pam took me to show me Sheffield and a lot of things. I didn't annoy during my stay. It was so easy to meet lot of people and to speak with them. I think that I will come back to Wirksworth because I keep really good impressions of my stay.

Timothée Legaut

TRAVELS WITH B.O.B

Cycling with BoB and Darrell is a wonderful way of travelling in France. The journey was a case of "three's company".

At first we thought of cycling along the Loire, then the idea of two weeks in the Cevennes also bit the dust. Finally we came up with a trip to Montpellier to see my son and his family. Soon we had plans to cycle on to Die.

Throughout the summer months the mighty six-wheeler European Bike Bus plies its way

from Middlesbrough to exotic locations on the Mediterranean. BoB, my *Caribou* bike and I got on at J28 on the M1, at Gravesend we picked up Darrell and his *Dawes* and drove on to Montpellier in 24 hours.

Leaving the Montpellier area we rode across the north of the Camargue, all rice fields and the occasional white horse, to Arles.

North from Arles to Avignon then on to Carpentras perhaps to climb Mount Ventoux? Fine croissants, coffee and enjoying our cycling was the better option. So back on the

bikes and on to Die.

Well, not quite. Somehow the storms and the hills north of Bourdeaux unfortunately slowed us down so we went to Crest and on to Valance for the Bike Bus return.

Who is BoB, where is BoB ? He is tucked up in my garage in Wirksworth. BoB is the "Beast of Burden" a one-wheeled trailer which carried our tents with loving care for all of the 375 miles of cycling.

Jeremy Taylor

Wirksworth Twinning Association

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**Treasurer: Anna Williams, 33 Spring Close, Wirksworth, DE4 4JA.
tel: 01629 823388, e-mail aw.2004@virgin.net**
**Membership/Newsletter: Jon North, 37 Coldwell Street, [as above]
e-mail: jon.north@talk21.com**
Subs: £4 individual, £6 family/organisation

WIRKSWORTH TWINNING ASSOCIATION

MEMBERSHIP 2005

I/we enclose £4 / £6 for membership of the Association

Name(s) _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Please reserve _____ tickets for the 11 February social. I/we agree to pay on the evening.

TWINNING ASSOCIATION COMMITTEE 2004-5

Chair:	Mary North	824258
Vice-Chair:	Mike Ratcliffe	825023
Secretary & Newsletter:	Jon North	824258
Treasurer:	Anna Williams	823388
	Alastair & Suzanne Clark	824788
	Jim & Judith Hickman	824837
	Andrea Pankhurst	820159
	Annette Pearson	825527
	Alison Richards	823168
	Betty Rosindell	822630
