



WIRKSWORTH TWINNING NEWS

Wirksworth Twinning Association

September 2004

VISIT JULY 2004

This brings news of the recent visit from France and Germany to Wirksworth. 6 people from Franckenu and 17 from the Diois, including 6 school age young people and all ages upwards from that. 15 families and households were generous in offering time and hospitality as hosts, and many new friendships were made as well as old ones renewed. We shared enjoyable visits including a day trip to Nottingham and rides on the new tram system (some of us compared this with a bygone age in Crich!), and to Ralph Selby's design consultancy at Providence Mill, as well as to Wirksworth Station. We enjoyed an excellent buffet at Hope and Anchor, and a fascinating tour of County Hall with the knowledgeable assistance of County Solicitor David Tysoe. The civic welcome was led by Town Mayor Mike Ratcliffe who is also the vice chair of the Association. The visitors departed on 21 July after what seemed – as always – a very short period together. We hope our guests carried back good memories of English hospitality, but we must say a special thank you to both hosts and other Association Members who worked hard to make the visit a success.

'ENTENTE CORDIAL' – SOME NOTES FROM NEW HOSTS

Betty Rosindell swept out of our house one evening; we had agreed to host a French couple for five nights on a visit to Wirksworth, as they had been let down at the last minute. "Why didn't you say no Pam." "Why didn't you!?" How would we work *la plume, ouvrez la fenêtre* and *le crayon* into a conversation with two people we had never met, that being our entire French vocabulary.

It was with some trepidation that we headed down to the Memorial hall to collect our charges, we were introduced to Jocelyne and Yves, a couple in their late fifties, much the same age as us. After fighting them for their cases we headed for home. Jocelyne asked if we spoke French, as they had been told their hosts spoke some. We apologised for our lack of French and we all walked home in embarrassed silence both couples wondering what they had let themselves in for, we put them to bed after telling them breakfast would be at nine.

As they were in England we would give them a full English breakfast. Pam started cooking pork sausages, bacon etc. I studied the itinerary, Levin, their name was Levin could they be Jewish, what a bad start, serving pork to Jewish guests, someone should have told us. They came down at 9 o'clock on the dot and tucked heartily into breakfast.

Relief! Jocelyne spoke quite good English and for the rest of their stay we had the most rewarding time. Our lives had so much in common, our hopes and fears for the future were so similar and despite our shameful lack of any French we managed to discuss Politics, Health Service, The Common Market, Iraq and never stopped laughing, especially at Jocelyne's ability to understand a man speaking English with a French accent very slowly! By Wednesday morning we were closer than anyone could imagine and surely that is the whole point of twinning.

ps: E-mails are now crossing the channel; it is very difficult typing English with a French accent!!

David & Pam Oliver

BOULOGNE AGAIN – ACT NOW TO MAKE IT HAPPEN!

A Christmas Shopping Trip to Boulogne was much enjoyed when we did it in November 2002. We are thinking of doing another one this November if we can get organised in time. The cost depends on numbers and will probably be in the region of £60 -70 for an overnight stay in a resort local to Boulogne, including buffet breakfast.

If you would like to join us we need to know the following:

- What sort of accommodation you require (i.e. twin or single room)
- Special dietary needs.

If you want to go and have any other suggestions for our consideration, or to learn more about it, please contact Ron Williams (01629 823388 or email ron.williams@w3z.co.uk).

Ron would like as good an idea of

numbers as possible by **Monday August 16th**, but if you don't see this until after then and want to go, please contact him as soon as possible - there will probably still be places.

GERMANY

During the recent extremely successful twinning visit of our friends from Die and Frankenau, a small group of committee members took the opportunity to discuss with our German guests the way in which Wirksworth and Frankenau might cement their relations into a formal twinning link, similar to that which exists with Die.

It seems that if the enthusiasm and will exists in our respective associations; and it does; then the process is relatively straightforward. It will of course require the formal sanction of the Frankenau Town Mayor, Dr Reinhardt Kubat but with the approval of our own Wirksworth Town Council, our own mayor, Cllr Mike Ratcliffe has already begun correspondence to hopefully bring this about.

For those of you who do not know, Frankenau and Louisendorf are 2 villages (combined population around 3,000) near to the town of Frankenberg, situated near to the River Eder in Hessen, central Germany. This is an area of rolling hills and forests and is popular with tourists. Historically there is a link between these villages and the Huguenots, who fled there from the Diois in France in the late 17th century.

It is hoped that a small group might visit some time during 2005 when the documents to ratify our link would be signed.

Mike Ratcliffe

TRIP TO BERLIN OCT 2005

Apart from a visit to Frankenau in 2005 if our twinning proceeds as planned, a joint trip with French and German partners to Berlin is proposed in the autumn of that year. We need general expressions of interest for this also by the end of August. It is likely that our party would fly direct from England to Berlin for a 4- or 5-day stay, linking with friends from Die and Frankenau who are journeying through Germany on a Lutheran pilgrimage.

AGM 6 OCT

The Association's Annual General Meeting will be held on Wednesday 6 October at 1945 (7.45 pm in old money) until about 2115 (work it out!) in the Club Room at the Town Hall. Apart from formal business, there will be a chance to share memories and photos of recent twinning activities, talk together about plans for 2005 and beyond, and suggest other activities. Please put the

date in your diaries, come along and bring others who show an interest in joining the Association.

NEWS FROM STONEY WOOD

Many members will recall that the planting of Stoney Wood in the old Stoneycroft Quarry was a millennium project inspired by a similar planting project in the Forêt Giono in Châtillon near to Die. French and German partners have been involved in earlier stages of the development and opening of the woodland area.

The Stoney Wood Group recently obtained a grant from the Aggregate Levy and this has funded improvements including a new set of interpretation boards. These acknowledge the twinning link and carry an introduction in French. Small versions of these panels were presented by the Wirksworth town council to the towns of Die and Frankenau during the recent visit.

Alastair Clark

Wirksworth Twinning Association

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Subs: £4 individual, £6 family/organisation