

# Didcot-Meylan Twinning Association

## NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2006

ISSUE 19

Spring is with us already and dates for holidays are booking up rapidly so make sure you put Twinning events into your diary as soon as possible,

Do you check out the web site regularly? It is frequently updated and includes information about social events, and the next exchange as well as copies of this newsletter in downloadable form.

If you have anything you want to contribute to the newsletter or the web site, please contact Sue Totterdell.

[www.didcotwinning.org.uk](http://www.didcotwinning.org.uk)



*Benefits of a common market?*  
Recently seen in Didcot, and becoming increasingly common in local towns, French market traders, usually from Normandy and Brittany, have arrived to tempt us with their tasty produce.



You can choose from a selection of cheeses, dip into bowls of glistening black and green olives, and savour a range of saucissons. Don't forget to ask if you can have a taste first (very French). The range of jams might include myrtilles sauvages while on another stall there could be an excellent selection of vinegars and olive oil, soap and herbs, all without having to cross the channel.

A cheerful 'Bonjour monsieur/madame' will greet you, so reply in French and watch their amazement! Pity they never seem to bring any local wine or cider.



## TWINNING AGM

The next AGM of the Twinning association will take place in June at the Civic Hall. The business part of this meeting is always kept short and the main function is as a social event, to swap stories about the most recent exchange, to get updates on the next visit and to share ideas for social and fund raising events. It is important that you attend. The date and time will be circulated as soon as possible and will be posted on the twinning web site.



## ABOUT OUR ORGANISATION

Chair	Terry Joslin
Vice Chair	Jerry Goff
Secretary	Janet Cockburn
Treasurer	Erin Goff
Web Editor	John Farren
Communications	Sue Totterdell (01235 850080) <a href="mailto:susantotterdell@yahoo.com">susantotterdell@yahoo.com</a>
Other Members	Nick Hards, Sheralyn Hares Peter Read



## Forthcoming event!

### VISITORS FROM MEYLAN

Plans for the visit from Meylan are being made. We are expecting our guests to arrive on Thursday 21st September and to leave on Sunday 24th. A full weekend of activity will be on offer.

Look out for more information about the visit. Please let a member of the committee know if you would like to host a visitor.

# Didcot-Meylan Twinning Association



## FIRST CONTACTS PLANNED WITH GERMAN TOWN

The German town of Planegg has been twinned with Meylan since 1987 and they have suggested that they might also like to be twinned with Didcot. Planegg (Bavaria) lies about 15 km to the south west of Munich. Together with its adjacent village, Martinsreid, it has a population of nearly 11,000 and like Meylan, supports a rich diversity of clubs and associations. Nearby is the beautiful Waldkirche, pictured top left. *Is anyone out there interested in following up this contact?*



## Successful Skittles

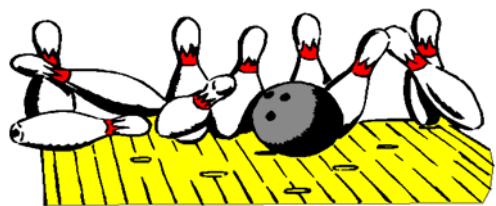
On Saturday March 4th the Twinning Association held another successful skittles evening. Upton Village Hall provided an welcoming venue and the tables began to fill rapidly at 7.30 pm as people arrived for this event. It was particularly good to have some young people joining in (and keeping score).



The rules were quickly explained and the competition started. Since each bowler aimed at only those skittles that had been left by the previous bowler, it soon became apparent that there it was advantageous to follow someone who could knock down all the pins, leaving you a full set, although due to the unexplained absence of one pin, this meant the full nine!

Marriages were put at risk when one partner left the other only one skittle to shoot at and the eventual winner, Geoff Oldham, seemed to be on a mission to ensure that Terry Joslin, who bowled after him, had only one or two pins to aim at each time. The two Marions, Judd and Allin, upheld the reputation of both the women bowlers and the West Hagbourne contingent.

The evening included the usual impressive bring & share supper and even made a small profit



## Easter traditions

In Germany, in a strange contradiction to nature, legend says that the nests full of multicoloured eggs that are found in the garden are those of the Easter Bunny. Eggs being seen as symbols of new life and renewal pre-dates Christianity. Given that eating eggs was forbidden during Lent, they were likely to be plentiful by Easter-time and the tradition evolved of offering decorated eggs as gifts. This reached its pinnacle in the art of Carl Faberge in Russia.

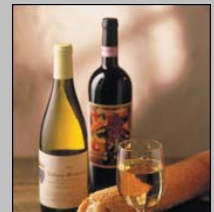


In France it is not the Bunny that brings the eggs but the bells. From Good Friday to Easter Sunday the church bells are silent and legend says that the bells leave their bell towers to travel to Rome, where they are blessed by the Pope and filled with eggs. As they return to their churches they ring, giving the sign that the children should start their egg hunt in the garden. The French have a number of other legends about Easter eggs. For example, if you bury one beside a grape vine it will grow faster or if you bury one for a hundred years, the egg yolk turns into a diamond.



## Do you know your wine?

*Can you tell your Bordeaux from your Bourgogne, your Morgon from your Minervois?*



This summer the twinning association will holding a fun wine tasting. For the wine lovers this will be an opportunity to test your knowledge, for wine drinkers it will be a sociable evening and an opportunity to taste a few new wines. Watch out for details of the date, closer to the time

**Still available:** Tea-Towels with local scenes around Didcot. These make excellent presents. On sale at £4.50