

# Didcot-Meylan Twinning Association

NEWSLETTER

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The record temperatures in July seem a distant memory as August brings more normal cloud and showers. We can only sympathise with our friends in Meylan who suffered violent storms on 12th and 13th of July. Apparently the damage was so bad that the town hall may seek recognition as a natural disaster. It seems we have to expect more extreme weather in the future.

Now we are hoping for a warm spell in September, particularly for the visit weekend. We expect that a party of about 20 people and will be looking for hosts once we know a little more about who is coming. If you have already agreed with friends that they will stay with you again, please tell a member of the committee.

We hope to see many of you at the planned events.



## TWINNING AGM

The 2006 AGM of the Didcot-Meylan twinning association took place on Friday 23rd June. In a break with tradition, it was decided to hold the meeting outside of Didcot and to combine it with a social event. Although this did not result in more members attending, it was voted a success by those who did come along. In keeping with previous AGMs, business was kept short and everything was completed within the allocated thirty minutes. Congratulations to Terry for his excellent chairing and for the impressive display of photographs of Meylan.

## WHAT'S MY WINE?

With the AGM over, it was time to get down to the serious business of the evening and test our knowledge of wines. Under the expert guidance of the renown oenologists, John Baile and Marion Judd, we sniffed and sipped and slurped, and then we guessed which of the two equally unlikely descriptions of the wine was



correct. Interestingly, the women seemed to do better than the men, but whether this was a reflection of their superior knowledge of wines, or their ability to identify the bluff was no clear. The eventual winner, bearing off the bottle of champagne, was Janet Cockburn.

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



## 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



## VISITORS FROM MEYLAN

*Details of the next visit from Meylan:*

We understand that guests will arrive in Didcot at about 2100 on Thursday 21st and depart at about 0800 on Sunday 24th September. Among the party will be a number of artists from Meylan who will be exhibiting some of their work during the visit. Details of the visit programme appear elsewhere

## SUBSCRIPTIONS DUE

Traditionally the annual membership subscription falls due at the AGM. Our thanks to all those members who have paid their subscription for 2006/2007. The rate remains at £5 per household. Cheques or cash to the secretary or treasurer.

# Didcot-Meylan Twinning Association

## Visit programme for September



*Thursday 21st:* Arrive Didcot about 9 pm. Dinner with hosts



*Friday morning:* Visit to the Diamond project and lunch



*Friday afternoon:* Visit to the Vale and Downland Museum

### Friday evening: Group suppers



*Saturday morning:* Visit Oxford Unlocked and the Castle development



*Saturday afternoon:* Free time in Oxford. Possible walking tour of colleges, visit to the Botanic Garden, shopping

*Saturday evening:* Reception and Dinner at Brookes on the Park, a new restaurant on Milton Park



### Sunday 24th morning: depart for Stansted

*This visit has received sponsorship from Milton Park, Diamond Project, UKAEA Harwell, RWE NPower, and Didcot Town Council*

## ART EXHIBITION

Friday 22nd & Saturday 23rd September  
Exhibition of paintings from Meylan and Didcot artists. Venue to be confirmed.



Lichtnina over Meylan. Julv 2006



## Meylan news

from the Meylan web site.....

- \* Apart from the storm (see photo) this summer sees the 20th anniversary of the allotment gardens at Buclos-Grand-Pré. This 2 acre site was threatened with development but now enjoys legal protection and has thirty families on its waiting list.
- \* During their long summer holidays, residents of Meylan are encouraged to let the local police know that their homes will be empty so that they can be included in special patrols. The service is free and increasingly popular with householders.
- \* Meylan is also in the process of reducing both the size and number of advertising hoardings in the town to improve the appearance of the area.
- \* The town of Meylan is also pioneering a system to allow the remote reading of water meters. The goal is to allow better monitoring of water use and to detect, much more rapidly, major leaks in the system. More than 8000 meters will have to be replaced or upgraded in the next 12 months.
- \* Finally, Meylan is participating in a European Project called 'Display' whereby the energy, water consumption and carbon emissions of four selected public buildings are put on public display. The goal is to make the townspeople aware of the effects of their activities on the environment and to show how small changes in lifestyle can reduce their impact.

Perhaps we will see something like this for new developments in Didcot?

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