

NEWSLETTER

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contact information: totterdells@btinternet.com

tel: 01235850080

Updates

TWINNING WITH PLANEGG MOVES A STEP CLOSER

In September, Didcot Town Council agreed to enter into a formal twinning agreement with Planegg. Members of the Twinning Committee attended the meeting where the issue was discussed and were able to reassure Town Councillors that the additional commitment would not involve them in extra expenditure.

CHANGES IN THE COMMITTEE

As mentioned in the last newsletter, the twinning committee was asked by Terry Joslin to find a replacement chairman as he wanted to step down. The committee are delighted that Phil Hayward agreed to take on this role. It is hoped that Terry will stay on as vice-chair and continue to share his wide experience with the Association.

SUCCESSFUL COFFEE MORNING

In August, members and friends of Twinning met in Didcot for coffee, at the kind invitation of Jen Parry. In addition to the delicious coffee, there was the opportunity to sample a range of tasty homemade cakes. Just over £100 was raised towards twinning funds as a result of this event.

If you have any fundraising ideas you would like to share please get in touch.

UPDATED WEB SITE

To find out what is happening with twinning in Didcot, try taking a look at our web site. Committee member, Keith Beswick, has updated the appearance of the site and made it easier to use. Apologies for the incorrect address which appeared in last issue of the newsletter.

CAN YOU HELP?

We have been approached by two families in Meylan who are looking for possible exchanges for their daughters, both of whom are 15 years old. Even if you are not sure about an exchange at this time, it would be possible to arrange to exchange emails or to make video-calls which might improve spoken-language skills.

If you think you might be interested, please get in touch with Sue Totterdell (contact details above).

Meylan Group visits Didcot

A group of 17 people travelled from Meylan to Didcot for the weekend of 20-23 September. Arriving in Gatwick, they took the train to Didcot

where they were met by their host families.

The next morning, the party was welcomed by the Director of Space Science at the Rutherford Appleton Laboratory, Dr Richard Holdaway, who concluded his interesting and informative presentation with a photo of one of our committee members, Pete Read, who used to work at the facility.



The party then split into two groups for visits to the ground station and a Clean Room where components for a replacement for the Hubble telescope were being developed and tested.

At lunch, some committee members took the opportunity to discuss possible work placements at RAL for students from our twin towns. This highly successful visit was arranged by the new chair of the twinning committee, Phil Hayward.

Twinning web site:

www.didcottwinning.org.uk

See web site for more photos of the recent visit

A visit to the Ancient Town of Abingdon

Friday afternoon was spent in Abingdon. A useful Tourist office map and guide explained that Abingdon claims to be the oldest continuously inhabited settlement in England. This was easy to believe as we walked around the Abbey Gardens and visited the theatre. It was also possible to see the newly refurbished County Hall Museum with its classic MG car and an exhibition about the bun-throwing tradition. In the evening, groups of hosts and visitors met for dinner.



Abingdon Abbey buildings and a narrow boat on the Thames.



A busy final day

Following the usual format, activities for Saturday were jointly chosen by hosts and their guests. Some took the opportunity to travel to London for sightseeing and shopping whilst others explored Waddesdon Manor, the Cotswolds, or reached into history at Blenheim Palace. For others, the fine weather provided the ideal day for a walk along the Thames or an open-top

bus tour of Oxford. Whatever was chosen, everyone was back promptly for the Gala Dinner in the new All Saints Community Hall. Suggested by Nick Hards, this venue proved an ideal choice. While caterers provided the first two courses, cheese and desserts were once again the realm of committee members and host families. A typically British Pimms was served to welcome guests, who included Didcot's Deputy Mayor, Axel MacDonald, and his wife, and delicious French wines were served with the meal. Brief speeches were made by the chairs of the Meylan and Didcot Twinning Committees and by the mayors of both towns and gifts were exchanged. The French party departed early on Sunday morning.



Phil Hayward, Chair of Didcot Twinning Committee



Marie-Christine Tardy, Mayor of Meylan

Peter Read, Mayor of Didcot



Mireille Adji, Chair of Meylan Twinning Committee

Guests enjoy the Gala Dinner



(L-R) Marie-Christine Tardy, Pete Read, Mireille Adji, Keith Beswick, Carol & Phil Hayward.



(L-R) Jacqui Oldham, Daniel Guiget, Geoff Oldham, Dave Totterdell, Marcia Blackman, Chantal & Xavier Mioland.



(L-R) Marie-Chantal Delacoux, Mark Taylor, Jean-Yves Delacoux, Julien & Marilynne Marchal, Peter Mitchell, Denise Macdonald.