

NEWSLETTER

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Death of Planegg Mayor

We are sad to announce the death of the Mayor of Planegg, Frau Annemarie Detsch. Many of you will recall her visit last year to sign the twinning agreement in the Civic Hall. The town of Planegg is now faced with the difficult task of electing a successor to their very popular mayor.

Future twinning exchanges

We have heard from the Twinning Committee in Meylan that the most probable dates for our visit there next year will be 17-20 September. This date will have to be confirmed by the mayors of both Didcot and Meylan and any changes will be notified in this newsletter.

If you think you might like to come, please get in touch with a member of the committee.

Social evening at Cornerstone

The next informal get together in Cornerstone Cafe is planned for **Tuesday 11 November**. If you want to find out more about twinning, or just have a sociable drink with fellow twinners, just come along between 19h30 and 21h00.

You might like to use this as an opportunity to try out some of your language skills. Try speaking to your neighbour in French or German.



Frau Detsch in Didcot in 2013

What is a twinning visit like?

If you have never been on a twinning visit and were wondering what it might be like, here are a few pointers.

You will need to arrange and pay for your own travel to our twin town but usually we manage to book ourselves onto the same flights.

You will be hosted free of charge by residents of our twin town. Most guest rooms seem to have their own bathroom.

Normally one day is spent visiting a local attraction, as a group. This could be an historic monument, a museum or a local beauty spot.

The second day might be spent doing something with your host family. This allows a more varied programme, suited to individual interests.

There is often one gala dinner but other meals are taken with your host families.

You don't have to speak French or German to go along but it is appreciated if you try a few words.

It is great if you feel happy to offer to host someone for a return visit.





Ferris wheel at Oktoberfest



Meylan visit to Didcot



Meylan & Didcot visit Planegg



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YOUTH EXCHANGES

Whilst on a twinning trip to Meylan last year we were asked if we could host a French teenager who wanted to visit the UK. As we had teenage daughters of roughly the same age we thought that this would be good for them too.

After several emails with her parents we organized a suitable date and in February this year Charlotte came to stay with us for just over a week.

Before Charlotte came we were able to arrange for her to go to Didcot Girls School where she spent half her time with our youngest daughter and the rest of the time helping in the language department.

It was easy to organize between the Didcot School and Charlotte's French school and Charlotte enjoyed helping other students.

Whilst she was with us she went to see a comedy act at the Cornerstone, visited Oxford, ate a typical Sunday roast and spent a lot of time with my daughters' friends.

Before and during her stay we were able to keep in touch with Charlotte's family using Skype, which is free to use and meant we already felt we knew Charlotte before she arrived.

Our girls are still in contact with Charlotte through social media and we are hoping for a reciprocal exchange some time soon.

If anyone else would like to host an exchange student I would be more than happy to advise further.

Denise Macdonald

Editorial note:

The Twinning Committee has decided to set up a special page on their web site for posting details of families seeking to arrange private exchanges. Details of ages and desired period of exchange will be displayed and further details and contact information will be available from the committee's communications officer.



FORTIES EVENING

Plans are being made for a 'forties' evening to be held on March 7th 2015 in Harwell Village Hall. In addition to film of the local area there will be music from this era, and a fish & chip supper. Period dress is optional.