



Didcot Twinning Association



NEWSLETTER OCTOBER 2009

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Take a look at our updated web site
www.didcottonline.com

The Editor writes....

It has been a busy time for twinning. Firstly there was a visit from Planegg and then a trip to Meylan to celebrate ten years of twinning. You can read more about both of these events elsewhere in this newsletter.

Twinning is an important activity for a town to undertake. The success of Didcot's links with Meylan owes much to the hard work of successive committee members both in France and England.

Next year it will be Didcot's turn to host Meylan. **The provisional date for this is the weekend of 16-19 September 2010** and we ask that all of our readers put this in their diaries now, particularly if they are able to offer to host visitors.

We also hope to take forward our contacts with Planegg, possibly with a visit to Germany some time in 2010.

Clearly 2010 will be another busy year for twinning.



PLANEGG DELEGATION VISITS DIDCOT

Early in September seven delegates from Planegg (Germany), responding to an invitation issued last year by a small group from Didcot who travelled to Bavaria, visited Didcot to explore possible links between the towns. The two towns, although they differ in population (Planegg 10,000), have much in common. Both benefit from good local employment opportunities in world class scientific research facilities and the associated hi-tech businesses. Both are close to ancient university towns and both are already twinned with Meylan (France).

The delegation of three Planegg Town Councillors, three members of their twinning committee and a senior school teacher of English (1) visited the ISIS project at the Rutherford Appleton Laboratories with Dr Uschi Steigenberger (2) and were told about the Harwell Business site by a representative of Goodmans.

After lunch at Couture Café (3), the group toured Cornerstone Art Centre and were shown around Didcot, including Ladygrove Lakes, before arriving at the Civic Hall where they had tea with the Mayor of Didcot, Mrs Margaret Turner.



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On Saturday the party visited Oxford, and in the evening there was a reception at Baptist House where local councillors (4) and people interested in twinning (5) met the Planegg group to find out more about the possible links. Margaret Tuner's speech formally welcomed the delegation and Dr Rudi Baer, President of Planegg Twinning Committee, expressed his wish that the towns might extend their links in the future, a view repeated by Terry Joslin chair of Didcot Twinning Association (6). Gifts were exchanged to mark the occasion (7). The delegation left Didcot on Sunday morning, to report back to their Town Council. The twinning committee hopes that a positive impression will lead to further steps being taken towards a formal twinning agreement.



How to get in touch

If your organisation would like to get involved with Twinning, we can help arrange contacts with similar groups in Meylan. You can contact us via our web site or call 01235 850080.

Didcot Twinning Association



10th Anniversary of Twinning celebrated in Meylan

In mid-September a group of 31 people, travelling by aeroplane, train and car, arrived in Meylan to celebrate 10 years of twinning. The party included the original Chair of the Didcot twinning association, Dr Keith Beswick, and several other people from the first group to visit their French counterpart. In addition there were several Didcot residents on their first visit to Meylan who were all welcomed by the Twinning committee, the Mayor of Meylan, Mme Marie-Christine Tardy, and her team, at the Town Hall (1).

As usual, an excellent programme of activities had been arranged. A fascinating visit to Grand Maison (2), the largest hydroelectric generating station in France, was followed by an excellent lunch (3) and then an opportunity to explore the Museum of Crystals (4) and Mountain Fauna in Bourg d'Oisans. Sadly, for some people the dim lights in the audiovisual presentation, combined with the extensive lunch and an early start, proved an ideal recipe for a snooze.



On Saturday morning we walked a section of the Grand Traverse, a linear green route through the heart of Meylan, linking several parks (5). Keeping the walkers going was the promise of a visit to the Meylan vineyard at Mas du Bruchet where a wine grower has planted Verdesse grapes, traditionally grown in the Isere valley, and produces an interesting white wine. Several of the party took the opportunity to buy bottles to accompany the picnic that followed in the grounds of the Clos des Capucins (6), a former monastery now owned by the town of Meylan.

A restful afternoon was followed by a dinner hosted by the Meylan Twinning association. A superb selection of food (7) and wine was served with entertainment provided by a traditional barrel organist and mime artist. Diners were invited to take a turn in providing the power for the music. Gifts were exchanged to mark the occasion, including a print of Didcot scenes by local artist, Linda Benton (8). Sadly the visit was all too soon over and the Didcot party assembled at the station in Grenoble to start their respective journeys home.



Who's who
Chair
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Vice Chair (communications)
 Sue Totterdell
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Secretary
 Janet Cockburn
Treasurer
 Robin Eastham
Web Master
 Adrian Evans
The association is seeking a new secretary

JOIN THE ASSOCIATION

Our thanks to all those members who have paid their subscription for 2009/2010. The rate remains at £5 per household. Cheques or cash to the secretary or treasurer.