



Didcot Twinning Association



NEWSLETTER JANUARY 2010

ISSUE 29

Take a look at our updated web site
www.didcottwinning.org.uk

The Editor writes....

Twinning in Didcot has come a long way in the first decade of the 21st Century. Strong contacts with Meylan have been established and now we are looking towards forging new links with Planegg in Germany. Details of the dates when residents of Meylan will next visit Didcot and for the proposed visit to Planegg are given elsewhere in this newsletter.

Sustaining two twinning links will not be easy. Although a formula has not yet been decided, we may find ourselves hosting visitors more often than every two years. This will inevitably have cost implications and the money needed to sustain twinning is already difficult to raise. The association depends heavily on the continued support of its members. With this in mind, the committee is already planning two fundraising events in 2010 (details are given in this newsletter). We are also considering raising the annual membership fee and this will be discussed at the AGM in June.

We would like to thank members for their continuing support and urge those of you who have not joined the association to do so.

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.



JOURNÉE FRANÇAISE

SATURDAY MARCH 27TH
1030-1500
At Ladygrove Park Primary school

by kind permission of the headteacher

Would you like your children to spend a day immersed in French-based activities? Do you want to take your first steps to being able to make yourself understood in French? Perhaps you are thinking of reviving your school French for use on holiday or you would like the opportunity to spend a day using your language skills in a friendly and informal group?

What to expect

Work in small groups with experienced teachers to jump-start your learning or consolidate existing skills.

Activities, including cooking familiar French recipes, to suit all abilities and levels.

Practice sessions for GCSE oral will be available.

Please contact Sue Totterdell (01235850080) or Sheralyn Hares (01491837718) or e-mail via our web site (www.didcottwinning.org.uk).

Cost: £15 per head (£20 for two people from the same address) to include coffee and croissant. Lunch can be bought on the day at our 'French Café'.

Visitors from Meylan in September 2010

The Didcot twinning association committee is already busy planning for Meylan's next visit which will take place between **16-19 September 2010**. As usual there will be a variety of activities centred around Didcot but there will also be plenty of time for our guests to spend time with their hosts. This has always proved a popular part of any visit, allowing time for specialist interests and, importantly, shopping trips to stock up on British delicacies such as shortbread, marmalade and tea.

We are always looking for more host families so if you would like to find out more about what is involved and perhaps speak to someone who has already had someone to stay, please get in touch with Sue Totterdell (01235850080). You do not have to be able to speak French (although it can be fun to try) and if you are at work, arrangements can be made to take care of your guests during the day.

If you are already one of our fantastic team of hosts, please keep this weekend free by putting it into your new diary now.

Harwell Feast

Spring Bank Holiday Monday May 31st 2010

Twinning Association will be running a stall selling cakes, plants and books. Contributions from members will be gratefully received. Please get in touch if you can help man the stall for an hour or so.

BONNE ANNÉE

*Thanks to our generous sponsors Didcot Town Council,
RWENpower, Sainsbury's Supermarket Didcot, DidcotFirst,
Didcot Town Football Club*

Didcot Twinning Association



Would you like to visit Planegg?

Following the very successful exploratory visit by representatives from Planegg last year, we have recently received an invitation for a return visit from people living in and around Didcot. The date for this visit has been set as the **weekend of 2/3 October** although it is likely that we will travel out on Thursday 30 September or Friday October 1st. Our friends in Planegg would like some idea of how many people are likely to be coming, so please let a committee member know if you think you would like to join this visit. If there is a limit on numbers, priority will be given to those who took an active part in the initial visit last autumn.

There are fewer options for travelling to Planegg and it is likely to be best to fly to Munich from where the party would be collected.

For those who have not previously taken part in a twinning visit:

- You are expected to pay your own travel costs although the host committee sometimes will meet the party from the nearest airport.
- You will stay with a family who are part of the Twinning organisation of the host country. If you do not speak their language every attempt will be made to find hosts who speak English.
- If you have any special health (including allergies) or dietary needs please let us know as soon as possible so that we can find out if these can be accommodated.
- There is no charge for accommodation although it is normal to take your hosts a small present.
- All activities provided by the host organisation will be free to visitors (although your hosts will probably have to pay their own costs)



Planegg information

- Planegg is a municipality in the district of Munich, in Bavaria, Germany.
- Mayor: Annemarie Detsch
- Located on the river Würm, 13 km west of Munich (centre).
- Population 10588 of which 6752 live in in Planegg and 3836 in Martinsried
- Its coat of arms, granted in 1951, shows an owl derived from the arms of the Hörwarth family. The estate and village of Planegg was acquired in 1616 by Hans Georg von Hörwart zu Hohenburg and the family ruled the village until 1732.
- The wavy bar symbolises the Würm river.

Who's who

Chair

Terry Joslin

Vice Chair (communications)

Sue Totterdell

webmaster@didcotwinning.org.uk

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 until the next AGM in June.

Cheques or cash to the secretary or treasurer.



Planned business meeting in Meylan

The Mayor of Meylan, Marie-Christine Tardy, recognising that one feature linking Meylan, Planegg and Didcot is their proximity to world class scientific research, suggested that there should be a joint business meeting in Meylan in September 2010 to explore how fundamental research is translated into ideas that can be exploited commercially in the different countries. The meeting is being organised by Guy Cuvecle in France, with Terry Joslin as the Didcot contact. If you think that your business might have something to offer to this seminar, please contact Terry.

EIN GUTES NEUES JAHR

Example travel schedule to Munich

Thursday 30 September
Depart London Heathrow 1245
arrive Munich 1540

Sunday 3 October
Depart Munich 1620
arrive London Heathrow 1715

Cost per adult (Booking January 2010) £209