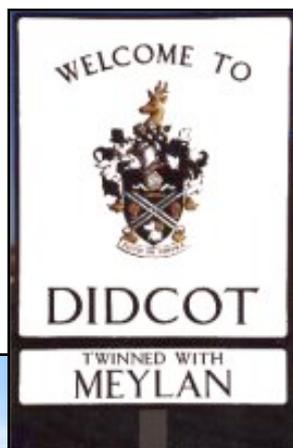


NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 31

KEEPING MEMBERS & FRIENDS UP TO DATE WITH THE LATEST NEWS



Your twinning committee

- Chair Terry Joslin
- Vice Chair Keith Beswick
- Secretary Geoff Oldham
- Treasurer Robin Eastham
- Communications Sue Totterdell
- webmaster@didcotwinning.org.uk
- Members Nick Hards
- Janet Cockburn
- Mark Hickling

Town Council Rep

AGM report

The AGM elected a new committee. It also marked the appointment of a new secretary, Geoff Oldham, replacing Sheryl Hares, whose support of twinning has been highly valued. The AGM heard that recent plant/cake sales at Harwell Feast and a coffee morning raised around £300 for our funds. In addition a grant of £500 has been received from Didcot Town Council.

Business meeting in Meylan

The business meeting to be held in Meylan has been postponed until early next year. Representatives from Planegg and Didcot will travel to Meylan to meet their French counterparts and discuss how to improve the competitiveness of European research and how to facilitate translation from ideas to products. If you or your company are interested in finding out more about this planned seminar, please get in touch with Terry Joslin.

Planning for the next visit from the people of Meylan is at an advanced stage. We are expecting a party of 17 to arrive in Didcot on the afternoon of Thursday 16 September. On Friday there will be an opportunity to meet representatives of local businesses and employers for breakfast at Couture at Cornerstone before heading off to Oxford to visit the newly-renovated Ashmolean museum. Saturday is a day to be spent with the various host families and there will be a dinner in the evening to celebrate the visit and exchange gifts. The group will depart for France on Sunday evening. If you would like to be involved with this visit, please get in touch with a member of the twinning committee.

SAD NEWS FROM MEYLAN

The Twinning Committee were saddened to hear last week of the death of Annie Riboud. Together with her husband, Jean, she was a regular visitor to Didcot. Annie was one of the founder members of Didcot-Meylan Twinning and a stalwart of the Meylan twinning committee. She will be fondly remembered by her friends in Didcot.

The Twinning Committee send their condolences to her husband and family.

Youth twinning

There will be a youth twinning weekend in Meylan from October 30 - November 3. Although there are no plans for an official delegation from Didcot, if any young people from the area are interested in travelling to Meylan, to take part, please get in touch with a member of the committee (see contact details on the following page).

FORTHCOMING VISIT TO PLANEGG

A group of people from Didcot will be visiting Planegg at the end of September. This will be the second such visit and takes the possible twinning of the two towns a step closer. Planegg is already twinned with Meylan. Following a successful meeting of representatives of the Didcot and Planegg twinning associations in Didcot last year, it was decided to open the 2010 visit up to all Didcot and district residents and 9 of them will be making the trip this year. They will fly to Munich airport and be collected by minibus to drive the short distance to Planegg. Their visit will include a chance to see the facilities available to residents of Planegg and to meet the Mayor and some of her councillors.

This civic part of the trip will be followed by an opportunity to see some of the beautiful countryside of southern Bavaria. Staying with host families will also encourage the group to get to understand more about the German (Bavarian) people. Luckily for the non-linguists it is apparent that many Germans speak excellent English and

are very happy to do so. However, any efforts to respond in German are encouraged.

The final feature of the trip is hoped to be a visit to the world famous Oktoberfest, which will be



taking place in Munich at the time of the visit.

If anyone is interested in joining this visit or any future links with Planegg, please get in touch.

HOW YOU CAN GET INVOLVED



The visit from Meylan runs from Thursday 16 September to Sunday 19 September. If you think that you can host a visitor during this period, please get in touch with a member of the twinning committee (see below).

Even if you are not able to offer accommodation you are welcome to join in any of the activities that are being planned.

To join a trip to the Ashmolean on Friday morning, please be at Didcot station by 0930 or meet us outside the Ashmolean Museum in Oxford between 1030 and 11 am. Entry to the museum is free but you will have to pay your own travel and lunch costs.

On Saturday pm there is a chance to take a guided tour of Basildon House (National Trust), near Reading and in the evening there will be a dinner at Baptist House, Didcot to celebrate the visit. Dinner will cost around £15 per head for the meal including drinks. If you would like to join us for the Basildon Tour (normal entry fees apply) or for dinner on

Saturday, please let Sue Totterdell know before Monday 6th September as we need to know numbers. Remember to say if you would like a vegetarian dinner option.

We hope as many as possible of you will join us for this celebratory evening.



CONTACT DETAILS FOR ALL ITEMS DETAILED IN THIS NEWSLETTER

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