

NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2012

contact information: totterdells@btinternet.com

Future visits: updates

VISIT TO PLANEGG

SATURDAY 28 APRIL - TUESDAY 1 MAY

Plans are being made for a small delegation to travel from Didcot to Planegg to join the celebrations of 25 years of twinning between Planegg and Meylan. Flights to Munich with Lufthansa are on offer at around £130.

Places may be limited so if you want to join this visit, please contact a member of the Twinning Committee by January 27th.

VISIT FROM MEYLAN TO DIDCOT

The dates for this visit are currently under discussion with the **13-16th September** as the most likely. As usual we will be looking for hosts for the French visitors so please keep this weekend free.

VISIT FROM PLANEGG A SUCCESS

A delegation from Planegg arrived in Didcot just in time to join the celebrations at the Didcot Street Fair. Although on a smaller scale than the Oktoberfest, the visitors were impressed by the numbers of people who came along to mark the start of the Christmas season.

Their weekend included a busy day getting to know a little about the delivery of vital services in the Didcot area as well as an opportunity to spend a more relaxing day with their host families.

For a more complete report see the following pages.

FUND RAISING ACTIVITIES

The Twinning Association will hold a **Plant Sale on May 5th** and a run a **Cake Stall at Harwell Feast**. We hope you will support these efforts. Although Didcot Town Council has generously supported our association again this year, the cost of hosting a full visit is about £1000, even with hosts paying all their own expenses.



Didcot Girls' School visitors welcomed in Planegg.

The trip to Munich between 1 - 4 December 2011 was a great success. 29 Didcot girls from years 8-11 had a busy four days making new friends with pupils from our Partner School Feodor-Lynen-Gymnasium in Planegg. Frau Gabi Munz, Head of English at FLG, and all the pupils and teachers made us all feel very welcome at the school. We spent Friday morning taking an active part in lessons such as Music, Sport, English, Science and ICT lessons. We were particularly jealous of the open air ice rink in the school grounds.

After lessons we were treated to a typical Bavarian lunch of delicious roast pork and dumplings followed by apple cake and Lebkuchen and were joined by Frau Dr. Schmid-Breining: the Headteacher Frau Holtzem: the Deputy Head and Frau Gabriele Fink from the twinning association.

The German pupils and teachers took part in activities with us over the four days including bowling, visits to Christmas markets, the BMW museum. Olympic tower and Nymphenburgerschloss. We found our way about Munich on all modes of transport buses, underground and trams and arrived back in the early hours of Monday morning with bulging cases of goodies such as Lebkuchen and Christmas decorations.

The girls were wonderful ambassadors for DGS and we were complimented on their politeness several times by the school and members of the public during the visit. Our new friends at FLG are keen to reciprocate the visit and we will keep in touch with them using our Wikispace website in the meantime. For more photos, see overleaf.

Mrs N Warnock

MFL Dept Didcot Girls' School

Didcot Girls' School in Planegg & Munich



A shared meal with traditional dumplings and potatoes (left) was enjoyed by the girls. As well as making contact with the Feodor-Lyden Gymnasium in Planegg, a focus of the trip was to visit the world-famous Christmas Markets in Munich (below left) with their sparkling Christmas decorations and festive foods. The tradition of the market held on the Marienplatz dates back to the 14th Century and around 20 other markets are held at other locations in the city.



The trip included a visit to the Nymphenburg Palace (below right) the summer residence of the Electors of Bavaria which was completed in 1665

Much of the palace retains the original baroque decoration although parts were redesigned in rococo or neo-classical style.

Planegg in Didcot

The busy schedule for the weekend began with collecting the visitors from Heathrow and delivering them to their host families. After a short rest, it was time to sample the delights of the Didcot Street Fair and to meet in Baptist House for a welcome from the Chair of the Twinning Association, Terry Joslin.

On Friday morning the party met at the Civic Hall and, together with Phil

Hayward, Mayor of Didcot, set off to visit both secondary schools in Didcot. At both they met pupils studying German and at DGS there was a chance to meet some of the group who would shortly be setting out for Munich to see the Christmas Markets. After a tasty lunch at the Aroma Grill there were visits to the Health Centre, the Civic Hall, the library, and the fire and ambulance stations. The party were able to reflect on differences between the way these services are delivered in

the two countries at the various shared suppers that evening.

Saturday was devoted to tourism. Most hosts took their guests to Oxford but others ventured as far afield as Winchester. Everyone then met at the home of Keith & Kate Beswick for a gala dinner when speeches were made and gifts exchanged.

After a full weekend the group from Planegg were driven back to Heathrow on Sunday morning to catch their flight.

PLANEGG VISIT TO DIDCOT



Didcot Street Fair (top left) and the reception on Thursday evening at Baptist House where the visitors were welcomed by David Locke from Baptist House (top middle) and Terry Joslin on behalf of the Twinning Association. The visit to Didcot Girls School where the group from Planegg had coffee with the headteacher, Rachel Warwick (top right) and were shown the modern languages department by Nicola Warnock. Outside St Birinus School (left) with two pupils who are studying German with modern languages teacher, Edina Deadman.



THE COMMITTEE

Chair: Terry Joslin

Vice Chair: Keith Beswick

Secretary: Geoff Oldham

Treasurer: Robin Eastham

Town Council Rep: Peter Read

Communications: Sue Totterdell

Webmaster: Adrian Evans

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www.didcottwinning.org.uk

Images from our 2010 visit to Planegg



The visit from Planegg to Didcot



The party stopped for lunch at the Aroma Grill where they sampled both Indian and Chinese cuisine (above left).

After lunch they visited the Health Centre, Civic Hall and library before meeting Simon Belcher and his colleagues at the Fire Station (above right) who showed them the facilities available in Didcot. They were also given a tour of the Ambulance Station by Alan Weir who had come to Didcot especially for the afternoon.



After a busy weekend, on Sunday morning the visitors from Germany assembled with their hosts and other members of the twinning association in the Civic Hall car park to say good bye and 'auf wiedersehen'.

Gala Dinner



Saturday evening's Gala Dinner hosted by Keith and Kate Beswick. Wolfgang Hoelzel & host Mike Duck (above left), Terry Joslin (above middle), chair of Didcot Twinning Association, and Gabriele Fink (above right), President of Planegg Twinning Committee. Host Fraser Old talks to Gabriele Munz and Anneliese Bradel (below left) and the hosts and guests enjoy an excellent dinner (below left).

