

NEWSLETTER

MAY 2012

contact information: totterdells@btinternet.com

tel: 01235850080

Future visits: updates

VISIT FROM MEYLAN TO DIDCOT

The dates for this visit have been agreed as **20-23 September**. As usual we will be looking for hosts for the French visitors so please keep this weekend free.

VISIT TO PLANEGG A SUCCESS

The delegation from Didcot has just returned from a successful visit to Planegg where they shared in the celebration of 25 years of twinning between Planegg and Meylan. The event was marked by a gala dinner and a number of speeches.

For a more complete report on the visit please see the following pages.

FUND RAISING ACTIVITIES

A **Car Boot** site has been arranged for the twinning association at the forthcoming Harwell Feast, to be held on Saturday May 26th. If you have any items you would like to donate for sale, please let a member of the committee know.

HELP NEEDED

After several years as **web master** for the twinning association, Adrian Evans has indicated that he would like to step down. If you have the skills required to run our site, the association would be very glad to hear from you. In the meantime, we would like to thank Adrian for all his efforts in the past on our behalf.

We are also looking for **hosts** for future visits to Didcot by our partner towns so please get in touch if you would like to offer accommodation.



Didcot party welcomed to Planegg.

Leaving Didcot on Saturday morning it was raining and about 8°C so it was hard to believe the weather forecasts for Munich. However, as we left Munich airport, hastily removing layers of clothing, we passed a sign confirming that it was 34°C. The short transfer by minibus soon delivered us to our various hosts where we were met by offers of cold beers or refreshing cups of tea.

A little later we all assembled at the Town Hall to meet the party that had just arrived from Meylan, a journey of some 500 miles taking around 10 hours by coach. This was a chance to meet old friends from Meylan and to find out more about the programme for the weekend. Unusually our weekend was starting on a Saturday so that we could take in May 1st, which fell this year on a Tuesday. The groups from Didcot and Meylan were welcomed by the mayor of Planegg, Frau Anne-Marie Detsch ably assisted (linguistically) by Annelore von Aufsess and Gaby Fink.



Official welcome



Didcot t-shirts go down well



IMPORTANT UPDATE

**The AGM is on Wednesday
June 13th at 7.30 pm at Didcot
Civic Hall**
not Thursday, as previously advertised.

Sunday entertainment



To start the day there was an option to attend a Jubilate service at the famous Waldkirche (left) where we were entertained by some wonderful singing by a local choir. Afterwards there a friendly game of petanque (below left and middle) had been arranged in the nearby Parc de Meylan. Georges Adji quickly provided an overview of the rules of the game and teams were soon discussing in detail who was closest to the cochonnet.

For others Sunday provided an opportunity to see something of the local area with visits to the centre of Munich or to the Starnberger See (below right) a large lake to the south of Planegg.



VISIT TO WASSERBURG

Monday saw an 08h00 start from the Town Hall. The sun was shining as two coach loads departed on time for the 90 minute drive. We headed around Munich and then west through pretty countryside towards Wasserburg. Just outside of town the buses stopped so that we could get our first view (top left). The Medieval town of Wasserburg, sitting in a meander on the River Inn, gained importance as a hub in the salt trade. Lying at the junction between the main overland and water routes to the Balkans, Italy and Austria, it was frequently fought

over (see the missiles collected after one siege, bottom left), although the river itself provided considerable protection.

Walking across the Red Bridge, with its unusual wooden supports (top right), we reached the well-preserved town centre with its beautiful frescoes (bottom right). In the middle is the Rathaus, re-built in 1557-9 to replace an earlier building, destroyed by fire. The Rathaus served also as a Corn Exchange: all bread sold in the town was brought here in order to control quality. Punishments for breaking the

rules were severe. Adjacent is the Frauenkirche alongside which sits a 65m watch-tower bearing the red lion emblem of the town. Guided walks through the town also took us to St Jakob's Church, with its magnificent carved pulpit inside and the large depiction of the tree of life painted on the outside (bottom middle).

After lunch in the Paulanerstuben there was time for window shopping (top middle) or to just sit with a coffee and watch the world go by. Mid-afternoon it was time to board the coaches to return to Planegg.





THE COMMITTEE

- Chair:** Terry Joslin
- Vice Chair:** Keith Beswick
- Secretary:** Geoff Oldham
- Treasurer:** Robin Eastham
- Town Council Rep:** Peter Read
- Communications:** Sue Totterdell
- Webmaster:** Vacancy

Find us on line

www.didcottwinning.org.uk

Plant Sale in April



A fund-raising Plant Sale was held in April at Lime Tree House, Harwell by kind invitation of Keith and Kate Beswick. The event was a great success with the total amount raised from sales and refreshments at over £300. Thanks to all who contributed.

Celebrating 25 years of twinning



Phil Hayward talks to Herr & Frau Detsch



The Mayors' table



Painting presented by Meylan to Planegg

Monday evening saw everyone reconvening at the Grossgaststatte Heide-Volm in Planegg for the Gala Dinner. Drinks were served then guests took their places for dinner where, to keep everyone happy, the first course was served before the formalities began. The Mayors of Planegg, Frau Anne-Marie Detsch, Meylan, Mme Marie-Christine Tardy, and Didcot, Phil Hayward, joined to celebrate a Silver



Gift time



Planegg Owl

Anniversary which was marked by an exchange of gifts. Frau Detsch's suggestion that a successful twinning with Meylan might benefit from an expansion to a 'menage a trois' with Didcot met with general agreement. The excellent meal was accompanied by music from a small band made up of musicians from Planegg and Meylan.

May Day in Planegg

May 1st is the day when villagers, dressed in their traditional costumes (*bottom right*), erect their maypole (*extreme right*). Friendly rivalry between communities means you have to protect your maypole from theft: if stolen you will have to 'pay' in beer and sausages for its return. In Planegg the maypole takes all morning to put up, accompanied by traditional music and dancing (*top left*) and, when it is vertical, by a fusillade of shots (*top middle*). As might be expected, there is also plenty of beer and food, here being enjoyed by the next Mayor of Didcot, Peter Read (*bottom left*).



Photos: Geoff Oldham, Pete Read & Sue Totterdell