



# NEWSLETTER

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## Merry Christmas to all our supporters

The Committee of the Didcot Twinning Association wishes all members and friends a Happy Christmas and a Peaceful New Year.

## Plans for the New Year

In September 2016 we will welcome a party from Meylan. The date has yet to be fixed. The committee are already planning a programme to match the high standards set by our twin towns.

As ever, we would be delighted to hear from you if you could offer to host some of our visitors. You do not have to be a member of the twinning association to get involved. Nor do you have to speak French, since many of our visitors have excellent English. However, we are always happy to meet French-speaking hosts.

## Twinning Social evening

The next twinning social evening will be Tuesday 23rd February, 2016, in the cafe at Cornerstone, 19h30-21h00.

Come along for a drink and a chat to get to know other twidders.

## Contact information

com@didcottwinning.org.uk  
tel: 01235850080

Dinner at the Beswick's



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## New Mayor of Meylan comes to Didcot

It was a great pleasure to be able to welcome the new mayor of Meylan, Damien Guiguet, and his wife Miriam to Didcot recently. The visit was arranged during the most recent twinning trip to Meylan, in September, and Councillor Bernard Cooper and his wife, Sigrid, were delighted to be able to receive the Guiguets into their home.

Damien joined members of Didcot Town Council at a lunch involving various business, schools and town council representatives as well as the army commander of our local barracks. He also visited St Birinus School where he featured prominently in their weekly newsletter. There was a dinner on the Monday night for him (hosted by Keith and Kate Beswick) involving many of the Twinning Committee, Councillors and others to continue the discussions. On Thursday Damien, with Bernard Cooper and Geoff Oldham, met Said Hasnaoui who runs the Oxford Science Festival. They discussed possibilities of Meylan and Didcot getting involved in the coming years.



Council leader Charlie Robertson & Damien Guiguet



Didcot Mayor Des Healy & Damien Guiguet

Damien meets Di Chesterman from the Chamber of Commerce





### Meylan Mayor visits St Birinus School



Mayors meet staff



Refreshments at SBS

### Cultural links



We continue to have requests from special interest groups in our twin towns who would like to make contact with similar organisations in and around Didcot. At the moment we are hoping to establish interactions between choirs, folk dance groups, youth bands and a badminton club. Can you help?

### Planegg students visit DGS

November saw a party of young people from the Feodor-Lynen Gymnasium meeting their counterparts at Didcot Girls' School. As part of a trip to the UK, where the German students were based in Oxford, there was also time to visit a secondary school in their twin town. As it was near to Christmas, at teatime they had a chance to sample mince pies and their teachers were presented with a traditional Christmas pudding. Members of the twinning committee joined the Planegg party in the afternoon.



Staff & students from Didcot & Planegg



The Macdonald family get in the spirit

### Not Quite Oktoberfest

November was a busy month for the twinning association since, in addition to the visit from the mayor of Meylan and a school party from Planegg, there was the first ever Didcot Oktoberfest. Brainchild of the Chair of the Twinning Committee, Axel McDonald, and his wife, Denise, this Bavarian-inspired evening was held in the Civic Hall. Around 50 people enjoyed a choice of German beers, sampled delicious German food and were entertained by a genuine Oompah Band. Axel and Denise went one step further than most, coming along in typical Bavarian dress. The committee hope that this will be the first of many Oktoberfests in Didcot, and thank the whole Macdonald family for their efforts towards the fundraising event.