

NEWSLETTER

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Next twinning visit

We look forward to welcoming visitors from Planegg in 2017. The party, which will include the Mayor of Planegg, is due to arrive on Thursday 5 October and will stay until Sunday 8 October. If you are interested in offering accommodation, please get in touch with a member of the committee. If you want to meet the visitors, please put these dates into your diary - a full programme of activities is being planned.

Oktoberfest

The second Didcot Oktoberfest took place on 15 October 2017. Thanks to all members who came along to drink a delicious German beer and maybe try a German-themed snack. There was also a lot of local musical talent on display.

The third Oktoberfest in Didcot will be jointly organised by the Civic Hall Management Team and the Macdonald family, and we hope to see lots of you there again this year



Click for Twinning

Pryor's Taxis are running a Facebook promotion which could net the Twinning Association £1000. Please go to their Facebook page, click 'like' and 'share' and in the comments box, nominate the Twinning Association as your chosen local organisation. The group with the most nominations at the end of the promotion is promised a donation of £1000.

Thank you.

Didcot Girls School students visit Planegg

- report on the visit by Anushka Swannell and Anna Lochhead (Year 10)

Mensch!

On October the 23rd, 28 students from years 9-12 flew to Munich as part of an exchange. There was a lot of nervousness throughout the group as well as much excitement. On the plane we had a chance to meet some new people who are not in our year, this gave us an opportunity to make some new friends. After a long nerve-racking train journey we stepped out onto Planegg station, where all our pen-pals were waiting for us in a huge crowd. We had been in contact with our pen-pals for a while so it was so lovely to meet them finally and in their home town, where they feel comfortable.

We all said an excited goodbye to our friends and staff before setting off to the homes of our pen-pals where we settled in well and thoroughly enjoyed getting to know our host families.

On Monday we spent the day at their school, which in Germany is called a Gymnasium Schule. We spent time in lessons with our pen-pals and got to understand how German education works. Personally I attended a Latin lesson taught in German, my fellow pupils and I understood some sentences in German which to us was a huge surprise. Some pupils attended a young students' English lesson which we and they had a chance to ask a few questions. Straight after school we travelled to a big bowling alley in the outskirts of Planegg. It gave us the chance to bond with other German students and enjoy ourselves. As a group we had an arm wrestle competition which myself and Anna took part in.

On Tuesday we met at the school and visited the Bavaria film studios or the Munich Zoo, both very famous sightseeing places in Munich. Both groups utterly enjoyed themselves and came back with many exciting memories and photos. Many of us then went to Munich shopping and spent time with our pen-pals.

We visited the Deutsche Museum on Wednesday without our pen-pals. The museum was really interesting as it contained Physic theories, experiments and experience, including a replica of an old fashioned mine which was amazing. We also watched an amazing light show. After this awesome experience, we spent time with our host families, some went to Munich with our pen-pals.

On Thursday we began to wish we could stay a lot longer as we were all having such a good time. On our last full day we had a great, eventful day in Munich sightseeing and visiting all the major places that it is vital to see, such as the Frauenkirche. We also shopped to get presents for family and friends, which was so amusing. In the evening most of us attended a calm, goodbye gathering with a fire pit, which was a perfect way to end the trip. On Friday everyone had the hard job of saying goodbye to our pen-pals at the station.

The whole trip was extremely memorable and unforgettable, we all made friends which we will stay in contact with. We had freedom to make our own choices and go where we pleased, as well as feeling safe with our host families. All the German students and families were all so lovely, caring and welcoming to us; we couldn't ask for more. We all learned a range of new vocabulary and pronunciation skills whilst on the trip. The whole trip was very organised and for that we thank Mrs Warnock. Our German definitely has improved and we really enjoyed the entire week. We would highly recommend this to any students who get the opportunity. This is an opportunity you will be unlikely to get again.





Munich Rathaus



a warm welcome



AGM

The AGM is planned for
Wednesday June 7th
venue to be decided.

More views from Planegg visit

In my opinion the class trip was amazing because we had to experience a new country, culture and language. I have heard from many people on the trip what a wonderful time they had. All of our host families were so friendly. My exchange partner (Lu) and her family made my stay in Germany so great. They made it possible for me to taste German food and to see wonderful places. The schools organized the trip so well. It will remain a great memory.

Claudia Oosterveld Yr 9

We went to the zoo on Tuesday 25 October. We had a task to do in groups of 4. I was with my e-pal Eva, Claudia and her e-pal Lu. Our task was to follow the map to different stations and answer questions about the animals at each station. Once we had finished the task we could walk around the zoo. My favourite animals that I saw were the penguins, orang-utans and seeing the aquarium.

Tara Allinson Yr 9

New from Meylan

Similarities between Didcot and Meylan abound. Our twin town is currently consulting on a plan to take it from 2020 - 2025. Those who have been to Meylan will know that the town has some unique features, such as its decentralised structure, its emphasis on green space and the importance of the balance between the built and the natural environment. At the same time, the wealth of facilities currently enjoyed by the residents all cost money to maintain, when the budget is squeezed from all sides. It will be interesting to see how they manage the competing demands of affordable housing, to being young people back into the community, with infrastructure projects such as the extension of the tramway and a northern ring road for Grenoble. Understanding how other communities deal with such issues is a fascinating part of the twinning process.

SOCIAL EVENING

The next social evening will be on Wednesday 8 March in the Cornerstone Cafe, starting from 19h30. Just come along to meet other members.

The committee would like to use this event to decide on the dates and venues for social evenings in June, September and December in 2017 and to establish a more regular pattern of get-togethers.

PLANT SALE

SATURDAY 27 MAY
DIDCOT SATURDAY MARKET
ORCHARD STREET

Contact information

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membership payments

barclays: 20-01-09

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