

NEWSLETTER

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Schools visit from Planegg

A group of 28 Planegg students with two of their teachers arrive at Didcot Girls' School to stay with host families from 7th-12th November. We wish the schools all the best for their continuing links and are sure the German students will take home a positive view of their stay.

Social event

The next social event for the Twinning Association is planned for Tuesday 12 December. We realise that diaries get full at this time of the year, so please put this date in yours as soon as possible. We will meet in the bar at Comerstone at 19h30 but will take the opportunity to explore other possible venues as Comerstone is often busy.

2018 in Meylan

Dates have already been discussed with the Meylan twinning association and we have provisionally booked 20-23 September for our next visit to France. We invite any members or friends of Twinning who would like to participate in this visit to get in touch with a member of the Committee or via our web page.

You will be responsible for paying your own travel costs - we usually fly from Heathrow to Lyon with BA and then shuttle bus to Grenoble but it is also possible to take the train via Lille or Paris to Grenoble.

Once in Meylan you will be hosted by a French family and the Meylan Twinning Association. We hope to welcome new people to the 2018 visit.

Christmas Greetings

We wish all members and friends of the Didcot and District Twinning Association all the best for Christmas and for 2018.

Happy Christmas

Joyeux Noel

Frohe Weihnachten

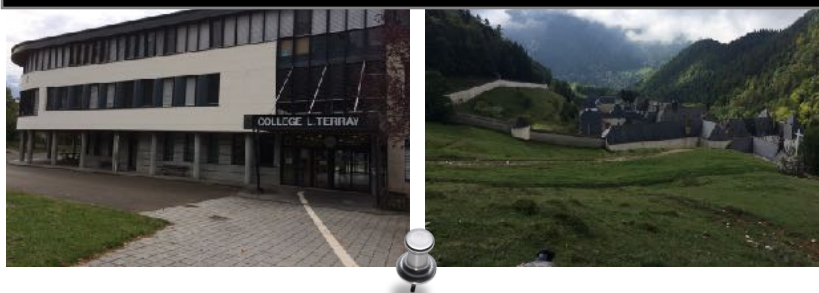
Links with schools reinforced

Recently two members of the 'Didcot & District Twinning Association' enjoyed a school trip with a difference. They travelled to Meylan, near Grenoble, for a four day visit to our French twin town. Their objective was to encourage, develop and support links between Didcot & Meylan schools. Diane Jenkins and Penny Wilde, who paid for their own travel, were warmly welcomed by representatives of the Meylan Twinning Association who had not only arranged hosts and visits to local schools, but had also found time to include some tourist sites in the schedule. English is taught in a number of primary as well as in secondary schools and staff in both countries are keen to make the most of the links between our two towns. At the senior school (pupils 11-16) the Head teacher & English teaching staff were very enthusiastic to develop links such as 'e-pals'. Of the two main primary schools visited, one already has excellent links with a local primary school. The other, which also teaches English, would very much like to develop similar links with Didcot primary schools.

The visit was a great success in that it allowed face to face discussions and for materials to be exchanged directly. It is hoped that the schools involved will make the most of the Twinning visit to Meylan in 2018 to reinforce their links.



Two primary schools (above left & right)
the Collège (below left) & Chartreuse Abbey (below right)



New treasurer and webmaster

We are delighted to welcome Phil Jenkins as our new treasurer and Steve Pickthall as our new webmaster. Both take over from Keith Beswick who has retired from the twinning committee after many years of excellent service. We thank both him and Kate for their long term support for twinning.

Planegg visit October 2017

On Thursday 5 October we were delighted to welcome a visiting group from Planegg. They were met at the airport by committee member Geoff Oldham and arrived to meet their hosts in time for tea. Their programme started with a welcome reception in Harwell's refurbished Village Hall where the mayor of Didcot, Mrs Jackie Billington, greeted the mayor of Planegg, Herr Heinrich Hofmann. The guests were entertained by a group from Didcot Choral Society. They were also treated to a visit by one of the newest fire engines in the area. After a full day travelling, the guests then dispersed for dinner with their hosts.

On Friday morning the group went to Oxford for a guided tour of sites in the city familiar to viewers of the Morse and Lewis TV programmes. It was also an opportunity to learn something about how the university functions and the tour passed under the famous Hertford Bridge and concluded with a visit to New College (one of the oldest) and its beautiful gardens backed by the remains of the city walls. Some visitors stayed in Oxford for the afternoon taking time out for more sight seeing or for shopping while others ventured further afield. Two of the Planegg guests, themselves fire fighters, expressed an interest to see a fire station and were welcomed by the Oxfordshire Fire Service at their station in Rewley Road. The visitors and hosts then got together in sociable groups for dinner. As usual in our twinning programme, Saturday was left free for hosts and guests to decide what they would like to do. For some this amounted to a tour of Didcot, taking in local sites of employment and new housing developments, for others it was a day at one of our many local tourist attractions including Oxford or a train trip to Bath. Finally we all met again for the Gala dinner at the Bear in North Moreton where we were treated to a delicious meal, great conversation, some brief speeches and an exchange of gifts. All too soon it was Sunday afternoon and we were waving goodbye to our new friends as they set off home. Although our next meeting will not be until 2019, close ties that were established during the visit mean many people will be keeping in touch in the interim.



Welcome speeches



Visiting fire engine



Oxford tour groups



Top table for Gala dinner

Contact information

didcottwinning.org.uk

tel 01235850080

membership payments

barclays: 20-01-09

Account: 40454494 Didcot Meylan Twinning Association