

NEWSLETTER

Issue 65

STOP PRESS The Association has been shortlisted for two community awards

Annual General Meeting

The AGM, held at the Civic Hall on 12 June, was attended by 15 people. The Mayor of Didcot, Bill Service, was in the chair.

Axel Macdonald reported on the successful visit by our partner town Planegg and highlighted the work by Diane Jenkins & Penny Wilde to foster contacts between schools.

It was proposed that anyone joining a twinning visit should be asked to pay a membership fee since this would ensure they were covered by the Association's insurance.

The existing committee agreed to be re-elected.

Didcot Summer Fair

In order to raise the profile and, hopefully raise a little money towards future hosting expenditure, the Twinning Committee decided to participate in this year's Didcot Town Fayre. As a fund raiser we ran a chocolate roulette game.

It was a very hot afternoon and despite the high temperatures there was a good footfall at the event and interest was shown in the twinning association links and activities.

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Visit to Meylan

On 20th September 17 members of Didcot Twinning Association (including the Mayor, his wife & 3 town councillors) set off for Meylan. Despite immigration delays at Lyon airport, on arrival at Meylan the group headed straight to a 'Welcome Reception' at the town hall with speeches by the Mayors of Didcot & Meylan, the Chairs of both Twinning Associations. Old friends were reunited & new friendships begun.

Friday was another long day with a guided coach tour around Lyon followed by lunch in one of the famous 'bouchons lyonnais' or worker's cafés, serving a wide selection of typical dishes. The afternoon walking tour of 'La Croix-Rousse', took us through the 'traboules' - covered passageways & stairways in this part of town which allowed the silk workers to move around under cover. The return to Meylan was slow due to heavy traffic & some heavy rain.

Saturday started with a 'breakfast meeting' at 'L'Association de Villes Françaises' a nationwide organisation helping newcomers, both French & foreign to settle into a new town, find out about clubs & services, learn a language or new skill. Afterwards, the four Didcot councillors met their French counterparts to discuss issues they have in common. The remaining visitors spent the day with their hosts, exploring the many local sights.

Saturday evening, the Gala Dinner took place at Le Chateau du Mollard. where we enjoyed a 4 course meal, followed by speeches from the Mayors of Didcot & Meylan, the Chairs of both Twinning Associations, in both English & French.

Sadly, an early departure from Grenoble Sunday morning brought this wonderful experience to an end. All agreed that the whole visit was a fantastic success. We look forward to their return to Didcot in 2020 to celebrate 21 years of this Twinning partnership.



Welcome from Meylan's mayor



The Basilica, Lyon



Councillors' meeting



Place Bellecour, Lyon



Gala dinner

The visit to Meylan also provided an opportunity for a brief meeting to discuss the continuing school pen friend links with a number of teachers & their pupils. Contacts are also being explored between Scout & Guide groups in the two towns.