

# NEWSLETTER

Issue 67

## Annual General Meeting

The AGM took place for the first time at Boundary Park on June 4th. The meeting heard from Chair, Axel Macdonald about the activities undertaken in the past year and remembered the contributions from former member Peter Read, who died this year. The meeting then adjourned to the bar.

## DIDCOT SUMMER FETE

It was not quite such a warm day as last year, but on August 3rd the Twinning Association once again took a stall at Didcot's main summer event in Edmond's Park. During the day Penny, Geoff and Sue enticed children to try their luck at spinning the wheel to match their colour and win a sweet (everyone won something). The stall made a small profit whilst fulfilling its main role, highlighting twinning in the area.



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## SOCIAL EVENING

**Boundary Park**

**Wednesday December 4th**

**Join us for a pre-Christmas drink**



## VISIT TO PLANEGG

On Thursday 12 September a group of 13 twinningers set out from Didcot for Planegg. Luckily avoiding any effects of the BA strike, their flight from Heathrow to Munich arrived on time and they were soon on their way to Planegg, some having the additional pleasure of travelling in the local Fire Brigade's van, although the driver could not be persuaded to sound the siren, despite the big traffic jams encountered en route.

Thursday evening was spent with hosts.

On Friday guests were taken into Munich to enjoy a tasting tour of the famous Food Market (Viktualienmarkt). This introduced us to a range of cured meats, 5 different styles of cheese, a delicious chocolate washed down with a strong coffee and then our five a day from a platter of delicious fruits.

A restorative beer set us up for a tour of the magnificent Neo-Gothic New Town Hall (which actually dates to the late 19th century). This punishing schedule concluded with a Gala dinner hosted by the mayor of Planegg, Herr Heinrich Hofmann at the Gaststätte Heide-Volm, in Planegg, where the official speeches inevitably turned to Brexit. All present agreed that the special relationship between our towns would survive the UK leaving the EU although our hosts made it clear that they could not understand how we came to make such a decision.



Chocolate shop



Heinrich, Axel &amp; Denise at Gala dinner

Photo by Juergen Sauer



German favourite

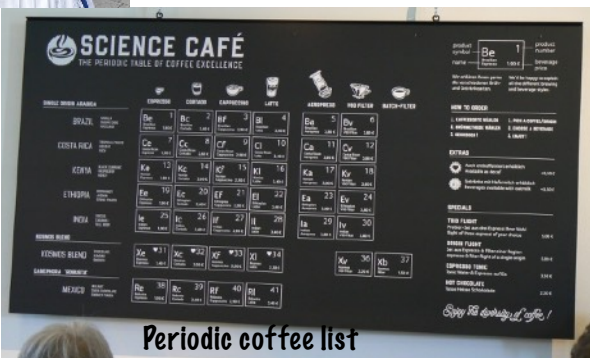


Photo by Juergen Sauer

Mocky dances



Another meal



Periodic coffee list

## Planegg visit continued...

On Saturday morning we visited Schloss Nymphenberg. This was the very large and ornate summer palace of Ludwig the second, known for spending a great deal of money on many houses/castles. The gardens were extensive and included an artificial river, create to link to another palace about 5 km away.

On Saturday afternoon we went to the "Bavaria" monument which overlooks the site of the Oktoberfest, to see the preparations being made. We also had lunch at a typical Bavarian beer garden.

On Sunday morning we went to the lake, the Starnberger See where the warm weather brought out lots of swimmers, sunbathers, yachts etc. (Diane & Phil)

On Friday morning, before the tour, we went up Old Peter's church tower (300 steps) for a 360 degree view of Munich. On Saturday we went to Tegernsee (lake south of Munich) and hiked up a trail through the forest to the top (Neureuth) where there were cows with bells. Next to a small chapel dedicated to the soldiers of WW 1 and 2 was a restaurant where we had lunch. Later we had a short walk along the lakeside and a beer (as you do!) and then home. Sunday morning we went to the Deutsches Museum in Munich where we saw a demo of the power of electricity and a rather dated exhibit on mining including one map showing sites of coal mines still in East and West Germany! Much better was the biotechnology section - up-to date, modern and everything in German and English. The coffee shop was interesting – the menu was in the form of the periodic table and if you had a filter coffee its preparation was like a chemistry experiment!! (Geoff)



## Planning for 2020

In 2020 we will celebrate being 21 years of twinning with Meylan. Things have changed a lot since we signed the agreement in 1999 but the principles of twinning remain the desire to bring together communities in different European countries so that we can better understand the lives of our neighbours. Plans are already being made to ensure that this event goes well.

A group from Meylan will be visiting Didcot between 17 and 20 September. If you are interested in getting involved in this event, please put these dates into your diary now.

Currently we are thinking that we might take our visitors to Henley to see Nuffield Place and the Rowing museum. We had wanted to go to Blenheim Palace but it is the Horse Trials weekend. Following the success of having the Gala dinner on the Friday night in Planegg, we will give serious consideration to doing the same. Any suggestions of venues would be gratefully received.

This will leave Saturday morning free for spending with hosts. In the afternoon we are hoping to share a little culture with the people of Didcot by staging some folk dancing with a group from Meylan linking with a local Morris side and perhaps even with some member of the twinning association or the general public.

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## Links with the Vale Twinners

Didcot Twinning Association continues to attend meetings of the Association of Abingdon and Vale Twinning Groups. Despite being centred on Didcot, our association had much initial support from people living in Harwell, which lies in the Vale. By sharing information about fund raising and organising visits to and from our twin towns we can learn from each other. By far the strongest association in the area is based in Faringdon and it would be useful to know how they maintain such a large membership.

If you have any ideas or experience from other twinning associations, the committee is always keen to hear from you.

## Were you there in 1999?

**Searching for the original twinnings -  
either**

**when Meylan came to Didcot in 1999**

**or when the first official group travelled  
to Meylan in 2000**

**Do you have any souvenirs or photograph  
of these visits that you would be prepared  
to share with the Association?**

**Would you like to come along to the  
welcome reception on**

**Thursday 17 October 2020**

**or to the Gala dinner**

**(probably Friday 18 October 2020)?**



2000 in Meylan



