

Worcester Twinning Association

CONNECTIONS

WINTER 2011



Editor- Contact Derek Furby

This year was the 5th anniversary of the signing of the Friendship Pact between Worcester and Vernon. A small group of us went to Vernon for the weekend on 14th October. The weather was glorious, not a cloud in the sky until our departure on Monday morning!

We arrived promptly at 5pm on Friday and were warmly greeted by our host families. Later that evening, we attended the Repas de Rentrée of the Vernon Twinning Association which takes place every autumn. The Mayor of Vernon gave a welcome speech and as the new Liaison Officer, I was pleased to say a few words in French before the dinner commenced. The whole evening was most enjoyable and it was a great opportunity for everyone to catch up with old friends and meet new.



On Saturday morning there was a very moving Remembrance Service at the Tilly Memorial for the members of the Worcestershire Regiment who lost their lives in 1944. Alongside the "gerbe" from the Vernonnais, Vivien Greenow laid a beautiful spray of flowers on behalf of the City of Worcester Twinning Association and Peter Rogers, a wreath of poppies on behalf of the Elgar Chorale. Shortly afterwards we were invited by the Mayor to a formal champagne reception at the Town Hall. Speeches were made and gifts exchanged. After a superb lunch, we were given a guided tour of the town, including a visit to the Collégiale Notre-Dame and the tower. This was my first visit to Vernon and I discovered many interesting facts about the town and its history. Later in the afternoon, we visited Le Verger de Giverny to learn all about the production of apple juice, cider, Apéritif (pommeau) and Goutte de Giverny (calvedos). We also enjoyed a delicious slice of homemade apple tart and a glass of cider.

The following morning, we went to the Musée des Impressionnistes at Giverny. We were fortunate enough to see the exposition of the Clarke's Collection, which included paintings by Renoir, Monet, Corot, Millet, Pissarro, Sisley, Manet and Degas. These will be shown in London next summer at the Royal Academy.

Then we crossed the road for a stroll in the gardens, which looked magnificent with the deep fiery autumn colours of the trees and the flowers against the clear reflections in the mirror-smooth water. So relaxing and peaceful! Monet's house, fronted by beds of brilliant red pelargoniums, was fascinating and colourful with many references to Japan. We lunched once more in a restaurant in Vernon, before visiting the privately owned Château de Bizy, which was built in the 18th century and is famous for its fine stables. Some of us attended a meeting to discuss future plans for Vernon and Worcester, which was very fruitful while others went to a concert.



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I would like to thank the Mayor, the Comité de Jumelage, the host families and everyone else who made us feel so welcome. The trip was a great success!

Rosemary Campbell

VISIT TO EXETER

The gratitude of the people of Vernon for their liberation in 1944 by the Worcestershire Regiment was further demonstrated when, in July this year, five of our friends from there spent a week in England in order to attend special civic and military ceremonies in Exeter's Guildhall and Cathedral on July 9th commemorating not only the liberation of Vernon but also that of Giverny (by the Wiltshire Regiment).

Jean-Francois & Joelle Heurtaux, who live near Monet's Garden, represented Giverny, and Vernon was represented by Jacques Terracol and Benedicte & Barry Reynolds. Worcester was represented by the Mayor Dr. David Tibbutt and his wife Jane, Dr. Donald Hunt and Peter & Joy Rogers.

There follows a moving account of his experience (in somewhat fractured English!) by Jean-Francois.....

The ceremony started in Guild hall by the speech of Mrs Exeter Mayor followed by a coffee cakes. I met numerous vip like new commandant of 43 rd, french president of veterans of "colline 112", Worcester mayor and his wife, M. Donald the great musician of Worcester, and others who naturally came to speak with me representing "the great thank you of Giverny delivered by Wiltshire guys".

After, we were called in the cortege and it was very impressiv to see and hear Exeter citysens in two rows, applaud when "french" were at their level between guild and cathedral. In cathedral, much wonderful prayers and powerfull songs. I will never forget "notre Père" in english followed by our both anthems.

Then we went out between two rows of Exeter citysens and were around the place to

hear a perfect demonstration of a fanfare. There was also a solo of bagpipe. Very impressiv collectiv prayer. To the commandant i was lucky to underlign that we thanks soldiers who gave their lives (and he verifies in the book prayers) but the meaning for me is "for those who lost their lives and for those who returned home". And i said also "8th of may 45" is not the last day of ...but "the first day of the largest period of peace for our grandparents, our parents, us, our children and the children of our children",
Best wishes jf

Kleve - Contact: Les Tunley

Visit of Kleve twinning members to Worcester

*Another successful visit. It's always very pleasing when everything goes well. There is always so much warmth and friendship between our two cities when we meet. Thank you to all the host families, without you these visits would not be possible. We are looking forward to our visit to Kleve next year to celebrate 25 years of Twinning. Best wishes
Les*

Thirty Five visitors from Worcester's twin town of Kleve in Germany stayed with host families from 22nd to 28th August. Whilst here many local places of interest were visited and enjoyed by all, ending with a social evening and dinner attended by the Mayor and Mayoress, Dr. David and Jane Tibbutt.

One of the highlights of the week was on Saturday morning to see the replacement Swan Statue and plinth in Kleve Walk, along the riverside. The swan is a symbol of Kleve and the original statue was given to Worcester by our friends in Kleve, but sadly it was stolen some time ago. The generosity of Worcester twinning member Peter Telfer paid for a replacement to be made and we gathered in Kleve Walk to see the new statue in place.

Our visitors from Kleve had a very enjoyable time on this biennial event and we said goodbye whilst looking forward to seeing them in Kleve next year.



Jo Hodges, Karl-Heinz Köster, Jane and David Tibbett
Photo by Gisela Köster



Thank you very much



Dear friends,

On behalf of all of our party I wish to thank you very much for your warm and kind hospitality we all experienced during our visit in Worcester.

It has been a lovely week with many memorable moments. We hope we will see you all in Kleve next year.

Very best wishes

Karl – Heinz

Earlier this year Rebecca Lane from Worcester and Rebecca Hector from Kleve had very enjoyable exchange visits. The following two articles have been written by them.

My German visit

Kleve is a delightful city, as I have discovered in the three weeks that I spent there. Initially I was nervous at the prospect of spending three weeks alone, but Karl-Heinz and Gisela were wonderful hosts and I soon felt at home. On the weekends, we visited small pockets of Germany which were beautiful. My favorite place that we visited was the Eifel region, where we spent three nights. Furthermore we visited the world's highest cold water geyser in Andernach and also the beautiful (yet tourist-packed) Cochem, among other small, intricate villages.



However the purpose of my visit was work experience, in which I spent a week with Herr Kerschka, where I learnt about the hard work that goes into each individual case at a solicitors firm. Furthermore the other two weeks I spent at the Courts of Kleve highlighted the differences between English and German law, as well as being given an insight into what happens behind the scenes for a case to appear in court.

I have thoroughly enjoyed my time in Kleve and I have every intention to return again in the future. I would like to take this opportunity to thank everybody who has helped to make my experience in Germany an unforgettable one.

Rebecca Lane

Austausch nach Worcester

In den Osterferien traf ich zum ersten mal nach langem E-mailkontakt meinen Austauschpartner Philip. Die Städtepartnerschaft Kleve Worcester hatte es mir ermöglicht einen einwöchigen Austausch nach England zu machen.

Nach einem herzlichen Empfang wurde ich direkt in die Familie eingebunden. In den darauf folgenden Tagen sprach ich sehr viel Englisch, lernte die britische Kultur aus Blickwinkel einer dort lebenden Familie kennen und das ein oder andere Vorurteil wurde mir widerlegt. So besichtigten wir bei strahlendem Sonnenschein Stratford die Geburtsstadt William Shakespeares , wanderten in den Malvern Hills , fuhren an den Strand oder spielten Cricket.

Auch der zweitägige Schulbesuch der King`s ist eine wertvolle Erfahrung. Nicht nur die Unterschiede wie mehr Disziplin, Eigenständigkeit und bessere technische Ausstattung, sondern auch die Begegnung mit anderen Jugendlichen war eine Bereicherung.

Ich habe mich die ganze Zeit über bei meiner Familie sehr wohl gefühlt. Durch ihre Gastfreundschaft fühlte ich mich schon bald nicht mehr fremd sondern willkommen. Schon jetzt vermisse ich meine Gastfamilie insbesondere meine Gastgeschwister und meinen Austauschpartner. Ich freue mich schon darauf im Gegenzug für diese schöne Zeit Philip die mir vertrauten Gegenden Deutschlands zeigen zu können.

Following a long time email contact with my exchange partner Philip, I met him for the first time during the Easter Holidays. The Twinning partnership with Worcester made it possible

for me to participate in a one week exchange to England. After a warm reception I was welcomed into the family, and during the following days I spoke and learned a lot of English, and got to know the British culture from their point of view, and some prejudices were proven to be wrong.

In bright sunshine we visited Stratford, the birthplace of William Shakespeare, we also hiked along the Malvern Hills and drove to the beach and played cricket.

The two days attending the Kings School was also a valuable experience. Not only to see the differences, like better discipline, and independent learning, as well as better technical equipment. Also meeting the other students was worthwhile.

The whole time I felt very comfortable with my host family. By their hospitality they made me feel welcome and not a stranger.

I miss my host family already, especially my exchange partner. I am looking forward to being able to return the hospitality, and show Philip the parts of Germany so familiar to me.

Rebecca Hector

Membership– Contact: Jane Wood

We warmly welcome 2 new members

Mrs Margaret Tyas

Mr Jim Johnston

We all hope to be meeting them soon.

CHRISTMAS FAYRE 2011

It is that time of year again. If any members feel they are able to help on the stall on any of the days please phone Jane 01905 345453.

Help from male members to set up and dismantle the stall would be appreciated.

Opening times of Fayre

Thursday 1st December 4pm-9pm

Friday 2nd December 11am-9pm setting up 10am

Saturday 3rd December 10am-7pm setting up 9am

Sunday 4th December 11am-5pm setting up 10am

25TH ANNIVERSARY OF TWINNING WITH KLEVE- MAY 2012

We have been invited to take part in the celebrations in Kleve, May 6th to 13th 2012
As you can see, it is from Sunday to Sunday to avoid heavy traffic, hopefully.

A full programme of our visit to be arranged, details later.

The cost will depend on the numbers joining us, but at this time I would of thought around £140 per head.

I would ask all those members who would like to join us on this special visit, to send me a cheque for £20 deposit
so I can get the numbers and go ahead and book the coach etc.

FAREWELL TO AN OLD MEMBER

The funeral service for Dennis Margrett, one of the original members of the Twinning Association which was formed in 1987, took place in January and was attended by several officers and members of the Association. We learnt a great deal about the life and achievements of this highly respected letter-writer who was well-known for his serious and well-informed views on both national and international issues. His support for twinning sprang from his desire to promote a better understanding between us and our neighbouring countries and it also arose from his profound knowledge of history and his personal experience of conflict and tragedy.

Dennis regularly attended our meetings and social events but he remained largely unobtrusive, partly due his very precarious health and the natural modesty which made him a very good listener. For many years Muriel and I used to collect him from Rowan Court but it finally became very difficult to manage and sadly his active support declined.

His generous legacy to the Association indicates the intense loyalty he felt for the ideals on which the Twinning Association is founded and, if that is possible, increases our sense of gratitude to Dennis for the encouragement he gave to us during his long and steadfast membership.

Clifford Lord, Vice President



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