

Worcester Twinning Association

CONNECTIONS

SPRING 2012



Editor- Contact Derek Furby



French Flavour to Worcester Head of the River

A group of 18 oarsmen and women from Vernon joined this year's Head of the River competition, which took place at Worcester on Saturday 18th of February. The course was from The Camp at Grimley to the Worcester Rowing Club Boathouse at Pitchcroft. The group consisted of 10 junior rowers and 8 adults. Vernon posted the 4th fastest time overall and boat 86 (seen above) came 1st in their category.

Their visit returns one made by Worcester Rowing Club in 2007 when they were invited by Vernon to participate in a large regatta down the river through Rouen to celebrate the Rouen Rowing Club's 150th anniversary.

The French visitors, who were hosted by Rowing Club members, were welcomed to Worcester by the Mayor Cllr. Dr. David Tibbutt at a buffet held in St Georges Primary School.

The next exchange will be a Junior Rowing Training Camp in Vernon for Worcester youngsters to be held in April 2013.

In February we had a group of 13 and 14 year olds visiting Worcester from the Freier –Vom-Stein Gymnasium in Kleve.

The Mayor Cllr Dr David Tibbut welcomed them into the Mayor's Parlor, and gave them a short guided tour around the Guildhall. Afterwards they had a tour around Worcester.

Freier-Vom-Stein Gymnasium would like a friendship pact with a school in Worcester for exchanges etc.

If anyone can help with this request, by suggesting a school in this area that may be interested, please don't hesitate to let me know.

Kleve visit in May this year

We have 44 people travelling to Kleve by coach from the 6th to 13th May and 8 people travelling independently to celebrate 25 years of twinning with Kleve.

A full program of events as yet to be finalised.

My Trip to Germany

For 9 days this autumn, I visited my exchange partner Rebecca and her parents, Geva and Ludger in Kleve, Germany. Following Rebecca's visit to England earlier this year, I was very excited about the trip and I wasn't disappointed.

On the first day, we visited a climbing/adventure park. I was brave enough to choose the 10m option, but was regretting that minutes later when humiliated in the early exercises. However I improved in confidence and balance and managed to finish the course in some style.

Another day, we took a day trip to Cologne. The city was a beautiful mix of old and new, and I found it captivating. We visited the 'Dom' (Cathedral), which is bigger than the one in my home city of Worcester and also went shopping.

As well as this, we played football and tennis, went for bike rides, ate traditional German cuisine, walked by the Rhein on several occasions, met many relatives and friends, played games and visited Emmerich.

Overall, I really enjoyed my time in Germany. When I returned home, following a cancelled flight and subsequent four hour delay, I missed my exchange partner and her parents greatly. I would never forget the trip.

Philip Hadley





PARIS 2 PITMASTON

Whatever is that ? I hear you ask. Paris 2 Pitmaston is a charity bike ride organised by the Friends of Pitmaston Primary School to raise funds for the school and for three local charities, Acorns Hospice, Leukemia Care and St. John's Church.

On Monday 2nd April a group of 12 intrepid cyclists will begin the long ride home from Paris to Worcester arriving back on Good Friday.

Some months ago I was approached by Jodie Collins, their organiser, who had noticed that their route passed very close to le Vésinet. She asked if we could provide any contacts or support, and I have put them in touch with the Cycling Club of le Vésinet who are going to welcome them and show them around the local neighbourhood. They have also been offered accommodation in the stadium.

This is another example of how links can be established between like-minded organisations in our twin towns.

The cyclists will be welcomed home at a huge Community Fun Day at Pitmaston School, Malvern Road, Worcester, on Good Friday 6th April from 12 – 4 pm. We have been asked to promote our organisation by manning a stall there, and I should be delighted to hear from any members with bright ideas for doing just that. We are thinking of having a Treasure Hunt – basically a map of France to stick pins in and guess where you think the treasure is hidden, the prize being a sum of money.

Please contact me on 01905 454589 vgreenow@tiscali.co.uk or if you don't want to help man a stall, just turn up on the day and join in the fun.

I would also like to hear from anyone who would like to go to le Vésinet for their annual Fete de la Marguerite on 23, 24, 25 June.

**** **COMMUNITY GAMES & FUN DAY** ****

Good Friday, 6th April - 12-4pm - Pitmaston Primary School

Pig Roast - Bar - Ice Creams & Candy Floss - Music – Sport & Dance Displays - Trader Stalls - Bouncy Castle - Pony Rides -

Carousel - Go Karts – Balloon Release –

Easter Bonnet Parade & Egg Trail - Community Games & lots more.

**** **CALLING ALL COMMUNITY GROUPS & CLUBS** ****

Why not come along and take part in our **Community Games & Fun Day?**

If you would like to promote your organisation or community group, whilst running a stall or table of your choice (tombola, hook-a-duck, coconut shy, book shop, craft or activity table, for example!) & raise funds for your group at the same time as helping us to reach our fundraising target of £13,000, please call

Jodie Collins



Lithuanians from our twin town are at the Christmas Fayre again

Indrė and Daiva came here once again from Ukmerge for the Christmas Fayre, selling mostly Daiva's knitted clothing and hand-made Christmas decorations. We persuaded them to stay a little longer this time, so that they could see more of England than Worcester's High Street, though the shopping here is a very big attraction!

However, they did ask to see Oxford University. So, we managed to show them the outsides of several Oxford colleges but, unfortunately, all the colleges closed their doors to us, fearing that people from the street would cause trouble inside. We do not know if our Lithuanians looked troublesome, but there were other people around at the time, protesting about education cuts! However, our visitors did climb St Mary's Church tower, and share a seat with St Edmund (of St Edmund Hall)!

Coming from a flat country, the Malvern Hills look like mountains, so our visitors took to these 'mountains' and loved looking down on the world as they climbed. As well as Malvern and Worcester, it was clear enough to see Wales from the top. They also went up Dover's Hill (on the Cotswolds) and enjoyed looking round Chipping Campden and Stratford-upon-Avon. They found Anne Hathaway's Cottage exceptionally interesting, and Indrė understood a lot more about the origins of our language by the end of this visit. Holy Trinity Church (with Shakespeare's grave) and the newly rebuilt Memorial Theatre gave even more insight into our heritage.



At the Fayre itself, Indrė was introduced as Terry Coles, but she managed to cope with this mistake with good humour, and gave a very good speech in English at the Opening Ceremony. There was a lot of music for entertainment right next to the Lithuanian stall, and the glühwein from the German stall kept them warm once again. Several Lithuanians living in Worcester, including some basketball players from the University, came to talk to them, and everyone was very friendly. The end came all too soon, but Christmas dinner in the Cricket Club was quite an occasion – a superb meal, with the floodlit Cathedral as a backdrop! They were very sad to go, and are already looking forward to the next Christmas Fayre.

Christmas Fayre

Last year (2011) was a much better Fayre than the previous year when many of the coaches were cancelled due to very bad weather. The stalls were again in front of the Guildhall, which sometimes got a little crowded when the street entertainer's performances were taking place. Planning is already underway for this year's Fayre.

We have tried selling many different things such as:-Scarves, Table linen, Handbags, Cushions, Linen bread baskets, Manicure and Sewing sets, and Christmas Cards (good sellers)



This year we are looking for inspiration on articles that you think would make ideal Christmas items, or indeed any saleable commodity.

We are also looking for photographs or original paintings to add to our card collection.

Your feedback would be greatly appreciated.

A very warm welcome to all new members which include:-

Mr. and Mrs. G Taggart, Mr. D Connaughton, Mrs. J Palmer, Mrs. H M Wallace

We look forward to seeing you all sometime in the near future.

Our secretary retires

At our AGM in February, Margaret Holloway, our Secretary of 5 Years, retired from this very responsible position.

Members of The Executive Committee would like to say a **very big thank you**, for the excellent work that she has done in the demanding role of secretary. She has kept track of all our correspondence and provided us with agendas and the minutes of our meetings each month.

We are looking for someone to take on this post of secretary, so if anyone is interested please get in contact with any member of the committee.

Margaret is still a member of the Executive committee so if you are thinking of applying for the post you will have expert guidance on hand.

Christine Donovan has kindly agreed to take the minutes of our meetings until the post is filled.

TRIBUTES

PHILIP HYTCH 1929–2012

Members of the Twinning Association were deeply saddened to learn of the loss of our greatly admired former Mayor, Philip Hytch on Friday 24th of February.

It was in 1986 that Philip, as Mayor, led a Council delegation to explore the possibility of a formal twinning link with the German City of Kleve.

On return to Worcester he reported to the Council that Kleve was in all respects “an ideal twin for the city” and on the 14th April 1987 he signed the formal Twinning Agreement with Kleve.

Philip was a truly compassionate man and was devoted to the promotion of friendship and reconciliation. During his visit to Kleve, after being taken to the Allied Cemetery he asked if he could also visit the German graves of those killed in the two massive air raids which twice destroyed Kleve in October 1944 and February 1945.

We will all miss his loyal support for the ideals of Twinning and his long service as a Vice-President of our Association.



Clifford Lord, Vice-President

Philip Hytch was our Mayor in 1987 and he signed the Twinning Document together with the Mayor of Kleve, Herr Gert Brock. Philip was always interested in the twinning and helped me in several different ways. I remember him welcoming a group from Kleve in fluent German. He also helped me to translate a musical programme using his knowledge of classical music, when a classical pianist came from Kleve to perform at the Cathedral!

We sent a red Telephone Box to Kleve in 1988 and he spoke from the Guildhall directly to Councilor Neil (then our Mayor) who was taking part on a visit to Kleve. As a musical aside I well remember his forming a choir from staff at the Guildhall and he rehearsed them to take part in an Arts Day at the Guildhall. I have good memories of Philip and will be attending the funeral.

John Cave, Vice President

JILL PHILLIPS 1933 – 2011

Jill was born in Worcester, attended St. John's Primary School and Worcester Girls' Grammar. She moved to Basingstoke in her twenties to work in the Tax Office there and then the pharmaceutical company, Eli Lilly. She spent a few years working in Dinkelsbuhl, Germany, for Eli Lilly, and then returned to the same company again in Basingstoke where she lived until she retired.



Her father had died a year or two before she retired and she retained her old family home in St. John's to return to for her retirement. She was actively involved in the Twinning Association here until ill health limited her activities. She was a wonderfully organized person, and an excellent communicator - never missing a birthday, and a prolific letter-writer. She suffered from emphysema and latterly with eye problems. However, she was the same strong personality to the end, and sadly missed.

Anne Bisson