

Worcester Twinning Association

CONNECTIONS

WINTER 2019



Editor Contact: Derek Furby
Chairman Contact: Liz Smith

The last year has been a particularly busy, and expensive, year for Worcester Twinning Association with the 25 anniversary of our twinning with Le Vesinet providing members with the opportunity of a group visit to that city as well as hosting a return visit from them here in Worcester.

As we look forward into 2020 I would remind members of our programme. We will as usual be invited to send a small number (usually between 3 and 5) guests to the Fete de la Marguerite in Le Vesinet and we are hopeful that once again, as has been the case for several years now, we will receive a similar invitation to Ukmerge to take part in their annual fair. These events are usually close together, making participation in both something of a challenge. As they are invitations for small numbers of our members, there is no organised travel to these events, so members who wish to go should let our liaison officers know, but need to make their own travel arrangements. (And please note that flights to and from Lithuania are not as frequent as to many parts of Europe so that a visit often needs to be extended to a full week. While there is plenty to do in Ukmerge, our hosts' provision of accommodation is for the 3 day duration of the fair, so members will need to pay for any extension necessitated by the infrequent flights.)

In the autumn we plan to host a visit from our original twin town – the German city of Kleve.

Chairman's report

Kleve Contact: Margaret Tyas



Our group on the riverbank at Rees during our trip to Germany

Five am wasn't the time we would have chosen to set off in our coach for Kleve but missing the ferry was a less attractive option. We were all happy to be there and looking forward to meeting old friends and making new ones. After a trouble free journey we were met by our hosts in Kleve and taken home for a meal and a rest.

The next day was a trip to Museum Orientalis, followed by a tour of Kranenburg and Groesbeek. The Museum is in the open air and shows how life was in the Middle East at the time of Christ. We had to use our imaginations in the damp northern weather but it was interesting to see the copies of Jewish, Roman and Muslim houses.

Petra was then able to show us the differences between German and Netherlands towns. We were glad that the poor Groesbeekers don't have to make brushes anymore!

Wednesday saw us meeting the Mayor of Kleve at the new city hall and then being shown to her office.

We noted the difference with our Guildhall. In the evening Kleve gave us a very enjoyable meal and reception at the Wasserburg education centre

Probably the longest journey of our stay on Thursday involved a boat trip along the Rhine from Rees to the old industrial town of Wesel. That was followed by a ride on a preserved railway to see an old water pumping station. Not a steam loco but very interesting to the rail and engineering buffs among us. We could then enjoy the Rhine scenery on the way back to Rees and a currywurst if wished!

Our last day included visiting the Airborne Museum at near Arnhem in the Netherlands, our visit coinciding with the 75th anniversary of operation Market Garden. It was a very sobering experience for all of us.

Then to the hunting estate of Castle Doorworth where we sheltered from the rain and had a look round followed by a coffee and cake in the tea room. National Trust members were able to have free entry providing they had their membership cards.

Something to remember for next time!

Saturday was time for our departure for home and after photos and farewells to our friends we were back on the coach and heading for the ferry again.



David



Le Vésinet Contact: Rosemary Campbell

I normally travel to Le Vesinet during the second week of December to deliver Christmas gifts from several families who have longstanding correspondents in Le Vesinet. This year was no exception and I went weighted down by two large carrier bags, a rucksack and my weekend case. (My host Martine lent me a suitcase on wheels for the return journey instead of the carrier bags.) Travelling at this time also gives me the opportunity to accept dinner invitations from the families of students who have visited Worcester during the course of the year.

This year illness made it impossible for the Association to send a team to the Noel de Jumelages weekend so I was Worcester's sole representative there and it fell to me to man our stall. Fortunately we were helped by our French friends. The Christmas market this year was held on the Friday afternoon and Saturday in a tented complex in front of the Mairie. We were selling Assam and Breakfast teas, Christmas crackers, puddings, cakes, mince pies, shortbreads and some wonderful homemade preserves, chutneys and marmalades made by Pam Furby which proved enormously popular. We sold everything by 3.00 pm on the Saturday and the whole exercise was most profitable. I was able to return home with just over £700.



The weekend was a great success cementing friendships and there was a great atmosphere from Le Vesinet's other twin towns in Germany, Australia, America and Spain. The transport strike on the French railways and metro network produced some rather anxious moments but despite this we managed to return home safely.

Robert

Worcester Victorian Fayre

The year finished as is now the tradition, with our own Christmas Fayre here in Worcester, in which guests from all three European twin towns participated: Le Vesinet, Kleve and Ukmerge. We took a slightly different line on our own participation this year. As we are now only provided with three stalls by the Fayre organisers we decided to let our visitors "make the running" by having a stall each for the Thursday, Friday and Saturday of the Fayre, just taking over a stall on the Sunday when our guests from Le Vesinet and Kleve have left for home. (Visitors from Ukmerge as is normal, stayed for longer mainly due to the infrequency of flights to Lithuania, so continued to run their stall on the Sunday also.)

This plan worked very well, with Sunday trading proving very popular, and a useful surplus was made, although some of that surplus was due to a very generous donation of gluhwein by friends from Kleve. While no decisions have been made, this format is one which we will be considering for next year's Fayre. Unfortunately a combination of travel disruption and illness prevented us from sending a team to Le Vesinet for their Christmas Fayre the following weekend. However, the French took plenty of our produce back with them and we are indebted to the Le Vesinet Twinning Association and to Robert Loveless for manning a Worcester stall there and selling out virtually all our stock.

Liz

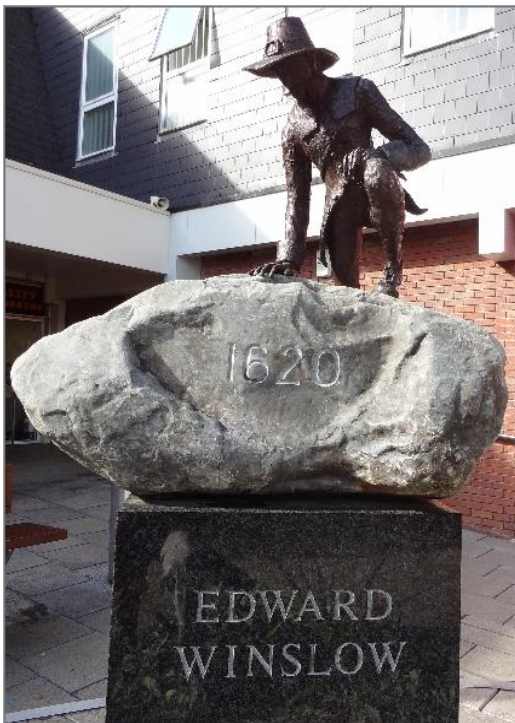
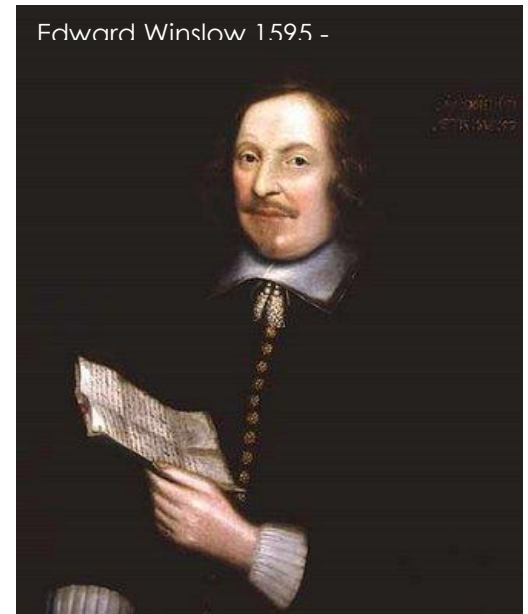
Worcestershire's first involvement with America

2020 celebrates the 400th anniversary of the landing of the Pilgrim Fathers to 'The New World'. Although this was not the discovery of America or even the first settlement, it was perhaps the most important.

Edward Winslow was probably the most influential of the 102 travellers on the Mayflower. Born in Droitwich in 1595, he later, 1605 to 1611 was a scholar at the Kings School Worcester. 1617 he travelled to Leyden in Holland to attend the University and because of Henry VIII reformation, to avoid religious persecution. Of the 102 colonists, 35 were members of the English Separatist Church (a radical faction of Puritanism). The Separatists negotiated with a London stock company to finance a pilgrimage to America. About 2/3rds of those making the trip aboard the Mayflower were hired to protect the company's interests.

They left Holland in the Speedwell to join the Mayflower, and emigrate to America. Having become dissatisfied with how the Church was being run in England.

Edward and his wife transferred to the Mayflower and left England on 16th September 1620 with 100 other Pilgrims, arriving in Cape Cod Harbour 67 days later where they founded the colony of New Plymouth.



A bronze statue to commemorate Edward Winslow is at St Andrews Shopping Centre

It's daunting to think that all their efforts could have been in vain, if a supply of food was not forthcoming. Winslow was given the task of negotiating with the local Wamponaog Indians, on whose land they were settling. A rapport was established where the Indians taught the settler to hunt and grow crops. In return they helped fight off other hostile tribes.

He became Governor of Plymouth Colonies during the years, 1633-1634, 1636-1637, and 1644-1645.

1635 He returned to England as an emissary of New England but was arrested for performing a wedding service and sent to Fleet Prison.

He died of Yellow Fever en route to Jamaica and was buried at sea on 8th May.1655. He was 59 years old