

Worcester Twinning Association

# CONNECTIONS

SUMMER 2012



Editor- Contact Derek Furby

## Her Majesty is welcomed to Worcester by our new Mayor Roger Berry .



Photo from Worcester News

One of the highlights of my first two months in office has been the visit of the Queen and Duke of Edinburgh some two weeks ago. Jill and I were involved in welcoming them to Worcester at the Hive when the Queen toured this impressive building.

We were then whisked away to the Guildhall by car following the route the royal visitors were to follow some 15 minutes later. It was a tremendous experience seeing the lines of people, cadets, uniformed services; just so happy to be there. We waved and told them we were the warm-up act! At the Guildhall it rained and again I welcomed the royal Party this time to the Guildhall. After meeting representatives from throughout Worcestershire, we changed then went upstairs to luncheon.

I sat on the royal table to her majesty's right; the duke on an adjacent table. Our conversation was easy and surprisingly relaxed. She was well informed about Worcester and commented on national events. I proposed the loyal toast something unusual with the sovereign actually present

Afterwards I rushed downstairs to present a plate depicting scenes of Worcester painted by a porcelain artist. A replica plate is now on display on the ground floor cabinet adjacent the Freedom Board.

I then hosted a tea party for visiting civic heads and guildhall staff thanking them for what had been a long day.

I then made my maiden live appearance on BBC Midlands News to tell them about our day.

Roger

Chris Donovan very kindly offered to write-up the minutes of the Executive Meetings for a short time only, until a person to fill the role of secretary is taken on. Chris says that she will step down from this role in September, so we are **desperately seeking** another person or persons to do this very important job and fill the role of Secretary.

The main role of this job is to take the minutes at each Executive Meeting which occur once a month.

If any of our newer members (or indeed 'old' ones) would be interested could they please contact  
for further information.



## THE OLYMPIC TORCH VISITS WORCESTER

Worcester was proud to be one of the 66 overnight host towns of The Olympic Torch on the 24<sup>th</sup>/25<sup>th</sup> of May.

The torch arrived at Worcester County Cricket Ground where an evening of celebration was organized by VisitWorcester, on behalf of the City Council.

On the next leg of its journey towards Malvern, the earlier than scheduled start from the Cathedral took most people by surprise. The torch wound its way through College Green past the King's School and onto Kleva Walk where it was photographed passing the Swan Statue by Henry Tomsett. The torchbearer Wayne Whittaker was heading towards Worcester Bridge.

## "Centenary of the Outbreak of the First World War"

In Worcestershire, as in many other parts of the UK, a working group has been set up to commemorate the start of WW1. It is chaired by the Mayor Councillor Roger Berry (a strong supporter of the Twinning Association by the way) and includes Lord Faulkner of Worcester who liaises with Andrew Murrison MP, the Prime Minister's Special Representative for The Great War Centenary Commemorations.

I am also on this group to represent the Twinning Association and at the last meeting it was suggested that, if any of our twin towns had any particular memorabilia or other items from the period in August 1914 when the war started or later, that would be of relevance they would be welcome.

This is the same request that has been made to the citizens of Worcester and if any members have any items (letters, photos etc.) or suggestions then there is a Suggestion Box for them in the Guildhall.

The commemoration will be ongoing and so of eventual interest will be the formal "adoption" in 1921 by Worcester City Council of the war ravaged village of Gouzeaucourt in Northern France to which Worcester gave much material and financial aid. Worcester was not alone in this as Malvern, Evesham and Stourbridge also adopted villages in France.

Nevill Swanson."

**We would be very interested if any of our overseas readers have any WW1 memorabilia that they would be willing to let us display, or copy to display. If so, please email the editor.**

### Field Marshal The Right Honourable The Earl Kitchener

In 1914, at the start of the First World War, Lord Kitchener became Secretary of State for War, a Cabinet Minister. One of the few to foresee a long war, he organised the largest volunteer army that Britain, and indeed the world, had seen and a significant expansion of materials production to fight Germany on the Western Front. His commanding image, appearing on recruiting posters demanding "Your country needs you!", remains recognised and parodied in popular culture to this day.

Info from Wikipedia



JOIN YOUR COUNTRY'S ARMY!  
GOD SAVE THE KING

## 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebrations at Kleve

Another very successful visit to Kleve to celebrate the 25th Anniversary in May and this time they really did put on a good show for us.

I would like to thank all the people who travelled on the coach as without you this trip would not have been possible.

I would also like to thank all the new members who have joined the twinning after a very enjoyable visit. They are Judy Dunham, Dave & Jane Fuller, Sandra & Ray Roberts, Ferial Small, Penny Moulders and Gordon Kelly our coach driver.

Most of all we must all thank Karl-Heinz and his team for arranging host families and for an excellent programme of events during our stay. Next year when it is their turn to visit, I have all your names so expect a phone call for accommodation.

### Gasometer



Our first scheduled visit was to the Gasometer at Oberhausen. Why on earth were we visiting a gasometer? But what a surprise! The former gasometer of the Oberhausen Iron and Steel works had been transformed into an exhibition hall, currently housing an exhibition of huge photographs entitled "Magic Places".

There were amazing views, first of natural wonders of the world,

then on the first floor level, man-made wonders, from the temple of Abu Simbel to the Chrysler Building in New York. The centerpiece was a giant sculpture of a tree, the whole height of the gasometer. The upper branches of which were only visible to those who had taken the lift up to admire the view from the roof.

After a few hours we were ready for the delights of Centre O shopping complex and its canal-side restaurants. What an amazing start to our week of excursions.

### Vivien

Our originally planned visit on Tuesday to the Landtag at Dusseldorf had to be cancelled because the Parliament was in session. As an alternative we were very fortunate to be taken to Floriade 2012 which is a World Horticultural Expo at Venlo - The Netherlands. This event is held every 10 years. The park was separated into five different 'worlds' and covered 66 hectares.

Countries from all over the World had sent feature exhibits, inside which gave an idea of how their own gardens would look. There was also a selection of products from that Country.

The day was made perfect by a warmer than average summers day.



On Thursday our visit took us to Deventer, Holland . This beautiful town which was the home town of Dr. Albert Schweitzer where he performed organ concerts to raise funds for his missionary work in Africa. Deventer is also home to a bridge which was used in the 1977 film “A Bridge Too Far”, which closely resembled the actual bridge which is at Arnhem.

Friday. A trip to ‘Probat’, a coffee roasting machine manufacturers, proved very interesting and we learned a lot about coffee that we didn’t know before, this was followed by a boat trip on the massive Rhine River. Always interesting to see the amount of cargo that is transported up and down Germany’s life line.

Saturday. The ‘Pièce de résistance’ started with a unique experience, not encountered since our youth, going to the cinema on a Saturday morning. The manager of the cinema had been kind enough to allow us a private viewing of the film ‘Dark Shadows’ starring Johnny Depp. A very funny black comedy, ‘a must to watch’, followed by champagne in the foyer. The 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations that evening



To mark the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, two specially produced Royal Worcester plates were presented by Jo Hodges to Theo Brauer and Karl-Heinz Koster

The following passage is a shortened version of the speech given by Clifford Lord in German at the Evening Celebration.

*“I hope I have the ability to say a big thank you to the people of Kleve and all those who have helped to bring us together. Some names come to the fore: Gert Brock, Paul Küsters, Laurie Browning and also Karl-Heinz and Gisela. From our side: Philip Hytch, David Wright, George Milton, Les and Rosemary Tunley, John Cave and myself. We thank these and others for their dedication to the ideals for which we were founded. We have been together for 25 years. That is 24 years and 5 months longer than Henry VIII and Anne of Cleves. It is our dearest hope that our twinning will continue for many years to come and that the link between Kleve and Worcester will go on from strength to strength. Thank you for your kindness and hospitality.”*

Clifford Lord May 2012

### **An update on Karl-Heinz**

After a spell of illness he is back to his normal self, but in early August he will need to go back into hospital for a few days for another operation.

At this present time Karl-Heinz and Gisela are taking a well-earned holiday. We wish him all the best.. Les.



## Fete de la Marguerite 2012

A contingent from Worcester was invited to the Fete de la Marguerite at le Vésinet as we are every June. However, this year for the first time it was rained off. All the chairs and tables were ready, the open-air Mass had taken place, but obviously the prayers had not been heartfelt enough, and the rain which had at first been just slight was obviously setting in for the day. The roundabouts, the barbecues, the climbing-wall and the classic car display rapidly lost their appeal as Plan B was put into action.

Fortunately Anne-Marie Laurent, former President of their Twinning Committee, has a large house with terrace (under cover) which was able to accommodate about 60 members and guests together with the picnics which they had lovingly prepared to be eaten *en plein air*. A very good time was had by all, and though the rain drenched the gardens we admired through the windows, it did not dampen our spirits. Sincere thanks to Anne-Marie for her hospitality.



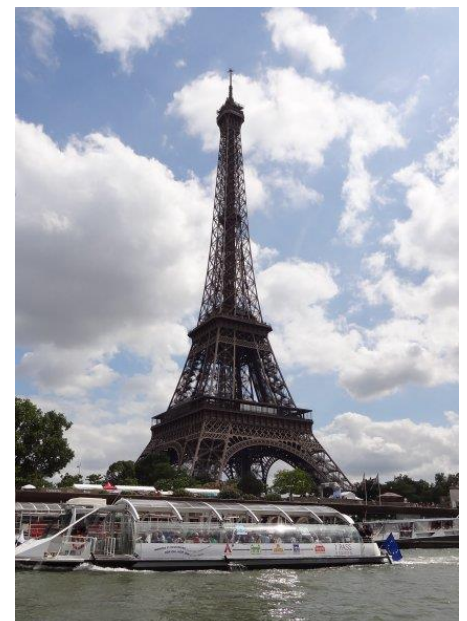
The rest of the weekend was spent in excursions to Versailles and Giverny, and the celebratory dinner in a new venue, the foyer of the theatre.

At the theatre the 40<sup>th</sup> Twinning Anniversary Celebration between Le Vésinet and Oakwood USA, was indeed a Special event. The beautiful cake which included fireworks that were maybe a little too powerful resulted in a **warm** after-dinner dessert.



Versailles the iconic palace was built for Louis XIV

When visiting le Vesinet, there are always so many beautiful places to see within a short distance.



The boat trip on the Seine is a very good and relaxing way to take in the sights that Paris has to hold.



Visitors from Oakwood were greeted by the new Maire du Vésinet, Philippe Bastard de Crisnay, who presented them with gifts to celebrate their 40 years of twinning.

### **Ticket con at Gare du Nord**

Four of us who travelled by Eurostar to Le Vésinet had problems buying tickets for the RER at Gare du Nord. We couldn't find a ticket office manned by a human being, so approached the dreaded ticket machines. The first one was surrounded by a group of youths all similarly dressed in blue jackets, jeans and trainers offering to help people. We suspected this was not a genuine offer so moved on to another machine. We had instructions from our hosts to buy a book of 10 tickets for the RER to Le Vésinet. When one of our cards was rejected, another youth, dressed in similar blue jacket, approached us and asked where we wanted to go. Then he quickly put a card into the machine and produced 4 tickets. He asked for 32 euros for these tickets which one of our group paid. He told us each ticket was valid for 10 journeys. Suspecting these were not the right tickets we argued with him but he kept asking us for more money. Knowing now we had been conned by this time, we refused to pay any more and he gave us the tickets and disappeared.

At this point one of our group realized her suitcase had disappeared. We searched around the ticket machines and wherever we had been, then found a security guard and explained the problem. The guard said the "boys in blue" were "voleurs" (thieves) and had probably taken the suitcase whilst distracting us. He directed us to the police office to report the theft where we were told we would have to wait at least an hour to make a full report. The officer at the desk told us we could make the statement at our destination so we decided to do that. When we got back to the rest of the group, who were guarding the remaining luggage, the security officer had been joined by another who said he had found the case. We had to retrieve it from the lost property office and pay 9 euros. After the guard had directed us to the ticket office we got the right tickets and found the right RER direction.

All's well that ends well, on this occasion. We arrived at our destination about 1 ½ hours late where our hosts were anxiously waiting for us.

**So be warned – DO NOT ACCEPT HELP FROM ANYONE AROUND TICKET MACHINES  
AND NEVER LET GO OF YOUR SUITCASE.**

Hilary Wallace

VERNON- Contact:

Rosemary Campbell

## **Dates or Plums for your Diary!**

Visitors from Vernon will be coming to Worcester over the August Bank Holiday to take part in the Pershore Plum Fayre on Bank Holiday Monday!

They will be having a stand at the fair to sell regional produce and items from France. The Plum Fayre is a fantastic day out with events and activities to suit everyone and it would be really lovely if members could also visit the stall and say a friendly "Bonjour" to them.

The programme of social events for members and the visitors from Vernon is as follows:

### **Saturday 25th August:**

Great Comberton Flower Show, near Pershore at 2pm. Cost £2 per head. with possibility of cream tea afterwards.

Party in the evening at Besford Court Community Hall, near Pershore, including buffet dinner, drinks, raffle and entertainment. The cost will be £10 per head.

### **Sunday 26th August:**

Wars of the Roses Spectacle at Avoncroft Museum near Bromsgrove, where we can take up the White Rose of York or the Red Rose of Lancaster and travel back in time to the troubled summer of 1455. We'll meet the knights, ladies and soldiers of the 15th Century, enjoy the skirmishes, living history and discover what life was like during this treacherous time. The cost will be £7.70 per person and a reduced rate of £6.60 for senior citizens and £4 for children.

### **Monday 27th August:**

Plum Fayre in Pershore - please come along to support the visitors from Vernon.

### **Monday Evening:**

Drink at a Pub in Worcester at about 7.30pm to 8.00pm, followed by the firework display by the river at 10pm.

Please welcome our friends from Vernon to Worcestershire again by attending all or some of these events. The whole weekend will be great fun and I am sure everyone will enjoy themselves.

A booking form will be emailed to members in the near future. In the meantime please put the dates in your diary and send me an email listing the events you want to attend: [rosemarytwinning@btinternet.com](mailto:rosemarytwinning@btinternet.com)

### **Travel arrangements for the Plum Fayre**

For those wishing to travel by car, there will be a Park & Ride from Pershore High School, Station Road WR10 2BX

There is no Bus service but a Bank Holiday Train Service and linking coach to the town center.

Social Events Contact:

Rosemary Tunley

## CITY OF WORCESTER TWINNING ASSOCIATION EVENTS

To all members,

This year we are celebrating 25 years of Twinning. September 16<sup>th</sup> to the 22<sup>rd</sup>. With the help of an E.U. Grant we are holding a week of celebrations, with guests invited from Kleve, Le-Vésinet, Worcs. Mass, Ukmerge, Poland and Spain. There will be a total of 30 guests.

We would like you all to join in the celebrations to make this a special week of Twinning.

We are inviting you all to join us at the following events:-

### WEDNESDAY 19th September

2.30pm Tour of the Cathedral, including Library, Evensong, and afternoon tea.

The cost per person is; **£11.50**

### WEDNESDAY 19th September

7.00pm A Carvery at Manor Farm, Lower Wick. The cost is approx. **£4.00** per head payable on the evening but we need to know numbers

### THURSDAY 20th September

A coach tour around the Worcester area, a picnic at British Camp, Malvern and then onto Ledbury. (You would need to bring a picnic) We will start at 9.am, there will be no cost, but numbers will be limited. Therefore a FIRST COME basis.

### THURSDAY 20th September

6.00pm A buffet supper at Worcester Rowing Club. There will be an ergo rowing machine competition and the Morris Men will be entertaining us. The cost is **£5.00**

### FRIDAY 21st September

12.00pm A 2 hour River Boat Trip including cream tea and sandwiches. The cost is **£13.50**

### FRIDAY 21st September

7.30pm in the Guildhall, Elgar Choral Concert, international music from our Twin Towns.

The cost is **£8.00**

### SATURDAY 22nd September

7.30pm--We will be ending the week with our Twinning Dinner, it will be waitress service, serving a three course meal with a veg option. The cost per person is **£15.00** including wine. **£21.00** for non-members

We are getting this information out to our members early as there is a lot of planning to do and would appreciate replies a.s.a.p.

## **TWINNING PROGRAMME FOR 25TH ANNIVERSARY**

### **SUNDAY 16TH SEPTEMBER**

14.00-welcome by the mayor and brief tour of guildhall.

15.00 -presentation about twin towns, cultures and delegates' expectations' of the week, teas and refreshments

16.00 - schools/groups to provide song/dance

### **MONDAY 17th**

10.00-Mosque

11.30-1300-The Hive

13.00-14.00 lunch at Berkley Court

14.30-16.30-Hereford & Worcester Radio, Worcester News

### **TUESDAY 18TH**

visit to Parliament in London

### **WEDNESDAY 19<sup>th</sup>**

10.00-11.30-tour of the Commandery

11.30-12.30 - Tudor House

12.30-13.30 lunch at Berkley Court

13.30-14.20-forum on ACTIVE AGEING at Berkley Court

14.30-18.30-tour of Cathedral Library and Evensong including tea

19.00-Manor Farm, Lower Wick Carvery

### **THURSDAY 20<sup>TH</sup>**

9.0am, Croft road, BUS TOUR

9.30-11.00 visit to Worcester Bosch

11.00-12.30-Sixways

12.30-Pump Room Environmental Centre

14.00-Picnic at British Camp

15.30-visit to Ledbury

18.00-Social Evening at Rowing Club

### **FRIDAY 21<sup>st</sup>**

9.30-11.30-Visit to Schools and New College

12.00.14.00-Boat Trip on River Severn, Including Cream Tea

14.30.16,00-Feedback from Visitors, Photo Exhibition at Guildhall

19.30-21.30-Elgar Chorale, Guildhall

### **SATURDAY 22<sup>nd</sup>**

AM- Free Time In Worcester

14.00.1700-Concert at St Andrews Methodist Hall, Pump Street

Open to ALL Twinning Members and General Public

19.30-Dinner in Assembly Room at Guildhall

**IF ANY MEMBERS WANT TO JOIN US FOR THE ABOVE EVENTS  
YOU ARE VERY WELCOME, BUT PLEASE LET US KNOW IN ADVANCE AS NUMBERS WILL BE  
LIMITED.  
CONTACT ROSEMARY OR LES**