

visit to durmersheim

Early morning, Thursday 31st May, and a group of half awake folk gather in the Manor Car Park. Part Twinning members and part musicians from the Littlehampton Concert Band.

En route to Dover we stopped at Clacketts Lane, we don't normally stop there and this didn't bode well for a fast trip. A further delay occurred at the ferry port while we waited for a change of driver and then finally, after a further wait, we drive onto the boat. This collection of delays, coupled in part with the coach company's decision to travel via the Rheims motorway, the A26, rather than through the toll-free motorways of Belgium meant that it was probable we would not arrive in Durmersheim at the scheduled time.



Schwazbach



The Dam at Schwazbach

But our extreme lateness was finally sealed when, having driven for about ten minutes or more from a motorway stop, one of the band members requested that we return to the services to pick-up a bag they had forgotten. As we were on a toll road this involved driving on to the

next Péage, paying the charge, navigating to the return carriageway, obtaining a new ticket, driving past the services again in a northerly direction until the next Péage, paying, making a short country ride to obtain yet another ticket and driving back in the direction of Rheims to the services. Fortunately for the band member and his wife their plastic carrier bag had been handed in and luckily their passports were safe.

In all this added at least an hour and a half to our journey time; something that now gets just a curt mention on the Concert Band website. But then, reading their account, the fact that it was actually a Twinning visit gets just a passing mention!



No see the Mummelsee!



Editorial & Layout

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Littlehampton Twinning is a self financing Association independent of the local Town Council. New members are most welcome. If you would like more information, or are interested in joining, please contact the secretary.

Arriving embarrassingly late there was no welcome in the town hall. It was straight home in our host's cars to partake of our belated evening meal. Some members of the band having arrived by plane were waiting to be reunited with their instruments. Others, not wanting to stay with host families, had booked hotel accommodation and with our driver low on hours were relying on the twinning coach to take them to Karlsruhe.

Friday morning and two coaches were waiting to take us up into the Black Forest. The first stop was at the small electricity generating dam of Schwabenbach, then it was on to the Ruhestein Nature Centre which opened its doors and offered wildlife information and much welcome



Refuge at the Ruhestein Nature Centre

refuge from the rain. From there it was but a short drive to the picturesque Mummelsee lake, if we could only see it, and lunch in the gigantic hotel which, by chance, was hosting a conference on climate change. From Mummelsee we drove to nearby Seebach where the more sprightly members alighted to walk to Vollmer's Mühle on foot. On the way up they were rewarded with a schnapps tasting from spring water chilled bottles.



"I detect a slight taste of pears - but mainly alcohol!"

was a concert at the Wurmshaus Schule. The Wurmshaus Band played first followed by a some short speeches and presentations and a superb performance by the Littlehampton Concert Band. As usual, some musicians from each country played in the other's band. The theme for the evening was "Caribbean" and as well as an fine range of food and drink, the local youth ran a very busy bar selling cocktails and, with a points system in operation, providing free hats for the heavy drinkers.

At 8 am on Sunday, following the now tradition performance of Auld Lang Syne, the coach headed off for Dover, this time by our more favoured route via Belgium.

The mill, still grinding with the aid of a water wheel, was set-out with tables laid for the evening meal. But we would have to do some work for our meal. The miller's wife produced a churn and, after a short demonstration, recruited members to make butter for the evening meal. There were jugs of an apple version of "new wine" and the schnapps flowed freely. Trays of cold meats and some interesting cheeses were complimented by delicious locally baked bread. As well as traditional accordion music there was a demonstration of wool spinning and wooden spill making both with spectator participation. Then, with inhibitions drowned in alcohol, song sheets appeared and the evening terminated with a sing-song. As a reprise, one of the coaches had to retrace its route from Seebach back up to the mill to collect a wallet left by one of the band members.

With the band performing a morning open air rehearsal in Chennevières Platz, the non-musical members were able to spend the whole day with their host families. In the evening there



Top Left: "Butter Bashing" Right - The end product
Middle Left: Speeches - New Burgermeister & Twinning Secretary
Middle Right: In Vollmer's Mühle
Bottom Left: The Carribean Cocktail Bar
Bottom Right: The Littlehampton Concert Band

pasta evening- date change

The date of the Pasta Evening to be held at James's house has now been changed to 15th September. If you would like to come please inform the secretary, Susan. The cost is £7.50 including wine. Raffle prizes welcome.

25th anniversary visit to chennevières

The visit to Chennevières to celebrate our 25 years of town twinning is on!

Celebrations will take place over the long weekend 19th to 21st October. A party of about 26 members we will travel out on Friday and will be welcomed at the Chennevières Fort.

The programme for the weekend, organised by the new Chennevières Twinning Committee in conjunction with the Chennevières "Clos Saint Vincent" Vineyard Committee and the "Bien Allez de Chennevières" (Hunting Horn Group) has now been received.

On Saturday morning we are being taken to the Champagne Region of France which lies to the north east of Paris along the valley of the Marne. Our first stop will be at the Wine Museum at "Le Domaine Bacchus", not far from Epernay. We will then have lunch in a restaurant after which we travel to Château-Thierry for a visit to the Champagne House of Pannier with its medieval cellars.

The plan is to return to Chennevières for 5pm so that, suitably refreshed, we can meet up again for the Official Ceremonies which will be followed by the Anniversary Dinner.

On Sunday morning we will meet at 9 am for a visit to the market at St Maur La Varenne. We will depart with a packed lunch for our return to Littlehampton.

skittle evening

Another of our popular Skittle Evenings will be held at the Maypole Inn on Friday 28th September. Please bring your friends and a Raffle Prize. Reserve your places with either Susan or Shirley.

val's christmas party

It won't be long before the supermarkets are full of Christmas fare so no apologies for mentioning our Christmas Party. This year's party, which Valery has again agreed to host, will be on Sunday 9th December. More information in the next edition of "Info".

20th Anniversary with Durmersheim

Hard to believe but next year sees the 20th Anniversary of the twinning with our German friends in Durmersheim. The dates for the Official Exchanges have been agreed. Our Durmersheimer friends will visit us over the long weekend of Thursday 3rd to Sunday 6th July 2008. Your committee are already organising the programme for this visit.

Our visit to them will be over the long weekend of Thursday 2nd to Sunday 5th October 2008.

coming events

Pasta Evening — Saturday 15th September. *Courtesy of James. £7.50 including wine. Please inform Susan if you wish to come.*

Skittle Evening at the Maypole — Friday 28th September. *Please reserve your places with Susan or Shirley*

25th Anniversary Visit to Chennevières — Friday 19th - Sunday 21st October

Christmas Party — 9th December - 6.30pm - Courtesy of Val

20th Anniversary Visit from Durmersheim — Thursday 3rd - Sunday 6th July 2008

20th Anniversary Visit to Durmersheim — Thursday 2nd - Sunday 5th October 2008

If any members have ideas for events they would like to see, or organise on behalf of the Association, please contact the Secretary.