

ROYSTON AND DISTRICT TWINNING ASSOCIATION



September 2008 Newsletter

News from the FRENCH LINK

On Friday morning 23rd May 2008, 29 of us set off from the Town Hall car park at 07:30. With two families using their own transport we were 37 in all, including two new families and a number of adults who had not 'twinned' before. As Funstons Coaches had not been able to accept our booking this year, we travelled with the Meridian Line. This proved to be an excellent choice, as the coach was good and their driver Keith Wallace served us well. We had a smooth crossing from Dover to Calais, arriving at La Loupe at 19:30.

The next day we set off to visit the cathedral city of Chartres. Here we were treated to the finest guided tour of a cathedral most of us had ever experienced. For an hour, our English guide, the famous Malcolm Miller, enthralled us with the most illuminating interpretation of some of the many stained glass windows and statues. After the cathedral tour we enjoyed a typical French lunch at the restaurant 'rue de la Pie'. After that we had a tour of old Chartres and some free time.



The official Reception was held on Sunday morning in the La Loupe Hotel de Ville, where we were treated to champagne and canapés in abundance! Speeches were made and gifts exchanged between officials of La Loupe and our Chairman, on behalf of Royston. After lunch we visited 'les jardins de la Feuilleraie', a small cottage garden decorated with mosaics of every kind and description - a truly fascinating display of the art.

On the return journey we had lunch on the Atlantic coast at the restaurant 'La Terrace' at Fort Mahon Plage. The 4-course meal was excellent and we even had time for a short stroll on the beach, before proceeding to the 'Auchan' hypermarket at Boulogne for the mandatory 'retail experience'!

Our French friends expect to visit us next year on 29-31 May or 8-10 May 2009.

Contact France@roystontowntwinning.org

News from the GERMAN LINK

After our very enjoyable trip to Großalmerode in August 2007 it is now our turn to host.

Later this year we will be welcoming our friends from Germany. They will arrive on Friday 3rd October in the evening and will leave early on Tuesday 7th October. We have a very exciting programme lined up for them. On Saturday we are visiting St. Albans for a tour of the Abbey and Roman Town. Sunday will be free with the hosts, but there will be a Harvest Festival service at the Parish Church at 10am, with the Royston Town band providing some of the music as they will at the Civic Reception which immediately follows the Church Service.

On Monday we are going for a 3 hour cruise on the Norfolk Broads, starting at Wroxham.

There are 30+ expected from Großalmerode this year, including people from the Church, Footballers and members of the Band. We have not yet had a full list of participants but please keep the date in mind especially if you would like to host. If you are willing to host or know someone who might be interested please contact Sally Jones. There may be some spare seats on the trip to the Norfolk Broads if you can't host this year but would like to see what Twinning is about. The cost for this will be about £15 person to include transport, the cruise and a light buffet.

For more information or if you are interested in hosting please contact Germany@roystontowntwinning.org @ ,

Mushroom Group

A visit is planned from the Société Mycologique Loupéenne over the weekend 17/20 October. Various events have been organised including mushroom collecting, a party and a meal out. An exhibition of the collected mushrooms will be held at the Masonic Hall, Royston on Sunday 19 October 2.00 – 5.00 p.m. all are welcome. This is a most interesting and well recommended exhibition

Royston Town Band

The Band undertook a very enjoyable trip to Großalmerode with a group of about 15 flying out over the weekend of the 6th-9th of June to take part in a new weekend-long festival featuring much music, comedy and celebrations. Arriving on the Friday, we met up with our host families before taking part in a joint concert with the Muzikzug. On Saturday we had a guided tour round one of the local factories, followed by a concert of our own on one of the several music stages set up around the town square. Later in the evening the whole band and their German hosts decamped to one of several BBQ sites positioned up in the hills around Großalmerode where an entertaining evening was laid on by our German friends consisting of many bratwurst and much questionable singing as a karaoke session got underway.

Sunday was spent with our individual hosts after another brief joint concert in the morning, with many taking opportunity of the fine weather to go and travel round the beautiful countryside surrounding Großalmerode, others went to Kassel to undertake some sightseeing and shopping whilst the rest saw it as an opportunity to relax with a couple of beers and work on their tans.

In the evening a lot of the band spent the time in various pubs watching the start of the Germans Euro2008 tournament on big screens and became honorary German supporters for the evening. With the Germans winning the game there was great celebration in Großalmerode with fireworks being let off and cars honking their horns well in to the early hours.

Everyone felt that Monday had come around far too soon and begrudgingly we all got up early to catch our coach to the airport for our flight home. We can't wait to go back!

Owen Simons



Football Visit

21 people made the trip 6 -10 June including myself who has not missed a visit since the very first visit by a youth team way back when at the start of our twinning making me probably the longest consecutive twinner in Royston.

The date was agreed to coincide with the new event in the town - the Almeroder Tontage, a big party in the town around the marketplace. The Tontage is a celebration of the clay used in crucible manufacture and a King and Queen Tontage were appointed after completing a competition based around various stand activities.

All pubs were open until late / early. There was Bull riding, football, shooting and lots of other things organised by the relevant clubs and organisations from the town. The Football club had a precision goal shooting stall that was very popular for young and old alike.

The previous Burgermeister (and football player) Wolfgang Kistner organised a guided tour around the museum for which he is now curator followed by coffee and cakes for the guests. Many children from Royston attended and had a great time, forging new links with other youngsters from Großalmerode.

We also watched the Germany vs. Poland European Championship match together at the Sportplatz that happily ended in a win for Germany.

A presentation was made by Herr Kistner at the match to some of our 'older' twidders Ron King and Tony Moulding in celebration of their longstanding friendships with the town and all guests were presented with a commemorative Tontage Medallion. Ian King



Social Events

The Boule evenings at the Chequers have been most enjoyable. We have had the worst weather ever, been rained off a number of times. The last evening will be Tuesday 23 September. We will be starting again in April 2009. Photo shows winners of the start of season competition.



End of Year dinner

Friday 14th November at the Heath Sports Club, 7.30 for 8.00 p.m. Carvery as last year. Cost about £16 for two courses and £19 for three courses. Details will be posted/emailed to members shortly.

The Committee announced with regret that the Chairman, , Secretary, , Publicity Officer, and Minutes Secretary, will be retiring from the Committee at the AGM in June 2009. Any Volunteers!