



HENLEY LEICHLINGEN TWINNING ASSOCIATION

Report to the Annual Town Meeting 2016



We started 2015 with some concerns about twinning events, these were however misplaced. AFC Henley under 13s had a very enjoyable visit to Leichlingen at Easter and there was some excellent football played when the Leichlingers returned in the autumn.

The spring visit to Leichlingen at the beginning of May went very well. We were welcomed by the new Mayor of Leichlingen, Frank Steffes at a new Saturday Market in the town centre. On the Sunday we travelled up the Rhine by boat to the Drakenfelsen, which is a very scenic part of Germany and is the start of the wine growing region.

The second part of our trip was a visit to a museum of barrel organs, street organs and mechanical means of playing early recorded music, where the owner and curator explained and demonstrated the various items in his collection. The day finished with an enjoyable meal at the "Pancake Haus" in the hills behind Leichlingen.

We ran two social evenings in the Kings Barn. In the summer two of our members gave very interesting accounts of their families' German History. In the autumn Malcolm Page gave us a illustrated talk of the battle of Waterloo, which stands as an excellent example of Anglo-German cooperation.

After much concern, we are very pleased to report that the 19th music workshop took place in 2015 and was a great success. This is due to the efforts of the Eureka Foundation: an organisation that runs regular Saturday morning music classes at Christchurch in Henley. There were fewer player than in previous years, however they gave us a very impressive performance on the Sunday evening. No one in the audience would have guessed that this was achieved in only two days of rehearsal. There was a real buzz of excitement at the reception after the event and Andreas, the director of the Leichlingen Music School extended an invitation to the young musicians to return to Leichlingen in 2016.

2016/17

We have started this year well. AFC Henley have had a very successful Easter visit to Leichlingen. The return exchange will be from the 13th to the 16th October. We are running a combined programme of monthly events with the Henley Falaise Twinning Association, and members of both organisations watched the German and French language films we showed in February and March. A party from Leichlingen will be visiting us from the 26th to the 29th of May. This will include a visit to Beaulieu on the Friday and local activities and a supper in Harpsden on the Saturday evening. The Music Workshop in 2016 will take place in Leichlingen from the 26th to the 30th October.

Please contact Patrick Fleming at flemings5@tesco.net, or on 01491 575165 if you would like further information on these or other future twinning events.