



HENLEY LEICHLINGEN TWINNING ASSOCIATION Report 2018



This year has worked out well with a more democratic committee relying on sharing the role of chairman. We plan to continue like this for 2018

Membership

We now have 25 individual or family members which is two fewer than in 2016 and we had five group members renew. Some of this change relates to use of the tents and our core membership remains the same.

Films

We had a mixed experience with our joint programme of films. Both "Lola rennt" and "Phoenix" were well received. We learn from experience; there were a couple of German films that we would not have watched had we known. The Falaise Twinning group put on two classic films, "Cyrano de Bergerac" and "Un homme et une femme". Both very enjoyable.

Football

AFC Henley, corporate member of HLTA, continues its annual exchanges with SC Leichlingen. In over 30 years we have failed only once to send a team to the annual Easter Tournament (Osterturnier). Last October marked a 'first' in that both the football and music exchanges took place in Henley on the same weekend, which meant around 40 young Leichlingers were hosted in the town. It was a particularly satisfying weekend for twinning. It's our turn again to travel to Leichlingen for the 2018 Osterturnier and a party of 13 boys and girls and half a dozen adults will be flying out from Heathrow on Thursday 29th March.

Visit to Leichlingen in October

Six of us set off early to visit Goslar for a few days before travelling on by train to Leichlingen. We had a very enjoyable time in Goslar where it was nice to be able to go everywhere on foot. We were welcomed very warmly in Leichlingen and on the Saturday we had an interesting boat trip through the former industrial heartland of Germany around Dortmund. This was followed by an enjoyable few hours spent in the Altstadt in Duesseldorf. We spent Saturday with our hosts in Leichlingen and in the evening we had a meal together and were entertained by "The Flaming Stars".

Music Workshops

The Youth Music Exchange is continuing to go well and I am very pleased to report that the music workshop in Henley was a great success. They will be travelling to Leichlingen in 2018

Summer Party

Once again, this year's Summer party was a joint event, shared with the Henley Falaise Twinning Association (HFTA). It was held in the garden of the Fitzsimons family. Despite a wet and windy weather forecast, the afternoon turned out to be sunny and warm, with just a couple of light showers. The HLTA tents proved invaluable as a relaxing place for guests to sit and chat. The new format of afternoon tea proved popular, and everyone had an enjoyable afternoon.

Autumn Party

This year's party, again shared with the HFTA, took place in the Pither Hall at the Christ Church Centre. This was a last minute change of room due to a faulty boiler in the Kempster Hall. The room and facilities proved to be very convenient, creating a relaxed and informal atmosphere. The quiz this year focused on German and French proverbs and idioms, and all those taking part found the questions to be suitably challenging, but not impossible. A fun evening was had by all.

Henley Christmas Market

This was a very successful event. Despite new restrictions regarding the sale of food, we were able to offer mulled wine and slices of Stollen, both of which proved popular with passing trade. It was a pretty drizzly evening, but once again our small tent provided the necessary protection from the elements. A highlight of the evening was the opportunity to chat in German to German-speaking customers waiting for their mulled wine.

Looking forward to 2018/19

We will be running a combined programme of events with Henley Falaise Twinning Association and I hope that we have the same success this year as last. There are details of the events in our published calendar. We have already seen an exceptional French film, "Untouchable" and have a more challenging German film "The enigma of Kaspar Hauser" lined up for April.

The planned visit of the Leichlingers at the end of May will include a trip to Kew Gardens and a visit to Stonor House. The Music Workshop in 2018 will be back in Leichlingen. The football exchange is again looking strong, with the Easter tournament in Leichlingen and the under 15s visiting Henley in the Autumn.

Patrick Fleming – Secretary
Jeni Wood – Membership
Sue Fitzsimons - Events

14th March 2018