



# HENLEY LEICHLINGEN TWINNING ASSOCIATION Chairman's Report 2017



This year has seen both good and sad times, starting with an excellent visit to Beaulieu in May, with our visitors from Germany. This was a special request from Gabi Vesper as she was standing down as Chairman of the German group. She handed over to Wilfried Keil, ably supported by Karl-Heinz Weiss, a relatively new member of the Henleyclub in Leichlingen. It was a very sad end to the year when we heard that Wilfried had died in December last year of a recurrence of the disease that had laid him low for a while. We sent our condolences to his daughter and to the Twinning group in Leichlingen. Wilfried had been a stalwart supporter of twinning since the early days and he will be sorely missed.

## Membership

Our membership increased very slightly from 2015. We now have around 40 people involved in German twinning. We also retained our seven organisation memberships.

## Films

We had a good year organising monthly foreign language films, with the Falaise twinning group. Despite a bit of a surprise on one evening by what was classified as a "15" film, we otherwise enjoyed watching "Die Welle", "Goodbye Lenin" and "Barbara", as well as three delightful French films. We are repeating this again in 2017 and have already watched the German film "Lola rennt" and French film "Cyrano de Bergerac".

## Football

The Under 13s visited Leichlingen again at Easter and in the autumn I was able to watch a very tightly fought match at the Triangle Ground on Mill Lane between the under 15 teams. At the end SC Leichlingen won on penalties. There was a good reception afterwards in the clubhouse with players and parents.

## Visit of the Leichlingers in May

We had 35 visitors from Leichlingen for the visit to Beaulieu. This was exceptional and a fitting last visit under Gabi's leadership. The motor museum and the house and grounds were fascinating. On the Saturday evening we had a delightful meal at Harpsden Village Hall, starting with drinks on the lawn behind the hall. We were entertained again this year by the "Average Wife Band" and the evening closed with an excellent demonstration of Yodelling which went down very well with the visitors.

## Music Workshops

The Youth Music Exchange is continuing to go well and I am very pleased to report that the 20<sup>th</sup> music workshop was a great success. This was again down to the efforts of the Eureka Foundation. The final concert was supported by a flying visit of a young choir from London.

## Autumn Party

The event was held with our friends from the Falaise Twinning Association, and we were delighted to host the Mayor and Mayoress. This year we toned down the quiz, with simpler Cheese and Wine rounds, however this was still a challenge. The whole event proved to be great fun and we will do something similar in 2017.

## Christmas Late Night Market

I would like to extend personal thanks to the members who helped to put up and man our stall. We again sold Gluhwein and Stollen and surprised ourselves with a profit of £280 at the end of the day. The event seemed to go more smoothly than last year, and thanks to Gabi's generosity and to some judicious purchasing of Christmas decorations in Germany, we were able to give our stand a really seasonal look.

Website [www.henleytwinning.co.uk](http://www.henleytwinning.co.uk)

There was little progress made in 2016 on the website, so we have decided to let it lapse. There is work to do to improve our presence on the Town website.

Looking forward to 2017/18

I must step down after six years as Chairman. We are venturing into new territory, as the committee will run without a Chairman until someone volunteers to take the post. It is our intention to rotate the job between the committee members .

We will be running a combined program 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 two very different German films lined up to watch in April and May. They are "Cloud 9" and "Phoenix". These films are open to all.

The planned to visit Leichlingen at the end of August this year will include a trip to Schloss Benrath, a tram ride into Duesseldorf ending with a visit and a meal in the Altstadt. There are still places for those that would like to go on this trip.

The Music Workshop in 2017 will take place in Henley in October and we look forward to supporting the Eureka foundation who are running this with the Musikschule from Leichlingen.

The football exchange is again looking strong. The Easter tournament will take place in Leichlingen and the young footballers are travelling out on the 13<sup>th</sup> April. The under 15s will be coming to Henley in the Autumn, provisionally on the 13<sup>th</sup> October.

Patrick Fleming

Chairman.

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24th March 2017