Dancing with our German and French friends in a huge beer tent in Louisendorf was a great party!

Standing in a crowded street in Die, surrounded by flocks of bleating sheep in the Transhumance festival was a wonderful experience.

Enjoying frankfurters and flugelhorns after a mountain top walk in Frankenau was really fun!

What a fabulous welcome in Die and Frankenau! We were met with great warmth, fed delicious food and entertained each day.

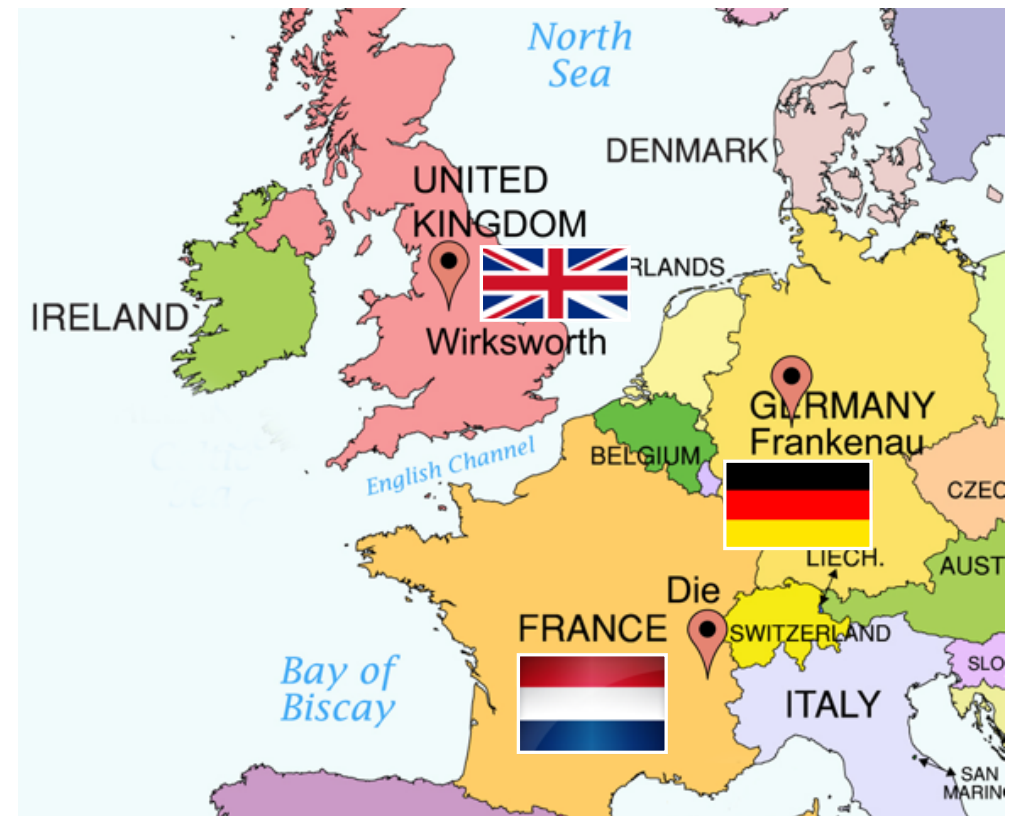We were a bit nervous before we went but really enjoyed our first home stay with a French family.

We really enjoyed hosting for the first time and introducing our new German friends to Wirksworth - luckily they spoke English!

We are new to Wirksworth but have made good friends from Die, Frankenau and Wirksworth through Twinning.

WIRKSWORTH

Twinning Association

Which towns are twinned with Wirksworth?
Wirksworth is twinned with two towns:

Die (pronounced 'Dee') in France
Frankenau in Germany

About Die
Die is in South East France in the valley of the river Drôme, close to the Regional Park of the Vercors Plateau. With a population of about 4,000, the town is an important local centre and famous for its sparkling wine - Clairette de Die. Die is twinned with Frankenau and has international links with Hungary, Italy and Senegal.

About Frankenau
Frankenau is in the German state of Hessen and has a population of about 3,000. The small hamlet of Louisendorf within Frankenau was established in the 17th century by Huegenot religious refugees who had fled from the Die area of France. Frankenau is close to the Kellerwald-Edersee National Park and historic towns.

What is Twinning?
Wirksworth has signed twinning charters with Die and Frankenau. The towns have agreed to promote understanding by developing contacts between the citizens through joint activities.

What can twinning mean in practice?
    * Family and individual links
    * Young people's visits
    * School links
    * Musical visits
    * Artistic exchanges
    * Sporting exchanges
    * Social and community events
    * Language learning opportunities

Once a year a group visit is organised either to a twin town or we in Wirksworth host a group of visitors. These activites are open to all members. We usually stay in family homes; a good way to get to know people. The planting of Stoney Wood on Middleton Road was inspired by the Forêt Giono near to Die.

Who makes twinning work?
Twinning is an initiative of Wirksworth Town Council working in partnership with the Twinning Association who co-ordinate twinning activities.

Do I need to speak French or German to get involved?
Not at all (but it is a good way to learn). There are always people who can help with translation and it is amazing how well people can communicate without language. Above all - twinning is Fun!

How do I find out more and get involved?
Please visit our website at www.wirksworthtwinning.org.uk or contact Sue Cunliffe, Secretary, 07979 331179 sue.cunliffe@wirksworthtwinning.org.uk

To support the work of twinning between Wirksworth, Die and Frankenau, please complete the attached form and join the Twinning Association. You will receive newsletters about forthcoming events and visits and be eligible to participate in visits and exchanges.