

TWINNING NEWSLETTER



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AUGUST

2014

Wirksworth cyclists pedal to Die You will have heard of the two groups cycling to Die. Committee member **Pam Taylor** has reported back to us from Die, where the groups received a wonderful welcome from the whole community. You can see a video marking their departures from Wirksworth [here](#), and for a link to Laurie and Wilf's blog, click [here](#).

Laurie and Wilf are still raising money for Amnesty International via the Two Wheels Twin Towns Justgiving website ([here](#)).

Die students in Wirksworth While she was in Die, Pam was in discussion with a group of the parents of a group of students and their parents, both with her Twinning hat on and as a teacher at Anthony Gell School. Past experience has shown that these visits can be very rewarding for both guests and hosts and we are keen to promote links between organisations, families and individuals. However, WTA cannot make any judgment or offer any advice about the suitability of unaccompanied minors for such visits, and as this is a school-organised trip, any final arrangements will need to be made between the host and AGS.

Pam is hoping to arrange hosts for a group of students for one week, the week before the October half term (w/c 20 October). She is keen to hear from anyone who could offer a B&B only hosting opportunity for one week 15-23 October. The students will then be likely to be linked with AGS families for daytime and evening activities and remaining meals.

One student (Silouane, aged 15) is hoping to come for a full academic year. In the case of Silouane, Pam is hoping to find a family from 5/6 September who could offer him short-term accommodation until a longer term opportunity in a family is found. There is no need for it to be a family with young people present.

If this is something you feel you would like to be involved in, Pam would be very grateful if you could contact her to find out more about what is involved.

Pam can be contacted on 01629 824457 or by email pamtaylor54@gmail.com

October trip to Die 25 October to Wednesday 29 October 2014 Regrettably, due to the SNCF strike, we had to cancel our trip to Die in June. Most of those who were planning to travel in June have been able to join the autumn trip and over 30 twinnings, including two families, will be travelling out to Die in October.

Chair Suzanne Clark did travel to Die in June and you can see her report below.

Les Miserables "Let them eat cake!" WTA will be serving baguettes, French cheese and, of course, cakes, at the Northern Light and Stoney Wood Group event at Stoney Wood on 5 September. Doors open 6.30pm and the film starts 7.45pm (Click on the link [here](#) to view the event on Northern Light website). If you are able to help by making cakes for the stall, that would be much appreciated. Please could you let Judi Austin know (01629 822240, or email judi.austin66@btinternet.com) and drop any cakes off at Judi's house on the morning of 5 September: 29 Pittywood Road, Wirksworth. Merci beaucoup!

Farmers' Market Coffee Morning The WTA will be serving teas and coffees at the Farmers' Market on **4 October**. Again, we would be very glad of any help in terms of cakes and biscuits and also if you are able to give up an hour that morning to help behind the scenes. Please let Sue Cunliffe know (01629 822124 or suecunliffe@gmail.com).

WTA AGM Please make a note in your diary for Friday 14 November at 7:30pm. Venue: to be confirmed but this will probably be Waltham House.

In **2015** WTA will host groups from Die and Frankenau. Dates are still to be confirmed but we will keep you posted.

On 21 July 2014 Twinning member Alastair Clark gave a talk to the **Mothers' Union** in Wirksworth on the subject of the history of Twinning, bearing in mind the 20th Anniversary of the signing of the Charter, which occurred in Wirksworth in 2003 and Die in 2004.

Mamadou Dieng Cisse WTA is supporting this Senegalese artist and accompanying musicians in a visit to Wirksworth around the time of the Arts Festival early next month. Projects include liaison with the Eco Centre, visits to local schools and musical/street performances during the Festival. The group is looking for sources of reasonably priced accommodation during their stay. If you think you could help either with accommodation (possibly self-catering) or food/meals during that time, please contact Pam Taylor on 01629 824457.



To Die or not to Die!

The Twinning visit June 2014 that happened but didn't happen!!

Suzanne Clark, Chair, Wirksworth Twinning Association

The proposed June 2014 Wirksworth Twinning Association visit to Die coincided with a strike by staff of SNCF, the French national train company. The high speed TGV trains from Lille to Valence were not running, meaning that we had to make a last minute decision for our group trip to be cancelled.

A necessary but sad decision; however, the good news was that the group tickets from June will be transferred to the second planned 2014 visit to Die in October.

As I was travelling on a single ticket with plans to continue a journey through Europe after the Die weekend, I decided to risk the trains and the uncertainties. Luckily, one train was operating from Lille to Valence on 19 June, which I squeezed onto, amongst many other (somewhat disgruntled) passengers. My host, Lyliane Orand collected me from Valence.

Friday 20 June - Our German partners (40 people from Frankenau) had travelled by road so with no hitches to their journey, and it was great to see some familiar faces and also to meet

people from Frankenau who were new to twinning. One notable and positive feature of the weekend was the large number of young people amongst the German group.

Visits for the Twinning group were organised to the Aquarium d'Allex, and the medieval Tour of Crest.

Saturday 21 June - the day of the Fete de la Transhumance (celebrating the traditional moving of sheep up to summer pastures).

Market and craft stalls abounded in the town; Die was vibrant with many buskers, entertainers and visitors.

At the town hall - the 'Mairie' - there was a formal welcome to Twinning partners from the Die Jumelage and the Town Council. Presentations were made and gifts exchanged (gifts from Wirksworth will be given during the October visit).

In the evening, a communal meal was organised at Le Martouret Centre, providing an opportunity for everyone to chat, and for future plans to be discussed.

Sunday 22 June - The German group left early for Frankenau. I spent a very enjoyable day walking in the Vercors mountains with my host and her daughter, Lucile. Both Lyliane and Lucile visited Wirksworth in October 2013, when Lucile played with a group of young musicians who contributed to our celebration for 20 years of Twinning with Die.

Later, Isabelle Bizouard and Tiedel her son, who studied at Anthony Gell School during 2013, invited a group of interested parents and young people, to discuss how they might link with families and young people in Wirksworth. Some productive ideas for future links came from these discussions.

The Die Jumelage will also welcome 2 groups of cyclists who are travelling from Wirksworth to Die this summer, arriving in Die early August.

The next visit to Die is planned for 25-29 October, SNCF permitting! I'm sure there will be a wonderful welcome from our Die partners at that time.

Wirksworth Twinning Association welcomes new initiatives and ideas for future links with our twin towns. The possibilities are endless! For instance, a parent at Die asked about the possibilities of a WWOOFing experience in Wirksworth for herself (voluntary work on organic farms and smallholdings). Last year a group of footballers from Wirksworth formed a team and played in a tournament during our visit to Frankenau.

Do contact us with your ideas for future links - we will try to help to make them happen!

And next year, Wirksworth will welcome groups from Die and from Frankenau - dates to be confirmed, watch this space.