



WIRKSWORTH TWINNING ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER

September 2018

CO-CHAIRS

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www.wirksworthtwinning.org.uk

Summer in Die

You may remember that in August last year several Wirksworth singers joined voices with the Die choir **Die Cantat** in a concert (100 Choristes) performed in the *Cathédrale Notre-Dame de Die*. We're happy to report that this summer seven of those who attended last year returned to Die, this time to perform Handel's *Israel in Egypt*. You can see Alison Baird's full report on the visit at the end of this Newsletter. And you may have seen some of the work of their "artist in residence", Vally Miller, at the Festival last weekend.

Phil Taylor was invited by the Diois Jumelages to take part in the **Châtillon Art and Wine Festival**, also held in August, and Phil exhibited a selection of his photos under the title "Twin Towns". The exhibition contained 20 hanging collages with approx. 250 photos many similarities, contrasts and mirror images between the two towns. The main image was a foggy Wirksworth and misty Die superimposed, which was also on display at the Moot Hall last weekend.

We've been delighted to hear also that there have been various independent visits to our twin towns, some inspired after our host visit in June, others based on links formed in the early days of Twinning.

Die artists at the Wirksworth Festival

Over 300 visitors came the Moot Hall to see the work of the four artists from Die on the Arts & Architecture Trail

- Laurence and Jean-Paul Empi
- Annie Guéron
- Guy Nicod

Thank you to those of you who helped give them a very warm welcome to Wirksworth.

And thanks especially to those who gave up their time to help set up and dismantle the displays and sit with the artists during the weekend. Your support is much appreciated.



And looking ahead...

Wed 26 September

Andy Pollock will be resuming his monthly guided walks in the countryside near Wirksworth. Meet at the Market Place at 10.00am. Well-behaved dogs are very welcome. It would be useful if you could let Andy know you'll be coming along in case the weather is very wet and he needs to cancel. Please call him on 01629 823752.

Tickets are now available online from **The Northern Light Cinema** (www.thenorthernlightcinema.co.uk) for our next two **Film Evenings**

Monday 29 October

Come un gatto in tangenziale (Like a Cat on a Highway)
(Italian, with English subtitles)

The co-ordinator of a think-tank devoted to improving suburban living suddenly finds himself scared by the relationship between his daughter and a teenager coming from a poorer area. When he gets in touch with the boyfriend's mother a strange friendship begins to form between the two very different people.

Monday 26 November

Au revoir là-haut (See You Up There)
(French with, English subtitles)

It's 1919 and two survivors of the trenches, one a genius draftsman, the other an accountant, decide to mount a scam that will prove as dangerous as it is spectacular!

Doors will open at 6.30pm for nibbles and drinks and the films will be shown at 7.30pm. Tickets cost £10 and include nibbles.

And a few more important dates for your diaries:

1 to 5 November

Die choir's visit to Wirksworth

The *Community Choir* has invited singers from *Die Cantat* to join them for the WW1 commemoration concert, which will be held in St Mary's Church at 7.30pm on **3 November**.

Those singers (from *Raise Your Voices*) who travelled to Die in August will be joining the choirs for the concert and if you would like to take part too, please get in touch with the Community Choir Director, Lynn Dean, tenparklane@hotmail.com.

The programme will be announced shortly and there will be rehearsals on Wednesday evenings 10, 17 and 31 October, and with the Community Orchestra on the Saturday afternoon, 3 November. (There may also be rehearsals on 24 October and in the afternoon on Friday 2 November.)

Singers are asked to contribute £15 to cover costs of music hire etc.

Fri 23 November

WTA AGM 7.30pm at the Memorial Hall.

22/23 June 2019

Visit to Frankenau

Although we don't have the exact dates confirmed, we do know that next year's visit to Frankenau will coincide with the 777th anniversary of the founding of the town of Frankenau, with celebrations being held on the weekend of 22/23 June. Dates for the visit are therefore likely to be Thursday 20 June to Monday 24 June. More details will follow in due course.

Conversation groups

Monday 15 October

French conversation group at 7.30pm

Please contact Rae Lewis on 01629 824549 for further details.

Monday 19 November

French conversation group at 7.30pm

Date to be advised

German conversation group

Wirksworth Community Choir visit to Die, August 2018

We arrived in Die in the middle of August to be greeted by fellow sopranos, altos and basses who welcomed us back to the summer choral workshop and Clairette de Die and nibbles were consumed at the welcome evening at Laval d'Aix. Our rehearsals for Handel's *Israel in Egypt* took place daily from 9am to 12.45pm and again from 3pm until 6.45pm in the local community centre. On a perfect summer's day in the middle of our week we rehearsed at nearby Valcroissant Abbey, a stunning backdrop for our picnic and a cool setting for our first rehearsal with the orchestra and soloists. We felt a surge of pleasure as we sang with them. At the end of the day, we were plied with more Clairette de Die and went home feeling that our efforts were worthwhile! On Friday 17th our arrival at Crest was greeted with yet more Clairette de Die before a short rehearsal and the 9pm concert. That evening the church was full and with our first performance over, we received amazing applause. The only misfortune was that two members of the choir were overcome by the heat and fainted towards the end of the performance. Everyone was pleased to learn that they were not injured and were able to sing with us the next day.

On Saturday 18th we had time to wander round the wonderful market in the centre of Die delighting in all the local produce, before heading to the cathedral for a rehearsal and our final performance at 8pm. Die cathedral resounded with music and we were even asked to perform an encore! Our post-performance party included many bottles of Clairette de Die and we all went home feeling extremely happy and fulfilled!

Throughout the week our hosts were kind and generous and they organised a 'twinning' party for us to meet the familiar faces of those who had visited Wirksworth in June - Phil Richards and Pam were also there. Our own 'artist in residence' produced drawings and paintings of Die and Châtillon at a record rate and she has regularly been asked to exhibit them. They really are splendid.

Needless to say, the whole time we spent in Die was enjoyable and of course we'll be going next year – would you like to join us? Basses and tenors are particularly welcome!



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Look for your cause: **Wirksworth Twinning Association** on the homepage:

<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/>

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