

# Wirksworth Twinning Association Presentation for AGM November 2018



# Overview of 2018 and plans for future

- Membership
- June visit: 70 people from Die and Frankenau and 2 from Varallo
- Joint meeting with representatives from Varallo
- Local community activities
- Community activities shared with our twinned towns
- Fund raising

# Increase in membership

- Membership 2015-16
  - 71 paying members
  - 7 non paying members as first year of membership is free
- Membership 2016-17
  - 89 paying members
  - 25 non paying members
- Membership 2017-2018
  - 98 paying members
  - 11 non paying members

# Twinning visit to Wirksworth June 2018

## Theme: Heritage and Community focus

- Many offers to host and help
- Variety of travel methods
- Hidden gardens weekend
- Afternoon tea at Carsington Water
- Tour of Cromford, High Peak trail, Cromford Mill
- Eco Centre workshops
- Ecumenical church service
- Frankenau and Community choirs
- Welcome meal: Zest, Mayor, AGS school singers, shared singing and dancing, T'owd men came, swell party duo, booklet of speeches
- Crown green bowling
- Haddon Hall
- Community orchestra performance



# Eco Centre activities





# Making T'owd man tiles and pizzas!





# Saturday night welcome meal in Town Hall





...and evening  
entertainment





# Singing with Wusser and dancing together





# Exploring Wirksworth and surroundings





# Meeting with Mauro Larel and Nathalie Ricotti, President of Varallo Twinning Association

## **Agenda**

- Welcome and introductions
- Apologies
- Aim of the meeting: to explore and develop cooperation and future interaction between the towns of Wirksworth and Varallo and our people
- Relationship between Wirksworth Twinning Association and Wirksworth Town Council
- Wirksworth Twinning Association: constitution, aims and purpose
- Aspirations for future links between Wirksworth and Varallo
  - Wirksworth's aspirations
  - Varallo's aspirations
- Next steps
- Any other business
- Date of next meeting

# Meet Mauro and Nathalie!





## Thanks to:-

- the mayor for taking such an interest in the visit
- WTC for support: provision of the Town Hall for the reception and grant to support costs.
- caretaking staff, town clerk and deputy
- EVR who gave free parking for coach
- Hidden Gardens of Wirksworth for offering free admission for our visitors
- all the people of Wirksworth and surrounding area who have supported and contributed to the success of the visit

# Feedback

It was a great event to be part of - offering the Eco centre lots with regards to promoting our local and European profile

**Dan Ireland**

It was a pleasure to be part of the twinning in this way and we are glad that everyone enjoyed it

**Hidden Gardens team**

Meeting up with new and old friends from Die, Frankenau and Wirksworth and getting to know new friends and new hosts

**Local feedback**

Fuddle – meeting hosts and guests we haven't met before, nice and relaxing

Great organization and welcome, good range of activities, friendliness, getting to know hosts, local attractions and environment

**Guest feedback**



Increasing community links between  
our twinned towns

# Ecologie au quotidien conference in Die January 2018

- 3 people from Wirksworth presented a short video montage entitled 'Des Voix de Wirksworth'
- Features ecological activities in Wirksworth and aims to promote dialogue on environmental issues between our two towns
- The video can be accessed at <https://vimeo.com/252190708>



# Choral links and events

- August 2018, 8 Raise your Voices choir members sang in Die with singers from all over France
- November 2018, 20 singers from Die sang with Community Choir in Wirksworth Remembers concert to mark the centenary of the end of WW1.
- Invitation for Wirksworth singers to perform Haydn's Creation, 10 -17<sup>th</sup> August 2019 in Die
- Die Cantat invitation to Wirksworth Community choir in 2019
- Vally Miller - artist in residence during Haydn's Creation







# Heritage Centre exhibition to commemorate centenary of end of WW1

- Die and Frankenau sent contributions as part of the shared exhibition.
- There was a British hospital for wounded soldiers at Le Martouret, in Die.
- The Mayor of Die sent a message which was read at the remembrance service in St Mary's



# Festivals

- 4 artists from Die exhibited in an International Salon in the Moot Hall as part of the Wirksworth festival 2018.
- Featured in the Journal du Diois et de la Drôme – the Diois and Drome news
- Very positive feedback

Journal du Diois et de la Drôme

## le Dioise

### DES ARTISTES DIOIS AU FESTIVAL D'ART DE WIRKSWORTH



première voiture, Annie Guéron de Luc-en-Diois et Guy Nicod de Châtillon-en-Diois, qui ont décidé de faire le trajet par le centre de la France avec la traversée de Manche en Ferry de nuit : Cherbourg - Poole. Dans la seconde voiture Laurence et Jean-Paul Empi, tourneurs sur bois rue de l'Armellerie à Die, ont fait le trajet en deux jours par Calais.

Mais bravo à nos amis anglais du Jumelage et au comité d'organisation du Festival qui ont réussi à estomper toute notre fatigue par leur accueil chaleureux et l'ambiance festive qui régna pendant tout notre séjour.

Malgré la fatigue, le soir on se retrouvait au pub pour faire ou écouter de la musique et boire une de leurs nombreuses bières tièdes dont seuls les Britanniques ont le secret. Une expérience et des souvenirs impérissables qui font perdurer la fraternité et l'amitié entre les peuples malgré tous les événements et tous les brexit réunis.

Au retour, les 839 miles qui nous séparaient de Die ont été un jeu d'enfants. Enfin... presque !

Guy Nicod, Annie Guéron,  
Laurence et Jean-Paul Empi

Quatre Diois ont franchi la Manche ce mois de septembre pour se rendre au Festival de Wirksworth, notre ville jumelle anglaise. Ce Festival annuel d'Art et d'Architecture rassemble plus de 150 artistes du Derbyshire et le programme était cette année réparti du 7 au 23 septembre entre performances artistiques, arts plastiques, musique, théâtre, chorégraphie et cinéma... alliant aussi les associations locales, les écoles, les collèges et lycées. En partenariat avec Diois Jumelage

ce festival avait sélectionné des artistes Diois et mis à leur disposition un lieu d'exposition, le Moot Hall (ancien tribunal des mines de plomb) au centre de la ville pendant le week-end du 8 au 9 Septembre. Les préparatifs ont été longs et le trajet éprouvant pour parcourir les quelque quatorze cents kilomètres et la Manche qui séparent les deux villes avec deux voitures chargées pour les uns de sculptures, peintures, dessins et pour les autres d'objets d'art manufacturés en bois. Les protagonistes étaient, dans la



# Exhibition at Chatillon Arts Festival

Phil Richards exhibited  
photographs of Die and  
Wirksworth in Chatillon  
Arts Festival in August  
2018. This was featured  
in the local press

## L'ART DU JUMELAGE !



Mêler l'Art et le Jumelage, Phil Richards a été particulièrement inspiré par notre ville jumelle. Dans son exposition, au 1<sup>er</sup> étage de la mairie de Châtillon-en-Diois, Phil Richards, photographe de Wirksworth, nous donne à voir de magnifiques clichés de Die ou de la ville anglaise jumelle de Die. Il assemble les photos par thème (automne, panneaux, centre-ville) et parfois mêle sur une image les deux villes.

Passionné de photographies, le photographe anglais suit depuis trente ans les événements de la communauté de Wirksworth et ses environs. «Villes Jumelles» est une exposition d'images digitales et de photos imprimées. «Je viens à Die depuis plusieurs années, et j'ai été inspiré par la lumière, les paysages et en plus les moments conviviaux avec nos amis Diois» explique-t-il.

Depuis maintenant trois ans, le Comité Diois-Jumelages est partenaire du festival des Arts et la Vigne et présente ainsi des artistes des villes jumelles. Une belle idée !

# Further links we hope to develop and future plans

- Bowling
  - Quilting exhibition in Frankenau next June for their 777<sup>th</sup> anniversary including works from Wirksworth, Frankenau and Die quilters
  - More links between young people. Has to be a shared initiative with other bodies such as schools due to safeguarding, insurance
- 
- Cinema
  - Cycling – Diecyclette Sept 2019 anyone?
  - Football
  - Carnival / Varallo positive about twinning and art links, school links, heritage





# Activities that continue to take place in our local community

- Monthly French and German conversation groups
- French taster and language learning sessions
- Seasonal walks
- Community Quiz team
- Farmer's market coffee morning
- Foreign language film evenings now in conjunction with Northern Light Cinema and for the whole community





## Wirksworth Twinning Association – strong local presence

- Updated twinning website, links with GoWirksworth website and those of our twinned towns
- Regular newsletter emailed to members
- Press releases with two features published in Peak Advertiser and Community Fayre
- Phil Richard's exhibition was covered in Die press

# Taking twinning forward

## **Links with Varallo**

- Die is already twinned with Varallo
- Die and Frankenau committees keen for us to make links with Varallo
- Frankenau also plans to make links
- Varallo very eager to twin now but we want to steadily build our relationship and know that it will be a positive venture.
- We hope representatives from Varallo will visit in April 2019
- We hope there can be a visit to Varallo in 2019

# Challenges

Different amount of funding and mechanisms

Changing political parties

Relationships between twinning and governing bodies eg in Varallo  
twinning is not independent of local government

4 way visits seen as too complicated and large

Model / expectations for hosting: culturally very different

Fundraising



Everybody was just buzzing with pleasure and excitement, sharing stories and photos and talking with such enthusiasm of their experiences.

From my point of view I am always delighted to introduce new people to twinning and to bring people together with common interests is absolutely the way to do it.

The programme was a perfect balance of social, music, tourism and rich meaningful learning and experience.

The hosts were unstinting in their generosity and warmth.

**...but we would echo Clare Wesson's feedback following the Wirksworth Remembers choral visit, Nov 2018**

Please could you pass on heartfelt thanks from the French group for the wonderful weekend.

The people new to twinning in particular were overwhelmed by the welcome and those of us who are regular visitors are once again re-energised in our commitment to these kind of exchanges.

# Thank you!

Thank you to the committee but also to you all for being part of and supporting Wirksworth Twinning Association so generously during the past year!

Please let us have your feedback and thoughts about future developments:

<http://www.wirksworthtwinning.org.uk>

Thank you.

Cheers!

