

Newark Twinning Newsletter

Emmendingen – St Cyr-sur-Loire - Sandomierz

January 2008 – Edition 6a

*Amended AGM item 18/1/08

Introduction

Newark Twinning Association is self-funding and aims to encourage and facilitate goodwill, understanding and friendship between organisations and individuals in our twinned towns. The newsletter is produced three times per year (approx.) and if any members can supply items of interest related to twinning they will be welcomed for inclusion in future newsletters. Please keep us up to date with your postal or email address.

Food and Drink Festival

Sunday, August 3rd 2007

Newark and Sherwood's Food and Drink Festival took place in the market square and for the first time representatives from our Polish twinned town Sandomierz were present, taking two stalls to display a wide variety of fruit and vegetables. Both Emmendingen and Saint-Cyr-sur-Loire had intended to be represented but Emmendingen decided it was too close to their Winefest and Saint-Cyr ran out of time. Newark and Sherwood District Council allowed members of the committee to use a part of their stall to represent and publicise the Twinning Association.

Winefest 2007

Several members travelled to Emmendingen for the annual Winefest as described by Len Wilkes.

Len's account.

"On the 17-18-19th August, our twinned town of Emmendingen held their annual Winefest. The occasion was supported by a small contingent who represented our Town & Twinning Association. Those who had already linked with host families stayed with them and other members stayed in a local town hotel. We were all welcomed by our German hosts in their traditional manner of hospitable warmth. The Winefest itself takes place within the town environs, as each thoroughfare and the market square is amass with stalls for both food and drink. Tents and marquees are furnished with tables and chairs for locals and out-of-towners to sit, drink and certainly be merry. There were plenty of bands to provide all sorts of music to add to the atmosphere. The food in the stalls was traditionally Germanic. One in particular that was popular with our party was

Flambeküchen which is a thin pizza-type concoction, cooked in a flaming oven, spread with a creamy cheese and bacon bits (absolutely delicious) and there were many more delights, of course, all worthwhile sampling. The wine was one, if not the main, reason we were there. It was from the local vineyards, featuring all the various grape varieties and was superb. It also provided a wonderful excuse to see, and be with, old friends and new. The atmosphere within the town for the period we were there was wonderful, it seemed as if the whole town had put their hearts and souls into enjoying the occasion, as we certainly did. It was, overall, an event not to be missed and I certainly have no hesitation in thanking once again our German friends for their hospitality and warmth and recommend you, dear reader, to give it serious consideration for your next year's calendar."

Len

N.B.

Newark councillors are considering hosting a smaller version of the Emmendingen Winefest, possibly jointly with the CAMRA Beer Festival, to take place over the May Bank Holiday. Wine dealers from Saint-Cyr will be invited to join the stall holders from Emmendingen at this event.

Curry at Asha Tandori

October 15th 2007

Twenty eight Members and friends attended the inaugural Twinning Association Curry Club evening at the Asha Tandoori last month. The set menu, selected by Rob, the owner of the Asha, specially to appeal to all regardless of the strength of their palate, consisted of a mixed vegetable samosa / chicken tikka starter and methi chicken with sag lachee and aloo dum accompanied by the usual rice, poppadoms and array of chutneys. Several of these are not available on the restaurant menu and had been prepared specially for us. The meal was a treat for all who enjoy the cuisine of the sub-continent. A raffle was held (the prize being a refund of the meal cost) which was won by guests of our Vice Chairman, Len - Fix, I hear you cry!! The evening was a most enjoyable, convivial affair raising about £70 for association coffers. My thanks to Tim Webster for co-ordinating responses, to all who attended and, especially, to Rob and his staff for all their help with the menu and on the evening itself.'

Max

Evenings like this are important to bring the membership together and Max deserves our thanks for organising it. Several members sent messages that they would like to attend but would not be able

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to on this occasion so let's hope that Max (or one of you?) is prepared to organise another event soon. We really could do with other members agreeing to organise events and many more people supporting the events that are held.

Newark Amateur Operatic Society

October 26th 2007

On the 26th of October the Operatic Society put on a substantial performance in the Steinhalle in Emmendingen. The Show included 28 numbers (including the finale), from a whole variety of shows, Grease, West Side Story, My Fair Lady, Blood Brothers, Guys & Dolls, Me and my Girl, Oliver, Wizard of Oz, Chicago, Crazy for You and Mamma Mia.

It must have been quite a show. Wish 'Me and My Girl' had been there to hear some of that 'Oom pah pah' and 'All that Jazz'!

Thanks to Chris Grant for the information but don't blame him for the account, particularly the second paragraph!

Links with French Schools

Update

Hawtonville and Coddington both provided examples of their French correspondents' letters, cards and photos for display at the AGM. Pippa, a teacher at Hawtonville Junior School wrote "The children are delighted to have personalised letters arrive from France" and Louisa and Shelly from Coddington Primary School reported that their pupils "took great delight in learning French verbs to use in their letters." A third Newark school has not yet received a reply to their e-mails but this may be because IT is not so widespread in French schools as it is here. Subsequently the school has sent Christmas cards by 'snail mail' and we look forward to a favourable response soon.

Annual General Meeting

Only 20 members (*which is the minimum number required for a quorum*) attended the AGM, which was held in the town hall on Thursday 28th November.

Chairman's report

In her report the Chairman thanked members of the Committee who were stepping down - Lis Wilson, Andy Watts, Lorretta and Alan Chalk and, in particular, Terry Blatherwick, who has been Treasurer for considerably more than half the life of the Twinning Association. Tim Webster, who has stepped down as Secretary but remains on the Committee, was thanked for having agreed to fill the post for the past year.

Thanks were given to Val Picker for all her work in organising and running the Proms yet again. More thanks to Max and Becky Cope for organising Social events and Joan Webster for helping local schools to form links with schools in St Cyr. Thanks were also due to Sally Coulter who, as Twinning and Tourism Officer at Newark & Sherwood, has given invaluable support to us and all twinning organisations in the District for well over a decade and has recently moved to a new job. The Chairman reported on several visits during the year: to Emmendingen for the Winefest, the visit of the Goethe Gymnasium Choir to Newark, the Newark Operatic Society visit to Emmendingen and the official visit to Sandomierz for signing the Twinning Charter in March 2007. We are now doing all we can to raise interest in the Emmendingen Youth Festival (6/7th – 13th July) amongst local schools and youth groups and in organising the visit to join the official celebrations of the 25th anniversary in Emmendingen (10th – 13th July). The Chairman also reported that an invitation had been received to visit Saint-Cyr-sur-Loire at Easter or Whitsun 2008. But she said that "... in view of the 25th anniversary trip to Emmendingen in July, this will not prove possible to accept. However if enough people are interested then maybe a small contingent would represent Newark."

Election of Officers and Committee

The following Officers were elected /re-elected:-

Chairman - Rita Crowe

Vice-Chairman - Len Wilkes

Secretary - Bob Crowe

Treasurer - Becky Cope

The following Committee Members were elected /re-elected:-

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Val Picker, Theresa Doyle, Malcolm Fuller,
Alick Whyte, Joan Webster, Tim Webster,
*Stuart Murray.

*It is hoped to co-opt Penny Ballard and
Carolyn Thomasson onto the Committee.*

Councillor Bryan Richardson is a committee member due to his role as Mayor and Councillor Max Cope and Councillor Dean Hyde remain on the Committee as appointees of Newark Town Council.

Guest Speaker

The members who attended the AGM were given a superb presentation by Carol Wilkinson of Bowbridge Primary School of the two trips made by a dozen children and accompanying adults from the school to a small village school in the Charentes region of France, about forty miles from Bordeaux. She described the risk assessment and detailed planning undertaken for twelve months beforehand, the advantages and disadvantages of the different forms of transport and accommodation experienced and the educational content of the trip. Slides illustrated the many differences between the school experiences of French and English children but also showed how inspiring, memorable and packed with camaraderie the trips were for the children and adults alike. A third trip is being planned for 2008! Carol's enthusiasm was infectious and the forethought and detailed planning, which went into making the trip such a success, was most impressive.

** Future Events **

The Last Night of the Proms 2008 –
7:20 pm Fri 1st and Sat 2nd February.

First and foremost this is our big fund-raising spectacular, organised and managed by Val Picker, who has been involved since its inception over 20 years ago. She now also obtains the sponsorship and sells the vast majority of the tickets. This is an event we should all support.

We again welcome the award-winning Ransome Band with the best of brass band music and all the fun of the Last Night of the Proms.

On both nights we are going to be treated to the return of the charming and uplifting voices of Chuter Ede School Choir conducted by Christine Hopkins. If you haven't heard them before, you must! (If you have already heard this choir of local primary children, you will probably already have bought your ticket to hear them again!) They are so professional and entertaining!

Val has also managed to get David Morris, who is billed as "The World's Top Whistler". If you think that sounds a bit unusual, I should add that he performs internationally with classical orchestras. A Musical Director and Cornet player, David's performances were featured on the "Best of 2007" programmes for both Radio 4's 'Friday Night is Music Night' and 'Saturday Night Live'. If you have access to the Internet you can hear samples of his performances at the following Website:-

<http://davidmorris-whistler.com/music.html>

He really is extremely good.

Tickets at £13 are now just available from the Palace Theatre (655755).

Europousse – March 22/23/24 March
Football teams of young people aged 10 and 11 years have been invited to participate in the 23rd Europousse football tournament in St.-Cyr-sur-Loire. Several options for accommodation are available. Thirty-two teams from France and other countries are expected to participate. The sponsors stress that the objective of the tournament is for children to meet one another around a common passion for sport and speaking only one language – friendship.

If you or your child wish to be involved or if you know of a club that might wish to compete in the tournament then contact Penelope Ballard, PA to

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Newark Town Mayor on 01636 680333 or by email to penelope.ballard@newark.gov.uk .

Applications for next year are required by May 2008. Please contact the Secretary if you know anyone who may be interested.

Saint-Cyr Visit – Easter or Whitsun 2008

Information about the invitation to send a party to Saint-Cyr is rather sparse. Any members who would, at least in principal, like to go to Saint-Cyr please contact any Officer or Committee member ASAP so we can estimate the strength of interest.

There is concern that this should not undermine the Emmendingen Celebrations but the two are not necessarily mutually exclusive.

25th Anniversary Celebrations

As reported by the Chairman, Emmendingen are organising a Youth Festival (6th/7th to 13th July) and an adult Exchange Visit (10th – 13th July). You should all have received information about this either by post or where possible by e-mail. If you have not received that, then please contact the Secretary or any member of the committee. Thanks to those who have replied, although generally the response has been disappointingly slow to date. Hopefully, now that the Christmas season is behind us, more members will get in touch to indicate their wish to go. Even if you are intending to make your own arrangements about transport and accommodation please let us know so that we can indicate to the organisers what our involvement will be.

Summer School in Germany – August 2008

We regret that last year we were once again unable to find anyone with links to Newark wishing to take up either of the two free places generously funded by Emmendingen at Freiburg University. This is an annual Summer Course in German language and culture which lasts almost four weeks. A basic level of German is essential and participants should be at least 18 years old. Accommodation (by hosting) and a regional travel pass will be provided free, so participants only have to meet costs for the journey, food and spending money.

Youth Festival at St. Cyr - 12th/15th Sept. 2008

Since 1999 a youth festival has been organised every 3 years by each of St.-Cyr's twin towns in rotation. (Newark 2005). Once again it is St.-Cyr's turn to hold it and, although the programme has not yet been finalised, the organisers hope that about 30 young people aged 16 – 20 years from the Newark area will be able to attend. If you need more details or wish to be involved then contact Penelope Ballard, PA to Newark Town Mayor on 01636 680333 or by email to penelope.ballard@newark.gov.uk .

Provisional Diary Dates

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|---|---|
| 1 st /2 nd February | Last Night of the Proms |
| March 2008 – | Europousse at St.-Cyr |
| Easter or Whitsun - | Proposed St.-Cyr Visit |
| May 4th 2008 - | Newark Day |
| July 6 - 13 2008 | Emmendingen Youth Festival |
| July 9 – 13 2008 - | Emmendingen Visit & 25 th Anniversary Celebrations |
| August 2008 - | Emmendingen Winefest |
| | Freiburg Summer School |
| | Food & Drink Festival |
| September - | St.-Cyr Youth Festival |

Contacts

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Newsletter Joan & Tim Webster 01636 636532
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Internet Links

Emmendingen www.emmendingen.de

St.-Cyr-sur-Loire www.saint-cyr-sur-loire.com

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Notts CC www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk

N & S DC www.newark-sherwood.gov.uk

Newark Town www.newark.gov.uk and
www.newarktowntreasures.co.uk