



Malmesbury



Niebüll



Gien



MALMESBURY  
CAPE PROVINCE

**Malmesbury  
and District  
Twinning  
Association**

*President: The Mayor of Malmesbury*

*Chair: Mrs Julia Bowen*

*(Contact the Secretary at [glynandlinda.davies@btinternet.com](mailto:glynandlinda.davies@btinternet.com) or 01666 823874)*

### ***Newsletter October 2019***

- ***Dates for your Diaries***
- ***Visit to Niebüll 12-17 September***
- ***Reflections on a First Visit***
- ***Bristol International Twinning Conference***
- ***Horseless Badminton 29 September***
- ***South Cotswolds Twinning Umbrella***

### ***Dates for your Diaries***

We are already on the way to planning our events over the next year. So, you can put the following in your diary. More information to follow:

▪ 21 February 2020	▪ Zofie's Amazing Quiz Night (Town Hall)
▪ 25 April 2020	▪ Greek Safari Supper (Goss Croft Hall, Seagry)
▪ 25-30 June 2020	▪ Visit to Gien
▪ 24-29 September 2020	▪ Cultural Festival 2020 and Niebüll Visit to Malmesbury

### ***Visit to Niebüll 12-17 September***

What a great visit we had. Seventeen of us made the visit this year. Setting off at 6am, we had an excellent journey with Barnes Coaches to Heathrow and then onward to Hamburg. The assistance arrangements at Hamburg Airport could be improved, but we were met by Niebüll friends Barbara Hoppe and Diana Klüger, and arrived in good time at Niebüll before 5pm, for a friendly evening with our individual hosts.

We spent the Friday in the nearby county town and port of Husum (see “Reflections” below) where we also had an excellent lunch and spent the afternoon at the Theodor Storm museum, where amongst other things we learned about the struggle between Germany and Denmark over Schleswig Holstein between 1830 and 1920, and how this impacted on Storm’s life and writings.

Saturday, we spent at the Molfsee Open Air Museum, but Sunday we spent with our hosts and did very individual things. Some visited the refreshed Nolde museum near the Danish border, while others attempted clandestine crossings into Denmark.



Flowers in Bloom at the  
Nolde Garden



Caught at Denmark’s  
Smallest Border  
Crossing



Former Mayors  
Reunited at  
Malmesbury Park



A Wonderful Get-Together at the Friesien Hof

And on Monday we finished with some official meetings and receptions (of course) plus a tour of Niebüll and a souvenir visit to Malmesbury Park in Niebüll, followed by a wonderful farewell dinner at the Friesenhof. It was a wonderful visit, especially for the seven of the group for whom this the first visit. And here are some interesting reflections on that.

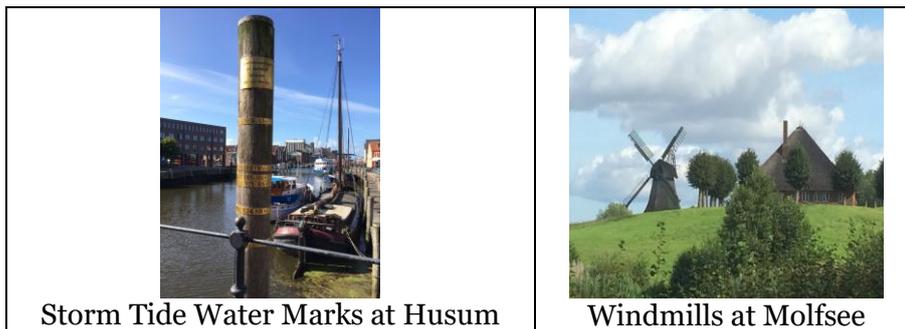
## ***Reflections on a First Visit***

*This was Fran Vandelli’s first visit to Niebüll. Here are her reflections:*

Ahoy there! The recent trip to our German Twin Town of Niebüll took us a lot closer to the sea than I expected to be, and the view from the new front-line dyke at Dagebüll, looking west to the North Sea, reminded me of Robert Macfarlane’s description of a sea walk on Maplin Sands on the Essex coast. I quickly learned that

we have a lot more in common with our German cousins than I realised and there's a lot we can learn from them, too.

A visit to the nearby town of Husum was a lesson in the importance of protecting coastal lowlands. One morning in 1362, after a particularly bad storm in the North Sea, the town woke up to find that it was now on the coast instead of on a river, kilometres inland. The low-lying agricultural lands to the west had been swallowed up by the sea and a further storm in 1634 turned the last few pieces of high ground into an archipelago of small islands that are now a destination for day trips. The dates and depths of devastating floods are recorded on monuments in public spaces in many towns, and seemingly mindful of environmental concerns, commuting by bike and kitchen gardening appear common amongst our hosts.



The trip to Freilichtmuseum, the outdoor museum at Molfsee, was an education in architecture, agriculture and resilience. Old buildings have been brought from all over the region and meticulously reconstructed to give visitors a look back in time. I won't romanticise the harsh reality of daily life hundreds of years ago, especially for the rural working class, but farming on a humane scale and with enough diversity to be sustainable, was evident in the design and construction of the buildings and gardens.

The exhibits also hint at the great warmth, compassion and cultural diversity that we've experienced from the moment we arrived: Being close to the Danish border (which has moved several times over the centuries) means there is an easy cultural exchange and a sense of shared history. But more than this; refugees escaping the ravages of war (or the sea) have been accommodated and their stories woven into the cultural fabric of the region. The monogrammed linen at the Theodor Storm Museum in Husum and the copper kettle at Kupfermühle's industrial museum both embody stories of migration. The items are on loan from some of our hosts, who share their family history of fear and of flight to safety with quiet pride and humour. In this context it's no wonder that we feel not just welcome, but like we've found long-lost family who are proud invite us to their table, and where the food is excellent, by the way.

## ***Bristol International Twinning Conference***

On 20 September a variety of local and national Twinning associations were invited to Bristol for a conference on the future of Twinning, and we were represented by Julia Bowen, Jean Fitzgerald and Gyn Davies. It was valuable and useful to have a gathering with our twin twidders! There were workshops on using new media, involving families and young people, and attracting volunteers. We learnt quite a few

things, not least that Malmesbury is doing very well in relation to many of our sister organisations, as well as some hints on how to market ourselves and use new media. Above all however was the chance to meet other Twinners, including from Cirencester and Nailsworth, and discuss our common approaches.

## ***Horseless Badminton 29 September***

On the last Sunday in September eight of our company – Loretta & John Carlyon, Fran & Stefano Vandelli, Annette & Joe Bains, and Linda & Glyn Davies – volunteered as Marshalls for the South Cotswold Rotary “Horseless Badminton” 5K and 10K runs. Torrential rain was feared, but in fact we had only a couple of short downpours. It was a lovely morning, with coffee, rolls and cakes to finish off with.



Marshalls (or is that a posse of Deputies) at Badminton



Here come the canni-coursers (sniffer dogs to the front)

We shall be doing it again next year, so if anyone else would like to join, just let Glyn know.

## ***South Cotswolds Twinning Umbrella***

And now a new adventure. After the Bristol Twinning conference, following an initiative by Cirencester Twinning, it is proposed to form (or re-form) a new forum between various associations in the area. Initially this will involve Cirencester, Nailsworth, Malmesbury and Tetbury, but may in due course also include Cricklade, Chippenham, Corsham and Bradford-on-Avon. With the need to strengthen our links and friendships, this is a very welcome initiative, where hopefully we can each support others. The first meeting of the new umbrella is being planned for the end of November.

So, we hope you have all had a very good summer, and wish you all the very best for the remainder of the year.

***T'Committee.***