



Malmesbury



Niebüll



Gien



MALMESBURY
CAPE PROVINCE

Malmesbury and District Twinning Association

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Members Newsletter: November 2018

Dear Twinners, Hello

Firstly, apologies that you have not had a Newsletter since February. We have had a very busy Summer (and Autumn) which we hope everyone has enjoyed. But alas we are overdue for an Update. Firstly, notice of some very important upcoming events, and then reports on our earlier activities.

Late Night Shopping, Friday 7 December, from 6pm

We will have a stall in the **Hub** (in the Town Hall) offering produce and Christmas things. We hope you will join us. David Shelley is remaking our Triptych which we hope will be on display (with great thanks to David), so you should be able to find us. More importantly if you can offer to make anything which we can sell that would be fantastic. If you can help or produce anything please contact on 01666 824839 or jeanfitzgerald34@gmail.com.

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Spanish Evening, Friday 1 February (2019) at Goss Croft, Seagry from 7pm

Following the brilliantly successful Italian Evening last February, this coming February we are organising a follow-up Spanish Evening and Supper, also at Goss Croft. A bar will also be available. Tickets will be available after Christmas, but please put this date in your diary.

Twinning Quiz Night, Friday 29 March at the Town Hall (tbc)

Another date for your diary. The questions from our question master Zofie will be varied but answerable. There will be great fun, and again a bar will be available and also a light supper. This year we are hoping that it will be held in the Town Hall.

Gien Visit to Malmesbury 2019 (27 June to 2 July)

Our friends from Gien will visit us here in Malmesbury from Thursday 27 June Tuesday 2 July next year. The Gien group is already planning the programme, which will build on that last year with our friends from Niebüll. We normally have a good group from Gien, so we will be looking for plenty of host families. Please put the dates in your diary and if you can host could you please let Glyn Davies know (01666 823874 or glynandlinda.davies@btinternet.com).

Our Visit to Niebull 12 – 17 September 2019

We are hoping to get a good group to go to Niebull next year, and already considerable interest has been expressed. If we are to get reasonable cost flights we will need to book as soon as possible. The cost of flights plus travel to and from Heathrow, and between Hamburg and Niebüll, is likely to be in the region of £150-£200 if we book early and have a reasonable number of people.

If you wish to go could you please let Glyn know (contact details above) if possible, by Friday 14 December, so that we can begin to assess numbers. We know this is early, but the sooner we start to plan, the less it may cost. Any queries, please address them to Glyn.

Roaring Quiz Success last April

Following the Italian evening last February, we then had a roaring success with our Quiz in April which was held at the Riverside Centre. We had over 70 people, and although it got quite warm we had an excellent bar to quench our thirsts. It was highly successful both socially and financially. We know everyone enjoyed it, but a big Thankyou to everyone, and especially to Bryan and Zofie who had the arduous of setting the questions, difficult enough, but not too arduous.

Visit to Gien June 2018

We had a wonderful visit to Gien in the summer, with 27 people from Malmesbury. We had a great sports day on the Sunday (nothing too energetic) at the Margots out at Coullons, when we all learned the intriguing new game of *Molcky* (and ten people bought sets to bring home). We were also entertained royally, not only by our hosts but by a dance exposition by the group “Quick and Slow”, who were past European champions; and a choral concert by the wonderful community choir “Pourquoi Pas”. Our visit to the monastery town of La Charité on the Loire was on a gloriously hot day, with a fascinating guide supplemented by cool beers and ice cream. Many of our visitors were new, and we have had feedback, especially about the travel arrangements, which we will address in our future visits.

John Fairhurst, one of new visitors, has written a note both about this visit, and about being a host for the Niebüll visit. This is attached on *page 4*: a very interesting read which will also be posted on our website. Thanks, John.

Niebüll came to Malmesbury Carnival 2018

At the end of August we had ten visitors from Niebüll, including some new friends. On the Friday we did a visit to the Caen Hill flight and it was intriguing how unknown and fascinating this engineering miracle was. It was followed by a visit to the Wadworth Brewery. Their hand-painted pub signs, and the tradition and protocols behind them was riveting for all. We had Carnival day in Malmesbury, including a civic reception when we were also joined by two colleagues from Bad Hersfeld in Germany. Such a small world! One of our visitors Torsten knew Heinz-Georg from Bad Hersfeld, two towns 350 miles apart.

On the Sunday we had an excellent visit to Salisbury, being greeted and entertained by their Mayor, who led us with our Mayor fully dressed in robes across the city centre, before a tour of the Cathedral, followed by lunch in the Refectory. After a lazy or shopping afternoon we were then marvellously entertained by a very special “Novichok” tour of Salisbury by our very own Gavin Grant. Monday was rounded off by a trip to the Steam Museum in Swindon, and an excellent farewell meal at the Horse Guards, Brokenborough. We also discussed plans for re-invigorating our links over the coming years.

Momentous Exchanges for Armistice

During our exchange visits this year we also planned ensuring we all came together for the Armistice Centenary Commemoration, to remember the horrors of war and the need for peace. Eight representatives from Malmesbury went to Gien (Deputy Mayor Julie Exton representing the town; Cllr Philip Exton representing the Royal British Legion; Warden Mike Westmacott representing the Warden and Freemen; Ethan Doyley and his mother Sarah representing the Air Cadets; Harry Holder and his mother Rebecca representing Malmesbury School; and Catherine Doody representing the Twinning Association. They were joined by the Council and Twinning Chairs from Niebüll Cllrs Uwe Christiansen and Anja Cornils. In Malmesbury we welcomed from Gien Deputy Mayor Stéphane Cornée, Town Council representative Cllr Christiane Damion, *Mariniers de la Loire* representatives Patrick and Annie Gaspard, and Twinning representative Patrick Dujardin, alongside Bürgermeister Wilfried Bockholt from Niebüll and former twinning president Diana Klüger.

There were wonderful and successful commemorations in both towns, and so wonderful to have our Niebüll friends with us as well. This has enormously strengthened the “trimelage” between the three towns. We will issue a *separate Newsletter in December* of all the recollections and memories of the various visitors.

Wilfried Bockholt made some personal observations at the reception after the Remembrance Service here in Malmesbury, which have been wonderfully received here in Malmesbury by many who heard them. We are therefore attaching them to this Newsletter at pages 5 and 6, for all to read, and we will be posting it on the Website.

That’s all for now. With very best wishes, till our Special Edition in December

T’C’mmittee.

NEW TO TWINNING!

(note by John Fairhurst)

Well, actually, *new to Malmesbury*, having moved here recently. The Twinning Association has helped me make a good number of new friends: as you would expect, in Gien (our French twin) and in Niebüll (our German one) but also, and not least, in Malmesbury itself.

Given my interest in European history and culture, my efforts to improve my French and my determination to put down roots in my new hometown, I signed up for the locally organised trip to France. The coach journey to Gien was horribly long - but the hours spent travelling helped break the ice with my fellow Malmesbury twidders.

My hosts Maria and Daniel were certainly worth the effort of getting there. They could not have been nicer. Maria was actually Portuguese, but married and settled in France. That helped, as I know parts of Portugal quite well. Daniel – being French – was into wine... that helped even more! Never mind that they spoke only a little English; after a few glasses of Daniel's red my French conversation rose to new unknown levels, or rather "*nouveaux niveaux inconnus!*"

Gien is a lovely little riverside town, steeped in history with a surprising similarity to Malmesbury. There is a strong sense of community and a real pride in the town, evidenced by their civic figures (their Deputy Mayor was fully engaged with us and obviously delighted that our Mayor, Fran, was there), by their impressive Town Hall and by their generous hospitality. And after a hard day's sightseeing, really excellent local amateur singers and dancers were able to entertain us two nights running.

It was a long weekend – just Friday to Monday – in beautiful June weather. I would have liked to have stayed longer...

So I continued to be involved and elected to accommodate one of the German visitors in August. (The Association is more of a 'tripletting' than a 'twinning' group: Gien, Niebüll and Malmesbury are family together. We visit one and host the other each year.)

Torsten was in a situation not unlike mine: having just transferred to Niebüll he was making local contacts and keen to improve his English, which he taught in school. Brilliant guest, so appreciative and – contrary to the stereotype – very receptive to British humour. (I *do* so like people who laugh at my jokes!) Hosting gave me the impetus to explore things on my (relocated) doorstep: Salisbury (35+ years since my last visit), the Steam Museum (never been!), Castle Coombe (Wow! That cream tea was genuinely delicious)...

Full credit to those who organised these opportunities. Thank you. And to anyone reading this, wondering if they should be more involved, I say, "*Go for it! There are no strangers, just friends you have yet to meet.*"

John Fairhurst

Words of Wilfried Bockholt at the Armistice Commemoration, Malmesbury, 11 November 2018

I have a dream.

My grandfather was born in 1900. He was no longer a boy and no man, when Kaiser Wilhelm II sent him to World War I. He got lucky. Unlike the 17 million dead. Otherwise I would not exist.

My father was born in 1928. He was no longer a boy and no man, when Adolf Hitler sent him to World War II. He got lucky. Unlike the more than 60 million dead. Otherwise I would not exist.

I was born in 1957. My luck! The two big wars have me given a free, democratic country with a wonderful constitution, which are like the Ten Commandments of the Bible or the United Nations Human Rights Declaration.

But I grew up too in a divided Germany. I know the barbed wire and death strip between Germany East and West.

I grew up and got older in the time of Cold War.

But unlike my grandfather and father there was no one who sent me into a war.

I refused military service. Because my constitution gives me the right today.

I have seen Europe make peace. 1957, the year of my birth, the European Economic Community was founded. In 1973 Great Britain, Ireland and Denmark joined the European Community.

In 1973 I was the same age as my grandfather and father, when they were sent to war.

At school, my topic in politics for a weekly report was the Northern Ireland conflict.

Two years later I refused to do military service. Never again war! I have this dream and this hope!

I have a son, born in 1981. He was eight years old when we looked the news in the TV in the evening November 9, 1989 as in Berlin the wall was opened.

It was not a dream!

My son grew up in a country with fewer and fewer military personnel. He grew up in a country that belongs to Europe. A Europe to which more and more countries have joined. Yes, we are Germans. But we are also Europeans. And above all, we are one thing: humans

Like all, no matter what skin colour, which religion or which origin according to the randomness of the place of residence of our parents at our birth. We are one - on this little world! Today my son is almost 38 years old. He was 20, when terrorists attacked the World Trade Centre and the life of 3000 people were extinguished.

My daughter-in-law is Brazilian. And we all wonder what is happening today. We are afraid for our dream! We are afraid for peace in the world!

We are shocked by the change in the political leaders of this world!

Are 30 years after the fall of the wall, are 73 years after the Second World War, are 100 years after the First World War such a long time, that we can forget where power obsession, nationalism, hate, envy and egoism have led Europe and the world in the past?

My daughter has two sons. My grandchildren. They are 8 and 6 years old. They should not experience a war, nor a new cold war. They should experience the same happiness as I and most of us have been allowed to experience for decades.

I have a dream! But this dream is in danger. It is my responsibility to work for it that my children and grandchildren may dream the same dream as me. In peace and freedom. In a healthy world. In which we embrace rather than separate or reject.

Let us all return to the common ground, to the responsibility before God, the creation and the people.

On this little globe in space, which we call "earth"?

I believe that 65 years ago, this idea was the basis for the invitation from the Malmesbury youth workers, to invite young people from Niebüll to Malmesbury for the summer of 1954. Just eight years after the Second World War.

Thank you very much again therefore, that the people of Malmesbury have opened their arms and hearts very far.

Otherwise Diana Kluger and I would not be guests of you here today.

I believe in my dream!

Thank you for listening!