

# TWINNING NEWSLETTER



YATE & DISTRICT TWINNING ASSOCIATION

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Autumn 2012

## My first time on the Yate-Bad Salzdetfurth twinning



My name is Evan, I am a nine year old boy and I live in the north/east area of Bristol. I heard of the twinning at a very young age, as my Grandparents and Auntie have been involved for many years. I was so excited when my Grandparents asked my Mummy and Daddy if they could take me on the twinning trip this summer. We got up really early Saturday to catch the coach and then went under the English Channel to France on a train. The first night we stayed in a hotel in Antwerp. The outdoor swimming pool

was brilliant. Then on Sunday the coach took us the rest of the way to Bad Salzdetfurth. We stayed with Haymo and Irene Wille, with Arndt & Doris, in Bodenburg just south of Bad Salzdetfurth.

During the week we had different adventures. Some days the coach would take us on trips and other days our hosts would take us out. Some of my favourite things were meeting Dingo a little Dachshund at the welcoming party, jumping off the three metre board at Bodenburg outdoor swimming pool, going to Hamlin where the Pied Piper was from, going to Rastiland which is like Alton Towers and the boat trip across the Steinhuder Meer lake to an island, but most of all making new friends on the coach and in Germany. I am hoping to go again in 2014 as I now have a pen friend to write to. We could meet up and do things together.

## Next Edition— due in December

Comments and articles from members for inclusion in this newsletter would be very welcome. We expect to include news from Bad Salzdetfurth in the next edition sent to us by our friends in Germany.

## Helga and Werner in their garden with The Hands

In the previous edition of the Twinning Newsletter we printed a photograph showing the plate which was presented to Helga and Werner in October 2011. This plate had been signed by many friends from the 25 years that they have been organizing trips to England for Germans and the trips to Bad Salzdetfurth for the English. We also presented them with a wood carving depicting 'Hands of Friendship'. We took this carving with us on the coach in August—it was too heavy for their hand luggage on the flight last year. Once again we need to thank them for all their hard work and look forward to many more happy times with them. They may not be organizing the visits anymore but they are still acting as hosts to English guests.



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## Becoming a Twinner



If you would like to know more about my story or the group and its various activities please contact me or any member of the group. I look forward to meeting you soon.

Nigel Ellis



If you are reading this article then I hope you are interested in joining the Yate Twinning Association who are linked with the beautiful German town of Bad Salzdetfurth which is situated some 50km south of Hannover in Lower Saxony. Joining the association which has been running since 1984 is highly recommended and I now realise that we (my wife and I) should have joined the association much sooner than we actually did. To help you decide I would like to share with you my particular story of becoming a member. My experiences with the Yate Twinning Association began in 2009 when we were asked by a very good friend and member of the association if we would like to accompany the group as guests on a trip to the Belgian Christmas Markets in Bruges. On the day of the trip and shortly after boarding the coach, we were pleasantly surprised when we were served fresh tea and coffee and no sooner was the tea and coffee finished the sound of several loud honks from an old bicycle horn signalled it was time to be served a snifter from a choice of schnapps, this delightful procedure was repeated several times throughout the trip. For those not wishing to have schnapps there was bottled water and fruit juices etc. We later realised that this was a welcome and most enjoyable custom on all the group's coach trips.

It was on the return trip from Bruges that we were first asked if we would like to join the Twinning Group and

although we had enjoyed ourselves very much and made many new friends we were nervous about our lack of ability to speak or communicate in German. In discussions we were told language was not a problem as nearly all the German people speak very good English although at this time we still felt a little uncomfortable regarding this particular issue. In 2011 we again joined the group on their next Christmas Markets trip to Liège, Aachen and the amazing Caves at Valkenburg, again the matter of joining the group was raised and this time we agreed, quickly signed the relevant pieces of paper and paid our small subscription.

In August 2012 we joined around 25 others from the group on their biennial visit to Bad - Salzdetfurth, due to distance and time pressures we crossed the channel by Eurotunnel with overnight stays in Antwerp on the outward journey and Cologne on the return, the overnight stops were all clean and comfortable 3\* hotels from well know international chains. At 6pm the next day our Bakers Dolphin coach arrived at the prearranged meeting place the small railway station (Bahnhof) at Bad Salzdetfurth where we were greeted by our hosts. As this was our first experience we didn't really know what to expect and perhaps more importantly what they expected from us, however after much hugging, kissing and hand shaking we were quickly made to feel really welcome and already part of the town and its people. Unloading of all the various

bags and suitcases from the coach then took place and as most were staying with families from previous visits they were quickly partnered with their respective hosts. As newcomers we were kindly hosted by a wonderful couple called Reinhard and Veronika who lived a short distance away in a small village called Gros Dungen.

Reinhard and Veronika made us very welcome indeed and had taken great care to ensure our very comfortable room had everything we may need including the small things like bottled water and tissues. My wife requires a Gluten Free diet and Veronika had already ensured that all our meals with them would be suitable for her. I won't go into detail about the week's events except to say that each day was filled with sightseeing trips and evening get-togethers, a more detailed account of the week's events with photographs can be found on the group's website at <http://www.yatetwinning.co.uk/news/2012-post-trip-meeting/>

In summary I must say the Yate Twinning management team and especially the German hosts all worked extremely hard to ensure everyone really enjoyed themselves and had a host of memorable experiences and photos to bring back home to share with their families and friends.

I hope in reading my story that it has provided a personal insight into the group's activities and provided some encouragement to join our association and like me make many new friends.

*Nigel Ellis*



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## The new mountain bike park



## Party time



THE PICTURES ON THIS PAGE WERE TAKEN BY VARIOUS MEMBERS OF THE GROUP WHEN WE WERE OUT ENJOYING THE SIGHTS AROUND BAD SALZDETFURTH

## We had a guided walk around the town



**Editor :** Contact Penny Spiller with articles and information for the next newsletter before the end of November :  
pennyspiller@hotmail.co.uk

**Officers names and contact details**

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**The next edition will have information about the Committee for 2013 and the  
planned progamme of events for 2013**

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**WWW.yatetwinning.co.uk**

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**We left Yate on Saturday August 18th and returned on Monday August 28th. As always we had a fantastic time. The weather was beautiful all the time—maybe even too hot for the first couple of days! We were very sad to leave our friends in Germany. The choir sang ‘auf wiedersehen’ as we left—but we will be back again in 2014.**

**THE LATEST NEWS.....**

We have heard recently that in 2013 there will be a party of Germans in Yate from April 29th until May 6th.

A group will be flying from Hannover and then a coach will be bringing our guests to Yate and some of the party will be continuing their journey to Cornwall.

**Report from the last newsletter:**

The visit to Bristol Blue Glass factory in Bristol went very well. About 20 Twinners were given a very interesting demonstration and then a few of us went onto Bitton Railway for lunch. Various pieces of glassware were purchased and given as gifts to our German hosts.

There was very little interest in a Barn Dance so it has been decided to cancel the event.