

# Yate & District Twinning Association - Spring Newsletter

**March 2013**

## **The Mayor's report of this year's March Visit to Bad Salzdetfurth**

This year's official visit by Councillors Marshall, Monk and Perks was eventful in that concerns regarding the possible demise of twinning came from both Yate and Bad Salzdetfurth.

After flying from Birmingham to Hannover the intrepid trio were collected and delivered to their hosts, the Kösters, Ottebens and Nipps. The afternoon was spent recovering with the aid of food, beer and schnapps and undertaking strenuous discussions with the Chair of the Partnerschaft.

Saturday brought the 'Welcome' in the Rathaus with speeches from both Mayor and Bürgermeister. The English version delivered by the Mayor had been translated by Alan Spiller and Fiona Blair, with addendums being translated on the spot by Margaret Marshall. Next year's visit to Yate will have as its theme 'Wohin mit der Partnerschaft?'.

All ideas on how to keep twinning alive will be gratefully accepted and discussed in depth, hopefully we will succeed. One idea discussed with the Chair of the Partnerschaft is expanded elsewhere in this newsletter—it has been the topic of discussion by the Committee.

In the afternoon a visit was made to Hameln where a big festival was taking place.

On Sunday after visits to several local 'Schlösser' with historical and political commentary by Dr Freddy Köster we adjourned to the Bavaria Inn, where we were met by the Bürgermeister and other local dignitaries, for lunch. Later on I visited a new build in the village of Gross Dungen; a completely different development to that proposed at Yate. Perhaps we could learn from the German way of providing new houses!

On Monday before boarding the return flight we had a short visit to Hannover Town Hall, the old town and a new shopping centre, returning to Yate by 18.00.

**Martin Monk :Mayor of Yate**



**The following is a translation from an article published in the local press in Germany on Friday March 10th.**

### **A fresh wind of change for Town Twinning**

#### **Anglo-German link looks to develop new format**

Is it all over for the Twinning link between Yate and Bad Salzdetfurth? It's not only the youngsters showing a lack of interest – older residents are also only showing a limited interest in the inter-town activities. Even the regular coach trips, for which Werner Krause used to be able to drum up a healthy number of participants, are no longer taking place. In the end, it was difficult even for him to fill a minibus.

Both sides, however, maintain that there is no way they want to see the 28-year old friendship link fade away. They hope that the winds of change will reinvigorate the link. So this year there will be a new development: more than 30 people from the Bad Salzdetfurth area will set off on the trip to England. The new thing this year is that the group will be spending several days in Cornwall, getting to know the splendid scenery. Apart from a small group, they will only be spending a couple of days in Yate.

The Mayor of Yate, Martin Monk, would have preferred everyone to stay in the Yate area – he stressed the value of promoting friendship between families. “We must look for new ways to promote the twinning – otherwise we risk losing it all!” said the town mayor at the annual meeting between the two councils, which was hosted in Bad Salzdetfurth this year.

The mayor suggested that next year's joint meeting should concern itself exclusively with the way forward for the friendship link. Reinhard Nipp, however, said that as Chairman of the Bad Salzdetfurth “Partnerschaft” he saw advantages in this year's planned visit. “The idea of splitting the time in England is a good one- about 30 people are going to the UK – with their visit I don't think that Yate is coming off too badly.” State Councillor Reiner Wegner, who also attended the joint meeting, said that it was not a bad idea: “This is an interesting option.” After all, it's not easy to drum up new enthusiasm.

In addition there is the problem that hardly anyone now wants to stay with host families. On the school exchange there are new people taking part every year, said Mr Nipp, but that doesn't make matters any easier. He himself has no concern about the continued existence of the Twinning.

Rolf Jakobs, the town official with responsibility for youth and cultural matters, said that he could imagine an English artist coming to work in Bad Salzdetfurth for a period of time. He was also able to announce that here have been suggestions of a tennis player link with Yate. Negotiations are still on-going, with hope of a decision in the near future. There are still a couple of things to be clarified.

Bad Salzdetfurth's mayor, Erich Schaper, welcomed the public discussions: “Even among friends we must face uncomfortable truths.” Both sides would have to admit that they have not been successful in attracting young people to the Twinning. He emphasised that there would have to be full and meaningful preparations for the meeting next year, saying: “That is the only way we can produce concrete suggestions for the way forward.”

*(As translated by Alan Spiller)*

*Please send your views on the proposed 2014 visit proposal from page three and this article to any officer (see page 4 for contact details) for consideration by the Committee.*

## **Past and future events planned by the Committee**

The Committee, which consists of the 4 officers and 12 members plus 2 representatives from Yate Town Council, meets on the second Friday of each month at Poole Court at 7.30pm to plan events for members to enjoy. The meetings are well attended and are open to all members. Please feel free to come along.

Here are some points of interest which have arisen from recent meetings:

- Kaffee und Kuchen events have been taking place in members' houses—these have raised funds for The Association as well as giving members a chance to chat with friends. At the February event we had a 'bring and buy' book stall. All remaining books were donated to the Oxfam Bookshop in Keynsham using their tax scheme—we will let you know how much these raised when Oxfam informs us.
- We are planning to hold the annual bar-b-que on July 6th at the usual Station Road venue—please try to support this enjoyable event.
- The plans for the Christmas Markets trip in December 2013 are going well. We have 34 members who have placed deposits for this trip. We will be contacting them soon regarding room and dietary requirements. The list is not closed so please contact pennyspiller@hotmail.co.uk if you would like to join us. We leave Yate early on December 6th and will be staying in Amiens for 3 nights. You can join us on the planned excursions or you can spend more time in Amiens—your choice. Cost £280—non returnable deposit £50 a.s.a.p.
- Join us on visits to heritage railways, boat trips and other places of interest—we are planning another boat trip to Beese's Tea Gardens on August 18th—cost will be £10 (£8.75 seniors and £6.50 children) for the return boat trip—you will need to pay for the cream tea when you arrive at the gardens. Please contact Ruth Boulton if you are interested in joining the trip.
- Look at the back page to see plans for April—we hope that you can come along to the Library on April 11 and bring your friends and neighbours to enjoy a cup of coffee and a biscuit.

## **2014 Annual visit proposal**

By air to Hannover from Bristol Airport—coach from Hannover airport to Bad Salzdetfurth—option to stay with host family or at extra cost in local hotel—the coach trip from Bad Salzdetfurth with English and German travellers will be a 3/4 day trip to the south and then return to Bad Salzdetfurth for the return flight to Bristol. The visit would take place either in June or September in order to get the best prices.

## **Displays over the coming month**

There will be a Twinning Display in the Library from April 5th until April 15th -around the time of the Coffee Morning, at the St George's Day Festival at the Heritage Centre on April 20th and in Poole Court whilst the German visit is on.

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### April Dates for your Diary

Please support these events by attending  
or donating items as prizes—thank you.

#### SKITTLES

Saturday April 8th

From 7.30pm

Coalpit Heath Miners Club Badminton Road

Cost £2 per person

Please bring a plate of food to share

#### COFFEE MORNING @ YATE LIBRARY

##### Kaffee und Kuchen

Thursday April 11th: 10am—12 noon

Bring your friends along for coffee and biscuits

#### CAR BOOT SALE

Saturday April 27th

Brimsham Green School

£5 per car

10am—2pm

**Monday April 29th: A party of Germans arrive in the Yate area. After 2 days four will remain with hosts whilst the rest will travel to Cornwall by coach . The group will return to the area on Monday May 6th for one night before flying back to Bad Salzdetfurth via Stansted and Hannover. *Watch your emails for further details.***

**[ [www.yatetwinning.co](http://www.yatetwinning.co) ]**

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

#### **Officers' names and contact details for 2013**

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