

Newsletter

November 2018

Guest Editor: Brian Read

Forthcoming Events

9 th – 12 th November	Remembrance Day Visitors
Wednesday 21 st November	Evening Meeting: Festivals of our Twin Towns
Sunday 16 th December	Christmas Lunch
Thursday 17 th January	Evening Meeting: Quiz Night
Thursday 21 st February	Evening Meeting: Fasching / Carnival
Thursday 21 st March	Evening Meeting: French Evening
Thursday 4 th April	Joint Film Show
Thursday 18 th April	Evening Meeting: Colmar – Marc Lischer
Thursday 9 th May	Europe Day Meal
Thursday 16 th May	Evening Meeting: Leger
Thursday 20 th June	Evening Drinks Party

*Evening meetings are held at Preston Road Community Centre – 7.30 for **7.45 pm***

9th to 12th November - Remembrance Day Visitors

We have invited a representative from each of our twin towns to come to Abingdon for the weekend and for each to lay a wreath alongside ADTTS at the War Memorial during the civic service there on the morning of Sunday 11th November.

The programme of activities for our visitors is likely to include a tour of Abingdon on Saturday morning, bun throwing early on Saturday afternoon followed by a visit to Oxford, a group meal on Saturday evening, the church service, procession and laying of wreaths on Sunday morning followed by a reception by the Mayor of Abingdon, then bell ringing at St Nicolas' Church and an early afternoon meal at a local pub.

Sunday 16th December – Christmas Lunch

We are planning, for this year, an Italian Christmas lunch with an interesting menu at the Limoncello Restaurant on Sunday 16th December. The price will be about £25 per head. We need to have a minimum number (40) before going ahead with the lunch. So, please, would you tell John Smith (07484 212842 or secretary@adtts.eu) **immediately**, and preferably

before Wednesday 7th November, if you are interested in going to the lunch. Menu choices (booking forms and requests for money) will follow when numbers become clearer and we are happy that we can meet the minimum number.

Wednesday 21st November - Evening Meeting: Festivals of our Twin Towns

7.30 for 7.45pm at Preston Road Community Centre

This evening will be devoted to short presentations describing the annual festivals held during the year in our five twin towns. With the end of the year approaching, these will naturally include Christmas festivities, but each town also has its own characteristic festivals. It should be an informative evening. No doubt there will be appropriate refreshments...

Past Events

Visitors from Colmar



Our friends from Colmar visited Abingdon from Wednesday 13th to Sunday 17th June. Of the large party of 36, sixteen stayed with families and twenty stayed in the former Four Pillars Hotel (Oxford Abingdon Hotel).

They arrived Wednesday evening after a very early flight and a visit to Windsor Castle on the way to Abingdon. Thursday was a coach outing to Avebury, then on to Lacock village for a long pub lunch and a visit to the Abbey.

On Friday, most enjoyed a boat trip on the Thames to Oxford where the Society had prepared a picnic for the party before they were shown round Oxford. In the evening our visitors hosted a meal at The Cosener's House.

Saturday was spent seeing the sights of Abingdon and the annual custom of the election of the Mayor of Ock Street. In the evening we invited our guests to a Garden Party at St Ethelwold's House.

For more detail and pictures, including the visitors' impressions, see the ADTTS website.

Visit to Colmar - 27th September to 1st October 2018



Eight travellers in two parties embarked on a memorable visit to Colmar. Brian and Susan Read, Nikki Henton and Chairman of The Vale, Monica Lovatt, left by train on the morning of the 26th to overnight in Strasbourg. Nikki and Monica spent the next day seeing the city, while Susan and Brian had a guided tour of the Council of Europe, before they all caught a train to Colmar to meet their hosts.

Stella and Howard Carter with Yvonne Millward and Richard Smart left Abingdon early on the Thursday morning (27th). They stopped off at The European Parliament in Brussels. There they met up with Peter Dodd and Nick Marsh and, together with a group of extremely pro-European Lib Dems, enjoyed a talk by our MEP Catherine Bearder and a tour of the building. We then left Nick and Peter enjoying a beer while we continued by train to Strasbourg.

The group came together the following morning for a walking tour of Colmar followed by a civic reception in the Town Hall. A leisurely few hours of free time were enjoyed followed by a wine tasting at Domaine Karcher in town before we were entertained for dinner.

The following morning we visited Hartmannswillerkopf. This is a memorial and an impressive new museum commemorating a World War I battle fought in 1915 on a mountain in the Vosges in a severe winter. This day out was followed in the evening by a big dinner with

Les Amis du Jumelage de Colmar to celebrate the *vin nouveau*, the first pressings of the grape harvest. It tasted like fresh grape juice but we were warned not to have more than three glasses or suffer the consequences!

On Sunday we split into two groups. Some went to visit Haut-Koenigsbourg castle and Sélestat. The remainder of us accompanied by members of the Colmar twinning group embarked on a cycle ride through the vineyards. Thirty-seven kilometres in total at a leisurely pace stopping for coffee and lunch. We had lunch in the picturesque village of Kayserburg. If you have not visited it, it is well worth the effort. In the evening, ADTTS hosted a dinner for all involved in our visit in the *Petite Venise* restaurant Le Caveau Saint-Pierre. We departed for home on Monday morning.

As usual a hectic schedule and a very enjoyable séjour. Many thanks to David Mallen and colleagues for their welcome and for all their hard work in organising an excellent visit. Also personal thanks to Gérard and Christiane for hosting us so well as usual.

Howard Carter

Evening Meeting: The Colourful Life of Richard Wagner

On Wednesday 17th October the members of the twinning society were treated to a fascinating talk given by Philip Addison on the brilliant German composer Richard Wagner. In his talk Phil gave us some hugely interesting insights into his fascinating and rather surprising private life, both on his amorous relationships, as well as his interaction with Ludvig, the eccentric and reputedly somewhat insane King of Bavaria. The King was obsessed by the work of Wagner, which inspired Ludvig to build a phenomenal array of fairy-tale castles, including the beautiful Neuschwanstein castle in the vicinity of our twin town Schongau.

Phil also gave us an introductory explanation into Wagner's outstanding musical output, and in particular the challenging Ring Cycle set of four major operas based on Germanic and Norse mythology.

Thank you, Phil, for this extremely interesting talk, which has, I'm sure, inspired many of us to explore the works of Wagner more deeply!

Nick Marsh

Obituaries

Trevor Coley

We have just heard of the death of Trevor Coley on 17th October. Trevor, with his late wife Joan, who died earlier this year, and family were active supporters of twinning for a number of years. There will be a Memorial Service on Monday 19th November at St. Helen's Church in Abingdon at 11 am. Following the Service and the South Oxfordshire Crematorium there will be refreshments at Cumnor Hill House.

Air Commodore L.G.P. Martin

Bob passed away on 31st July three days after his 98th birthday. Bob first came to Abingdon as OC of RAF Abingdon in the late 1960's. After postings in the Middle East he finished his career with the posting as Air Attaché in Bonn in the still-divided Germany. On retirement, Bob with his wife Hilde came back to live in Kennington and he became involved in the local community, joining the Vale of White Horse District Council in its early days. Bob was active in the British-German Association of which he became national chairman and introduced our society to its excellent study trips to Berlin. Bob was a strong supporter of all our local twinning groups and particularly of our five-star group

Michael Matthews

Sqn. Ldr. Frank George Allen

7th May 1929 - 28th August 2018

The sudden but peaceful death of Frank came as a shock to his many friends in twinning. He was for many years a stalwart member of ADTTS and was a regular attendant at all our events as well as taking part in many exchanges both here and in the twinned towns, during which he made a good number of friendships, in both Abingdon and Wantage's twin towns. In fact he had only returned from a twinning visit to Seesen, Wantage's German twin a matter of a day or so when he died in his sleep.

Frank had retired to Abingdon after a distinguished 40 year career in the Royal Air Force as a pilot serving in stations across the world. In the 1950's he was at Abingdon ferrying aircraft, where needed, to Aden, Iran and across the Middle East. In the 1960's & 70's he flew Britannias from Lynham & Brize Norton to Cyprus, Hong Kong, Bahrain, Singapore, Canada, Pakistan, Australia, Nairobi and Nepal. Finally as Squadron Leader of 10 Squadron at Brize Norton he flew VC 10s to the Falklands.

As well as his flying duties, Frank also became qualified in Military Translation of Russian in the 1950's during the cold war and was Intelligence Officer at RAF Bruggen in Germany. His grasp of languages was great, speaking Russian, German, French and Italian with a knowledge of some Arabic, Polish, Japanese, Greek, etc. Always keen to learn, he was very proud to receive his second OU degree on his 82nd birthday, this time in the History of Art.

As well as his connection with our twinning groups, Frank was also a proud and active member of the Abingdon Lions Club and at his funeral a large contingent from Lions, Abingdon and Wantage twinning Societies gathered to pay a respectful farewell to a well-liked colleague.

Michael Matthews

Annual Membership -- 2018/2019

Thank you to everyone who has already paid their annual membership for 2018/2019, either by direct debit or at the recent AGM. The subscription is £7.50 per person (£15 per couple). Cheques to be payable to ADTTS and should be sent to Ian and Rosemary Jardine – their address is at the bottom of this newsletter.

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