

Abingdon and District Twin Towns Society

# Newsletter

December 2018

*Guest Editor: John Smith*

## Forthcoming Events

<b>Sunday 16th December</b>	<b>ADTTS Christmas Lunch</b>
<b>Thursday 17th January</b>	<b>Evening Meeting – Quiz Night</b>
<b>Thursday 21st February</b>	<b>Evening Meeting – Fasching/Carnival</b>
<b>Thursday 21st March</b>	<b>Evening Meeting – French Evening</b>
<b>Thursday 4th April</b>	<b>Joint Film Show - IN THE FADE (<i>Aus dem Nichts</i>),</b>
<b>Thursday 18th April</b>	<b>Evening Meeting – Colmar with Marc Lischer</b>
<b>Thursday 9th May</b>	<b>Europe Day Meal</b>
<b>Thursday 16th May</b>	<b>Evening Meeting - Léger</b>
<b>Thursday 20th June</b>	<b>Evening Drinks Party</b>

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

**All of us at ADTTS take this opportunity of wishing all our members**

**and all our friends in our twin towns**

**A very happy Christmas**

**And a good New Year**

**May 2019 be good for everyone**

**and may we continue to maintain our friendships**

## **FUTURE EVENTS**

### **Canoe Camping in Oxfordshire 2019**

In June 2019, we will be having another canoe and camping weekend along the River Thames in Oxfordshire. The programme is shown below. We look forward to seeing you.

#### PROGRAMME

THURSDAY 27<sup>TH</sup> JUNE - Guests arrive and settle in with a host family

FRIDAY 28<sup>TH</sup> - Lunch at riverside pub The Rose Revived. After lunch set off in canoes downstream towards Oxford then turn left up the river Evenlode to Cassington camp site. Set up camp, have dinner in a Cassington and get a good night`s sleep

SATURDAY 29<sup>TH</sup> - Breakfast of hot dogs, coffee and tea before packing up and paddling downstream to Oxford where we have a light lunch at the Head of the River pub. Explore Oxford on foot if we wish. We then continue past Oxford and double back up Hinksey Stream to the Go Outdoors campsite. Set up camp and have dinner at the Duke of Monmouth pub. Get a good night`s sleep

SUNDAY 30<sup>TH</sup> JUNE Pack up and paddle downstream for snack at the Kings Arms, Sandford, then continue to Abingdon Marina ETA 6.00 pm. Dinner with host families, hot shower, bed.

MONDAY 1<sup>ST</sup> JULY Guests depart

#### COSTS

Overseas guests just need to get here and have money for snacks. ADTTS will pay for main meals, canoe licences and campsite fees. British participants need to have money for meals, campsite fees ( normally £10 per tent ) and canoe licences again about £10 per boat.

#### EQUIPMENT

All participants should bring a sleeping bag, toiletries, waterproofs and warm clothes. ADTTS will provide canoes, tents and mattresses for overseas guests but local participants can provide their own if they wish.

#### CANOES

Canoes and buoyancy aids will be provided but local participants may want to use their own equipment. We can provide Canadians, singles and one double. If possible we will take all equipment in the boats but if necessary we may take equipment by car from one campsite to another.

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### **Bastille Day 2019 - Trip to Argentan**

**Sat 13th July** 5.30 am Leave Abingdon by minibus from 30 Thesiger Rd for 8.15 ferry to Ouistreham. Arrive 3.00 pm. Jean Paul and Philippe meet us and take us to Argentan via Pegasus Bridge ( the first part of France to be liberated on D-Day ) and Falaise Castle ( birthplace of William the Conqueror ) Arrive Argentan 6.00 pm and meet host families at Town Hall.

**Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> July.** 11.00 meet at Mairie and follow the parade to the War Memorial and les Patures for vin d`honneur, nibbles, speeches. Free time for lunch, live music and socialising. 11.00 pm fireworks

**Monday 15<sup>th</sup>** 9.00 set off for Caen to see market, William the Conqueror`s tomb and le Memorial D Day museum. Return to Argentan 6.00 pm

**Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup>** 9.00 am. Depart for 4.15 ferry via Montormel ( site of the Battle of Normandy ) and cheesy lunch at Camembert. Arrive Portsmouth 9.15, minibus meets us and takes us to Abingdon by 11.30 pm.

COST will be between £160 and £180 depending on numbers.

ACCOMMODATION - Can be in host families or hotels if you wish but obviously hotels cost money. Be aware that 14<sup>th</sup> July is a national holiday and the restaurants that are open will be booked up so make arrangements

ADTTS - This is an official Twinning Society visit and all participants must be members. The annual fee is £7.50 and you can join by going onto the ADTTS website

TRAVEL - Will be by minibus from Abingdon to Portsmouth and I can do a sweep to pick up people who cannot get to my house that early. Two French minibuses meet us at Ouistreham

If you have any other queries please contact me on 523324 or [dicksmart@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:dicksmart@hotmail.co.uk)  
Richard Smart

### **Schongau Language Course - 13 - 20 July 2019**

If you think you might be interested, please let our Secretary, John Smith (07484 212842 or [secretary@adtts.eu](mailto:secretary@adtts.eu)) know as soon as possible. There is no commitment at this stage, more information will be sent out later, but it will help our colleagues in Schongau to have an idea of the level of interest as they plan this event.

### **Other events/trips**

We will also be looking into other activities/trips during 2019 but nothing has yet been agreed nor discussed in detail. Our thoughts include - a twinning week, in Abingdon, like the “Not the Language Course week”; an invitation to a twin town to visit Abingdon; a possible trip to the Sint-Niklaas Balloon festival.

### **Church Twinning**

Church Twinning – forthcoming events

- Saturday 6 April 2019 sees the performance of the Abingdon Passion Play in the Abbey Park. Church Twinning is inviting a small number of people from each of the five twin towns for a long weekend’s programme including a Barn Dance on Friday 5 April and the Passion Play on the Saturday. Offers of home or meal hosting are welcomed.
- From May to October 2020 the famous Oberammergau Passion Play will be taking place in Bavaria. Schongau, Bavaria, twinned with Abingdon, has invited 12 Christians to stay for a long weekend and attend the Passion Play from Thurs 9 to Mon 13 July OR Thurs 16 to Mon 20 July 2020. For more details, contact John Clare at [johnclare.blunsdon@gmail.com](mailto:johnclare.blunsdon@gmail.com). Deadline is 10 December.

For either event, please contact your own church rep, or Eileen on [epkbontempelli@gmail.com](mailto:epkbontempelli@gmail.com) or 01235 526331.

### **Past Events**

#### **Remembrance Weekend**

Over the weekend of November 11th, we had invited each of our twin towns to send two people to represent their town at the Remembrance Day events in Abingdon.

We were delighted to welcome:

Marie-lise Marie and her daughter, Lucin, from Argentan

Jeannette Ronaldo and Georges Hausherr from Colmar

Martin Schleier and Caecilie Kern from Schongau

The weekend included

- watching the bun throwing in the market square on Saturday afternoon, a unique Abingdon event,
- bell ringing in Saint Nicholas Church,
- meeting with the Mayor and councillors on Remembrance Day,
- and attending the civic church service, procession and ceremony at the war memorial.

Each of the twin towns laid a wreath on behalf of their town, Brian laid a wreath on behalf of the two twin

towns who were unable to attend the weekend, and Stella laid a wreath on behalf of ADTTS. And, of course, there was time for socialising and visiting several of the pubs that we have in Abingdon. Overall a very good weekend and it was a pleasure to have our guests with us.

### **Marie-lise Marie from Argentan**

Remembrance week-end 2018 was indeed an amazing and enriching experience for the representatives of some of the towns twinned with Abingdon : Colmar, Schongau and Argentan.

I had been in Abingdon on a school exchange, when I was 15 and I was so excited at the time, particularly to be hosted in a truly British family with their carpeted floor and packed lunches and horse shows on Sunday and also to attend classes: I have vivid memories of the jelly in St Helen's canteen !

This time was different : to be sitting at the Governors' place at the Almshouse charity, to participate in the collective joy of Bun Throwing (a unique event in England), to wear the Poppy and to march in the streets, to hear about those « who sacrificed their todays for our tomorrows », to lay a wreath at the War Memorial, to sing « God save the Queen » when you yourselves are not British, to weigh the gilded mace and admire the traditional costume of the Mayor, to meet the town bell ringers, as well as to taste the local beer and delicious pub food...

All these are highlighting cultural differences while at the same time enhancing our common points as people involved in both World Wars, as humans experiencing the same feelings and questions about life and death but also having a good time laughing together at a joke or simply being together!

My mission on Remembrance week-end was to represent my city and to attend the services of the Armistice but also to try to renew the ties between youngsters of both cities. I met several French teachers who gave me hope to start a friendship between John Mason and Mézeray Schools. Nothing could have made me happier.

Thank you all so much for this wonderful Remembrance weekend!

M-L M.



### **Martin Schleier from Schongau**

It was a wonderful weekend. All you and the whole twinning group did was very interesting for Cilly and me.

On Thursday we had a meeting of the twinning in Schongau and I told a little of this perfect weekend.

For better information I wrote down what happened on these four days and many pictures. If you or the twinning group is interested, you can get it. I put it into the cloud. Therefore, here is the link:

<https://www.magentacloud.de/share/1xya63r0hs>

Many thanks again and best wishes to all of the twinning group.



### **November Monthly Meeting**

Our November ADTTS monthly meeting was a series of talks about festivals in each of our twin towns. Five people (Nick, Ian, Peter, Brian and John) talked respectively about festivals in Sint-Niklaas, Lucca, Argentan, Colmar and Schongau. Either talking about the town festivals in general or concentrating on just one or two festivals.

It was a fascinating and informative evening and it was particularly interesting to see how each person approached the subject differently, focussing on different aspects whether it be balloon festivals, or church festivals, or beer/wine events or even a body-building festival.

After the talks, we had, of course, appropriate food and drink. And it was particularly pleasing that socialising continued well into the late evening.

#### **ADTTS Contacts**

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The deadline for copy for the next newsletter is two days before the end of the month. Please send contributions to [newsletter@adtts.eu](mailto:newsletter@adtts.eu). Keep right up to date by going to [www.adtts.eu](http://www.adtts.eu)