

Newsletter

July 2019

Guest Editor: Nick Marsh

Forthcoming Events

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| 13 th – 20 th July | Schongau Language Course |
| 5 th – 9 th September | Sint-Niklaas Twinning Weekend |
| Thursday 19 th September | Evening Meeting: AGM |
| 3 rd Thursday each month | Monthly evening meeting at PRCC |
| 23 rd – 24 th November | Trip to Sint-Niklaas |
| December (date TBC) | ADTTS Christmas Lunch |

Evening meetings are held at Preston Road Community Centre – 7:30pm for 7:45pm

Schongau Language Course

13th – 20th July 2019

Participants from Schongau's twin towns have been invited on their popular German language course. Six members will be going from Abingdon.

Sint-Niklaas Twinning Weekend

Thursday 5th September – Monday 9th September 2019

De Verzustering, the twinning committee of Sint-Niklaas, is holding its annual twinning weekend from Thursday the fifth of September to Monday the ninth of September. [This is the balloons weekend!]

As usual they are inviting 4 people of each twin town.

The theme this year is the 75th anniversary of the liberation of Sint-Niklaas.

The outline programme is:

- Thursday the 5th: arrival of the guests
- Friday the 6th: visit of the Atlantic wall at the coast
- Saturday the 7th: official welcome by the mayor. We join the official programme of the town celebration.
- Sunday the 8th: thematic walk in the city. "Games without borders". Farewell dinner
- Monday the 9th: leaving of the guests

Sint-Niklaas wish to know names by **9th June**. So, if you are interested in going, or need more information, please contact **John Smith**, secretary@adtts.eu, asap.

Weekend Trip to Sint-Niklaas

Saturday 23rd November – Sunday 24th November 2019

ADTTS is organising a 2-day weekend coach trip to Sint-Niklaas on Saturday 23rd - Sunday 24th November. The highlights of the trip include a visit to a chocolatier, and the House of St Nicolas (Huis van De Sint) in Sint-Niklaas, as well the famous Christmas Market in Bruges.

Each year, during the lead-up to St Nicolas Day, the town of Sint-Niklaas celebrates this by transforming their museum to "The House of The Saint", which is dedicated to the story of St Nicolas. It is a huge attraction for children in Belgium, who come from all over the country to visit it, and the St Nicolas in residence.

We are taking a coach over there, leaving Abingdon early Saturday morning, and will be staying at the 4-star Hotel Serwir, and will arrive back at about 8 pm on the Sunday evening.

The trip will be offered to Abingdon twinnings, and in the first instance we would like to give priority to pupils of St Nicolas School and their parents (although there is a limit on the number of places available).

For further details and the itinerary, please see the May Newsletter. We anticipate that the places may well be taken up very quickly, so if you are interested please let **Nick Marsh** know as soon as possible (nick.marsh@comstar.fi), tel 07745 440047.

Recent Events

Drinks evening

Thursday 20th June, 2019



Our final meeting of the season took the form of an evening Garden Drinks Party. This was held in the charming and recently remodelled garden of our vice-president, Michael Matthews, at Longside, Tatham Road. The new pond and layout were much admired! The weather was clement and a jolly evening of Fizz and Nibbles was had by all. Huge thanks to Michael, as usual, for providing the splendid venue, and also to Nikki, Stella and Rosemary for their sterling efforts in preparing the delicious nibbles and setting up the bar!

Canoe Camping in Oxfordshire 29th June – 1st July. 2019



View from Stella's tent at Abingdon Lock



Linda Gerrit and Ronald from Schongau



English contingent loading Canadian canoe

On Wednesday 26th June five canoe/campers arrived in Abingdon, three from Schongau and two from Lucca to be hosted by me, Stella Carter and Simon Kellard (not a twinner but quite nice anyway).

On Thursday we ferried eleven people with all their camping equipment and six canoes to Wolvercote and set off at about 10.30 with the boats laden with people and equipment. After paddling through Oxford we stopped for lunch at the King's Arms at Sandford then continued to Abingdon, arriving at the Abingdon Lock campsite at about 5.30. This was a very long stretch and we were thankful for a rest. After erecting several tents, one of them an eight man, we walked along the river to the Nag's Head where we met Nikki, the Goodes and Howard for dinner before walking back to our new home for a well deserved rest.

On Friday, after a breakfast of hot dogs, coffee and tea we set off for the next campsite at Day's Lock via the tunnel under Stert Street, part of the Ock, part of Swift Ditch and a picnic lunch at Clifton Hampden. After making camp and showering some of us paddled and some walked to the George in Dorchester for supper and then returned for much needed sleep. That night we had Moreno the famous Italian snorer in the 8-man tent so he was the only one to sleep well and poor old Gerrit had the leaky airbed which had to be pumped up two or three times a night.

After breakfast on Saturday we set off for the campsite by Shillingford Bridge via lunch at the Shillingford Bridge Hotel run by a modern day Basil Fawlty. That evening we walked or paddled to the Waterside Restaurant in Benson for our final dinner together

On Sunday I could not get people to eat up all the sausages and after breakfast we ferried people and equipment home where host families entertained their guests and the next day they left via Thornhill.

We were very lucky with the weather and we hope to improve on things next year.

Richard Smart

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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.

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