

Wortham & Burgate Twinning

Summer 2017 Newsletter



Saturday 19 August from 6.30 pm

Oak Tree Farm, Bury Road, Wortham

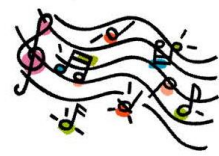
Tickets £15 (children under 16 free) includes food

Bring your own drinks, glasses, chairs and cutlery

Treasure hunt and games for children

Tickets Wortham P.O. Store

or Tel: 01379 644174



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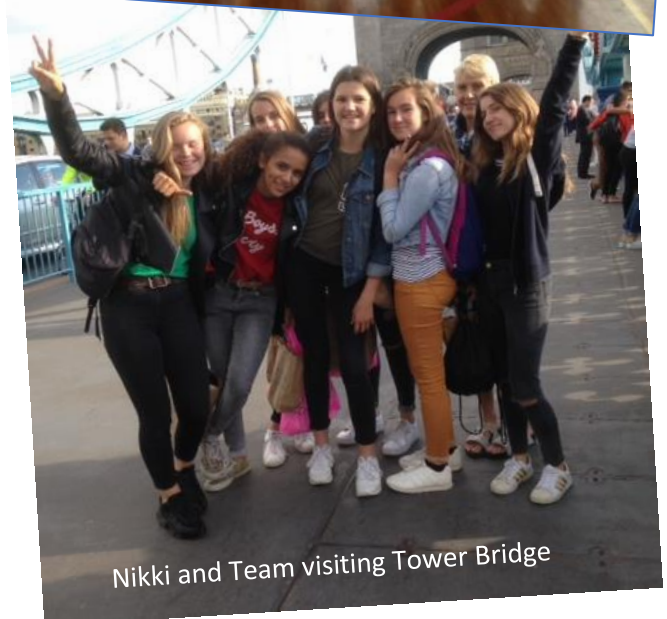
Basketball visitors from Hédé

Earlier this month, members of the Wortham Twinning group hosted and entertained nine fourteen-year old young ladies and their four adult escorts. The purpose of the trip had been for the girls to play basketball against teams at Hartismere High School, but in true Wortham fashion it turned out to be a much wider experience for them all!

In addition to the girls attending Hartismere High School for two days, and playing several matches whilst there, they also played a mixed match against pupils from Diss High School. Canoeing was arranged on the River Waveney, there was an evening of Petanque at the local club and a day in London, with shared suppers at different members' homes in the evenings.

On the days when the girls were at school the adults explored Norwich and Bury St Edmunds. I think that I can safely say we all had a fantastic time. The girls were an absolute delight to look after and tried hard to practice their English, which was lucky for me, being a very poor student of French!

Nikki Miller





Visit to Badbergen, July 2017

In recent years, we've met members of the French - German twinning at the Hédé Xmas market, then last October Nick, Linda, Andy and I joined the German visit to Hédé. This was a wonderful opportunity to get to know more members of the German group. As you know from the Worham AGM, the Germans are keen to develop closer links with us and so we were invited to join the 25th anniversary of the French - German friendship in Badbergen in Lower Saxony, just north of Osnabrück.

In early July, I joined the French twinning group for their visit. After a 17-hour coach journey we arrived for the usual twinning welcome - drinks and snacks, then off to one's family for more food and drink and more talk.

Our German hosts did us proud! There was a really interesting programme of visits with enough time to socialise with our new hosts and to renew friendships with the French. On Friday, after an informal visit to Quakenbrück market there was an excellent guided visit to Tecklenburg, ending with coffee and cake in a traditional café in the market square. The Saturday visit was to an outdoor rural museum near Cloppenburg which was fascinating.



Saturday evening was the social highlight, with traditional dancing, speeches, a delicious meal, more speeches and then dancing till the early hours. The speeches involved much reminiscing as well as hopes for the future.

Hans-Ulrich Schmitz [Uli], the German president, and Janine Feudé, the French president, have been involved in the twinning from the start. The mayor, who accepted the gifts from Hédé, was also in the first exchange, as a 13-year-old! Stephanie and Jean-Michel Thébault who had met on that first exchange, were there with their three children. Also present was an official Polish delegation from Jonkowo and they too stressed the importance of cross-cultural friendships at a time when politicians speak of walls and borders.

Sunday started with a tree planting ceremony followed by a church service. The French sang 'Ode to Joy' which we had rehearsed many times on the coach journey under Janine's energetic direction.



After lunch, we looked around the village with Uli and ended up in Hédé-Strasse where we were welcomed by an impressive salsa band and an amazing array of cakes baked by the residents.

That evening we went to a local beer garden for supper and then joined Silke, the Vice President, and friends for wine and singing in the garden.

It was wonderful ending to a really amazing few days. The French left very early on Monday morning to visit Kaiserslautern and Heidelberg on their return journey. Mine was a more leisurely return - Eurostar via Amsterdam and Brussels.

Communication didn't seem to be a problem. Janine drew on her years of English at school to talk with her hosts. The young people used French, German and English to get by and the activities that Silke organised for them certainly helped to form friendships quickly.

It does seem very important to maintain these links and establish friendships within Europe. It was really worthwhile to represent Wortham and my thanks go to the Hédé and Badbergen twinning associations for inviting me and particularly to my host Elke and to Silke, Christian, Uli, Helmut and Barbara from the committee.

If you would like more info and would like to see more of Silke's photos, please let Linda know and we can arrange a time to meet.

Lynn Clark



Hédé – Badbergen Twinning Symbol

Wine and cheese social in May

Around 30 members enjoyed a pleasant evening at Battelys Cottage, the home of Linda and Andy. A pleasant late May evening meant that guests could wander round the garden and enjoy their refreshments outside. It was nice to be able to catch up with some of our longer standing members and exchange experiences from the visit to Hédé in April. £126 was raised towards Twinning funds.



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Rose Planting

Members who visited Hédé in April will recall that to commemorate 25 years of twinning we presented the Hédé Jumelage with three rose bushes of the variety Friends Forever.

The Hédé Jumelage identified a place outside the Mairie (Town Hall) to plant them and Janine Feude, current President and whom many of you will know, planted them in a ceremony a few weeks ago. We were told they raised a glass afterwards to mark the occasion.



Forthcoming events and diary for year

6th October: Film night - a film in French with subtitles to suit all the family (title to be confirmed). To be held at Ivy House Farm, Long Green, Wortham.

December 2/3. Christmas market in Hédé. As usual we will be taking produce over to sell. Any members interested in going to help sell produce please contact Judith.

Thursday 14th December: Christmas social - Pie, mash and games evening at Wortham Village Hall.

13th February: 2018 AGM

12th – 16th July 2018: Hédé visit to Wortham