

## **BURTON LATIMER TWINNING ASSOCIATION 2017 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

### **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

In November 2016 we received communication from the Altendiez Twinning Committee. After a considerable number of years of inactivity of official twinning with our German friends, it was good to know their committee, comprising mainly old friends, was active and looking to the future and hoping to plan some events for 2017. It was interesting to note that their last official visit to Burton Latimer was the mandolin orchestra back in 2008. Specifically they noted that they had some local young families who would like to join in with twinning, and a new grammar school was interested in a student exchange for 12-17 year olds. Finally an open invitation was expressed for us to visit Altendiez in 2017 (see later in this report).

We did write to the languages department of four local schools to express the student exchange idea from Altendiez, but alas the single response that was received was unfortunately a negative.

In December 2016, we attended our first meeting with the Northamptonshire County Twinning Association. This was as part of our intent to extend our awareness of the Burton Latimer twinning association to other local twinning organisations. County twinning is active with counterparts in Westerwald and Rhein/Lahn districts of Germany. A major visit of dignitaries from these areas was planned for September 2017. More about this later. We also established communication with the Kettering twinning association, and will be receiving occasional information flyers from them. We need to maintain contact with these associations.

In February 2017, we published a half page notice in Focus magazine for the remainder of the year at minimal cost. Flyers were also distributed to Library and Civic Centre. We received two responses expressing interest in Twinning. We will keep these families informed, and hopefully they will want to participate in future events.

June 2017. Due to other commitments, we were unable to support the Burton Latimer Duck Race with our own stand this year. We need to plan for a stand at the Duck Race in June 2018.

In July 2017, a party of school children from Italy stayed at the Woodcroft Scout Centre over a weekend, as part of visit which they organised. We assisted with their local arrangements and spent some time with them. Unfortunately, despite initial plans, no formal twinning with Italy was possible during 2017.

In August 2017, we were formally invited to attend the Altendiez “Dorffest” celebration. This was a long weekend event and was attended by 7 people. We were kindly accommodated by families with whom we had twinned in the past, and enabled old friends to meet again. The Burgermeister welcomed the British visitors at the Dorffest which was a well attended village fete event held near their fire station, and comprised live music, side stalls, food and drink, games for the children and demonstrations by their brigade apprentices. As families, the children enjoyed visits to theme park, whilst the adults enjoyed visits to Limburg, Bad EMS, and wine tasting.

In September 2017, We supported the County twinning association who hosted about 12 visitors over a weekend from Westerwald and Rhein/Lahn districts of Germany. (Altendiez and Kettering’s Lahnstein are in these districts). Included in the visitor list were the Deputy Mayors of these districts. Also in support were twinning members from County, Higham Ferrers and Desborough. Their itinerary included visits to Rushden fire station and fire control management demonstrations at Chelveston airfield, Rushden Lakes, dinner with an MEP, visits to Stoke Albany, and meal arranged by Desborough twinning association. Post event feedback was that the visit was very successful and thanks were given for our support.

The committee continues to review opportunities to receive funding to support future twinning activity.

## **2018**

We have specific interest from 3 people from who previously twinned with Burton Latimer, and who would like to twin in 2018. We also have interest as a result of the flyers. So future twinning opportunities with more people twinning from Burton Latimer is potentially improving.

Steve Thomas  
Chairman