



In this issue:

Chairman's musings
Boules Report
Liederbach visit
Summer Outing
Autumn Weekend Break
Appeal for Birthday cards



Welcome to the August newsletter.

I have been thinking about how to get the best out of the four-times per year newsletters and I have decided that issues in March, June, October and December would be the best timed to give you all news of forthcoming attractions and reports of our activities. So this August edition is a bit of a one-off. It is also being written a bit in advance as I shall be off on holiday shortly and need to get it to the printers' before I go.

The BIG event has, of course, been our visit to Liederbach and a full report follows. There is also a progress report on plans for this year's Summer Outing and a report on our performance in the boules league.

The other event of note is that Bill Eggleston, our Membership Secretary, moved out of Verwood in June and surrendered his duties. I would like to record our sincere thanks to him for all his work in the past. For the future, Sandra will be combining Membership records with her Treasurer's post, which will make it much simpler to reconcile accounts at renewal time.

On a personal note, I would like to thank everyone for their good wishes during my recent illness - it was a great comfort to Anjie and myself to know we have such good friends in the Twinning.



Our Boules results this season have been a bit varied. At the half-way stage of the season we have won 2

games, drawn 2 and lost 3. We do not yet have an official league table but I reckon that should put us about half-way. Don't forget that everyone is welcome to come along to the boules pitch on the Memorial Recreation Ground any dry Thursday evening from about 6pm for a friendly practice or instruction for newcomers. If you show any sort of promise you could well be in the team for the following Saturday!



At the time of writing we are just back from our visit to Liederbach.

Our German friends pulled out all the stops as usual and laid on an interesting and exhausting programme for us. We arrived at the Liederbachhalle at 7.30pm on Thursday evening to be greeted with goody bags and a glass of cold beer. United or re-united with our hosts everyone then adjourned to renew old friendships or to forge new ones. On Friday morning a coach had been arranged to take us for a day in the ancient University city of Heidelberg. A morning walking tour was followed by lunch arranged for us in a local brewhouse. The afternoon was at leisure and opinion was split as to what to do. Some decided to climb (by funicular in most cases) to the castle overlooking the town, others opted for a boat trip along the River Neckar, with the chance of coffee and cake being a major attraction.

Saturday was the International Street Festival in Liederbach and we took the opportunity to have a stall in the market offering such English delights as Marmite and Daddies Sauce. This proved to be very popular and by 6pm we were virtually sold out, so we shut up shop and spent the rest of the evening enjoying the entertainment and refreshments that were on offer.

On Sunday we were treated to lunch at the official reception, where I was honoured to present the new Bürgermeisterin with three beautiful framed limited-edition watercolours of houses featuring in Thomas Hardy's novels. On

Monday we had more free time with our hosts before leaving for the flight home.



This year's Summer Outing will be another attempt to see the Swanage fireworks - let's hope August this year brings us better weather than last year. The date is **15th August** with our coach leaving Morrison's car park at **6.45pm**. We drive to Poole where our boat, complete with fish and chip supper, will take us to Swanage for the fireworks which we will watch from the boat, then returning to Poole and **back in Verwood at approx 11.45pm**. The cost will be **£21 per head including the fish and chip supper**. Bookings and full details are available from Brian on 822299.

There is now a face-lifted version of our "introduction to twinning" leaflet. They are available from the Heritage Centre and at the Council Offices but if anyone would like a

copy to entice a friend or neighbour to join us, you could also please give me a call.

A few places are left on the autumn weekend break. This is staying in Lille with a Saturday evening trip to the Last Post ceremony at the Menin Gate in Ypres.

When? 9th - 11th October 2009
How much? Just £140 per person. Supplements apply for single room occupancy and insurance.
How do I book or find out more? Email or speak to Terry - details below. Or download a booking form from our website.

Catharina needs your old Birthday Cards to make new ones from. She sells these cards in support of the Twinning so if you have any to offer, please let her have them or call her on 813564.

That's it for this issue. The next newsletter will be the October edition with news of the AGM and our new season of monthly meetings.

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