



NEWSLETTER SUMMER 2018
WHAT A FABULOUS SUMMER FOR
TWINNING EXCHANGES !



Lindlar Visit. Families in the Shaftesbury area hosted 37 residents from our twin town, Lindlar, Germany in early June and enjoyed a successful long weekend.

Our friends from Lindlar come to Shaftesbury every alternate year and the 2018 party included a number who had never visited Dorset before. They left with a very positive view of the community and indeed some visitors have already expressed a wish to be back with us in 2020!

On arrival the group were welcomed by Our Mayor Cllr. Piers Brown and spent the first evening enjoying the attractions of Shaftesbury with their hosts. Plenty of free time is afforded to allow exploration of local attractions, visits to local shops, restaurants and pubs of our town.



A Saturday morning visit was organised to the American Museum in Bath, followed by an afternoon spent in the delightful surroundings of Bradford on Avon. One of Bradford's Town Councillors greeted the party, provided information in both English and German before leading a short guided tour.

On the Sunday morning the Twin Town Association Chairman, Simon Pritchard, kindly hosted a guided walk in the Wardour Castle area for the more athletic members

The afternoon all hosts, friends and visitors met at Shaftesbury Football Club for a social afternoon and evening, with games of Boules, Croquet and Skittles being offered. A delicious buffet was provided by Twin Town Committee members. Everyone was able to mix freely and offered the chance to develop their foreign language skills. Councillor Lester Taylor attended the gathering and expressed a desire for closer ties to be further developed. The Lindlar representatives invited Shaftesbury to visit Germany in 2019 and plans are now being made.

[Photos www.shaftesburytwinning.org.uk/?page_id=384](http://www.shaftesburytwinning.org.uk/?page_id=384)



Membership of Shaftesbury Town Twinning Association is open to anyone and costs just £6 a year individual and £10 family. There is no requirement to speak either French or German and throughout the year a programme of social events is organised. Please contact Roy Mitchell, Secretary on 01747 858219 or roymitchell53@btinternet.com. for further information.

Brionne Visit - The Shaftesbury delegates were welcomed in Brionne with a kind and encouraging speech from The Mayor, Monsieur Valery Beuriot, at the Railway Station.

To commemorate the 1914 to 1918 World War One Centenary, Shaftesbury and Brionne Twin Town members took part in a reconstructed event from this period, beginning with a visit to the 'Champignonniere'. Set in rural Brionne, these caves in the hills were used up during WW1 as a place for Resistance hideouts and injured soldiers. The guide, Flavien, informed visitors about the cave properties amongst other facts, and took questions from inquisitive listeners. The 'Champignonniere' is so called because it houses several varieties of unusual mushrooms, all grown there due to the cave's ideal dark and moist conditions.



Later that day the Town's Leisure Base, usually home to sports such as basketball, boating and golf, played host for one weekend to an exhibition of collated WW1 information. These included letters sent home by soldiers in battle, and first-hand accounts of the terrifying life in trenches, all of which were positioned across the fields. It served as a stark reminder of the reality of that time.

By evening, a 'Guinguette', which were popular restaurants and dance venues held throughout Parisian suburbs, was open to the public. Many of those attending, along with the Twinning Association, wore period costume to really resurrect the era. People young and old came together to enjoy a meal, which was issued with the provision of a 'Food Card', representing the ones which were used at the time of rationing. However, in contrast to the bleak and despairing wartime days, people were instead able to enjoy measurable food portions along with a party and music well into the early hours of the following morning.

Those in period dress included men who, as troops, donned khaki jackets, army hats and bovver boots. Similarly the women, who during WW1 had to stay home, also dressed as Nurses. With tea dresses, ankle socks, berets and braces aplenty, the evening proved to be a main attraction in the usually quiet town of Brionne. Retro music filled the air and wine was savoured before the start of play on Sunday.

To follow on from the Commemorative evening, a Mass was held at the same spot the very next morning, attended by Twin Town members, and which included hymns and readings. The service was led by the Bishop of Evreux, and was followed by lunch once more at the Railway Station. The meals were courtesy of 'Le Vieux Donjon' restaurant in Brionne, and were set to an English salad-style format, enjoyed by all. Back at the Leisure Base, bagpipe players led all attendees to a military assembly of Veterans, taking place in front of the Town Hall. French flags, children's moving readings of Wartime testimonies and a one minute silence led by the Mayor, were all deeply observed.



To finalise the weekend, and to lighten the sombre tone of the era, members of the crowds were permitted to join the soldiers and their jeeps in a convoy display throughout the town's streets. Intermittently sounding the air raid sirens, for some of the generations present, this ominous sound would have spelt panic pervading all who heard it.

Fortunately for the younger majority, WW1 is a distant memory, but the events of this crucially important time in history will be forever embedded in consciences for generations to come. (Copyright J Bovaird)

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Boules – We have more new members this year and the Keystone Petanque League nears its conclusion. The weather has allowed us to practice most weeks and/or play matches on schedule. Two of our players are through to the Pairs Final knockout and there is a Triples tournament at The Kings Arms in August. The Keystone League Finals Day is to be held at Tisbury Football Club on Sunday 2nd September.

Practice usually takes place Wednesday 6.30pm at the rear of The Shaftesbury Sports Bar, Coppice Street, Shaftesbury. Please feel free to come along or contact William Moore 07930589660 whsm@tiscali.co.uk

Forthcoming Social Events

Summer BBQ - Friday Aug 24th at Simon Pritchard's garden and conservatory , 11 Heathfields Way from 6 -30 pm. Cost £8 per person . Please bring your own drinks. In order to ensure we have the right amount of food. RSVP by 21st August to Roy Mitchell (01747 858219) or roymitchell53@btinternet.com Please advise on any specific dietary requirements.

Skittles - Friday October 26th Skittles Night at Shaftesbury Football Club Coppice Street 7:30pm. Cost £8 per head including light supper . RSVP by October 22nd to Connie Brockway (01747 852576) conniebrockway345@btinternet.com

Website – www.shaftesburytwinning.org.uk

Shaftesbury Town Twinning Association 2018 Committee Members

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