

## WINDERMERE/DIESEN TWINNING ASSOCIATION

### Chairman's Report 2010 - Jennifer Borer

Members and friends enjoyed many and varied activities and events during 2010, both here in Windermere and in Diessen-am-Ammersee in Bavaria. We now have 50 full Members, including 3 'Corporate' Members, as well as several organisations and friends who support our aims and objectives.

Wonderful spring weather heralded the visit of 20 brass players of the Blasergruppe who were kindly hosted by Members. Their programme included playing in the bandstand on the Glebe, at a service at St Herbert's church, at St Anne's school, relaxing in local hostelrys and enjoying a barbeque at the Fairfield Hotel. Joined by Burnside Brass and Kendal Concert Band at Lakes School the three bands together gave a rousing concert which was appreciated by a large audience who also enjoyed excellent refreshments provided by the school's Ecuador Group. Sadly, one member of the Blasergruppe had suffered a fall and ended up spending her time and an extra week in Barrow Hospital, before being taken to the airport by our local St John's Ambulance group to fly home. My thanks go to all our Members and friends who visited and helped Sonja at this time together with the nursing staff at the hospital.

In return, 'Quarterdeck' a four player saxophone ensemble from our bands visited Diessen in August and gave several very successful concerts which, although being completely different from the massed bands here, were enjoyed by equally appreciative audiences.

Fund raising social events included our usual successful summer Garden Party at the Fairfield Hotel with strawberries and Pimms, and the first of a series of Coffee Mornings at the Methodist church room in Windermere which proved to be a pleasant occasion with a number of people coming to find out more about Twinning and its activities. Our Christmas Advent event had to be cancelled due to the unexpected snow and icy conditions, so the programme and refreshments have been held over for the evening of the Annual General Meeting.

Early summer saw a group of students from the Carl Orff School staying at Windermere YHA, taking part in various activities in the area and spending time in school with Lakes School students including a social get-together with games and 'Lotto'. This year's return visit enjoyed by 58 pupils and 8 staff of Lakes school was the largest group so far. Our grateful thanks go to Jermaine Willan and her colleagues who organised the trip for the cultural and linguistic benefit of the pupils.

A new initiative saw two groups of students from the Ammersee Gymnasium taking part in visits to Windermere St Anne's School for studying English language, learning more about our culture and rural way of life, as well as socialising and making connections through friendship which may lead to individual exchanges in the future. Again our thanks go to Katrin Hertel and the staff at the school for the organisation of these visits, which were followed by a smaller group going from Windermere to Diessen.

September was a memorable month in that a group of Members and friends joined with the Diessen Catholic ladies – the Frauenbund – on a visit to the Passion Play in Oberammergau. The day long dramatic and emotional enactment of the story of the Cross is performed only by the residents of the town every 10 years. This was followed by English week in Diessen including a Market Day and a football match which the senior Windermere team won against Diessen by a late goal before they went off to celebrate at the Oktoberfest on Munich. Many other events and activities with an English theme culminated in a day similar to our agricultural 'show' days in a village near Diessen. Some Members from the Oberammergau group stayed on and were joined by others who went out for English week and the whole event with the usual generous Bavarian hospitality including trips into and up the Alps was enjoyed by all. Our thanks go to all the hosts and the Diessen committee for organising the event.

Lastly, my thanks go to our own committee for all their support and to those who retired after many years service at the last AGM including Sheila Ricketts as Chairman and Shirley Taylor as Secretary. Also I would like to express my thanks to Bill Smith, Town Mayor, who has shown great support for Twinning by greeting our visitors at several events, including learning a few phrases of German language for the Lakes School students social evening.