



Windermere / Diessen Twinning Association

Chairman's Report 2013 – Jennifer Borer

After such a busy year here in 2012, Twinning activities for 2013 centered again on our annual student exchanges, but with some Diessen members coming here to join us for a very special event and a group of our members going there for a first time visit to the annual pottery market

We started in April when we were joined by several Diessen singers and the Curator of the Carl Orff Museum coming to take part in Staveley Choral Society's performance of 'Carmina Burana' at Lakes School. We were pleased to support this production in various ways including providing a stall at our March Coffee Morning for the Staveley ladies to sell cakes and other home-made items and running a raffle on the night to help cover the expenses incurred by such an ambitious project. This amazing event attracted a capacity audience who appreciated the talk given by Rotraut about Carl Orff's life and his connection with Diessen, which was followed by a splendid performance of his famous work.

Early May saw a group of our members visiting Diessen for the purpose of seeing the annual international 'Topfermarkt' This was a huge event running over three days with over 160 stalls including several from the UK and attracting some 25,000 visitors. However, despite the rather inclement weather (rain – which they said we had brought from Cumbria!) everywhere was very busy and the standard and variety of pottery was fantastic. The group was hosted with the usual generosity and several visits to other places of interest were enjoyed during the week.

The early summer sunshine in June enabled us to hold our annual 'Strawberries and Pimms' Garden Party actually outside in the beautiful garden at Fairfield House, courtesy of Tony and Liz Blaney. All members and friends enjoyed a wonderful afternoon of games and chat over our now traditional afternoon tea and generously contributed to our fund raising once again. We also held another fund raising Coffee Morning in October at the Marchesi Centre.

Financial support was again given for the Lakes School exchange visit to Diessen which took place in July with a full programme of cultural visits and social events which were enjoyed by over 40 students, benefitting from a different culture and broadening their knowledge of the beautiful area of our Twin Town, and its proximity to the city of Munich. The group of students from Carl Orff School had to change their visit from April to July as the accommodation at the Ambleside YHA was not available due to the late completion of their major upgrading work. Fortunately, both travel and accommodation bookings were re-arranged and the group enjoyed the usual programme of visits to local places of interest with a final social evening before departing. Our thanks go to the school staff both here and in Diessen for making all the complex arrangements.

The Windermere Junior School Choir joined us again for our Christmas Advent event, starting off the festive season with a selection of Carols and music enjoyed by many members, parents and friends and our thanks go to the school for such splendid entertainment, which was followed by traditional hand baked Bavarian seasonal biscuits and refreshments.

Finally, our thanks go to Windermere Town Council for their continued grant support and to the 'Hub' community newsletter for publishing regular reports of our activities for everyone to read.