



Windermere / Diessen Twinning Association

Chairman's Report 2016 – Jennifer Borer

In general terms, 2016 was a quieter year than most with regard to arranged visits for Members both going to and from Diessen, although several Members made individual arrangements with their respective hosts and once again enjoyed the generous hospitality of our Bavarian friends.

The successful School Exchange visits started with the Diessen Carl Orff School students coming over here earlier than usual in March for a varied programme of activities including a daytime visit and an evening at Lakes School where they were able to meet up and socialise with their counterpart year group students. A large number of Lakes School students made a return visit to Diessen in July, and our thanks go to the Lakes School staff for organising and accompanying the groups who benefit socially and culturally from these valuable exchange opportunities.

Our programme of social and fund raising events continued with a successful Coffee Morning at the Marchesi centre shared with parents from St Cuthbert's school who were fund raising for the purchase of 'Glockenspiels' for the children to learn to play as a special project. However, the Annual Garden Party at the Fairfield Hotel in June had to be cancelled as so few members and friends were able to attend. Once again we had the choir from St Martin and St Mary Primary School to start the Christmas festive season with their singing at the Marchesi Centre, and we are grateful to all the parents and friends who come along to make this such an enjoyable community event. At the end of November an enjoyable winter warming lunch was held at the Flying Pig by a group which included the Windermere Town Mayor, Leith Hallatsch and his wife, who have been regular supporters of our Twinning activities. We would like Members to continue attending these events as they also give the opportunity to catch up on activities in between the newsletters which I hope are useful and informative.

A small group of players from the Diessen Bläsergruppe came in May to join in with the pupils of St Cuthbert's School playing their Glockenspiels at a special school assembly which was enjoyed by all the pupils and families attending. This followed a concert in St Herbert's Church and outdoor performances at Allan Bank National Trust house in Grasmere. A special feature of all of these events was the playing of the Alpenhorns, particularly at Grasmere where the sound of the horns attracted attention for a long distance through the valley, and caused quite a flurry of excitement in the vicinity.

Committee Members have been involved in opportunities for promoting Twinning more widely when the weekend event at Kendal Town Hall, together with all the other Twinning organisations in South Lakeland, was followed by taking part in a Community Day when we had a stall at the Ladyholme Centre. This was followed later on when we had a stand in the Tourist Information Centre for the weekend of the Christmas Market where we had a display of photographs and information together with our contact details. Whilst several people showed interest in our activities at these events it did not progress to increased Membership, but unfortunately, many other organisations are experiencing similar difficulties at the present time.

We were sad to say goodbye to Rosemary Park who has been such an active member and an invaluable help with translations when needed, on her removal to Pickering. However, I am pleased to say that she has kept up her Membership and may visit from time to time when the opportunity arises. We are also indebted to Windermere Town Council for their funding support.

So - we have been quite busy after all! I would like to take the opportunity to thank your Committee Members who have been wonderfully helpful, and we are also indebted to Windermere Town Council for their continued funding support.

We are now looking forward to activities planned for 2017, to be followed in 2018 during which will celebrate 20 years of Twinning benefits and friendship with Diessen –am- Ammersee, for which plans are already in hand.