

Bidford on Avon/Ebsdorfergrund Twinning Associatio

SPRING 2010 NEWSLETTER

This Spring, June 3 – 6, heralded the visit of over 40 German friends from the villages of Ebsdorfergrund to celebrate the 30th Anniversary of the signing of the Twinning Charter between our two communities.

Although their visit was of short duration, opportunity was made for friendships to be renewed and new families to experience the twinning concept. Many of our previous members were invited to join in these special celebrations and we were lucky that two founder members, from years ago, were able to join us on the Friday evening for the signing of the Charters.

Our German guests arrived by coach and a few others by aeroplane. Arrangements were made to provide family accommodation and, where not possible, some stayed in the Broom Hall Inn. Their party comprised of many familiar faces and some new, also additionally their deputy Burgermeister Herr Erwin Junker and a jazz trio “Bitter Sweet”.

Two main functions were arranged over the long weekend. On Friday evening June 4th everyone met at the Crawford Hall. The evening began with singing by the junior choir of English Serenata. This was followed by a wonderful buffet for over one hundred people provided by Naylor Catering and the signing of two new Declarations. These were signed firstly, by members of our two communities and secondly, by English and German children to represent our ongoing determination to further develop our joint Associations. Many gifts were exchanged including a direction sign from our German friends advising which direction and how many kilometres to Ebsdorfergrund!! Bidford presented the German committee with a tree “trained” in the shape of a heart to represent the Heart of England and a sign of our friendship. The second function was an afternoon garden party at the home of Roger and Gay Leese (of English Serenata), in Dunnington, with a barbeque with music and singing by the wonderful German Trio “Bitter Sweet”. This was a very memorable day and again an ideal opportunity to meet with new and old faces.

Opportunity was available for our English host families (to whom a grateful thanks is essential), to take our German guests to the Cotswolds, Stratford on Avon, Hereford and many other places too numerous to list. It is always hoped that friendships become permanent, and of course, that they see that we are fortunate to live in a very attractive part of Warwickshire.

During such visits much help is needed and without hesitation much thanks need to go to the host families and to the various organisations in the village which help make the visit a success. Thanks must also be recorded to the Bidford on Avon Parish Council, Crawford Hall, Broom Hall Inn, Bidford Taxis, Naylor Catering, Plato, Bloomfield Printers, Salford Priors Scouts, and of course our Bidford Twinning committee members who did so much work to make the whole visit a success.

For those who are unaware, the membership of the Bidford on Avon Twinning Association is free and open to all who live in the village and surrounding districts. Over the years, nationally, the interest in twinning has sadly waned, maybe due to convenience of cheap foreign holidays. Due to the recent interest shown by English Serenata and their many young families, Bidford on Avon Twinning has received a new lease of life. We only wish we could encourage more village associations to take part and join us...they would not regret the experience. May 2011 is the next opportunity to visit Germany with us.

On a final note, many thanks for the financial donations from Bidford on Avon Parish Council and the Crawford Hall which helped to make this visit, once again, so memorable. Our German visitors always comment on the hospitality they receive in Bidford on Avon and always report back favourably to Germany!