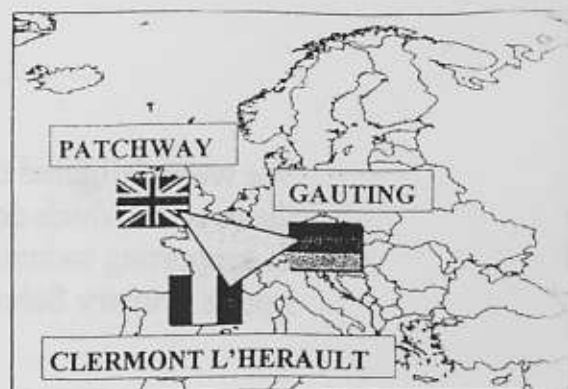


# PATCHWAY TWINNING ASSOCIATION

Twinned with Clermont L'Herault and Gauting



## NEWSLETTER

Number 51

November 2008

### VISITS TO TWIN TOWNS

14 members visited *Clermont l'Hérault* over the Whitsun Weekend - Thursday 22 May to Monday 26 May. There was a new direct flight with Ryan Air from Bristol to Béziers, which is not far from Clermont, and we were collected by bus at the airport. This made the journey very short and easy, which was much appreciated by us all.

There was an interesting programme arranged which included a visit to the regional government office in Montpellier, a barbecue beside Lake Salagou, a coach trip to the Cirque de Navacelle (including a fabulous lunch and a chance to taste regional products), a formal dinner to celebrate the 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary of twinning between Clermont and Gauting with folk dance groups and a school orchestra, and a visit to the coast at Agde. The hospitality was fantastic and, despite unusually rainy weather, a great time was had by all.

We were very pleased that Coniston Watercolour Group was able to send 20 paintings to be displayed in Clermont during August at an art exhibition in the town. Thanks to all those who submitted paintings.

14 members (mostly a different group) visited *Gauting* at the end of September. An official programme was arranged for the weekend, with a visit to the Oktoberfest in Munich, a coach trip to the city of Augsburg, with an interesting guided tour and lunch, and a dinner with entertainment to celebrate the 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the twinning between Gauting and Clermont. We also had two free days which were spent in various ways: visiting local schools, shopping in Munich, a boat trip on Lake Starnberg and visits to various places of interest with our hosts.

We were delighted that Patchway Town Councillors were part of both these visits which demonstrates the commitment of our local council in supporting twinning activities and links. Two teachers from Stoke Lodge Primary School came to Gauting and this is reported overleaf.

### **LINKS WITH YOUNG PEOPLE**

From 2-9 July we once again welcomed six students and their teacher from the Real Schule in Gauting to spend a week in Patchway. The students stayed at the Youth Hostel in Bristol and carried out work experience in local primary schools, with a schools activity day and the opening event of Patchway Festival too. The group had a good day out in London by train on the Sunday and spent one day at Patchway Community College.

Many thanks to Coniston, Holy Family and Stoke Lodge Primary Schools for offering placements for this week.

During our visit to Gauting last month, the Head and a teacher from Stoke Lodge Primary School made useful contacts with the Real Schule (secondary) and Stockdorf Grundschule (primary). We hope that a lively link will be formed with the primary school, which will be the first one. St. Chad's Primary is hoping to be the second primary school to make a link with a school in Clermont... more of this in a future Newsletter.

Plans are now in hand for the visit next July for a group from the Real Schule in Gauting and we hope they will be joined by a group from the Cep d'Or college in Clermont. The Head of Stoke Lodge Primary School, Richard Clark, has offered to co-ordinate this visit and is planning an exciting programme for the young people.

The Twinning Committee is delighted with the developments of inter-school links as involvement of young people is the future for twinning in Patchway.

We look forward to working more closely with all local schools in 2009.

### **COMMUNITY COLLEGE DVD**

Members of the Committee were very impressed with a DVD made by pupils of Patchway Community College, assisted by a group of

student teachers from UWE, which presents Patchway to young people in Clermont and Gauting.

The College provided us with enough copies to take to Gauting and hand out to the schools there. Several copies were given to the French Mayor to take back and distribute to schools in Clermont too.

## **ANNUAL DINNER**

The Committee has decided to change the usual arrangements for the Annual Dinner and hold the 2009 event in the spring rather than in January. This is because bad weather has put people off for the last couple of years.

The Committee is looking at the possibility of holding the dinner at the City of Bristol College near Bristol Cathedral and asking the catering department to arrange either a French or a German menu. You will remember that we had an excellent meal at this venue a few years ago during a twinning visit.

More information will be given about this event in the next Newsletter.

## **COMMITTEE CHANGES**

At the AGM in July there were a few changes to the Committee. The Chairman thanked those who were retiring: Geoff Howell, Gill Cox and Jill Clapp. He expressed the sadness of all members at the sudden death of Marlene Horner, who had been a valuable supporter of the Twinning Association for many years.

New members of the Committee were welcomed: Annette Morgan, Win Williams and Brian Hopkinson.

## **JOIN US FOR A CHRISTMAS DRINK!**

All members of the Twinning Association are invited to join the Committee for a Christmas drink and light refreshments on **Thursday 11 December at 7.30 p.m.** at Callicroft House, Rodway Road. Please do come along if you can - we would welcome your company!

Once a month members are invited to meet for a drink at 8 p.m. at the Toby Grill (formerly The Orchard) in Woodlands Lane, Bradley Stoke. Just come along on the first Monday of each month or ring John Thomas on 01454-612577 for more information. You will be very welcome.

## **NEXT YEAR**

We have been asked by Clermont l'Hérault to organise an international conference in 2009 on environmental issues and this is currently under discussion. We hope to obtain funding from the European Union and will involve representatives of Patchway, Clermont and Gauting - and perhaps an eastern European country too. We will keep members informed of developments.

The Association will be extending an invitation to a group from Clermont l'Hérault to visit Patchway next summer. If you are able to host one or more visitors, this would be much appreciated. More details in the next Newsletter.

## **GREETINGS**

Although it's early, the Committee would like to take this opportunity to wish all members a *Very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.*  
*Joyeux Noël et Bonne Année.*  
*Fröhliches Weihnachten und Glückliches Neujahr.*

<p><b>MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE ARE:</b> Alan Bamforth, Steve Bloggs, Ken Dando, Jenny Gammon, Lucy Hamid (Secretary), John Hooper, Brian Hopkinson, Derek Horner (Treasurer), Paul &amp; Elaine Martin, Annette Morgan, Alex Seaman, John Thomas (Chairman) Ian White (President) and Win Williams.</p>
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