

Hartley Wintney twinned with



St Savin (France) & Malle (Belgium)

Chairman's Visit to St Savin



The weekend of October the 18/19th saw celebrations in St Savin of the completion of restoration work on the famous frescos at St Savin Abbey, a UNESCO World Heritage site. All St Savin's twinning partners were invited. Chairman Tony Davies and Sarah & Nigel Beazley attended representing Hartley Wintney alongside delegates from Malle and Heusenstamm. As well as enjoying the excellent celebrations arranged by the EPCC committee the Hartley Wintney delgation went some towards re-vitalising the relationship between our two communities.

Owing to poor communication and delay in response both partners had been under the impression that the other had lost interest in twinning exchanges.

Chairman Tony Davies' stated following the visit, " I believe that had Hartley Wintney not been represented at this event, significant damage would have been done to an already very unstable situation in relations between our communities. I am also comfortable that our attendance has gone some way to recovering the lack of confidence between the two groups, nevertheless, there is still a long way to go and we need to confirm our intentions with actions".



It was agreed in discussions with Mme Amirault that changes in the role of twinning activities were needed if 'twinning ' is to survive. One suggestion was that each partner should list its local community clubs and activities which could lead to exchanges between these groups to encourage the growth and continuance of twinning.



The Mayor of St Savin, M. Jean Pierre Rousse, indicated a personal interest in twinning and we hope to welcome him at a future visit.

Walking Trip to Malle July 08

The Magnificent Seven, as we were later to be called, set off from Fleet Station on Friday 18 July for our walking weekend in Malle, some of us with nervous anticipation. We strode out with our small suitcases on wheels with a distinct air of confidence, flicking the handles down and up as we negotiated the escalators. And so we arrived at St Pancras as one, despite a magnificent person not being quite quick enough from platform to train! Once on the Eurostar, we settled down for our four hour journey and relaxed into holiday mode. Changing at Brussels for our connection was uneventful and we finally arrived at Turnhout Station in the early evening, to be met by two of our twinning hosts, Staf and Marc. We received a warm welcome from our host families and went to sleep that night with thoughts of our first 10 mile walk the next day.

We awoke to a sunny, showery morning and met up at 9.30 at the Windmill with our fellow walkers, 16 in all. After introductions, we set off at a medium pace, Staf leading the way, and we got to know the Malle twinning committee members as we followed the 10 mile route, around West Malle, prompting some banter regarding passports for residents of Oostmalle. We passed the Trapiste Monastery where locals buy their 9% beer, and cheese. We were met half way by the ladies, with a welcoming picnic which we ate sheltering from the rain, in the woods. Gusta joined the group for the afternoon stretch, pointing out the maize and other vegetation which she uses to make paper. Mid afternoon we quenched our thirst by drinking fresh milk bought for 10 cents a cup from a local farm, especially as the sun had come out. With aching feet we reached our destination (back at the start) and were happy to sample the local beers, well you have to don't you! As we were sitting outside the bar, a sudden thunderstorm sent us inside, as fast as we were able. That evening we were entertained to dinner at The Castle by the Burghermaster and members of the Malle twinning committee. The meal was typical of the Malle region, the main course being meat loaf with fruit. Afterwards we were honoured to receive gifts as a token of the town's long association and friendship with Hartley Wintney.

The next morning we rendezvoused again at 9.30 for our next 10 miler around Oostmalle, which was

nearly a 13 miler but Staf decided he didn't want to risk an international incident, in other words a mutiny! During the walk, we were once again putting on and taking off our wet weather gear. Our lunchtime stop was at a clearing in the forest, where a story tells of naked ladies appearing to lost travellers, or something like that. We were met again by the ladies with another delicious picnic. The highlight of the afternoon has to be a stop at a farm selling ice-cream. Ice-cream that had never tasted so good – pure nectar, as the photograph of mass licking shows. We finished off with drinks at The Castle and enjoyed relaxing in the sun.



The Malle Committee held a farewell bbq for us that evening in the Maria Park Hall and we were given a talk in the Chapel there on it's religious history. After the meal Ron thanked our Belgian friends for their kindness and hospitality, and we all agreed it had been a terrific weekend. After farewells in Malle the next morning, we finished with a tour of Antwerp by Staf, Ria and Roger. Being a cold, wet morning we stopped for a warming coffee in a typical brown café, before final goodbyes and boarding our train at Antwerp Station for our return journey.

Hartley Wintney v Odiham Petanque Evening

On the 9th Sept members of HW and Odiham Twinning Associations met at Bowenhurst for the latest contest for the Petanque Silver Plate.

Both clubs fielded a team of 20 players. Although HW failed to re-capture the 'plate' a very enjoyable evening was had by all who attended, and, indications were that there is a desire for us to repeat the event next year, but, with a more competitive team. Thanks to everyone who supported this event.

Golden Bridge Project gets EC Funding

Malle have been told that the Golden Bridge Project

has been approved by the EC. This means that on 9th May 2009 Malle will kick-off a great twinning event . The project is a celebration of twinning, involving all Malle's twinning partners, as 2010 is a significant anniversary for each one. Therefore the main events will occur in 2010. Malle - St Savin celebrate 50 years of twinning, while Malle – Heusenstamm celebrate 20 years, Malle – Hartley Wintney 10 years and Malle and Zakrzowek 5 years.

The Golden Bridge Project aims to involve all twinning partners in producing a travelling exhibition of digital photographs from the twinning partners following local competitions. There will also be themes involving art, music, heritage, environment and design. The Project aims to appeal to and involve all residents of the twinning partner communities.

The core of the project will be performances and exhibitions in the beautiful 'Kastelmalle'. In addition it is intended that a portable exhibition will visit all the participating communities following the Malle exhibition.

For more details of this cultural twinning extravaganza please contact the appropriate HWTA member listed below.

Photo Comp. - Jean Amos
Music - Tony Davies/Steve Sharpe
Environment - Tony Davies
Art & Culture - Jean Amos/Louise Cox
Heritage - Sarah Beazley

For contact details please check the website. The above is a list of co-ordinators we shall be looking for a number of people to lead the individual projects from the village.

Forthcoming Events

15th Nov. The international quiz is postponed to a later date due to lack of entries and also to the number of other quizzes in the area, one on the same night.

7th Dec. Luncheon and Grand Raffle at the WI Hut. Tickets £10 each for the Lunch (we hope people will also buy raffle tickets!) Wines and soft drinks are complimentary. Tickets from Ron Osborne, 01252 843796. Cheques to 'Hartley Wintney Twinning Association'.

The quality prizes will be ten in number..

If you want more details Jean Amos is in charge of getting the prizes, and seems to be doing a great job from what I have seen.

26th Jan 09. Annual General Meeting. WI Hut 7.30pm for 8pm. Please note in your diary.

31st Jan 09. Burns Night. WI Hut Usual format. Haggis & neaps. More details later

26th Jun. 09. Cycle trip to Malle. Contact Steve Sharpe/Andrew Morten for details.

Committee Details.

President	- Jean Amos	845505
Chairman	- Tony Davies	842685
Vice Chair	- Louise Cox	842363
Secretary	- Sarah Beazley	842139
Treasurer	- Andrew Morten	843346
Membership	- Ron Osborne	843796
Members	- Jean Price	842568
	- Steve Sharpe	842781
Newsletter	- Gerda Bennett	842790

Committee meeting 3rd Monday in month.
Check details with the Secretary.