



German Evening

When Alex Alexander drove the TTA van to the Spring Market in Biberach, he took with him a shopping list. This was no ordinary shopping list as it stipulated catering quantities of cold meats, potatoes, beer, wine and that local speciality, Maultaschen. It was, in fact, a list written by the team who were planning the dinner at the TTA's German Evening to be held a few days after Alex's return. The team were determined that the meal would be as authentically German as possible.

Held at the Trinity Methodist church hall on Friday 16th May, the evening was a great success to judge by the many favourable comments made by the more than forty guests who booked their table. On arrival guests were welcomed by music played by the local band The Four Saxes. As their name suggests, this is a four piece band of talented saxophonists who played further numbers with a German theme between courses, as well as a tremendous finale.

The dinner itself was of three splendid courses. To start, platters of a variety of cold German sliced meats, or cheese for the vegetarians, were brought to the tables and served with pretzels. This was followed by Maultaschen, both meat and vegetable varieties, served with Schwabian potato salad. It seems impossible to buy the correct variety of potato in this country, so thanks go to Isabelle Thomas in Biberach for finding them there for us and at such a bargain price! Dessert just had to be Black Forest gâteau. Thanks also go out to Joy Philips and Sue

Sharpe for masterminding the dinner and preparing it so well.



The Four Saxes entertain diners at the TTA German Evening

Books to Swidnica Municipal Library.

While on our visit to Swidnica last autumn John Wolton, Richard Polom and I visited their equivalent of U3A, where we were very well entertained with songs, dances and refreshment.

During our walk back across town we were accompanied by two ladies from the group who insisted on showing us the town's library housed in the old bishop's palace - a grand building. It was good to see the building put to such a useful purpose, and we were shown the various areas of the library over three floors including school study, children's and computing facilities. Before we left we were shown some shelves of books in foreign languages, one of which held a

very varied, but tiny, collection of books in English. We thought we could add to this, and after our visit discussed what could be done.

Richard, John and myself set about collecting books and packing them up, ably supported by Donna Pajdowski—our translator. We put a printed sticker on each book to show where they had come from. These went on our van to the Biberach spring market, where they were collected by our Polish friends, who took them back to Swidnica.



The town square in Swidnica

We have received a lovely card of thanks from the chief librarian, with the quotation:

“A person is judged not by what he possesses but by who he is; not by what he has, but by what he shares with others.” Jan Pawel (*The Polish Pope.*)

Judith Wolton

Biberach Spring Market?

If ever a twinner has been presented with a difficult choice this is it! Do I tell you all about the May 2014 market, which followed the same pattern as the previous twenty years, or do I tell you about the 60th birthday celebrations of a certain Welshman, married to a Frenchwoman (from Alsace), who lives in Warthausen, near Biberach, in Germany? I am sorely tempted to write about the May market in Biberach, but, as it rained, you have probably heard it all before. Therefore, on to the weekend of the only Welshman, born in Hartlepool, who had a birthday in July, but who celebrated it on Saturday 2nd August 2014.

It was a cold dark and stormy night, but, before this it was a cold, dark and stormy afternoon, when one or two intrepid Englishmen ventured beyond the environs of 29 Buchenweg, Warthausen to collect tables and chairs from the next-door neighbour, also known as Joseph – and his wife Anita – who had several tables and chairs of the sort that were required! One of these intrepid Englishmen had, three years before, suffered a mini-stroke, in Biberach, but this did not deter him from all the endeavours that followed.

To cut a very long story short, Gareth and I collected all the tables and chairs from Joseph's and prepared the set up in Gareth's garage, having previously been warned that a storm of torrential proportions was to be expected. We had nearly completed our exertions when the heavens opened and all the water in the Thames, the Seine, and the Rhine all fell on Warthausen and surrounding areas within twenty minutes!! If you think I am joking, please look at the videos of Ringschneit, slowly disappearing under a tidal wave of water, mud, and who knows

what! I suspect that this video can now be found on You tube, but if not, please let me know.

Anyway, to cut a long story even shorter, we think we had a wonderful time at the party on Saturday night, although none of us can really remember it too well and we are not sure what happened on Sunday. We were, however, fully recovered by Monday, when Gareth and Suzie took us to Friedrichshafen to see the annual Summer Culture Festival, which was amazing!!! If anyone is looking for somewhere to go and stay during the first week in August 2015, I can really, really recommend Friedrichshafen as there is the Dornier Museum, the Zeppelin Museum, and the Kulturfer, which will keep you entertained for at least a day, if not longer.

It is difficult to explain, within a few sentences, the magic that is Friedrichshafen – and, perhaps, I should not, given that we are twinned with Biberach, but, if you get the chance to stay for a few days by the Bodensee, before you stay with friends in Biberach, I would thoroughly recommend that you grasp the opportunity with both hands. There really is a wealth of knowledge to be gained about the local area and if you need further advice, just talk to the twinned, who will be happy to advise!

Alex Alexander

A colourful Annual General Meeting



When it was noticed that the date set for the AGM was also St. George's Day, a theme for the social evening planned to follow became obvious. It just had to be red and white. Red and white cheeses were served, accompanied by red and white wine, and for dessert a white cheesecake had been made and decorated with large red strawberries to look like a St George's flag. To take the theme further, many people also wore red and white, whilst the quiz had questions all with those colours as connections in the answers.

The AGM itself began with the Chairman's report, highlighting the many activities the association had been involved with during the previous year. The Twinners' Markets in Biberach and Valence, along with the catering at the CVST Christmas Market had been significant fund raisers.



Alex tells a tall tale at the market in Valence

Volunteers to help at these events are always welcome, so please contact a member of the committee if you would like to become involved. The English Language course held in June 2013 was also very successful, bringing Twinners from Biberach and Valence to meet their counterparts in this district. We will soon be planning the course for the summer of

2015 and again its success will be dependent on the support of members to act as hosts.



Guests from Biberach and Valence attend the civic reception in Brightlingsea

Our Polish friends were not forgotten. In September 2013, a group from Tendring attended the twentieth anniversary celebrations in Swidnica where they were fulsomely entertained. Even more people were able to partake of the Polish meal held in Clacton one month later. This was the first purely social evening for members held for many years. Its success led us to organise a similar German evening in May 2014. A French evening is coming shortly.



A young Polish student acts as a guide on the group's tour of Swidnica

The Treasurer also presented his report, which was followed by the election of officers. There is currently a vacancy for a membership secretary – a not too onerous task. If you would be prepared to do this, please contact one of the committee.

Coming Shortly



Please make a note in your diary of the French evening to be held at Trinity Methodist church hall on Friday 10th October 2014. We will be musically entertained by The Four Saxes and as the evening will be immediately after the Twinners' Market in Valence, you can be sure of authentic fare at the meal. Members will be able to bring guests and full details of cost and a booking form will be sent to you soon. As space is limited, be sure to return it promptly!