

# Wirksworth Twinning Association

## Newsletter July 2025

### Next Twinning Film – With Love, From Hilde September

Our next Twinning film will be in September, after the summer break. This will be a German film. More details to follow.

If you were at our last film, En Fanfare (Marching Band), you may have noticed that we had a new animated logo to introduce Twinning. Our thanks to Andy Brand for this brilliant addition.

### Twinning Visit to Die 28<sup>th</sup> May – 2<sup>nd</sup> June

A few weeks ago, 21 visitors from Wirksworth returned from their visit to Die and Twinning member, Helen Knott, who went to Die with her 14-year-old granddaughter Emi, has kindly shared some of their experiences:

*“When it came to my notice that a twinning trip was going to Die in May half-term, and that it would be nice if some youngsters went, I thought of my granddaughter who had chosen French as one of her GCSE options next year. I asked Emi if she would like to go with me, and to my delight she agreed without hesitation. Neither of us had been before, so this was going to be an adventure for us both!*

*We were delighted to have a host family with children around Emi’s age: Anicet is 13 and Melinee 15. After an enjoyable train journey, they met us in Die with their mother Lucile. We all bonded well over the evening meal, and the suggestion was made that Emi might like to do something with the young people while I went to play the game of pétanque organised by the twinning group. Emi was a bit nervous but decided to give it a go. As I was enjoying a drink after a competitive game of pétanque, the three youngsters came rushing over and Emi gave me a hug, having just had an exciting trip kayaking down the Drome. They then all ran off again to load up the kayaks. After that I relaxed, knowing that everything was going to be fine. And so it proved; I was able to participate in and enjoy the twinning activities while Emi enjoyed spending her time with her contemporaries.*



*Emi with her new friends*

*I was blown away by the whole experience, from the care taken by the twinning committee in Die to the friendliness and warmth of everyone I met, and the beauty of Die. We stayed in a beautiful house in the old town, with the top floor being turned over to us for our sole use. Emi decided she would like to live in a house like that when she grows up, so I suggested that the only way that would happen would be if she lived in Die! She enjoyed her time playing board games with her new friends, during which they took turns translating things from English to French and vice versa for each other. She still uses her French in the WhatsApp group they have set up to keep in touch with each other, and they text her in English – well worth the unauthorised*

*absence she was given for missing the first day back of the new half-term on her return!*

*We are looking forward to returning the wonderful hospitality we received when our new French friends come to visit us in Wirksworth, hopefully before the end of the year.”*



Helen travelling by Vélotaxi with Rachel to the Pétanque game

Below are a few more photos:



Phil Whitney presenting twenty-four bottles of Aldwark Ales to the Mayor of Die



The ukes playing at one of the fuddles on the last evening

You can see MANY more photos from the Die visit on our website at the link below. You may even have some that we can add to the site. If so, please reply to this email, attaching your photos.

<https://www.wirksworthtwinning.org.uk/past-events/twinning-visit-to-die-28th-may-2nd-june>

## Twinning Visit to Wirksworth 2026

Twinning visits take a lot of planning as you can imagine. We are already looking forward to the next Twinning trip, due to take place in 2026, which we will be hosting in Wirksworth. We are provisionally looking at *early July* but this has yet to be agreed with our partner towns.

We will keep you updated via the monthly newsletters.

## New Twinning Banners



Thanks to Viv Macdonald for getting these superb banners made for Twinning to use at our future events. Very eye-catching and featuring our new logo and a QR code that takes you straight to our membership page on the website. Thanks also to Cassie for guarding the banners.

## Derbyshire Eco Centre and Twinning

Many members will be aware that we are very fortunate to have in Middleton-by-Wirksworth a nationally acclaimed adult education centre dedicated to offering adult learning opportunities focussed on sustainability.

The Derbyshire Eco Centre has a long tradition of collaboration with Twinning, including making contributions to the Écologie Au Quotidien conferences in Die and hosting several Twinning events with partners. The willow planting undertaken by Twinners on the site is still maintained regularly by the Wednesday Group of students with learning difficulties.



Wirksworth Twinning and the Centre sealed our commitment to work together with a ceremony just before COVID and we presented the Centre with a framed photograph of recent Twinning visitors.



As Derbyshire County Council is now considering closure of several adult learning centres, it is uncertain whether the Eco Centre will remain open. Many local people have sent messages to Derbyshire councillors and to the local MP and if members are making representations, it may be useful to reference the additional benefit of links with community initiatives such as Twinning.

