

Wirksworth Twinning Association

May Newsletter 2026

Twinning Visit to Wirksworth
2nd to 6th July 2026



Twinning hosts and guests enjoying a walk together during the Twinning visit in July 2015

The July 2026 visit is gathering momentum!

We have 46 visitors coming, 20 from Die and 26 from Frankenau. They arrive on the evening of Thursday 2nd July and depart the following week, some on Monday 6th and some on Tuesday 7th. We have 25 families hosting the visitors. Even if you are not hosting you will no doubt spot people in the town with their guests.

Volunteers Needed - please contact fberryman@talktalk.net

The programme of events for the visit has now been finalised and we need the support of all members to make the events a success. If you would like to get involved read on!

Friday 3rd July - Welcome Reception for all guests at The Maltings 10-11.30am.

Calling all singers and anyone who would like to join in! We would like to surprise our twinning partners at this event with a very easy welcome song in four parts. A score and recordings of all parts are available for learning at home. We will get together for a run through at some point in June.

Friday 3rd July - We also need help with the following tasks:

- To set up the room - 9-10am - and tidy up afterwards 11.30am-midday
- To serve teas/ coffees 10am.
- Welcome guests on arrival, hand out name badges 10am.
- Could you provide some home baked biscuits? (Either drop off the day before or bring to venue by 10am).

Friday 3rd July - Civic Reception at the Town Hall 6-7pm

On the evening of Friday 3rd July, there will be a reception in the Town Hall to officially welcome our visitors. There will be speeches by Wirksworth Mayor Steve Thompson, and by representatives of Die and Frankenau. About six volunteers are needed between 4pm and 8pm to set out the room with wine and cheese and displays, plus to mingle and offer drinks and clear up afterwards. Ideally this wouldn't be people who are hosting as they will already have their hands full!

Friday 3rd July 7.15 onwards – Fuddles

Could you host a fuddle for six or more people in your home to include some of our visitors? This is an informal shared meal with each of the Wirksworth participants sharing responsibility for the provision of food and drink. Thank you to those who have already come forward.

Saturday 4th July - Celebration Meal at the Town Hall

Help is requested on Saturday 4th July for the celebratory meal to be held in the evening.

Help is needed in the afternoon from 2pm - for laying the tables.

Then at 6.30pm - for serving the plated meals and clearing the tables.

And from 8pm - for washing up (there is a dishwasher) and managing the tea/coffee and serving in the bar.

Various Other Activities & Workshops

Organisers of other activities during the event may also welcome support, so if there's something you would like to get involved in, please let us know:

On Friday 3rd, between 2pm and 4pm, we will be having a scratch choir (Town Hall), art workshops (Town Hall) and a ukelele workshop (Royal Oak pub, North End). We will have nature walks on the afternoons of Friday 3rd, Saturday 4th and Sunday 5th. And we need stewards for a classical concert, on Sunday 5th 7-8pm, at the United Reformed Church on Coldwell Street.

If you would like to offer to help with any of the above, please contact fberryman@talktalk.net

Our JUNE Film – Colours of Time *Monday 1st and Tuesday 2nd June*

Our next Twinning film will be in June. It is a French film with English subtitles: Colours of Time (La Venue de l'Avenir). There will be no Twinning film in May.

Book tickets on the Northern Light Cinema website: www.tnlcinema.co.uk

Showings are:

8.00pm, Monday 1st June

5.30pm, Tuesday 2nd June (with twinning nibbles from 5:00pm, plus a raffle)

- The film follows four cousins who inherit a house in rural Normandy and retraces the steps of their ancestors in 19th-century Paris.

Attached to this email is a poster for the film. It would be great if you could print it off and put it up somewhere. Thanks!

May Day

May 1st, or May Day, is celebrated across France, Germany, and Italy as a mix of International Workers' Day (a public holiday) and ancient, joyous spring festivals. While all three nations often have trade union parades, they have unique cultural traditions ranging from floral gifts to witch-chasing.

France: *La Fête du Muguet* (Lily of the Valley Day)



In France, 1er mai is heavily associated with the tradition of offering a sprig of lily of the valley (*muguet*) to loved ones, friends, and colleagues to bring good luck and happiness. This custom dates back to 1561, when King Charles IX was given a sprig and decided to make it a yearly gift for the ladies of his court.

Also known as Labour Day (*la Fête du Travail*), it is a strict public holiday where all employees are legally entitled to a day off. Trade union demonstrations also take place in major cities.

Germany: *Tanz in den Mai* (Dance into May)

German May Day traditions are a blend of Witches' Night on April 30th and welcoming spring on May 1st.

Walpurgisnacht (April 30th), known as "Witches' Night" involves bonfires, dancing, and parties known as *Tanz in den Mai* (Dance into May).

Communities raise a *Maibaum* (a tall tree trunk adorned with ribbons and symbols of local crafts) on May 1st to mark the start of spring.

Italy: *Primo Maggio*

Italy celebrates May 1st as a public holiday, primarily focusing on workers' rights and enjoying the spring weather.

The largest event is the *Concerto del Primo Maggio* in Rome, a massive free music concert in Piazza San Giovanni organized by trade unions, drawing thousands of people.

It is customary for Italians to have a picnic in the countryside, visit parks, or head to the beach to enjoy the first warm days of the season.

A Date for Your Diary
Friday 20th November 2026

We like to plan ahead! Here's a date for your diary. The next Twinning AGM will be on the evening of Friday 20th November, in the Memorial Hall.

