

Wirksworth Twinning Association

July Newsletter 2026

A Warm Welcome Awaits Our Twin Town Friends
2nd to 6th July 2026



Twinning hosts meet each other and discuss the visit at the hosting meeting on 17th June for everyone involved with this year's Twinning visit.

The countdown is almost over! On **Thursday 2nd July**, Wirksworth will once again welcome friends from our twin towns of **Die** in France and **Frankenau** in Germany for another memorable twinning visit.

Over the following few days, our visitors will enjoy the warm hospitality for which Wirksworth is well known. As always, the programme will offer opportunities to renew long-standing friendships, make new ones, and share the traditions, culture and everyday life of our three communities.

Twinning is about much more than formal partnerships between towns. It is about people meeting people, learning from one another, and strengthening the bonds of understanding and friendship across Europe. Many of the relationships formed

through our exchanges have lasted for decades, and every visit provides another chance to build on these enduring connections.

We have been busy preparing a varied programme that showcases the best of Wirksworth and the surrounding area. Alongside organised events, there will be plenty of time for visitors and hosts to enjoy each other's company, whether over meals, walks, or simply catching up with friends old and new.



Join us at this Saturday's Twinning-themed Wirksworth Farmers Market.

Some of our guests will return home on **Monday 6th July**, while others will stay until **Tuesday 7th July**, making the most of their time in Derbyshire.

The Twinning Association would like to thank Wirksworth Town Council for its support, including that of our Mayor Steve Thompson. We would also like to thank everyone who has volunteered their time, opened their homes, or helped organise the visit. Events such as these rely on the generosity and enthusiasm of many people, and your support ensures that our twinning partnership continues to flourish.

We wish all our visitors a safe journey to Wirksworth and look forward to several days of friendship, laughter and shared experiences. We hope everyone involved enjoys a wonderful visit and creates many happy memories to take home.

Bienvenue à nos amis de Die! Willkommen an unsere Freunde aus Frankenau!

A request for photos.

It would be really good if hosts and members could send photos of the visit to Anna McGuire so they can be put on the website. If possible, please send them using wettransfer.com (it's free!) or as email attachments to annamcguire6@gmail.com and if possible, include a small description of each photo as this makes them more interesting to other people. If anyone would prefer NOT to appear on our website, please would you let us know. We don't publish photos of children without express permission.

Varallo Sesia 2026 : Our Die friends spend four days with friends from Varallo



A delegation from Diois Jumelages travelled to Varallo Sesia sharing cars, from Friday 5th to Monday 8th June.

Accommodation was provided by the families of our Italian friends. The visit programme, prepared by Nathalie Ricotti, who is in charge of the twinning at Varallo Town Hall, offered an opportunity to discover Varallo Sesia and its surroundings through numerous cultural and heritage visits.

During this trip, they visited the Abbey of Sant'Antonio di Ranverso (on the road to Turin), Varallo Sesia and its art gallery, the Church of Our Lady of Grace, as well as

the Sacro Monte, which has been listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site since 2003. Other excursions were to Alagna, Piode, Rassa, Alpe Meggiana, Rimasco, Rima, and Carcoforo.

Die and Varallo Sesia have been twinned since 1957. They will celebrate their 70th anniversary in 2027.

Bastille Day: A Celebration of Liberty and Unity



The taking of the Bastille

Every year on 14th July, France bursts into celebration for Bastille Day, known to its citizens as *Le 14 juillet*. The 14th July was institutionalised as a *fête nationale* in 1880. More than just a public holiday, it is an expression of the nation's identity—rooted in history and shared by millions across cities, towns, and villages.

The origins of Bastille Day lie in the events of 1789, when revolutionaries stormed the Bastille prison in Paris. Though the fortress itself held few prisoners, it stood as a potent symbol of royal authority and oppression. Its fall marked a turning point in the French Revolution, igniting a movement that would reshape not only France but the course of modern history. Today Bastille Day represents: liberty, equality, and fraternity.

In modern France, the day begins with a military parade along the Champs-Élysées. But Bastille Day is not only about official ceremony—it is equally a celebration of the people. Across the country, communities come together in a spirit of joy and conviviality. Fireworks and music fill public squares, and dancing continues late into the night. In recent years, light shows and projections and outdoor concerts are more common.

Bastille Day honours the enduring ideals of freedom and citizenship while offering a moment for people to connect, celebrate, and reflect on what it means to belong to a nation.

Whether experienced amid the grandeur of Paris or in the intimacy of a small village square, Bastille Day reveals the heart of France: proud of its history, honouring the enduring ideals of freedom and citizenship, while offering a moment for people to connect, to celebrate life together.

