Wirksworth Twinning Association

October Newsletter 2026

Next Year's Visit to Frankenau

27th - 31st May 2027



Planning has already started for the twinning visit being held in **Frankenau from 27th to 31st May 2027**. On the last visit there, in 2024, the group enjoyed guided walks in the local national park and the old town as well as a boat excursion to a local reservoir, alongside visitors from Die. In addition, there were plenty of opportunities to socialise over shared meals and experience some local culture. We need to know as soon as possible who is likely to be interested in going on this visit to Frankenau. It is also important that we know whether you would want to travel there independently or in an organised group. Any organised group will be travelling by train and this may involve an overnight stay (e.g. in Cologne en route) on the outward leg of the journey.

Please contact Felicity at fberryman@talktalk.net to express your interest or if you have any questions about this.

Our October Film – Fatherland
Monday 19th and Tuesday 20th October



Our next Twinning film will be in October. It is a German language film with English subtitles by Polish director Paweł Pawlikowski. Fatherland (*Ojczyzna)* was awarded Best Director prize at Cannes in 2026.

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

Showings are:

8.00pm, Monday 19th October
5.30pm, Tuesday 20th October (social gathering from 5:00pm, plus a raffle)

- Returning home after sixteen years in exile in the US, Thomas Mann, Nobel Prize-winning writer and his daughter Erika—actress, writer and rally driver, both embark on a challenging and emotional road trip in a black Buick taking them across a Germany in ruins. Pawlikowski explores the themes of identity, family, love & guilt amid the turmoil and confusion of post-war Europe.

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!

Also, if anyone would be free to help with selling the raffle tickets at the Tuesday film, please contact Marie Paurin marielsa48@hotmail.com

Twinning Walking Circuit

A project is emerging to develop four-day walking circuits starting and finishing in each of the towns twinned with Die - Frankenau (Germany), Varallo (Italy), Càdiar (Spain) and of course Wirksworth.

Isabelle Bizouard from Die is coordinating this project and we in Wirksworth have drafted a possible route that includes Dovedale.



A trial run four-day walk is planned for 1-8 November in Spain at Càdiar. An invitation is extended to anyone from Wirksworth who would like to join this walk.



If you are interested or would like to know more, please contact Alastair Clark at alastairjclark@gmail.com.

Irene Ratcliffe

Many in Wirksworth will already be aware of the sad passing of Irene Ratcliffe. Irene was a long-standing and much-valued member of Wirksworth Twinning Association. Irene, along with her husband Mike, played an important part in our twinning

community over many years. Our thoughts are with Irene's family and friends at this very sad time.

Quizzadry at the Gothic Hall
Sunday 4th October



Many thanks to those of you who have agreed to help with the Quiz on Sunday. Last year's event was a great success and hopefully, this year's will be the same.

We will be running the quiz three times, at 11am, 1pm and 3pm and awarding a trophy to the winners of each quiz with consolation prizes for each second and third placed team.

In the spirit of Twinning, competing teams will be offered the chance to earn bonus points IF they agree to have the questions for the four written rounds in either French or German.

Members who are not able to help on Sunday are welcome to come along and compete in one of the quizzes – maybe form a team with your children or grandchildren and see how you do! We will be taking payments at the door but much prefer it if 'wannabe' witches and wizards book and pay beforehand using the link: wizardingday.com/activities.

Martin Redman and Rob Gill's cycle trip to Varallo

September



Our intrepid duo leaving Wirksworth on 4th September…



And here they are in Varallo, 25 days later, with Varallo twinning members.



And here are a few words from Martin and Rob:

“We have just been out for dinner, after a guided tour of Varallo with the (lovely) gemellaggio (twinning) people… We have met Orazzio (who speaks English), Natalie (who has been to Wirksworth), Natalie’s husband, Roberto, and Irraldo (the ex-mayor)”

And here’s a view of Varallo from their appartamento…



There are lots more photos of their trip on Facebook.

AGM – A Date for Your Diary

Friday 20th November 2026

The AGM will be held at the Memorial Hall.