

Wells Twinning Association

Newsletter

Visit to Paray-le-Monial

On the 23 August last, a party of 25 Wellensians, including the Mayor Councillor John North, the deputy Mayor Councillor Celia Wride and Councillor Colin Price together with his wife Ann, converged on our French twin town Paray-le-Monial, for a five day visit.

We were warmly greeted at the headquarters of Paray-le-Monial Twinning Association College Rene Cassin, before leaving to meet our individual hosts or to go to the Comfort Hotel.

On the morning of the 24 August the Mayor, deputy Mayor and officials of Wells Twinning Association met with Jean-Marc Nesme, the Mayor of Paray-le-Monial and Daniel Gordat, the president of Paray-le-Monial Twinning Association to discuss the twinning relationship between the two towns and the general political situation in Europe. The Mayor, Council and Twinning Association of Paray are very keen to re-energise the twinning relationship between our two towns, which everyone felt has waned over the previous few years. In particular, re-establishing relationships between community groups such as school children, sports clubs, musical associations etc is considered very important. We all agreed to work enthusiastically towards this end.

In the afternoon, the Wells party was split into two groups, 12 people that had previously visited Paray and 14 that had not. First time visitors were taken on a tour, in English, of the Basilica, Cloister and historic centre of the town, the second group visited an exhibition in the Charnoz Museum.

In the evening, an excellent dinner was provided accompanied superb music, singing and dancing.

After a quiet morning on the Friday, we attended lunch in Digoin before cruising along the local canal and visiting a Museum dedicated to the history of the canals.

Saturday morning the party visited the local market, before departing for a tour of the beautiful town of Charolles.

On return to Paray another excellent dinner with music was provided for us.

We departed on the Sunday morning full of sadness at leaving, but with many happy memories. The people of Paray were truly warm hearted and made our visit most pleasurable. We look forward to a visit from them in the not too distant future.

Future Twinning Activities

- Joint meeting with Wells City Council to plan future programme
- Meet with Wells County Councillor to develop Community Group interaction
- Visit by Mayor of Bad Durkheim for Carnival
- 'Sunday Lunch with a Difference'

'Departing Paray'

