

Wells Twinning Association **Newsletter - November 2017**

Carnival in Wells 2017 was a spectacular event, and Wells Twinning Association together with The Mayor and City Council were delighted to welcome the Burgermeister of Bad Durkheim with his family and delegates of Bad Durkheim Twinning Association to watch the event. The Bad Durkheim party arrived at Bristol Airport on Friday morning and were taken for lunch at The Ring of Bells, Wookey. After lunch they checked into the Wookey Hole Hotel and were treated to a private tour of Wookey Hole Caves, which they all thought fantastic.

A very eventful day led to the Carnival where The Mayor, Councillor John North and Mayoress Mrs Gail North escorted Burgermeister Christoph Glogger and his wife Vera and their children Hannah and Jannes in their official car at the head of the Carnival, Dirk Friedrich, Ulrich and Jutta Baer with Richard Hibberd and Dawn Payne were fortunate to follow in the second car. The party then watched the Carnival from Broad Street where they had supper of Fish and Chips. The visitors expressed their view that the show was spectacular show and that they had never witnessed anything like it. In addition the weather was kind!!

Saturday morning the Bad Durkheim Twinners were collected from their hotel and taken on a tour of Wells Cathedral. Soon after the start of the tour the Cathedral had to be evacuated, due to the fire alarm going off!! We were able to change our itinerary and move onto to Wells Museum. Where Andrew Fawcett, provided a very informative guided tour. Our visitors were particularly impressed with the World War One exhibit. A light lunch was taken at the Crown before Rosie Martin greeted them at the Bishop's Palace and guide Gordon offered an excellent explanation of its history and beautiful surroundings. The group then reconvened at the Cathedral where our excellent guide Elsa, who had kindly changed her arrangements, to enable the visit to take place after the alarm had been dealt with. In the time allowed, Elsa gave a superb narrative of the Cathedral's construction, history and some of the important people that had made major contributions in the past. The Burgermeister's children were absolutely stunned by the Cathedral's clock.

This was another full day. In the evening The Mayor John North held a civic dinner in honour of Burgermeister Christoph Glogger at The Swan Hotel.

On Sunday morning the visitors were transported to Wells Town Hall and provided with a guided tour by the Mayor and Town Clerk, Felicity White. After the tour there followed a Buffet Lunch attended by over 100 people comprised of most of the City Council, Twinners and other guests. Coincidentally it was Burgermeister Gloggers Birthday therefore the lunch in addition to promoting twinning morphed into a Birthday Party with balloons, decorations and music supplied by Sarah Chant.

Burgermeister Glogger, Mayor North, Richard Hibberd all spoke about the importance of twinning and how successful the weekend had been in terms of cementing the relationship between Wells and Bad Durkheim.

The Chairman, Richard Hibberd and Secretary, Dawn Payne would like to thank Mayor John North and Mayoress Gail North for their help and support and acknowledge their contribution to organising this visit, without which it could not have taken place.

Wells Twinning Association and Wells City Council would like to thank The Ring of Bells, Wookey, Wookey Hole Hotel and Caves, The Dean of Wells Cathedral, Wells and Mendip Museum, Rosie Martin CEO Bishop's Palace, The Crown at Wells, The Swan Hotel, Raso's Fish & Chips, Cooper and Tanner, Gould and Swayne, F Griffiths & Sons Butchers, Partners In Cream, Lui & Pat Fabiano, Janis D'ovidio, Wells Town Clerk, and her Staff and the Wells Twinning Association members who volunteered.

Following the presentation made to the Council in July, Richard Hibberd, Chairman, Bob Reynolds, Treasurer and Dawn Payne, Secretary, met with The Mayor Councillor John North, The Mayoress Mrs Gail North Deputy Mayor, Mrs Celia Wride, Councillors, Colin Price, Danny Unwin and Gordon Wilson to discuss the future of Twinning in Wells and the relationship between the City Council, Wells Twin Towns and the Twinning Association. A very positive discussion was held which resulted in the Mayor agreeing to prepare a paper to put before the Council to formalise the relationship and develop a joint approach to planning activities with our twin towns. It is hoped that this draft will be finalised and put before the Council early in 2018.

The Committee are currently in discussion with our Twin towns to formulate plans for 2018 and will communicate these to you once they are finalised.

“Sunday Lunch with a Difference” Again this year we are running this fund raising activity. The venue this year will be The Godney Tea Rooms, Godney. Demand for tickets has been very high, there are a few tickets left available please contact :- **Tony D'ovidio tel: 07770 994652 or email tony@dovidiobros.com**

