



BURY METRO COMMUNITY TWINNING ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER APRIL 2014

VISIT TO SCHORNDORF

28 March to 1 April 2014

This year our party was made up of 22 members who travelled by coach and 7 members who came variously by air, the Mayoral party of 4 also travelled by air.

Early on Thursday morning twenty two members greeted each other and settled in as Ahmed, our driver



grew gradually warmer and reached 18° by the middle of the afternoon and it was still hot when we arrived at Schorndorf's Marktplatz and a warm welcome at the Town Hall. It was lovely to see so many smiling welcoming faces. In our party of 33, 15 including our driver were visiting Schorndorf for the first time. On Saturday we were taken by train to Stuttgart and given a tour of the Königstrasse, the Schlossplatz, the



introduced himself; coffee and brioche was served and we were driven southwards. An overturned lorry delayed our arrival at the Tunnel but in France we made up a little lost time and arrived in Saint Quentin at 6.30pm. We enjoyed a later start the next day but not before we visited the magnificent basilica.

The weather needs to be mentioned. A sunny March morning with clear skies when we left Saint Quentin



Saint Quentin was a focus for good restaurants and the Ibis Hotel was comfortable. The closure of the M6 delayed our return by a couple of hours but the journey was enjoyed by most as a valuable part of the experience and the group benefited. Some return flights were also delayed by unusual weather.

The visit was felt to have been a resounding success and our welcome was overwhelming.

The next visit from Schorndorf to Bury will be in 2016 and is likely to be during a school holiday because several of the hosts in Schorndorf are teachers or have children at school.



flower market and the Market hall. The culinary delights magnificently and colourfully displayed in the



Market Hall were a picture, that tempted everybody's taste buds. Self service Lunch in the Restaurant Breuninger was complicated but tasty and was followed by free time for shopping and browsing; a street flea market proved fascinating and gave lots of opportunities for both bargains and photos.

In the evening a formal dinner was presided over by the host, Oberbürgermeister Matthias Klopfer who reflected on the twenty years of twinning between our towns and the lasting friendships that had been formed over this time. He thanked the two young musicians who

entertained us delightfully during the evening. Mayor Sharon Briggs responded by remembering the members of BMCTA who were involved in the setting up of our partnership and Thomas Röder, the President of the Schorndorf Twining Committee, and Yvonne Moore also spoke about the successful ties between our towns. Winfried Kübler, who was the Mayor of Schorndorf when the partnership was signed 20



years ago to the day, proposed a toast to the future of the twinning partnership. He described the friendship between our towns as growing like a tree and looked forward to many more fruitful years of friendship. Sunday was designated a family day and members enjoyed a host of

different activities with their hosts. For two members, the special buildings, designed by the artist Hundertwasser, in Plotchingen, so reminiscent of Gaudi in Barcelona, was ideal for photographers and



lovers of interesting architecture.

Monday required another early start and the group lead by Anruth Theurer went by coach to Rothenburg. What a lovely, picturesque town it was. Lunch was again provided for us in restaurant Rödertor, famed for serving potatoes in many different guises, all of them lovely. After lunch we were free to roam the town. And the amazing



Christmas shop was a magnet. On Tuesday the bittersweet departure of the coach under an overcast sky, which soon became glorious sunshine again as we motored west across the Rhine and into France. Once again Mayne's coaches gave us a really comfortable coach and an excellent driver, Ahmed was reliable and informative and he took to twinning magnificently. He has indicated his desire to apply for



membership of our association and has invited his host in Schorndorf, to stay with him when Schorndorf next visits Bury. The Mayor and Mayoress have also indicated their intention of joining.

The journey by coach was undoubtedly long but the overnight stops in France were enjoyable.