



AGROS : ALTEA : ASIKKALA : BAD KÖTZTING : BELLAGIO : BUNDORAN : CHOJNA
GRANVILLE : HOLSTEBRO : HOUFFALIZE : JUDENBURG : KÖSZEG
MARSASKALA : MEERSSEN : NIEDERANVEN : OXELÖSUND
PRIENAI : PREVEZA : SESIMBRA : SHERBORNE
SKOFIA LOKA : SIGULDA : SIRET : SUŠICE
TRYAVNA : TÜRI : ZVOLEN

NEWSLETTER NOVEMBER 2014

THOUGHTS OF CHAIRMAN CLIFF

The Douzelage financial year ended on 31st August. So can the AGM be far behind? This is a stark reminder to me that the completion of my first year as your chairman will soon be reached. And what an initiation !

The theme of recent months has certainly been MUSICAL and each of the three events was very successful in its own way. The Latvia meets Wessex folk evening at the brand new Greenfield Hall of the International College was not only a marvellous evening thanks to the music and food provided by our friends from Riga, as well as the splendid support by the Wessex Morrismen, but also generated a healthy financial surplus for our funds.

A valuable spin off from the evening has been the establishing of an excellent working relationship with the recently appointed Principal of the College, who is keen to promote more interaction between her students and other schools in the town.

The Sherborne Young Musicians Competition in March was followed in July by the International version which involved five other Douzelage towns. These events were a “first” of



their kind and, given the warm afterglow of both, surely must be repeated and become a regular fixture. None of these things happen, however, without enormous organisation and all too often it falls on the same individuals who do most of the work. My thanks go out to them.

At the start of my year I said that I would like to see an approach to each event or project whereby a small team undertakes to lead the task and draws on the help of others in the committee as required.

My hope is that together we can develop this approach even further. Here's looking forward to another full and highly successful Sherborne Douzelage year.

Cliff Jelbert

AGROS MULTILATERAL YOUTH PROJECT

From 25th October until 1st November 8 students from the Gryphon and 1 from Leweston aged between 14 and 25 together with their two leaders will join with others from Cyprus, Poland, Romania and Spain in a multilateral youth exchange.

They will explore history, culture, traditions and politics from their respective countries. Using arts, drama, a cultural visit and a community project, the project will include many activities like Workshops, Team building games, outdoor activities, music including dance, song and traditional instruments, discussions and presentations among others.

This will allow people of diverse cultures to recognise similarities and appreciate differences. This will encourage personal and social development, so empowering young people to be active citizens with a sense of belonging.

Agros has a history of these projects and is noted for its very relaxed approach, involving a lot of fun for all the participants.

However the relaxation is for a serious purpose and by the end of the week the students must accomplish several key objectives including: Acquaintance with the concepts, culture, identity and different views. Exchange of good practice of youth organisations



Learn how best to increase youth involvement in civil society
Foster the idea of European citizenship, its values and principles.
Promote the Erasmus + Programme
Understand non formal education, exchange experience and good practice
Strengthen youth networking and create a safe environment for the participants to develop new ideas about future projects.

The idea is to have a gender balance and group diversity and to promote an ongoing interest and understanding of the different backgrounds of people they meet in later life, thus enabling them to deal with problems in a tolerant and constructive way.

Without doubt many of the students will in years to come look back on this project as an opportunity they will always remember.

Kevin Waterfall

THE DOUZELAGE FAMILY A SLOVENIAN PERSPECTIVE

Škofja Loka, Slovenia, has been a member of the Douzelage since 2011 and our delegates for the 39th General meeting in Sigulda were Elsa Louis, the French teacher at Škofja Loka Grammar School, Marcel Nahtigal, a student and myself, the headmaster of that School.

This has been my first Douzelage meeting and for me the meeting was the perfect opportunity firstly to meet the representatives of the other Douzelage twinning towns, and secondly to exchange ideas and experiences with these people and learn what they have gained through networking in their local communities and regions.

I have realised that this is a great chance for Škofja Loka to share the following experiences with other Douzelage members:

Škofja Loka has more than a thousand year long history and its richness of cultural heritage may inspire the other Douzelage members to explore its tradition, culture and hospitality.

Furthermore, there are many organisations, societies and clubs in the area which may have a chance to twin or even to visit neighbouring towns in the area in order to exchange, share and learn from each other. As the Headmaster of the Grammar School I see an immense opportunity for my students to be involved in real European networking, sharing and solving



the common issues of the youth straightforwardly at youth meetings, Education Meetings offer an opportunity for teachers to present their issues and share their own experiences.

The meeting in Sigulda offered an opportunity to plan further activities with other towns, or to join the proposed projects and to suggest your own ideas and plans that could become successful events for further co-operation.

When participating at General Meeting sessions, I was and am still amazed by the diversities of cultures and varieties of languages. Discussing with the participants from twenty-five European countries, I am certain there must be a reason why the twin towns are so strongly bound together. I believe it is a belief that we, wherever we come from, have many things in common and many things to share. What is more, we know that we can learn from each other. And that is why everybody wants to be a member of the Douzelage family.

Joze Bogataj

SIGULDA THRILLS

Baltic jewellery, urban photography and traditional Latvian folk dance workshops were amongst the activities on offer to us as youth delegates for Sherborne at the annual Douzelage general meeting in picturesque Sigulda, Latvia.

After spending an enjoyable evening and following morning in Riga, the Latvian capital with its striking Art Nouveau landmarks and impressive indoor market, we caught the train to Sigulda, our home for the next three days situated on the border of the breath-taking Gauja National Park.

After a warm welcome from the town's mayor and some ice-breaking activities in the Sigulda Youth Centre the workshops began. When we weren't sampling arguably the country's most famous export - folk dance or the fantastic cuisine, we were visiting neighbouring Turaida, and its fascinating medieval castle, learning why Sigulda "thrills" at its world-famous outdoor recreation centre or having our voices heard sharing ideas about how to update and improve the organisation and management of what we now affectionately refer to as 'DouzYouth'.

As culturally enriching and enjoyable as these experiences were, it is the friend-

ships that were made in the evenings at the hostel, at the traditional Easter celebration in Maurini and at the closing ceremony that were for us the highlight of the stay.

We both hope to maintain the many new friendships we have made and share new experiences in Europe and elsewhere with the people we have met through Douzelage. For so many different cultures and nationalities to be integrated so well over such a short amount of time was brilliant. It was an inspiring trip and to experience such a unique and exciting culture was incredible. All of this could not have been possible without the help and organisation of the representatives of Sigulda to whom we owe a great deal of gratitude. Sigulda definitely "thrills".

Jake Hitch and Alistair Dolbear



EXPLORING MODERN POLAND

FRIDAY 20TH—SATURDAY 21ST JUNE

This two day Conference arose from an awareness that Poland's history is so little known in this country, including the connections with Sherborne. This was an opportunity to tell of the significant role Poland has played in the course of European history.

How few even know that twice the Poles saved Europe from potentially cataclysmic disaster, first by raising the siege of Vienna in 1683 and secondly by Pilsudski destroying, in 1920, the massive Red Army about to take Warsaw and march into Berlin.

Three events were organised. On the Friday, there was a Chopin recital in the Cheap Street Church, a near sell-out, and the showing in the Digby Hall, Hound Street, of the film *Walesa: Man of Hope*, very moving and also well-attended.

The Saturday programme was very different encompassing four main themes.

Firstly were the connections between Sherborne and Poland (Alan Turing, the Enigma machine and Polish code breakers)

Secondly was the Joseph Conrad School in Sherborne Park described by Katherine Barker and the plenitude of exchanges that have arisen from the

Twinning with Chojna and now the Douzelage.

Jeremy Barker talked about the siege of Vienna in 1683 and Pilsudski's 'Miracle on the Vistula' in 1920.

Then two guest speakers, Edward Lucas spoke on 'Poland and the New Europe' and Veronica Lloyd-Jones on 'A short tour of modern Polish Literature.' Both were excellent.

Perhaps best of all was a masterly presentation by students from Chojna on 'Contemporary Poland through Young Eyes', which was just wonderful.

Taken all together, it was indeed a *tour de force!*

Jeremy Barker



Fryderyk Chopin

A Recital by
Sherborne School Music Department
Friday 20th June
5.00 - 6.00 pm
The Cheap Street Church, Sherborne
Tickets: £10.00 (includes food)
from Wintonen Bookshop, TC, Digby Road or at the door



Walesa: Man of Hope

Film Show
The recently released and very well
reviewed film of the leader of Solidarity.
A rare opportunity to see this film
and one not to be missed.

Friday 20th June
7.00 pm
The Digby Hall, Hound Street, Sherborne

Tickets: £5.00 (includes £2.00
from Wintonen Bookshop, TC, Digby Road or at the door)

Modern Poland Explored

Saturday 21st June
9.00 am - 4.00 pm
The Digby Hall, Hound Street
Sherborne

09.00 Digby Hall, Hound Street, Doors open.
09.30 **Jeremy Barker** "When Poland saved Europe –
"The Relief of Vienna by Jan Sobieski, 1683",
Pilsudski's "Miracle on the Vistula 1920"
09.50 **Cezary Salamejczyk & Students** from Chojna.
Contemporary Poland through young Eyes.
10.40 **Katherine Barker** "The Joseph Conrad School
in Sherborne Park 1948-9: a little known Polish
connection in Sherborne's History"
11.00 Coffee
11.30 **Lecture: Edward Lucas**
"Poland and the New Europe"
12.30 Lunch: delicacies from the Polish Delicatessen.
A list will be available.
13.45 **Clifford Jelbert**, (Douzelage Chairman)
"Sherborne Douzelage and Chopin:
A Model for Modern Day twinning"
14.15 **Lecture: Antonia Lloyd-Jones**
"From Dantzig to Gdansk, from Goya to Gulgul"
15.15 **Question and Answer session.**
Followed by dancing the Polonaise led by the
Students from Chojna.
16.00 End of Day

In addition there will be static display including:
An outline of Polish History
Joseph Conrad School
The Douzelage: its History and Achievements
Exhibition of Drawings by Michael Kowalewski

Draw
Tickets: £12.50 (including a buffet lunch)
from Wintonen Bookshop, TC, Digby Road or by post

INTERNATIONAL YOUNG MUSICIANS

Sherborne hosted a ground breaking international music event in March and July 2014 attracting talented young musicians from Britain and Europe. The joint project was run by Sherborne Douzelage, Sherborne School and The Gryphon School with the intention to develop the confidence of teenage musicians from Sherborne and nearby.

On 15th March at the Tindall Hall, Sherborne School 16 entrants took part in the local competition held for strings, including classical guitar, harp and cello, and woodwind, brass and piano. The winners of this event plus runners up went forward to the international event in Sherborne from 15 - 20 July, where they joined young instrumentalists from The Czech republic, Estonia, Latvia, Poland, and Slovakia.

The activities included icebreakers, social mixing, understanding of each other's towns and cultures. They gave presentations, particularly about composers and music in their countries; they worked in groups and ensembles, as well as soloists. They experienced Classical guitar, English Folk and Brass band music, as well as trying to play the instruments. The final concert from that series of workshops took place at the Big School Room in Sherborne watched by more than 270 people.

The adjudicators praised the high quality of the repertoire and the playing. Local trusts, businesses and private individuals supported the aim to give



The Two Organisers

Kevin Waterfall and Paul Cosh

our young musicians an opportunity to develop their skills and perform in public.

Sir Neville Marriner presented the prizes with the overall winner being Jurag Skoda, a brilliant 14 year old cellist from Slovakia. Robert Ham from Sherborne on the tuba won the brass prize.

Project details with press releases are on www.sherbornemusic.org. The project will repeat every 2 years with future events being held in other EU member towns. Without the generosity of Sherborne School and our sponsors and the unstinting help of the Committee over the past year of intense preparation, these great successes would not have been possible.

Kevin Waterfall

A WONDERFUL FESTIVAL OF MUSIC

Dear readers,

My name is Lenka Stancikova and I live in Zvolen in Slovakia. I am writing this article because I visited your lovely town of Sherborne as a member of the Douzelage Young music festival., where I was the Leader of the Zvolen group.

It was a great idea to organize this festival for young people from Poland, The Czech Republic, Latvia, Estonia, Slovakia and also the UK. The members had an opportunity to get to know not just each other, but also to get acquainted with new styles of music, new composers and become familiar with different cultures. The festival was organized for the first time, but I have to say that all the preparations were really great.

In addition to making music members had enough time to relax in cultural or sports activities that had been prepared for participants. I appreciated that we could attend a music school in Sherborne, where we had the opportunity to rehearse for the competition. Many thanks not only to the promoters but also the music leaders who gave our young musicians such valuable advice.



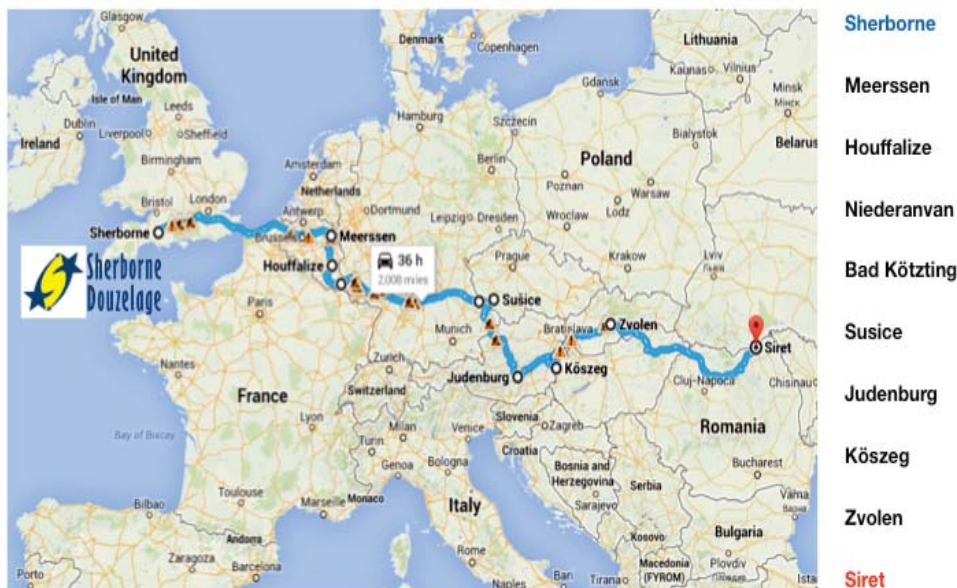
Jurag and Lenka

I was also so proud of my students especially of the cellist Jurag Skoda, who was the overall winner. Finally I can only say that it will be beautiful if it will continue in the future with the organization of this pleasant festival.



Robert Ham from Sherborne

SIRET HOSPITAL NEEDS VITAL MINIBUS



In June Sherborne Douzelage sent out a poster to publicise a very special idea for 2015. Siret in Romania urgently need a minibus to transport patients and staff from the psychiatric hospital for outings and other activities. So we have set up [The Road To Romania](#) project. The idea is to buy a minibus for the town of Siret, drive it from Sherborne to Siret via 8 other Douzelage towns on route collecting students and others who wish to take part in the project. Several of the towns have already offered support. And it will be a wonderful opportunity on a journey of some 10 days to see a wide variety of towns on route and to enjoy an adventure with a great spirit of camaraderie.

We hope between the towns to raise up to £10,000 between now and the New Year. There will be a very special Romanian folk evening on December 5th at the Digby Church Hall (watch out for posters) and we have set up a Just Giving Site for the Road to Romania Project. This is <http://www.justgiving.com/Road-to-Romania>. If any U.K. Taxpayer wishes to Gift Aid a sum directly or help fundraise, contact me at design@marcusainley.co.uk. A big thanks for any help you can give and see you on 5th December.

Marcus Ainley

ASIKKILA JOINS THE PARTY



Asikkala

Top 10 Attractions

1. Vääksey Canal/the busiest leisure canal in Europe between Vesijärvi and Päijänne Lake
2. Puikkilanharju ridge, beautiful esker island
3. Asikkala Church, made of a million bricks for 2 thousand persons.
4. Päijänne House, the museum of recreational fishing
5. Päijänne National Park
6. Ice age route in Asikkala
7. Watermill and Power Plant museum and Vääksey river
8. Tiny boutiques in Old Vääksey
9. Vääksey village mill
10. Urajärvi country seat



Asikkala



Asikkala and Vääksey

- Vääksey is the vivid center of Asikkala.
- Vääksey is known of the canal which divides the village in two sides.
- Vääksey canal is one of the busiest inland leisure waterways in Europe.
- There is also another, much larger canal in the village of Kalkkinen.



Asikkala

At the 39th General Meeting Asikkala was welcomed by all the members as Finland's new Douzelage member town in succession to Karkkila. Merja Palokangas and her team who came to the meeting, gave a short presentation on the small town of Vääksey and the surrounding area, which is only 1½ hours drive from Helsinki and 20 minutes from the much larger town of Lahti. Many of the attractions are listed above, but in addition there is a Youth Council of 8 members who are also represented on municipal boards, so that teenagers can have a voice and also learn about public affairs.

I am sure that you also will be warmly welcomed if you are planning a visit and we look forward to Asikkala taking part in many activities for young and old with other member towns.

Michael Morrell

OUR COMMITTEE IN 2014



President: The Mayor of Sherborne
 Chair: Clifton Jelbert Vice Chair: Kevin Waterfall
 Secretary: Mary Clothier Treasurer: Jane Smith
 Education Chair: Amanda Mackintosh
 Newsletter Editor: Michael Morrell
 Town Council Representative: Cllr Peter Rhodes
 Twinning Representative: Scilla Copper
 Other Members: Marcus Ainley (nominated Vice Chair for 2015), Lin Ashby,
 Mike Balfour, Jeremy Barker, Linda Bygrave, Sarah Whittick, Jim Gailer

FUTURE EVENTS IN 2014 AND 2015

Agros Multilateral Youth Project 25th October to 1st November

Sherborne Douzelage AGM 26th November 7p.m. at Sherborne Girls School

Romanian Music and Folk Evening 5th December fundraising for Siret to be held at the Digby Memorial Hall, Digby Road

Sustainable Development Workshops February 2015

Invited to Bundoran for the St Patrick's Run and celebrations 13 to 17 March

40th Douzelage General Meeting in Siret Romania 15th to 19th April 2015.
Possibility of travelling there by minibus

Joint event with Granville in Sherborne for the last weekend in May 2015 including the Sherborne Country Fair

Walking exchanges with Meerssen and Chojna in Summer 2015

Polish students doing catering work in hotels in Summer 2015

For full details contact Mary Clothier on 01963 251255 / marydmc38@gmail.com or see our website www.sherbornetown.com/directory/Sherborne-douzelage.aspx