



## NEWSLETTER OCTOBER 2015

### EDWARD LUCAS PUTIN'S DESIGNS FOR EUROPE

On Friday 27th November 2015 Sherborne Douzelage will be fortunate to have Edward Lucas as the speaker at a fund-raising event which will take place in the Digby Hall, Sherborne.

His talk will be titled "Putin and the New Cold War."

This will be the second time that Edward has spoken at a local Douzelage event. Many will remember the fascinating talk that he gave some 18 months ago at the Polish themed weekend which was organised by the Chojna sub-committee.

Edward is a highly experienced journalist working for the Economist magazine and specialises in Eastern European affairs with a particular interest in Russia having been based in Moscow as well as in other eastern European capitals. He has also worked for the BBC as a correspondent and is a regular contributor to current affairs programmes such as Newsnight on BBC2 and Today on Radio 4. His books about Eastern Europe include the highly acclaimed "The

New Cold War" and his latest which is titled Cyberphobia".

Edward is a brilliant public speaker and talks with great authority and knowledge on the subject for the evening. There will be an opportunity at the end to ask questions and enter into lively discussion on this intriguing and important subject.

This is an opportunity which should not be missed by anyone who is intrigued by Putin and concerned about the possible consequences of his actions and policies – everyone in fact!

Tickets, available from the Tourist Information Centre, are priced at £10 each and include a pre-talk glass of wine or soft drink. Student reductions apply.

Cliff Jelbert



## THE ROAD TO ROMANIA

How did I, Marcus, Sherborne Douzelage committee member and travel junkie, get involved in organising a project, fund-raising, buying, delivering and donating a minibus from Sherborne to Siret?

It started a year ago, April 2014, with a handshake. I was in Sigulda, Latvia attending the 39th Douzelage General Meeting - my first one - together with more than 100 delegates from 22 European countries, and amongst the delegates, teachers and students was Tibi. Tibi Rotaru was attending because it had just been confirmed that the following year in April 2015, Siret would host the 40th GM .

Tibi told me about the work he and his team did at the psychiatric hospital in Siret and about how Sherborne had helped before with fund-raising and lobbying in Brussels. I warmed to him immediately, this



compact Romanian guy with his open personality, direct eyes and quizzical smile. On the plane home I jotted down 'Douzelage Bus - Youth Road Trip – Road to Romania'. A plan was born.

Things didn't go exactly according to plan. I liked the concept of a road trip.. Google maps to hand I plotted a route linking together 9 Douzelage towns along the way - Sherborne, Meerssen, Houffalize, Niederaanven, Bad Kötzing, Sušice, Köszeg, Zvolen and Siret - 1,800 miles and 36 hours driving. So far so good.

The original concept was for 8 towns along the route to raise €1,000 each - we would pool the money and buy a second-hand minibus in Sherborne, drive through the 8 towns collecting a student per town, ending up with a bus-full of students singing our way into Siret. By January 2015,



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after 6 months of planning, fund-raising and 'online giving', Sherborne had raised over £5,000, Bad Kötzing over €3,500, Meerssen and Chojna had chipped in €100 each and Sušice and Köszeg had agreed to host us along the way.

Sherborne couldn't find a left-hand drive bus and we thought we were going to have to 'give up' and present a cheque to Siret instead. But Wolfgang in Bad Kötzing became aware of the situation and emailed us 2 possible minibuses which narrowed down to 1 - a 2011 casablancaweiß Opel Vivaro 9-seater minibus with 125,000 kms on the clock and 8 wheels and tyres, 4 for winter and 4 for summer - the perfect choice.

Our only problem was that the bus was in Bavaria and we, its drivers, were in Dorset, driving not only on the other side of the road but also on the wrong side of the Channel.

The detailed planning stage: Maps and



calendars were consulted, route options and two Easters, Catholic and Orthodox, were considered. After much emailing we would fly to Munich - stay in Bad Kötzing - meet the students who had raised the money - then with overnight stops in the Czech Republic, Hungary and Romania - we would travel heading East for Siret.

Wolfgang, Agathe, Vera, Istvan, Ilona, Ionut and Tibi were all lined up like dominos in a row - 4 nights - 5 days - about 3,000 kms or 1,800+ miles, at least half by road - I was a man with a van and a plan.

This just left the question of what to call the bus and the vehicle graphics. So I was introduced to Herr Fuchs and it was Tibi's suggestion to call it the 'douzelage bus'. The name was unanimously agreed and the typography and



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design were finalised.

1,500 kms later and many fascinating stories to tell, we reached Romania and the end of our journey, surrounded by forest. Ionut, our Romanian student, jumps out ahead of us, and there, with his mobile phone in one hand, a broad smile stretching from ear to ear, his right hand outstretched as he walks towards the minibus and us, is Tibi! - It has been a year since I last saw Tibi in Latvia.

“Hey, Marcus! Hey, Kevin (co-driver)! How are you? How was the journey? You found us OK then?” Big smiles and bear hugs all round. “Hey guys, last time you came here 2 years ago, you arrived with a cheque for the hospital for £2,000 - this time you bring us this amazing minibus - you are welcome my friends - it looks really fantastic - perfect! “

Marcus Ainley



## WHAT A DAY



I was not one of those fortunate enough to make the epic journey in the smart and very comfortable minibus. But I did have the privilege of being a passenger for the 25km drive from where we stayed in Sucevita to the Conference hall in Siret.

At the time I was suffering from bronchitis, but I would not have missed for the world, seeing the joy on the faces of Tibi and his friends at the hand-over.

He seemed overwhelmed not just by the minibus, but also by the sight of over 100 Douzelage friends from across Europe, who had made the journey to the far north east of Romania, to be present and to visit his town. And indeed there was plenty here just 3km from the Ukrainian border to see and ponder .

I too was there and I too will never forget the moment.

Michael Morrell

## SILVER ANNIVERSARY OF THE DOUZELAGE

1991 was a long time ago, but in that year a wonderful international partnership was born. Two years of courtship and soul-searching brought forth the Douzelage. Over the last 25 years it has given ordinary people a European Identity, with an ever increasing number of countries and cultures to experience. Moreover English is the principal working language of the Douzelage.

Sherborne Douzelage is a registered Charity and we want to celebrate ordinary people's success, their common understanding, their enjoyment of each other's company and their shared interests and differences. We want to celebrate some of the projects of past years, thank some of the people who have made them happen and recall how so many people benefited through the Douzelage Experience.

These people have always been the core of the Douzelage and should be should be the core of our Silver Anniversary celebrations.

Sherborne will showcase to people in Dorset the Folk Music and Dance of Europe as part of its celebrations. We want to bring this great European heritage to as many people as possible through public events, concerts, exhibitions and personal contacts.

We want to bring folk groups from 6 European countries to entertain people in Sherborne and surrounding areas.

But to do this, we need to raise £7,000 as well as your help both before and during the event.

How can you help?

You can host some of our visitors, which will give you a chance to make personal friends.

You can come along to our events and activities to support us.

Being a registered Charity, individual donations may qualify for Gift Aid.

Gift Aid may also be available for businesses and limited companies. Any such sponsorship can be acknowledged in the Programme.

With your help many more people will discover both our past achievements and the joys and rewards of the Douzelage.

Kevin Waterfall

Michael Morrell

## AGROS 2015

'Awesome!' is the phrase that has been taken away from this project.

The aim of the trip was to demonstrate the culture of our country to five other European countries which included Romania, Greece, Italy, France, and the hosts, Cyprus.

An evening was assigned to each group to give a short presentation followed by an energetic national dance, a competitive traditional game and even to taste some delicious delicacies cooked freshly for all to try. The Hokey Cokey went down very well followed by Dorset knob throwing, before tasting some scones coated in jam & cream and a slice of yummy Dorset apple cake home-baked



by Caroline.

The sun eternally shone in Cyprus allowing us the chance to explore places in perfect weather such as the ruins in Paphos, Limassol beach. Some even ventured over the border into the Turkish occupied lands to the north. Nicosia is a truly remarkable capital, divided

into two by the border between the Greek and Turkish occupied lands. The history behind it was fascinating and there was an abundance of museums and art to keep us culturally satisfied.



What really made the trip stand out was the quality of the participants. We made friends with everyone there like we were family. From partying from dusk until dawn, (often lead in full force by the Romanians) to sharing our knowledge of card games, there was never a moment to rest, let alone sleep. We have already made plans to meet up with members from other countries and I am sure our friendships will blossom for years to come. Thank you Marcus & Caroline for being absolutely epic and of course many thanks to Sherborne Douzelage for a fantastic opportunity.

Richard Jenkins and Tully Butler

## JEREMY BARKER HON. CITIZEN OF CHOJNA

The Sherborne/Chojna Committee has been in existence one way and another for 23 years.

Originally it was autonomous, but when Poland joined the European Union it voted to remain in existence as a committee of the Sherborne Douzelage. It kept its own minimal fund-raising with the aim of maintaining and strengthening the close and special relationship that had grown up between the two towns.

To this end two fund-raising events were planned. The first was a brilliant piano recital by Anna Laura Manero of international reputation. She played to a large audience in the Cheap Street Church a programme including appropriately some by Chopin. The event raised nearly £1,000. The second was the showing of the outstanding Polish film 'IDA' on Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> September in the Digby Memorial Church Hall .

Money raised has over the past months been used to support such events as the two-day fascinating seminar *Exploring Modern Poland*, assisting the Leonardo programme that, over the last eight years, has brought Polish hotel management and catering students to Sherborne for work experience, and sending Sherborne students to Chojna for a Heritage Conference to discuss the contrasting conservation of buildings in our two towns.



In August, the Chairman and Jeremy Barker and Marcus Ainley visited Chojna for Days of Integration, always a moving event when the former German inhabitants and their descendants return and are warmly welcomed. On this occasion Jeremy had bestowed on him the Honorary Citizenship of the Municipality of Chojna in recognition of his contribution to this dynamic relationship and in appreciation too of all the work done by all members of the Committee over the years.



## OUR COMMITTEE IN 2015



President: The Mayor of Sherborne  
 Chair: Clifton Jelbert Vice Chair: Marcus Ainley  
 Secretary: Mary Clothier Treasurer: Jane Smith  
 Education : Sarah Whittick  
 Newsletter Editor: Michael Morrell  
 Town Council Representative: Dominic Elliott  
 Twinning Representative: Scilla Copper  
 Other Members: Lin Ashby, Mike Balfour, Jeremy Barker, Tully Butler,  
 Linda Bygrave, Lizzie Dores, Jim Gailer, Chris MacAdie, Kevin Waterfall,  
 Moira Western

## FUTURE EVENTS IN 2015 AND 2016

Annual General Meeting Sherborne Girls School	18th November Beddington Hall
Edward Lucas	27th November Digby Hall Hound Street
Granville Carnaval	6th to 9th February 2016
Young Musician 2016 Sherborne Competition	12th March
Wessex Strings	13th March
Celebrating St Patrick's in Bundoran	16th to 20th March
Douzelage International 41st General Meeting in Tryavna Bulgaria	12th to 15th May
Young Musician 2016 in Zvolen	6th to 11th July
Silver Jubilee Celebrations	18th to 21st August

For full details contact Mary Clothier on 01963 251255 / marydmc38@gmail.com  
or see our website [www.sherbornetown.com/directory/sherborne-douzelage.aspx](http://www.sherbornetown.com/directory/sherborne-douzelage.aspx)