



NEWSLETTER SEPTEMBER 2017

MY FIRST GENERAL MEETING AS CHAIR

This was my first Douzelage International General Meeting as Sherborne Chair and what an occasion it was. This meeting was held in the Bavarian town of Bad Kötzing. Including our hosts more than 160 people young and old gathered from all over Europe to exchange ideas and fellowship. Only Prienai was missing.

The theme this year was the very urgent Refugee Crisis. I was very proud to lead a delegation of 12 from Sherborne. Only Meerssen (Netherlands) led by our new President **Annigje Luns-Kruytbosch** sent more.

Bad Kötzing has given shelter to around 150 refugees, who have travelled long distances over land and sea from Afghanistan, Syria, Iraq and many African countries. Many of these came to our meetings.

They cooked and shared their foods on the opening night, joined in the workshops and in the closing celebrations. Hundreds of thousands of refugees have

travelled different routes to many EU countries.

We heard many harrowing experiences, attitudes and passionate appeals for change in the situation, particularly from Malta, Italy, Greece and Cyprus who geographically are all at the receiving edge. Denmark and Austria told us the social experiences of the refugees arriving in their communities.

Afterwards all 27 towns reaffirmed their commitment to the Douzelage by re-stamping and signing a new Codicil.



MARCUS - MY FIRST GENERAL MEETING



There were many opportunities to circulate with friends from all our partner towns. Old friendships were renewed and new ones forged. Ideas were presented for 2018 including Granville hosting the Young Musician contest and Preveza's choral invitation for next summer.

Markus Hofmann, the Mayor of Bad Kötzing, gave us a wonderful welcome and attended most of the events. And our thanks go to **Wolfgang and Agathe Kerscher, Isolde Emberger and Hans-Peter Jobst** for all their hard work and planning which resulted in such a busy and worthwhile conference.

They represented a town of around 8,000 with a main street of fine buildings and shops, other attractions including a magnificent maypole, a beautiful fortified church, a lovely

park with a river, a spa and two breweries.

For me the highlight was the opportunity to meet the young refugees, to see them join in, talk, laugh and dance the events with us. I remember the hanging of the blue and yellow ribbons in the town square, each with a personal message of hope for the future of Europe, as friends working together.

On the last evening the Youth drummers beat out the rhythm of togetherness and shared values that is the true spirit of Douzelage. Viva Europe! – Viva Douzelage!

Marcus Ainley



THE FIRST LADY BY ALEXANDER LUNS

In May 2016 our lives were “about to change dramatically”. My wife Annigje went representing Douzelage Meerssen in the General Meeting in Tryavna Bulgaria, and came back as the president of the whole organization. This meant that the next General Meeting, Bad Kötzing 2017, she would be responsible for the agenda of the meeting. And that was something new, uncharted territory.

She had a year to find out how, and how she wanted it. So on May 9th 2017 we arrived in Bad Kötzing. Annigje as Madam President, me as the first..... aid. I thought she would be doing preparations and having meetings to fill in the last blanks, while I would be strolling the streets in Bad Kötzing and having multiple tasting sessions at Liebl, the local champion schnapps distiller. This was not to be. We both ended up putting together 28 little flagpoles and flags and placing them on the tables in the conference room. Poster sessions had to be glued to the walls, this and more prevented me from tasting the schnapps.

Then on Thursday the delegations started arriving in Bad Kötzing and in the evening everybody served each other a meal from their own country's kitchen. As president Annigje had to say some words to the mayor of Bad Kötzing and some regional politicians. Of course she did great. And the food tasted great. And to my luck,

the Polish delegation gave away large quantities of wodka!

I had promised Annigje I would help her with the minutes of the General Meeting. I was impressed by the conclusions of the workshops and by the involvement of the delegates. Many topics were prepared but everything was handed in exactly on time. Finalizing the minutes will take ages....

Douzelage is all about being interested in other countries and cultures, and cooperating in projects from the bottom up. The meeting was one big gathering of people, way above average interested in the other. Where do you meet Englishmen speaking at least four languages? I enjoyed every moment of the meeting, and in the end I was proud to be Annigje's aid. See you next year.



EDUCATION IN BAD KÖTZTING

A wonderful introduction to the Conference was the sheer variety of the food on offer, which for the first time had been literally spiced up by the addition of dishes from the home countries of the refugees.

I cannot forget the joy of joining in a communal dance and the opportunity of linking hands with such a diverse group of people.

The first presentation on Friday covered the structure of the school system in Bavaria. We were introduced to the three types of secondary schools, Hauptschule (technical and trade orientated). Realschule (this type of secondary school provides a well rounded education resulting in a Diploma, the study of a foreign language is compulsory). Gymnasium (highly academic, begins after 5th grade, most students go to university from the Gymnasium).



There were over 30 teachers in the Education Conference, Most groups had a poster presentation based upon 'refugees in the community' A teacher from Hungary explained that his country was building a wall to keep out the refugees. Other countries were keen to keep the migrants because of depopulation.



Bellagio Sherborne and Zvolen

In the afternoon a teacher from the Gymnasium covered the topic of formal and informal education. We also discussed lifelong learning with children picking up knowledge through both structured and unstructured methods.

Saturday morning was very memorable, as we met two very impressive male Syrian refugees. One had been a medical student who spoke perfect English and very good German. He translated the words of the German presenter into English. Some of us

EDUCATION IN BAD KÖTZTING

were concerned that he was attending the local Hauptschule or trade and technical school and not a more academic establishment.

The last activity gave us a choice between 'healthy eating for students,' or 'educating high flyers.' The healthy eating participants prepared healthy snacks for the delegates.

There was a particular problem with the German diet which relied heavily on processed meat with a high fat content. The 'high flyers' workshop discussed the practice in various countries regarding differentiation, including the contrast between setting and streaming and the influence of school

structure on outcomes.

The determination of the Bavarian state to provide a positive experience for the youngsters, who had come from a variety of countries was very moving.

For me, this was the most memorable and worthwhile Douzelage conference I have attended, as I felt that there was a real purpose to the deliberations and discussions.

Linda Bygrave

SKOFJA LOKA A HEADMASTER'S VIEW

For the General Meeting in Bad Kötzting Miha Jese the Mayor of Škofja Loka and now the Douzelage Vice President invited two students from Škofja Loka Grammar School as well as the headmaster and his assistant to participate at the meeting. .

Whilst the General Meeting discussed the wider crisis of the Migration of Refugees into Europe, the Education Meeting focused on how the Schools could best help.

So we talked about: *The situation of*

unaccompanied minor refugees in our region when each town presented the current situation. Hans-Peter Jobst told us about *Courses and education for EU citizenship in the Douzelage towns*. With Simon Haselbauer we discussed *Personalized or individualized education and What can the Douzelage do about it?*

A lot of European towns face the refugee problems and it was Bert van Doorn who explained to the teachers *Ways to educate high flyers, especially refugees*, which I

SKOFJA LOKA A HEADMASTER'S VIEW



found very useful for my own pedagogical practice.

I think the meeting in Germany was very informative since the German hosts, i.e. teachers from secondary general and vocational schools, presented their daily school work with the refugees.

My short presentation was on unaccompanied minor refugees and how Slovenia is coping with these problems. There are two locations in the country (Nova Gorica and Postojna) where there are 27 minor refugees accommodated. The good thing is that this project is a joint venture of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Labour, Family, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities and Ministry of the Interior.

Unfortunately young refugees do not

stay in the country for a long time. They flee across the border to Italy and further north to their final destination, Germany. Slovenia hosts between 500 and 600 refugees and the numbers are nothing compared to Germany.

There they exceed one hundred thousand and the refugees are still coming. I believe EU countries, including the Douzelage towns, will all have to help solve the refugee crises for the sake of our (i.e. European) freedom and peace.

Oxelösund, Sweden, hosts the next meeting in May 2018. So I hope to see many of you there. .

Joze Bogataj



DOUZYOUTH BY PRESIDENT ELIZABETH DORES

In May Charlotte Grimstone and I were lucky enough to attend the 42nd Douzelage AGM in Bad Kötzing, Germany. Greeted by familiar faces from other Douzelage towns, and the friendly faces of refugees living in Bad Kötzing, we all enjoyed together food, drink and music. With the refugees we expanded our cultural awareness and learnt of their struggles and hopes for the future. Dancing together into the night, we broke down any language and cultural barriers.

On Friday the youth delegation went to traditional workshops such as Drumming, Folkdance and Cooking. As well as help from Ryan Portelli from Malta and Sabine Birniece from Latvia, I had great support from the students and others in Bad Kötzing.

We held a workshop on the refugee crisis and how it affects each EU Country. It was very enlightening with some countries being severely affected and others not at all. We discussed ways of helping refugees integrate into our communities and countries.

After an afternoon of intercultural sports we went to the Glashütte Weinfurtner in Arnbruck for a demonstration of glass blowing and a tour of the factory and shop. The glass work was incredible with one youth delegate also having a go at glass blowing.

Next morning we discussed the pros, cons and future of the EU, before Ryan

and I presented our findings to the General Meeting. There followed a fascinating visit to the local Observatory.

In the main street all Douzelage visitors to the town hung Commemorative ribbons with our hopes for Europe.

There followed the farewell party at which we presented the drumming and dance performances we had learnt.

Overall it was an incredible General Meeting; fantastic discussions, workshops, activities, food, integration and lifelong friendships formed.

Thank you everyone particularly Annijge, our President, our hosts and everyone else involved.



GRANVILLE CARNAVAL 2017

Kevin, Marcus and x6 Yr12 students left the Gryphon School promptly at 06:00 for Poole and a very rough crossing to Cherbourg..

However arriving at Fay and Jean-Claude's house in Granville was a welcome respite. We were soon on our way to meet our "Char", Carnival Float, in a giant warehouse where they were putting the finishing touches to several large processional floats.

We were welcomed warmly by Karine, secretary of the Carnival committee and several of the crew. This year the theme was "The Planet of the Apes" and like all floats was highly satirical, reflecting the foolery of world leaders. Marcus was able to demonstrate his mastery of French and Kevin his incompetent use of the language



Fay provided us with superb meals and a warm welcome; several of their children and grandchildren were there - so lots of opportunity for our students to speak French. Their hospitality was as boundless as ever and we cannot thank them enough. We had a glorious visit to Mont St Michel on a sunny Friday and were able to witness the use of a helicopter in the restoration of the cloisters area. Friday night was a concert in the Carnival marquee with a couple of popular and very good French groups and 1500 people.

Saturday was given over to town tours, shopping and meeting with some French students from Lycée Julliot de la Morandière and their English teacher Marion, who came to Sherborne in 2015 with the Sustainable Development workshops project.



GRANVILLE CARNAVAL 2017

Putting together 12 students from schools in separate countries is always going to be a challenge, but after pizzas arrived, they wandered off round town taking group selfies. Clearly all would be well.

The Carnival procession on Sunday was the highlight and main focus of the trip for us and fortunately the weather wasn't too cold and there was no rain. We gathered with the French participants of the char on the hill slope looking over the harbour and were amply supplied with burgers, hot dogs, and other food and drink, as much as we wanted.

The costumes were a dark green, like St. Patrick's Day, but the face masks and makeup were grotesque. The foundation was preformed latex chimp masks that were glued to faces, covering nose and mouth, so very restricting.

These were then blended in with foundation paste and a variety of other makeup, so this combination accompanied with the black wigs and beards was something that I had never imagined we would be asking our potentially self-conscious students to wear, but they did wonderfully. I am sure that being part of a large group helped as we mostly all looked the same; the French local TV and press were singing our praises and there

are lots of photographs.

The procession generally crawls its way through the streets of Granville with tons and tons of confetti being thrown by everyone such that the streets are carpeted with it. There is a stop of nearly two hours part way round for more food and refreshments before ending up in the Carnival Marquee for a picnic and more drinks before putting the lights on and processing over a different route again, ending around midnight.

Throughout the trip our students were excellent ambassadors for The Gryphon School, Sherborne and The Douzelage. We wish them success in their exams and their future use of French.

Kevin Waterfall



EXPLORING THE DELIGHTS OF BAD KÖTZTING



You have read elsewhere of the wonderful hospitality of our friends in Bad Kötzting, but there are so many interesting sights to see away from the Conference. At the bottom of the town a river flows past the Lindl Brewery and the delightful Kurpark, Nearby the Parish Church built high on a rock overlooks the normally placid river. This passes near the Liebl distillery before continuing to the Aquacur Spa a fantastic sporting paradise for a

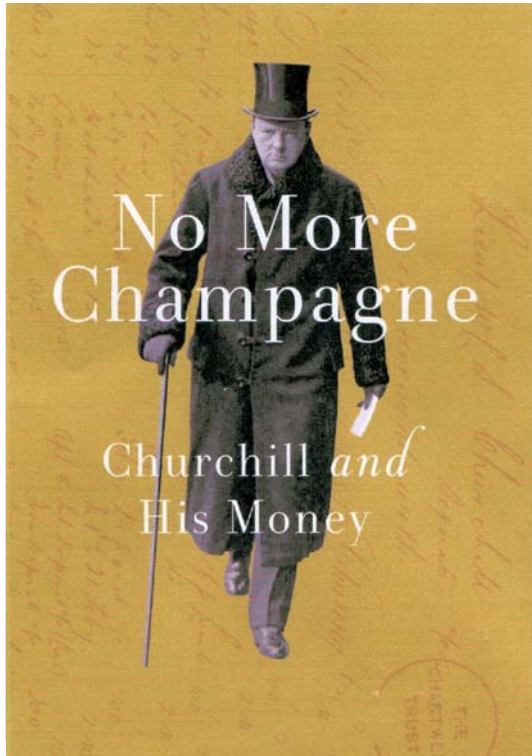


relatively small town. Climb the narrow streets to the top of the town, where a magnificent maypole celebrates the many crafts and occupations associated with the town and nearby. The street leads down past shops and cafés, past the Benedictine Fountain , where the 28 Douzelage ribbons were hung and after the ever hospitable Hotel Post ends near the Pflingstrit Museum, which has commemorated since 1412 the annual ride of 7km in full costume to a chapel overlooking the town.

Climb a nearby hill for an all round view of many km. Even better join in the annual race to the top every September. Bad Kötzting has many attractions .

Michael Morrell

CHURCHILL AND HIS MONEY



David Lough



Digby Memorial Church Hall
Digby Road, Sherborne

Friday 6th October 2017
7 for 7:30pm

Tickets £ 10

Available from: Sherborne TIC
& Winstones Bookshop
Bar & Raffle

Book signing by
the author
Old Shiburnian
David Lough

David Lough was educated at Sherborne School, whence he won a scholarship to Oxford.

After gaining a 1st Class degree in History, he took up a financial career at home and in Asia before founding his own private banking business.

He retired as chief executive in 2008 and, greatly assisted by experience gained in the banking world, embarked on making good the hiatus in Churchill's biography, the great Englishman's precarious personal finances.

The result, based on research of the highest quality, has won universal acclaim.

Happily David Lough speaks as well as he writes. Clearly therefore this is a **talk that is not to be missed as well as a book (Longman's Book of the Year in 2015) that must be read.**

COME MEET HEAR

OUR COMMITTEE IN 2017



Chair: Marcus Ainley

Secretary: Mary Clothier

Treasurer: Jane Smith

Youth Chair: Elizabeth Does

Newsletter Editor: Michael Morrell

Twinning Representative: Scilla Copper

Other Members: Lin Ashby, Mike Balfour, Jeremy Barker, Jules Bradburn, Linda Bygrave, Ray Dyson (Wessex Morris Men), Cliff Jelbert, Chris MacAdie, Moira Western, Sarah Whittick

FUTURE EVENTS

Wessex Morris Men 60th Anniversary	September 8th to 10th
Bellagio Skyrace	October 22nd
Agros P.E.A.C.E. Project	October 21st to 28th
Visit of Holstebro Bowls and Boules	November 12th to 17th
Granville Carnaval	February 8th to 13th 2018
Sherborne Douzelage AGM	February 15th
Wessex Strings Concert	March 18th
43rd General Meeting in Oxelosund	May 10th to 13th
Young Musician Heats	May 18th
Young Musicians Final in Granville	July 2nd to 7th
Houffalize Youth immersion –Europe Future	July 22nd to 28th

For further details contact Mary Clothier on 01963 251255 or see updates at sherborne-douzelage.org.uk/whats on