



EPPING—EPPINGEN

Town Twinning Newsletter



Chairman's Appraisal of 2008 by Uschi Jesson



Following the very successful 2007 'Oktoberfest' event we arranged to repeat the event in September 2008. This time it was called the Bavarian Evening and was held jointly with the Copped Hall Trust. The event was attended by about 100 people. Excellent musical entertainment was provided by the Epping Forest Band, and together with the Bavarian inspired food a most memorable evening was had by all. I pay tribute

to Vicky and David, my husband, for their immense commitment. A big thank you should also go to all those willing hands who made and served food for this event.

It was our turn to visit Eppingen for the year's main visit. Our friends in Eppingen again had planned and organised a most interesting programme of events. There is a more detailed write up on page three but suffice to say that a most enjoyable weekend was spent amongst our German friends and we look forward to hosting them on the return trip this October.

It was my first experience of the wreath laying ceremony on Remembrance Sunday at the town's memorial on behalf of the Association. I was quite moved by the sombre occasion.

This year's AGM was held on 22nd November 2008 followed by a light hearted lecture given by Professor John Humberston a local eminent physicist. The subject was "Relatively Speaking" a simple account of Albert Einstein's life and his Theory of Relativity. Our guest speaker made this evening a very special event.

At the December Christmas Tree Festival in St. John's Church, we were again represented by Barbara's creative tree decoration.

I also wish to thank our Mayor Ben Murphy who so enthusiastically involves himself in Epping-Eppingen Twinning events – a great inspiration to anybody who wishes to join us.

It is still the utmost importance to us to be able to attract and involve new and younger members. We have a few events for this purpose planned this year but please ensure that anyone interested in finding out more is encouraged to get in contact.



Note from the Editors

Thank you to all contributors to this newsletter

We are always looking for new information and articles relevant to the twinning. Please send any stories, photos, notices and events to appsy_spurs@hotmail.co.uk.

We are also compiling a list of email addresses of members in order to save costs on printing. To receive you newsletter electronically please send your email address to tony@churchspires.com with 'Eppingen in the title

Tom Hart/Matthew Apps

Inside this issue:

BADEN-BADEN	2
OCTOBER VISIT TO EPPINGEN	3
MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR	4
FORTHCOMING EVENTS	4

STOP PRESS

Anyone wishing to find out more about the Epping-Eppingen Association should contact

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tony@churchspires.com

EPPINGEN via BADEN-BADEN by Tony Church

Solving the dilemma of needing to catch the early bird Ryanair flight to Germany with how to amuse ourselves for the day before our hosts arrive home from work has taken various forms over the years. This year, Karlsruhe already having the most over visited Zoo by the Church family we looked for something different.



We decided to spend the day in Baden-Baden before arriving in Eppingen in the early evening when our hosts would return from work.

The town has so much to see and do. There is a pedestrianised centre and a beautifully kept park by the river to walk in. The famous cake shops were an absolute must for my younger son who is a chocoholic, whilst the crisp German beer seemed a must for his father. However there is a limit to the time that can be idled away in cafes and we decided to try out what the town is famous for. The Spas of course.



There are a few and my wife had researched them on the internet before leaving (beware there is a nudist one!) so we knew where to head to if not quite what to expect.

Our chosen spa, The Caracalla, was in the town centre itself and there is no difficulty in reaching it via public transport from the airport. It costs 17 Euros each for a four hour period (the hiring of towels was extra, plus you need to leave a deposit). We stored our weekend luggage in a large locker in the foyer having had the foresight to pack our "cossies" in our hand luggage (again the wife's organisation), and escaped for four hours of pure relaxation.



Caracalla steam room

The spa boasts 12 natural pools/springs of differing sizes and temperatures, ranging from lobster boiling to ice cold (yes really). Thankfully most were bath temperature and one can swim or float in comfort. A sign stated that it would be wise to spend only 10 or so minutes at a time in the pools but after an hour we were too mellow to be concerned. We also sampled the saunas, steam rooms and heated drying beds available. Diana was brave enough to have a massage from a severe looking German frau but came out walking a bit crooked and that seemed like too much hard work for me.

After four hours, we changed and walked to the bus stop two minutes away which took us directly to the train station and to Eppingen via the S Bahn. Arriving in time, refreshed and ready to be whisked off for the



Caracalla Outside Pools

evening meal we felt we had prepared ourselves for the hectic schedule. which is the exchange visit. This is a

really relaxing way to start or finish an exchange

and we would recommend it to anyone of any age, particularly those with children who wish to counter the delights of flying with Ryanair.

For more information visit
www.baden-baden.de
www.caracalla.de

October Visit to Eppingen 2008 By Uschi Jesson

Two days before the official date of the main visit, David and I travelled to Eppingen. Heike and Markus, our hosts had invited us to visit the Mercedes museum in Stuttgart. It was an unforgettable experience and so much enjoyed by all of us, the children included. David and I appreciated their thoughtfulness. The following day Heike and Markus showed us Heilbronn which we combined with a bit of Christmas shopping.



Saturday was the start of the official programme and it was an early start in the morning. We travelled by coach to Schwäbisch Hall, a town which was founded many hundreds of years ago and obtained its wealth over many centuries from the salt – called the “White Gold”. The town is impressive with its many different styles of architecture. Guided tours in English and German had been organised for us which gave us some understanding of the impressive history of the town.

The weather was beautiful for late October and most of us lunched in the sunshine at one of the restaurants facing the busy Market Square with its colourful market stalls. The square was surrounded by a vivid combination of old and modern buildings with St. Michael’s Church in the centre.

We then continued our journey to Wackershofen, an open air museum. More than fifty very old houses had been relocated from different parts of the area. One could visit the inside of each of these houses to see how spartan and primitive life was a few hundred years ago. However, the day had required a lot of walking and the excellent local beer in the pub garden provided the refreshment needed. Our party had decided to sample all nine of the beers on the menu. We returned to Eppingen late in the afternoon from a most interesting day.

Even after such a busy day there was no time to rest. Later in the evening one could not possibly miss the most amazing jazz event in Eppingen. Five different jazz bands played in the cellars and restaurants around the town. Listening to those talented jazz musicians was so very enjoyable, and whilst changing venues we were bumping into many Epping and Eppingen friends. The feeling of fun and enjoyment with people you know so well is just unforgettable.



Sunday morning we were invited by the Oberbürgermeister Klaus Holaschke to a reception at the recently restored Rathaus (Town Hall). After an informative talk about Eppingen and a guided tour through the entire Rathaus the Mayors of both towns exchanged gifts. Herr Holaschke is immensely supportive and committed to the progress of the

Epping-Eppingen Twinning. In the evening we were all invited by our hosts for a meal in a local restaurant for a happy last night get-together. It had all the familiarity of an enjoyable family gathering.

Monday we all spent with our hosts until late afternoon when the coach took us to the airport to catch the evening flight.

We again experienced so much kindness and our talks are now the sort of talks one has with very good friends. We would just not want to be without these friendships any more.

We're on the web!

www.eppingeppingentwinning.co.uk





Copped Hall
now

Message from the Mayor Benjamin Murphy

Back at the start of 2008 I remember being excited about how much for us as a Council there was to do in the year ahead, but I honestly had no idea quite how much I would become involved in. Epping is certainly a busy and progressive place.

We started 2008 by setting the Town Council's share of your council tax, which we managed to cut for the first time in many years. The Council then approved a series of capital expenditure programmes; installing new bus shelters in the High Street; building a new playground at Stonards Hill, reintroducing a bigger and better Christmas Market and taking over the management of the Christmas Lights.

We have also had to deal with some very significant planning issues, such as the proposed development of St. Margaret's Hospital, the creation of a new primary school on the site of the old Epping Infants with the merger of Epping Junior.

We have also introduced a new civic awards scheme to recognise those residents who do so much for our community, of which Kay Ericson, a long time member of the Association is one of the first recipients for her work with the Red Cross.

However, many of these matters paled into insignificance when we received news that the Government had directed the District Council to find 49 new pitches for Gypsies and Travellers of which 25 of these would be split across highly inappropriate sites in Epping!

Work began immediately to carefully consider the consultation document in order to pull together a technically sound planning response. This will be submitted to the District Council and eventually a Government Inspector on behalf of the town.

We have seen Marks and Spencer's open a 'Simply Food' store on the site of the old Co-Op, which has helped to bring trade to the town for our local businesses.

In October I visited our twin town, Eppingen in Germany for the first time in many years and was given a wonderful reception by our German hosts. I was able to present the Mayor of Eppingen with a wonderful plaque, celebrating the Association made by the pupils at St. Johns School demonstrating the skills that have been acquired since the school was awarded 'Specialist Engineering College' status.



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On behalf of the Town Council I wish all members and our German friends best wishes for the summer to come.

Forthcoming Events

Summer BBQ

Details to come

Altstadtfest

Saturday, 25 - Sunday 26 July 2009

After a very successful Altstadtfest in 2007, the Epping-Eppingen Association is taking part again. This is always an excellent event. For anyone who has not been before it is a two day festival in the old part of the town that takes place each alternate year. There are many types of food stalls from the 'Landfrau' with their cakes to die for, to cocktails and bier kellers. Entertainment takes place from at least five different stages around the old town from traditional orchestras to rock bands. As you can see the event caters for all ages from small children to the oldies. Even those tricky-to-impress teenagers can find lots to enjoy. It is a wonderful chance to see Eppingen and to experience a piece of the Germans' wonderful culture and I would urge anyone who has not been before to make a special trip to marvel at the Germans organisational skills.



Magic Night

Saturday 19th September 2009

Catholic Church Hall

Tickets - £12.50 to include supper and entertainment. Please bring your own drink.

Language Course

1st - 9th October 2009

5 days in Eppingen, 4 days in Dresden

For more information call Liz Goodwin on 01992 812083

Main Exchange Visit

23rd - 26th October 2009

Our visitors from Eppingen are due to come to us this year and a programme of events will be issued later in the year but please note the event below in your diaries.

Bavarian Night

Saturday 24th October 2009.

Copped Hall

To coincide with the above visit an evening is planned along the lines of last year's successful event. Further details to come.

To book in to any of these events, please contact Vicki Corbett on 01992 571324.