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Kendal-Rinteln
 — Association —



Newsletter September 2012

Thoughts from the Chair



I have just about recovered from our weekend at the Altstadt Festival, to celebrate the twentieth anniversary of the twinning link with Rinteln over the weekend of 10-12 August. What a weekend it was! There were so many highlights, but a few of mine would be:

- Listening to the Mayor of Kendal, John Willshaw delivering his speech in fluent German at the opening ceremony of the Friday night and getting laughs in all the right places from the audience!
- Watching the signing of the reaffirmation of the Twinning Charter and Kendal being presented with a large glass plaque which will be erected in Kendal Town Hall
- Dancing and drinking vodka with the Polish delegation from Slawno on the Saturday evening



John Willshaw's opening speech

- Serving tea and Kendal Mint Cake to visitors to the "Kendal Tent" on Sunday afternoon
- Visiting the Johannis Church for their service on Sunday morning and being made to feel so welcome
- Climbing to the top of the St Nicolai Church tower after the guided walk on Friday morning and seeing the fantastic view of the Weser Valley for the first time in nine visits to Rinteln!



The view from St Nicolai church tower

We are now all looking forward to the final visit of the year when a party from Rinteln will visit Kendal over the weekend of 26–28 October. In addition to a small civic delegation, there will be the Rinteln Fire Brigade Orchestra and the Strucken Folk Dance group. A concert is to be held in Kendal Town Hall on Friday 26th October (see page 3), and they will also perform at the now annual Queen Katherine School's "Oktoberfest" on Saturday 27th October. Hosts are still required for some of the visitors (see page 4) so if you can help, please get in touch.

As my time as Chairman draws to a close, I look back on the past three years with satisfaction. We have continued the momentum of visits and friendships so ably built up by my predecessors. We estimate that over 1,000 people have visited Rinteln and a similar

number visited Kendal over the past twenty years – no mean achievement for a town of less than 30,000 inhabitants.

However a cloud looms over the horizon. I will be stepping down as chairman at the AGM in November and as yet no successor has come forward. We also need some new faces – with new ideas to join our enthusiastic committee. So I would encourage anybody who would like to help to come forward and offer your services – they will be most welcome. It really is not that onerous and it will provide you with a great deal of satisfaction. Think about it!

Best wishes

Richard Pealing



Mint Cake samples at the Kendal tent

Rinteln 20th Anniversary – A Mayor's Eye View

Returning to Germany for the first time since 1954 was an exciting thought, but going as Kendal's civic representative for the Twinning 20th Anniversary celebrations, I was going with some trepidation. Fortunately Anne and I met up with Jonathan and Fiona Brook at Manchester Airport whilst waiting for the flight to Hanover and I was again reassured that the people of Rinteln were most hospitable and a twinning visit was to be enjoyed.

I had asked Anne to carry the Kendal Mayor's medallions through the security searches. I went through the checks with ease but Anne was stopped and asked to explain what she was carrying! The medallions were taken from her for security checks before they were handed back. As an extra check they made Anne go back through the detectors to ensure that she had no weapons or dangerous implements.



The Marketplace from the Bell Tower

The flight went well and on our arrival Mike Middleton took charge of the transport from Hanover to Rinteln. I was surprised at the beginning of our road journey how fast everyone was travelling along the road and I was told that there was no speed limit on the Autobahn. However a few miles on we arrived at a traffic jam and after that we crawled along at a very sedate pace. In Rinteln passengers were dropped off at their respective families and Anne and I were put into the gentle care of Bernhardt and Angela Priesmeier, who were superb hosts for us.

The conducted tour of Rinteln by Karen Lorenz on Friday morning was very enjoyable and instructive. Her singing to demonstrate the acoustics of the Church was delightful, but the highlight to me was the trip to the top of the bell tower. The views over Rinteln were wonderful. On our return to ground level we found Bernhard waiting for us, we were running late and he had organised a trip into the countryside for us.

Bernhardt and Angela drove us to a cable ferry where we crossed the Weser and then continued to Burg Schaumburg. At Burg Schaumburg we had lunch and time to talk with our hosts looking out over the countryside: a lovely place to stop and eat. We continued to Schloss Bückeberg which was the residence of the Princes of Schaumburg-Lippe, and I was informed that the family still lived there. I could vaguely remember visiting Bückeberg when I was six years old with my parents and brother...what a long time ago.

We returned to Rinteln to greet the Kendal Concert Band, preparing to play their music in the Marktplatz. This heralded the opening of the Altstadtfest with speeches from the three Mayors. I stood on the stage in front of what appeared to be a large audience and I must admit to being very nervous as I was delivering the speech in German. Once the speeches were over I had a few beers and a Bratwurst and felt able to relax a little. The evening celebrations in the Ratskeller, and being entertained by the excellent music from our wonderful Kendal Concert Band, brought an end to a great day.



Kendal Concert Band opened the weekend festivities

On Saturday morning there were further civic duties with speeches at the official reception in the Rathaus (Town Hall) celebrating the 20th Anniversary of the Rinteln/ Kendal & Rinteln/Slawno Twinning.



Current and former Kendal Mayors plant an Anniversary yew tree

A re-signing of Charters took place and Mayor Karl-Heinz Buchholz presented glass plaques as a memento of the 20th Anniversary. One last civic duty to perform was the planting of three trees, one for each town, in celebration of the 20th Anniversary.



The re-signing of the Twinning Charters

In the afternoon Anne and I walked the boundary of Rinteln and admired the architecture and gardens of the houses in and around the town. We returned to Marktplatz to listen to the music and watch the entertainment and for more

bratwurst, beer and lashings of ice cream. The party in the evening was most enjoyable, excellent food, wine and really good company. By the end of the evening the wine was helping me to understand the Polish being spoken by Dr Kristoph Frankenstein, the Mayor of Slawno. A late finish to another good day!

On Sunday we were invited to a Church Service at Johannes Kirchenzentrum in Niedersachsenweg, along with Richard, Hilary, Helen and John. We were kindly taken there by Mike Middleton. We returned to the Kendal Town Tent, superbly organized by the Dixons. Anne and I promoted Kendal as a tourist spot as well as handing out and selling the Kendal Mint Cake that Philip and Janette had brought with them in their camper van. As I said my goodbyes to Mayor Buchholz, I was asked by a member of the public "why are Mayors made to look the same?" Short beards, glasses and fairly stout!

Anne and I returned to Bernhardt and Angela's where we said farewell to our wonderful hosts with promises to meet again next year. Richard and Hilary took time out of their trip to drive Anne and I back to the Airport for our journey home.

Anne and I have to thank everyone in the group for all that was done to make the trip really successful. Special thanks from us both to Richard and Hilary for driving us to Hanover, Mike Middleton for being on hand when he was needed, to Julie Scattergood and Diane Innes for translating and coaching me on my German speeches and Roswitha in Rinteln for giving further advice on my presentation, on the day. Also I must give a very big thank you to the Kendal Concert Band whose performances throughout the festival sparkled.



Mayors Buchholz and Willshaw - or vice versa!

Celebration Weekend in Kendal

The 20th Anniversary celebrations continue in Kendal when a party from Rinteln will be here for the weekend of 26th-28th October, starting with a concert by the **Rinteln Fire Brigade Orchestra** to be held on

Friday 26 October 2012
at 8.00pm in Kendal Town Hall

All welcome

There is no charge, and a retiring collection will be taken for the Mayor of Kendal's chosen charity – The Kendal Lads and Girls Club –

Oktoberfest

Once again, the Fire Brigade Band from Rinteln will be joined by Kendal Concert Band for an Oktoberfest evening at Queen Katherine School.

This will take place on **Saturday 27th October** from 7:00 pm. Tickets £8.50 to include a pie and pea supper are available from school reception.

Help!

Would you like to be more involved in our organisation and have fun at the same time? Our Secretary is retiring from the post and the Committee is urgently in need of a volunteer to replace her. The Secretary's role involves taking minutes at the monthly evening committee meetings, preparing agendas and generally dealing with any correspondence needed etc. Frances assures me that she will be around to help and support anyone taking on the role.

Please contact Frances Corrie or any committee member if you would like more information.

Summer University

Mari Cole and Scott Bryers from The Queen Katherine School accepted the invitation from the Rintelner Verein to take part in the Sommeruni. Flights, accommodation in the school, food and pocket money were all paid for by the Verein and everything was carefully arranged by Mike Middleton in Rinteln. During the week they went to a variety of lectures and seminars on such diverse topics as Microelectronics and Veterinary Medicine, having to cope with a high level of German. They also had the chance to practise their German and to meet other foreign students. In their interview for the Schaumburger Zeitung they commented on how they feel much more confident about speaking German and how much they enjoyed eating Spaghettis! Both are now studying German at A level.

Hosts Required

For the October visit by the Fire Brigade Band and Folk Dance Group

A large group from Rinteln of over 50 people will be visiting Kendal from Thursday 25th to Sunday 28th October. Although some of the party will be staying in a hotel and others are already accommodated with old friends, we will still need to find hosts for a number of the group.

If you are able to accommodate either one or two people for these three nights then please get in contact with Hilary Webb (01539 727304) or email her at

hosting@kendal-rinteln.co.uk

Thank you for your support.

Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting of the Association will take place in the Town Hall on

Tuesday 13 November at 7:00 pm.

All members are invited to attend. There will be a review of the events in the last year, and election of officers for the next year. The current Chair is standing down at the AGM so we will be looking to elect a new Chair to lead the Association into the next 20 years.



Contact us:

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Keep up to date with what's happening at

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