

## Malmesbury and district Twinning Association

President: The Mayor of Malmesbury  
Council Representatives: Cllr C Doody: Cllr L Crawford-Price

Chair: Julia Bowen  
Vice- Chair: Sue Poole  
Secretary: Glyn Davies  
Treasurer: Jonathan Barstow (from November '24- previously Phil Exton)  
Social and Fundraising group: convenor: Jean Fitzgerald  
Gien sub-group: convenor: Jonathan Barstow  
Niebull sub-group; convenor: Julia Bowen.  
Friendship links : Malmesbury SA, Cherkasy Ukraine (Liz Cook) Bad Hersfeld (until October15) Stefano Vandelli, Ray Sanderson.  
Website and comms: Stefano Vandelli.  
(Full Committee 16 members)

### 2024/25 Events and activities

**4<sup>th</sup> June 2024:** AGM (see attached minutes)

**11 – 16 July:** The official visit to Gien, to include Bastille Day Celebrations as well as other visits and events.

This group of 21 included some new to Twinning as well as the Mayor Cllr Phil Exton, representing the town.

Next year's visit of Gien to Malmesbury has been confirmed as 17 -22<sup>nd</sup> July 2025.

**19<sup>th</sup> July – 18<sup>th</sup> August:** MDTA facilitated a work placement for Victoria Poutoire, whose parents -in- law live in Gien and are members of the Jumelage. Victoria was funded by her employer, EDF, to improve her English.

A programme was arranged in Malmesbury for her to be immersed in the community. With thanks to Liz Cook and Gavin Grant (Heals), Janina Diverio (Animal Sanctuary), Helen Wallace, John Fairhurst and Glyn and Linda Davies who hosted Victoria and organised the programme. EDF were greatly impressed by her improved English!

**23 August:** Formal signing of a Friendship Agreement with Cherkasy (Ukraine) by Zoom, between the two Town Mayors, with other councillors, dignitaries and Twinning Chair in attendance.

**19<sup>th</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup> September:** Official visit from our friends in Niebull.

A group of 20 (including Anja Cornils: Chair of Twinning) came to celebrate 70 years of connection between Malmesbury and Niebull. The Youth Exchange set up in 1954 as a reparation project, which developed into a formal Twinning Agreement between Niebull and Malmesbury in 1976. The youth/student exchange continuing with the annual visits between Malmesbury School and the Frederick Paulsen Schule in Niebull.

As well as a full programme of events for this special year, (Roman Baths in Bath, Bow-in-the-Cloud vineyard, Folk and roots Festival, Flying Monk Arts trail and the Corinium museum

in Cirencester), an exhibition '70 Years of Friendship' was put together , with the help of Caerbladon, in the John Bowen Gallery for the month of September. Thanks also to Bill Reed and the Community Radio for recording the voice of early participants (which now form part of the Malmesbury voices project held in the Athelstan Museum)

There are copies of the commemorative brochure for any Councillor who was unable to attend the Civic Reception and Celebration.

Diana Kluger (Niebull /Malmesbury organiser, gave a very moving speech which will appear soon on our website, while three members of the Niebull group put together a fascinating PowerPoint presentation which was on a silent loop during the party.

We were delighted that two of the original group from Malmesbury in 1954 were able to be there and who spoke very warmly to us about their experience and of their Youth Leader Cyril Cartmel.

MDTA would like to thank the Mayor and Town Council for their generosity and support for this exhibition and occasion.

**12 -17 October:** The Visit to Bad Hersfeld for the official signing of a formal Twinning Agreement, which included 3 representatives from Twinning, (Julia Bowen, Ray Sanderson and Stefano Vandelli) as well as the Mayor and the Town Clerk.

Malmesbury now has two German Twin Towns, unusual if not unique. Niebull set up immediately post war as a reparation project and grew into full Twinning in 1976, and Bad Hersfeld, with its historic connection reaching back to the 8<sup>th</sup> Century, via a monk, Lull, who studied at Malmesbury Abbey (then a seat of learning on a par with Canterbury) and who helped Boniface bring Christianity to Germany. He eventually become the Abbot at the monastery in Bad Hersfeld.

We look forward to developing this relationship.

Fundraising activities continue throughout the year, our most recent one a Ukrainian evening to celebrate our new Friendship agreement.

The proceeds from the raffle (a little over £200) were given to Cherkasy Hospital (through local channels).

Our membership continues to grow steadily but there is always room for more!

Julia Bowen: Monday 11<sup>th</sup> November 2024

[www.malmesburytwinning.co.uk](http://www.malmesburytwinning.co.uk)