

CTA news February 2022

It is two years since we have really been able to think about meeting with our European partners, principally those in Itzehoe but not forgetting St Genis Laval who welcomed us so enthusiastically a few years ago.

We have not disappeared though and you may have been able to purchase a copy of this year's calendar in the Parish church shop or the tourist centre in Bingham House. It has proved very popular this year with many beautiful pictures and was particularly well received as a souvenir of happy past occasions by friends in Itzehoe and elsewhere who have hosted or visited us. Next year's calendar is in the pipeline and looks set to be another poignant and colourful collection of pictures of Cirencester today and yesterday. Money raised from the sale of the calendars is destined to help with our exchanges and possibly assist young people looking to broaden their language and cultural experiences. We are particularly pleased to have learnt that Lily, who went to Itzehoe in 2019 is now studying German at Oxford. What an achievement!

Meanwhile in Itzehoe, as affected as much as we have been of course by Covid, they have had to put their 30 years of twinning celebration on hold for 2 years and are now extending a very cordial invitation to us to join them for their celebrations from June 26th to July 1st 2022. It promises to be an amazing visit with lots to do and see so if you think this might be for you let us know. Board and lodging are provided -you might want to take your hosts out for a meal of course- but there is a full programme of activities for us to enjoy together. It is our intention to reciprocate the invitation to visit us here in Cirencester in 2023.

To celebrate 25 years of twinning with a number of towns, the Itzehoe twinning group has spent some of lockdown putting together a complete history of all their visits and events over the years with wonderful pictures and information, some of which is relevant to us and our beginnings. We have, in fact, been twinned with Itzehoe since 1982 and if anyone would like to read about our long association with our German partner we can provide an English translation as well as loan a copy of the whole book. Please just get in contact.

Another exciting development arising from this year's calendar is the setting up of links and a competition between the Cirencester Camera Club and Lichtbilderfreunde in Itzehoe. This promises to develop friendships between people who share a common passion and will doubtless bring us all much pleasure when we see the results of their contact with one another. Meanwhile the twinning associations in our umbrella group have been hosting regular quiz events by zoom - just ask for contact details if you would like to know more of their events.

Whilst things are opening up in the UK generally it still seems sensible to meet by zoom and it is our intention to hold a zoom meeting for anyone who would like to meet other people in the association or just catch up with things soon. Details will be sent out to all members and we would be delighted if those details could be passed on to anyone they think might be interested to hear more about us and our plans for the future or indeed can offer suggestions how we might move forward in the coming years!