

DOUZELAGE Newsletter November 2016

News from the Presidency

Dear Douzelage friends,
Hope you are all doing well! As the new presidency is now half a year old, it would be a good time to publish this Newsletter and keep you up-to-date on the latest Douzelage activities.

Douzelage Europe will launch its website fairly soon. Its name will change from douzelage.org to douzelage.eu. And if you are at a loss and are still typing in douzelage.org, you will be redirected to the new website: so eventually we will all meet at douzelage.eu!

In the meantime we have launched a Facebook page called: **Douzelage European Town Twinning**. This is the url: <https://www.facebook.com/DouzelageEurope/?fref=ts>

The difference between the Facebook page and the website is the following: the website will contain Douzelage news and activities, information on the organisation, contacts etc. All of it is based on substantial content and will also function as a 'business card' to others that are interested in our activities and goals. Needless to say that primarily it serves our own users.

The **Facebook page** is more a platform for brief news, little updates and will try to be as informative as possible, striving to have the latest news presented to you as soon as it hits us.

It would be our key request to those of you not using Facebook to join this group! Please note that Facebook as a social medium helps us to connect in an instant: our news is not only (passively) seen by our members, but one can actively participate in commenting and communicating (thumbs up, posting responses etc.). Furthermore, all those interested in our organisation can join: today we have 117 people



that 'like' our organisation and whenever a new post/message is placed, these members will receive a notification that Douzelage European Town Twinning left you a message!

So, before I'll finally 'shut up' about this topic: please join in and give Douzelage the exposure it deserves!

Tibi, Miha, Mette and Annigje have been working hard to adapt to their new tasks and giving it the attention it needs. We met in August in Meerssen and had a very fruitful get-together. We are all looking forward to taking Douzelage further.

As 2016 is a special year for Douzelage, celebrating its **25th birthday**, many activities took place in our partner towns. A very special one was organised in Sherborne: Sherborne International Music and Dance Festival.

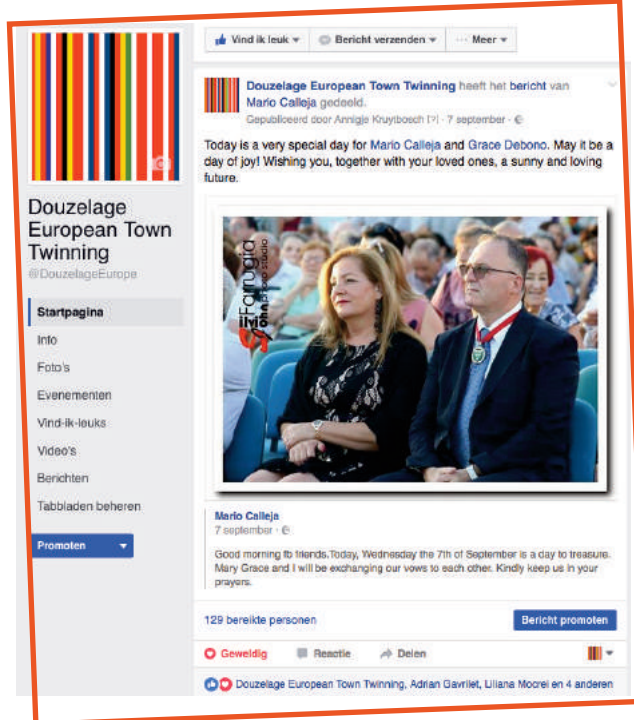
Also Meerssen did its fair share on activities focusing on the inhabitants of Meerssen to join in with the several celebrations for 25 years of Douzelage.

Happy news reached us: on the 7th of September, **Mario Calleja** married his princess Grace Debono in Marsaskala. We wish them all the happiness in the world!

Also sad news reached us: **Jos Mouton**, our dear friend from Nideranven who has been with Douzelage for

such a long time, passed away at the age of 71. We wish his wife Lilane a lot of strength and hope to see her in our midst on numerous Douzelage occasions.

Tibi, Mette and Annigje visited 'A Soul for Europe' in Berlin in November. Please read Mette's interesting article on this conference on page 2.



"A Soul for Europe" conference in Berlin

At the 8th and 9th of November 2016, Douzelage president Annigje Kruytbosch and the vice presidents Tibi Rotaru and Mette Grith Sørensen took part in the conference "A Soul for Europe" in Berlin.

The conference was held by Allianz Kulturstiftung (Allianz Cultural Foundation) under the high patronage of the European Parliament.

Allianz Cultural Foundation was established in the year 2000. It is an organisation, that seeks to "create a civil society based on common European motives and values, the Foundation proactively initiates and sponsors projects by young upcoming professionals and artists in the areas of education and literature, music, the performing and the visual arts" (quote from the program made by the foundation).

Read more about the organisation in English or German on www.kulturstiftung.allianz.de

Our goal

Our primary goal was to make contacts and to make Douzelage better known to the public. To talk to as many people as possible, telling them about our organisation. We also hoped to get inspiration to help Bad Kötzing with the workshops at the upcoming GM in 2017, as the subtitle of the conference was "Cultural Identities on the Move" - close to the topic of the GM.

The "A Soul for Europe" conference had, according to their program, chosen this title to "react to the current European Challenges in a creative way and to draft proposals for an intensified corporation between politics and civil society in the cities and regions of Europe".

The topic was best demonstrated, not by long speeches held by important politicians, but by a large group of immigrant and refugee children, who with the help of volunteers, learned to play an instrument and sing songs (both in their own language and in German) and thus were taught music, to speak a new language and made new friends. The project is called MitMachMusik - you can read more (in German) here: www.mit-mach-musik.de

During the two days we listened to speeches by countless important people - most of them interesting and inspirational - on stage. We also took

part in two work-shops, which were slightly disappointing as they were not so much "workshops" as presentations of projects.

But as it is within Douzelage; the most important stuff didn't happen on stage/at the meeting, but during the coffee breaks, the lunch breaks and at the "standing Breakfast Bar".

We did make contacts

Annigje and Tibi chatted up German born (in Bavaria) Dr. Hatte Fischer, who has an incredible impressive CV - you can see it here (in English): <http://poieinkaiprat-tein.org/home/members/hatto-fischer/>

Dr. Hatte Fischer is now living in Athens and turned out to have a good friend from Preveza, the artist Photini Papahatzi, who is working on a project, HOME, which we think might suit the Douzelage and the subject of the 2017 GM. Annigje has made contact with Photini Papahatzi.

Mette grabbed hold on one of the speakers, the Danish Jens Nymand Christensen, who is deputy Director-General for Education and Culture at the European Commission at Brussels. He was impressed by the description of Douzelage, and when Mette stated "we are just small towns", he said "but that is, what it is all about. Everybody expects Lyon to work with Frankfurt, but what really matters is, when smaller towns unite and work together". He got our card (the president and three vice presidents have had cards made with all four names and the Douzelage logo on it) and a brochure about Douzelage - in Dutch, but that is not a huge problem for a Dane, who speaks several languages like Mr. Nymand Christensen. He told us to feel free to contact him, if we had any questions or

And when Mette stated "we are just small towns", he said "but that is, what it is all about."



ideas, where we thought he could be of any help. You can read about him here (in English):

www.europeanoutdoorsummit.com/index.php/speakers/jens-nymand-christensen

Mette also talked to Katharina Kloss, senior editor of the German language version of the European online-magazine CafeBabel, written by young people and translated into six languages. The project was one out of five, which was introduced on stage, and we thought it might be an idea to spread the news about it to our Douzelage Youth. CafeBabel was created in 2001 by a group of Erasmus students. CafeBabel's aim is "to stimulate and develop European public opinion through two distinct but closely related missions. The online magazine – cafebabel.com – offering every week analysis of current European affairs. Secondly, at grass roots level CafeBabel's network, actively promoting this perspective through debates, conferences and other events organised across Europe. Through an expanding network of local offices

But we just cannot label people, who voted for Trump - or for right wing parties in Europe - as xenophobe, stupid or uneducated. That will not help us.

on political and social issues. Maybe we were so impressed, because she actually was the only person, who openly criticised the conference for not bringing the people, it was all about - immigrants and refugees as well as ordinary, common EU-citizens - on stage.

She said (among other things):

"It is ironic, that on the same day as the Berlin wall fell 27 years ago, and a wave of hope for the future and freedom spread across the world, Trump was elected president of the USA and the era of hope starts to end. But we just cannot label people, who voted for him - or for right wing parties in Europe - as xenophobe, stupid or uneducated. That will not help us.

We have to look them in the eyes, but they are not here today - not any of them. We, who are here at the conference, were the winners of the globalisation. The losers were the working class, and today a lot of them can not afford

to travel, but the world travels to them - it invades their countries".

Whether it would be possible to get Dessy Gavrilova to travel to a GM to talk to us, and whether it would be affordable for us to have her present at a workshop, we do not know. But she certainly had something to say that is not easy to dismiss.

Reflection

It was our first time at the conference - and as for all first times, we were a bit like Bambi on ice. We had to find out "how does this work?", "do we get to talk to people automatically, or do we need to grab their arm?", "Can we promote Douzelage in more ways than just by words?" and "does it make any sense at all for Douzelage to be present at the conference?".

We think it does. And we believe, that we can make important connections.

But next time - if there is a next time for

us - we will ask the organisers, if we can present Douzelage on a board in the foyer just as other projects were presented. And we would like to have brochures on Douzelage made in preferably German, English and French, as we noticed, that many people picked up information, like brochures, books and cards, on the projects shown in the foyer.

We believe it is important to be where the positive trends are and where you can still speak of a Europe that is united - not a Europe divided into east and west or mainland and England.



across Europe, CafeBabel claims to be the voice of the "euro-generation". You can see the impressive online-magazine at www.cafebabel.com - and change at the language bar to either English, German, French, Polish, Italian or Spanish.

Inspiration

As for "inspiration" there were several people on stage, that delivered food for thought. But none more than Dessy Gavrilova, chairwoman of The Red House for Culture and Debate in Sofia, Bulgaria, a non-governmental cultural centre for contemporary art and civics debate

A safety pin had been made for the conference (maybe an idea for a GM?) - it was a simple one, just a blue safety pin, but by carrying it on your shirt/blouse/jacket, you agree on the words, that went with it: **"Europe - we stick together"**.

Quotes from the speakers

"We are used to blame EU for everything from economical crises to Brexit to immigrants. But EU is the solution, not the problem. EU is the most important project in Europe, and the history of EU is all about tearing down walls and building bridges. We use culture to promote tolerance. Education and culture is providing unity and building bridges"

(Emil Boc, Mayor of Cluj-Napoca, Romania).

"As for the immigration crisis, we need to get away from the picture of "good western Europeans and not so cooperative eastern Europeans". That picture will just drive us down into a ditch. We have to get back to "communication and change", because the eastern Europeans are right, when they say "you should have told us - you should have talked to us". Because we KNEW. We knew about the situation in Africa and the Middle East, and we knew, that if there were no legal paths into Europe, they would storm our castle. We knew about the economical, political and environmental crises, and we knew, that the help, we provided, not always reached the right people at the right place. Solidarity is more than help in an emergency (...) We need to talk and to figure this out. Even Canada, which has an excellent law on immigration, has not solved the problem yet. They need to develop it too (...) We must stop looking at Islam as "Islamists" and "terrorists", partly due to ignorance. We are not dealing with 80 percent fundamentalists, we are dealing with people living peacefully in Christian areas..."

In Europe we have talked too much about the body and too little about the soul.

(Rita Süßmuth, German politician, Christian Democratic Union (CDU), President of the German Federal Parliament).

Mette Grith Sørensen

"It is necessary for the EU to strengthen unity and prevent collapse and we are all responsible for achieving this goal. The Safety pin as a symbol was developed by the British after Brexit as a sign of solidarity. We have further developed it, and now the blue safety pin is a sign that we WANT Europe. We want freedom, equality, tolerance towards others and unity"

(Hella Dunger-Löper, State Secretary, Commissioner of European Affairs in Berlin).

"Today we more than ever need desperate optimism"

(György Dragoman, Author and literary translator, his books translated into 30 languages, born in Transylvania, but moved as a child to Hungary with his family).

"In Europe we have talked much too much about the body and too little about the soul"

(Enrique Barón Crespo, Spain, MEP 1986-2008 and President of the European Parliament 1989-1992).



Europa
Wir halten
zusammen



Visit Preveza

In the second half of October, Mike Balfour and Annigje Kruytbosch paid a visit to Preveza. Mike, as a huge fan of Preveza, knowing many of Douzelage Preveza (as well as all local pubs and places to be) and Annigje, in her new role as president of Douzelage, willing and motivated to get acquainted with Douzelage Preveza and strengthen the Douzelage ties.

We were very fortunate with the weather, so unfamiliar to Mike and me, coming from the rainy and chilly Northern part of Europe.

Preveza is just a lovely place to be: tiny, flowerish streets with many cafes, restaurants and shops. A beautiful coastline with sailing boats paying visits to this picturesque town and fishermen doing their usual business on sea. All drenched in sunlight and comfortable warmth.

We were warmly welcomed by Barbara Zadraveli, who felt very responsible for our well-being and made us feel very welcome. She gave us the best guided tour ever and her pride and knowledge of the region is very contagious.

Among others we met with Georgios Allisandratos, Kosmas Koronaios (vice Mayor), Makis Ditsos, Vayia Pani, Kostas Kalentzis, Mary Zouroufidou, Christos Bakas, Vayia Pani and Mayor Christos Bailis. Most of them working at the Municipality of Preveza, but also teachers and artists: all of them one way or the other active within Douzelage.

To my opinion it was a very inspiring and constructive visit. Many topics were discussed, ideas and opinions were exchanged, understood and... taking care off. We are looking forward seeing Douzelage Preveza in Bad Kötzing again!

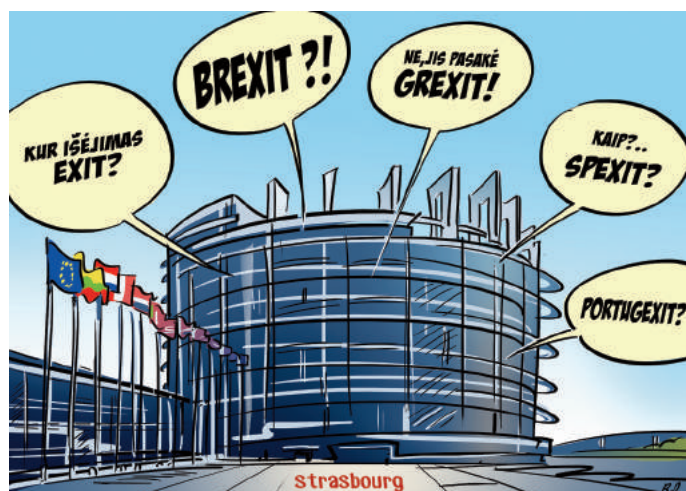


BREXIT

On the 23rd of June 51.9 percent of the people in the UK voted for a Brexit. This news came as a great shock to our friends from Sherborne and the rest of Douzelage.

The constitution of Douzelage states that Douzelage members should also be member of the EU. Nevertheless Douzelage Sherborne wishes to remain a full member and committed to Douzelage as they have always been. As the Brexit itself will take a few years to complete, Douzelage has enough time to work out a solution that will be satisfactory to all of us.

The presidency is preparing a procedure concerning this topic for the next general meeting and you will be informed about the content at the latest two months prior to the GM.



On Monday, October 10th, Douzelage Sherborne and Meerssen paid a visit to the European Parliament in Brussels

We were invited by the department of EP Jeroen Lenaers of the European People's Party (EPP) to pay a visit to the European Parliament. We enjoyed an extensive and interesting tour by Stijn Teeuwen, had a last moment meeting with EP Wim Van de Camp (Transport and Tourism) and did not leave Brussels without visiting the Center and enjoying this beautiful city to the fullest! (With Marcus Ainley, Irene Raedts-Schreuder, Harry and Marie-Thérèse Crombag, Chris McAdie and Annigje Kruytbosch)



On October 8th, Douzelage Meerssen organised an inspiring Symposium about 25 years of Treaty of Maastricht and the future of the EU

Opened by the governor of Limburg, visited by approx. 70 people, including Douzelage Sherborne, with speakers from different Academies and the European Parliament, workshops and conclusions. All together: we did not solve all EU problems at once, but we certainly contributed to a very inspiring day and are motivated to contribute, through Douzelage, for better understanding: the first step to unity!



The unique language of Music

Last July the Young Musician competition came to Zvolen. And as a spectator I was asked to describe my impressions of the festival. Yet feelings would be the right word to describe the whole five days. I had the pleasurable experience of an observer. I was invited by the head of the art and music school to help with translating and communication with the foreign guests. Although I am not a musician myself and I have to admit I cannot play any musical instrument, I became completely involved. I realised how much power music has; how strong it can be and how many obstacles it can overcome. During all those let us say tough days we did not worry about any of those very probably wrong votes in polls. Our fear or anger at recent horrific senseless attacks was put to the side. We all were so eager to feel the emotion of music.

All the young people, young musicians or their teachers were absolutely fantastic. They got on very well together and enjoyed even the hard work of rehearsals or practising. They loved being together, enjoyed the trip to the ruined castle or watching the final football match. They were able to overcome sometimes tiny language problems, as luckily all of them handled very well an unique language which does not require any translation. It is music. So sometimes I simply remained quiet, I just sat still, listened and felt. I felt the emotion, shivers all over and I simply knew that if all this power is being produced by 27 young people from five different countries, everything is so simple and pure. Nobody minded any political results or differences (okay, maybe the jury minded with a smile the occasional note out of tune).

So thank you friends for coming to a small town in a small country. Thank you for your warm friendship for your art of music we could share.

Zuzana Laszlova

And the winner is....: Rémi Welmane from Granville. (Young Musicians Douzelage: Zvolen 2016)

Young Musicians of Douzelage performing in Zvolen (July 2016). The title of Douzelage Young Musician of the Year 2016 went to a young trumpeter from Granville, France. Thank you Zvolen for taking such good care of the Young Musicians!

Douzelage Young Musician of the Year 2016

On July 6th this year, five students from local schools – Evie D (Leweston School), Elizabeth H (Leweston School), Joss N (Sherborne School), Valerie T (Sherborne Girls) and Christiana B (Bruton School) – accompanied by Rachel Milestone and Tim Roberts from Leweston School, boarded a plane to Zvolen, Slovakia, to compete in the Douzelage Young Musician of the Year 2016 competition, alongside students from nine other Douzelage towns across Europe.

The project was originally conceived to give young musicians a range of experiences; to let them mix with their peers from other nationalities and to help them appreciate how music brings them together. This year's competition did just that. Our students worked hard musically, practicing independently for their own competition recital and in ensembles with the other musicians. However, there was also time allocated for sight-seeing around the town and social events such as the bowling and crazy golf evening.

All five musicians performed admirably, all receiving praise from the judging panel. The standard of competitors was extremely high but ultimately it was Valerie T on the piano that got through to the grand final in Zvolen Castle. In the

end the title of Douzelage Young Musician of the Year 2016 went to a young trumpeter from France, but all the Sherborne musicians performed in the final concert and it was, without a doubt, an experience that will stay with them all for a long time to come.

by Dr Rachel Milestone, Director of Music
Leweston Sherborne

<http://leweston.co.uk/index/news/douzelage-young-musician-of-the-year-2016.html>

I realised how much power music has; how strong it can be and how many obstacles it can overcome



Sherborne Douzelage stalwarts awarded their own medals to mark 25 years

It wasn't only our UK Olympians who were earning medals at the weekend. The committee members of Sherborne Douzelage also received a medal each in recognition of their efforts over the past 25 years.



They were presented by the newly elected President of the Douzelage, Annigje Kruijtbosch from The Netherlands, at the finale of The Music and Dance Festival that was held in Sherborne and surrounding villages over the weekend. The president spoke of the great admiration with

which Douzelage is held throughout Europe, mentioning the contribution of Mr Jeremy Barker, who was one of the founding fathers of Douzelage and who continues to play a prominent role in events.

8 Sherborne Douzelage was instigated in 1991 between Granville and Sherborne to promote friendship throughout Europe through exchange visits, cultural understanding and educational projects. There are now 28 countries participating in the organisation and over the years many friendships have been formed.

The festival comprised workshops and dance classes and dancing in the villages around Sherborne on Friday. The dancing continued in the streets of Sherborne on Saturday morning, providing shoppers and visitors with a colourful spectacle. A "Party in the Park" in the Pageant Gardens followed throughout the afternoon, where performers from Latvia, Ireland and the Czech Republic



joined local groups, the Wessex Morris Men, The Treacle Eaters, Yetminster Irish Dancers and Mean Feet to give a lively and colourful afternoon to all those who came to watch. There were also food and craft stalls. Although the rain clouds rolled in it was not enough to stop the fun.

On Saturday night the finale was a Gala Concert in the Digby Hall, when all the performers joined forces to give a memorable display of their dancing and singing skills. The evening ended with audience participation in a final dance.



By Sarah Hill in Blackmore Vale Magazine

LOOK AROUND Project

The project LOOK AROUND took place from 25th to 29th July 2016 in Sušice. It was organised by the committee of Douzelage Sušice in cooperation with the Municipality of Sušice and Sports centre of the Town of Sušice. The reason to organise this project was to celebrate the 25th Anniversary of the Douzelage organisation (www.douzelage.org) and to gather young people from different countries within Douzelage to establish new connections. The main aim of the project LOOK AROUND was to show young people that the real world is much better than the virtual world.

There were 31 young people from different countries who took part in this project. They came from Sigulda (Latvia), Chojna (Poland), Köszeg (Hungary), Bad Kötzing (Germany) and of course from Sušice (Czech Republic).

The attendees had opportunity to learn more about threats within the virtual world. They had a session with an expert on cyber bullying and they were shown that reckless behaviour in virtual world can, in extreme cases, lead to death.

In addition to learning part of the programme the participants had the opportunity to climb the mountaineering wall, play volleyball, swim in the river etc. An outdoor game was prepared for them where they had to accomplish different tasks. This game culminated in a paintball game where nearly all attendees took part and were excited about it. They were shown hereby that there are other possibilities to spend free time in a different way than on social networks or playing games on the computer.

The mission of this project was accomplished successfully. All attendees learned about most of the threats that are hidden in the virtual world. Also they learned that friendship with real people is more valuable than with the virtual ones. More info: <http://lookaround-project.com/-index.html>

Eva Beníšková



„Look around“: 25 Schüler aus Polen, Ungarn, Lettland und Tschechien nahmen am Projekt teil. Foto: Douzelage

Grenzenlose Leidenschaft für soziale Medien verbindet

DOUZELAGE 25 Schüler aus Bad Kötzing, Polen, Ungarn, Lettland und Tschechien nahmen an Projektwoche über die Gefahren im Internet teil.

BAD KÖTZING. „Bis nächstes Jahr in Bad Kötzing!“ hieß es vergangenen Freitag, als man sich nach einer aufregenden Woche in Sušice von alten und neu gewonnenen Freunden verabschiedete. Eva Beníšková und Olga Melkusová aus der tschechischen Partnerstadt Sušice luden Jugendliche aus vier benachbarten Douzelage-Ländern zu einer einwöchigen Projektwoche ein. Neben den Bad Kötzingern Schwestern Caterina und Simona Gogeišl nahmen 25 weitere Schülerinnen und Schüler aus Polen, Ungarn, Lettland und dem Gastgeberland Tschechien am Projekt „Look Around“, eine Veranstaltung zum sicheren Umgang mit sozialen Medien, teil.

Facebook verbindet (fast) alle

Das Projekt begann am Montagabend mit Kurzpräsentationen über die jeweilige Heimatstadt. Caterina und Simona Gogeišl wiesen in ihrem Vortrag auf das bevorstehende General Meeting im kommenden Mai hin, bei dem Bad Kötzing die Delegierten aller Douzelage-Länder zum jährlichen Treffen empfangen wird. Am nächsten

Morgen wurden die Teilnehmer von den Projektleiterinnen und ihren Helfern im Rathaus von Sušice begrüßt. Lukáš Hamák, Direktor des Sportzentrums, erklärte in seiner Präsentation über das Netzwerk Facebook, wie große Firmen wie Nike oder Apple soziale Medien zu Werbezwecken nutzen können. In der darauffolgenden Diskussion stellte sich heraus, dass nur zwei von den knapp 30 Projektteilnehmern kein Facebookprofil besitzen. Alle anderen würden mindestens 30 Minuten täglich auf der Plattform verbringen. Der Vortragende ermahnte die Schüler, nicht alles blind zu glauben, was im Internet präsentiert werde, und sich stattdessen auf das reale Leben zu konzentrieren. Aus diesem Grund lud er die Gruppe am Nachmittag in sein Sportzentrum ein, wo man beim Klettern, Fußball oder Volleyball ganz ohne Internet aufregende Stunden verbrachte. Nach einer Ruhepause ließ man den Abend am Lagerfeuer.

Der Mittwoch stand unter dem Thema „Gefahren im Internet“. Die Medienexpertin Nina Moravcová zeigte verschiedene Arten von Cybermobbing, deren Täter und Opfer auf und erklärte den Zuhörern, wie man sich am besten gegen anonyme Angriffe schützen könne.

In Kleingruppen mussten die Jugendlichen reale Fälle erarbeiten und anschließend präsentieren. Als Anerkennung für die aktive Mitarbeit erhielten alle Beteiligten ein Zertifikat.

Am Abend stand ein Kinobesuch auf dem Programm.

Für den Donnerstag hatten die Veranstalter etwas Besonderes geplant: Zusammen mit Kollegen hatte Lukáš Hamák eine Schnitzeljagd durch die Stadt vorbereitet, bei der man sich in die Zeit des Kommunismus zurückversetzt fühlte. An verschiedenen Stationen mussten die Schüler Aufgaben lösen, ohne dabei von Spionen erwischt zu werden. Knapp zehn Kilometer wurden zurückgelegt und am Ende konnten alle Gruppen die letzte Frage beantworten.

Paintball zum Ausklang

Als Belohnung wartete eine Überraschung auf die Teilnehmer. Mit mehreren Kleinbussen fuhr die Gruppe in ein abgelegenes Waldstück, wo ein Anhänger mit Ausrüstungen für ein Paintballspiel auf sie wartete. Es wurden zwei Teams – die tschechischen Schüler gegen den Rest der Teilnehmer – gebildet. Über eine Stunde lang versuchte die internationale Mannschaft, das Gebiet der tschechischen Jugendlichen zu erobern. Mit einem Unentschieden konnten die zufriedenen Spieler in ihre wohlverdiente Freizeit entlassen werden.

Den Abschluss der Projektwoche bildete eine Retro-Party in einem kleinen Club. Mehrere Stunden wurde ausgelassen getanzt und man ließ die gemeinsam verbrachten Tage nochmals Revue passieren.



DOUZELAGE PROJECT "LOOK AROUND!" 25. - 29. 7. 2016



Rund 58 000 Einwohner zählt Holstebro auf Westjütland.

Fotos: Enghild

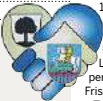
In Holstebro hat die Kunst Dänemarks ein Zuhause

EU Die Partnerstadt Bad Kötzing im Norden hat kulturell, und was das Nachtleben angeht, einiges zu bieten.

BOLLER I KARRY - FLEISCHBÄLLCHEN IN CURRY

Zutaten: 800 g Schweinefleisch; 3 rote Äpfel; 3 rote Zwiebeln; Honig; Essig; mit Apfel-Zitrone-Geschmack; Olivenöl zum Braten; 2 Esslöffel gutes Currypulver; je 1 Löffel für die Soße und für das

Fleisch
400 g Weizenmehl; 1 Teelöffel grobes Salz; 2 Prisen weißer Pfeffer; ½ Liter Rapskernöl; 200 ml Perlgroten.



WAS IST EUROPA?

BAD KÖTZING. Holstebro ist das dynamische Zentrum von Westjütland, was Kultur, Sport, Handel und Wirtschaft, Wirtschaftsentwicklung, Umwelt, Ausbildung und Tourismus betrifft. Holstebro Kommune (die Gemeinde Holstebro) hat ungefähr 58 000 Einwohner und umfasst ein Gebiet von 80 000 Hektar. Kunst ist an fast jeder Straßenecke in Bürgersteig und Springbrunnen eingebaut – wem würde das nicht gefallen?

Drama, Musik und Ballett

Wer die Welt von Drama, Musik, Ballett und anderen kulturellen Erlebnissen entdecken, lieber im stilleren Nachtleben feiern und tanzen will, für den ist Holstebro der richtige Ort. Genießen Sie auch die entspannte Atmosphäre des Stadtzentrums mit seinen Fußgängerzonen, die eine Vielfalt von Geschäften, Restaurants, Cafés und Bars anbieten. Machen Sie eine Fahrt

Westlich der Stadt werden die Besucher die rauschenden Wellen der Nordsee und schöne Badestrände und Sandstrände finden. Holstebro ist von charakteristischen Heide-Landschaften umgeben, und östlich der Stadt sind grüne, hügelige Landschaften und die ruhigen Gewässer vom



Die dänischen Fleischbällchen

Limfjord vorherrschend. Sehr sehenswert sind auch der Gutshof von Nørre Vosborg, Hjelte Hede Freilichtmuseum und viele andere, kulturelle und geschichtliche Sehenswürdigkeiten. Kurz und gut, wir haben etwas für jeden Geschmack und Bedarf. Entdecken Sie Holstebro – wir heißen Sie herzlich willkommen, ob Sie hier auf kurze Visite sind oder einen langen Aufenthalt machen.

→ Die Websites der Fremdenverkehrsämter: www.visitholstebro.dk oder auch www.ulfborg-turist.dk

Rauschende Wellen der Nordsee

Jede Woche findet am Conduit ein Markt statt. Der Conduit ist eine Art Brunnen, an dem sich die Mönche wuschen; er wurde erst nach der Auflösung der Klöster an diesen Ort gebracht. Sherborne hat seinen Be-

suchern viel zu bieten. Es liegt ideal an der Grenze zwischen Dorset und Somerset und genießt dank ausgezeichneten Transportverbindungen. Es gibt eine Menge Vereine, auch für Musik und Theaterspiel.

Sherborne ist für das Umland ein wichtiges Geschäft- und Handelszentrum. Man findet noch immer kleine, spezialisierte Geschäfte, aber auch ein hübsches Einkaufszentrum mit einer großen Auswahl an Kunsthandwerk und eleganter Mode. Sherborne ist auch für Kunst- und Antiquitätenhändler eine bedeutende Stadt geworden. Ausgezeichnete Hotels und zahlreiche andere Unterkünfte von guter Qualität machen sie zum idealen Ausgangspunkt für diejenigen, die die reizende und unberührte Wessex-Region in Dorset, Somerset und Wiltshire erkunden wollen.

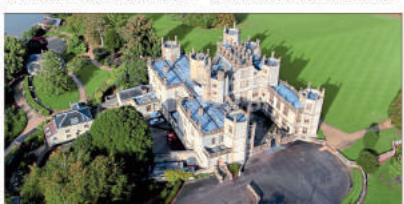
Was ist(s)t die Douzelage?

Freundschaft ohne Grenzen: Die Partnerstadt Sherborne ist im Mai 2017 in Bad Kötzing zu Gast.

Prächtige Abtei, weltberühmte Schulen

Sherborne in der Grafschaft Dorset ist eine der bezauberndsten Städte Englands

Sherborne ist eine der bezauberndsten Städte Englands, mit zahlreichen mittelalterlichen Gebäuden, mit einer prächtigen Abtei, weltberühmten Schulen, mit einem malerischen Hospiz und zwei Bur-



Sherborne Castle



Die Cheap Street in Sherborne.

Fotos: Privat



Apfelkuchen aus Dorset

Zutaten:
* 430 g Bramley-Äpfel (Man kann auch jede andere Sorte verwenden, aber Bramleys gehen das beste Resultat.)
* Saft einer halben Zitrone
* 225 g weiche Butter
* 280 g goldgelber Streuzucker
* 4 Eier
* 2 Teelöffel Vanillezucker
* 250 g Mehl
* 4 Teelöffel Backpulver
* Brauner Rohrzucker zum Bestreuen

Vorbereitung: 20 Minuten
Backen: 30 Minuten

Zubereitung:

1. Ofen auf 180°C vorheizen/Um-luft auf 180°C/Gas Stufe 4.

Ein rechteckiges Backblech (etwa 27 mal 20 cm) mit Butter bestreuen oder mit Backpapier auslegen. Die Äpfel schälen und das Kernhaus entfernen, in dünne Scheiben

schneiden, dann mit Zitronensaft beträufeln. Zur Seite stellen.

2. Butter, Streuzucker, Eier, Vanille, Mehl und Backpulver in eine große Schüssel geben und zu einem geschmeidigen Teig rühren. Die Hälfte davon wird auf dem Backblech verteilt. Darauf legt man die Äpfel, die dann mit der restlichen Teigmenge bedeckt werden. Mit braunem Rohrzucker bestreuen.

3. 45 bis 50 Minuten goldgelb backen, der Teig soll nicht mehr zu weich sein. 10 Minuten abkühlen lassen, aus dem Blech stürzen und Papier entfernen. Längliche oder quadratische Stücke schneiden.

4. In einem luftdichten Gefäß hält sich der Kuchen eine Woche lang am besten aber schmeckt er, wenn man ihn mit einem Klecks Clotted Cream (als Ersatz: Schlagrahm) und heißem Tee genießt.

Der Partner mit historischer Goldgräber-Stimmung

EU Zu wenigen Städten pflegt Bad Kötzing schon so lange ein freundschaftliches Verhältnis wie zu Sušice, das heute vorgestellt wird.

WAS IST EUROPA?

BAD KÖTZING. Die Douzelage-Partnerstadt im heutigen Serientel ist auch geographisch eine Nachbarstadt – Sušice in der Tschechischen Republik ist eine malerische Stadt mit 11 500 Einwohnern, die sich entlang des Ufers des Flusses Otava erstreckt und oft „das Tor zu den Bergen des Böhmerwaldes“ genannt wird. Sowohl für die Sportbegeisterten als auch für die Freunde von Kultur und Geschichte gibt es ein reichhaltiges Angebot. Zu jeder Jahreszeit ist Sušice ein attraktives Reiseziel.

Ein großes Festival im Mai

Die Stadt Sušice war ursprünglich eine prähistorische Siedlung von Goldwäschern, die auf dem Handelsweg nach Bayern am Zusammenfluss der Otava und der Roudnicka entstanden. Die Gründung soll im Jahr 790 erfolgt sein, aber die schriftlichen Quellen gehen nur auf 1333 zurück. Im Jahre 1312 ließ König Johann von Luxemburg die Stadt mit Mauern ausstatten und 1324 bestätigte er der königlichen Stadt das Recht zur Goldwäscheri.

Um etwas über die ereignisreiche Geschichte dieser ehemaligen königlichen Stadt zu erfahren, geht man am besten in das Sumava Museum. Vergessen Sie nicht, die mechanische Kappe von Sušice zu besichtigen, die

Zutaten: Für 3 bis 4 Personen braucht man: 800g geschälte rohe Kartoffeln; 150 ml heiße Milch; 2 bis 3 Zehen Knoblauch; Salz; 1 Teelöffel gemahlener Kümmel; 1 Esslöffel Majoran; 1 Ei; etwa 100g Mehl; Schmalz oder Öl zum Braten.

Zubereitung: Die Kartoffeln fein zerkleinern und einen Teil der durch entstehenden Flüssigkeit abschütten; die Kartoffeln mit heißer Milch verschmieren, dann gepressten Knoblauch hinzufügen; Ei und Mehl zugeben und zu einer dicken Masse verarbeiten. Schmalz oder Öl in einer Pfanne erhitzen, einen Teil der Masse hineingeben und flach streichen. Beide Seiten langsam herausbacken. Die „Kartoffelpuffer“ heiß servieren. Dazu gibt es Bier oder Tee.

BRAMBORÁK



Der tschechische Reibekuchen

Anmerkungen: Die „Kartoffelpuffer“ so dünn wie möglich machen, so dass sie knusprig sind. Bräteröl statt eines Teils des Mehls macht sie noch knuspriger. Nach Wunsch Speisestücke oder klein geschnittene Salami dem Teig beifügen. Nach dem Herausbacken sind verschiedene Füllungen möglich, etwa gedünstete Pilze oder Sauerkraut.

Modelle wichtiger Gebäude in der Stadt und im Böhmerwald zeigt und traditionelle Handwerkserzeugnisse erleben lässt. Das Sušice Cobweb Projekt mit acht Lehrpfaden führt durch die Stadt und die Umgebung. Tourismus, Radfahren, Schwimmen, Extremsportarten – es ist wirklich viel geboten.

Es finden viele kulturelle und gesellschaftliche Ereignisse statt, etwa im örtlichen Kino, in der Bibliothek, auf der Galerie, im Gemeindezentrum, auf dem Stadtplatz und auf der Santos Flussinsel. Jedes Jahr im Mai wird das „Sušické slavnosti“-Festival organisiert, mit dem die touristische Saison eröffnet wird. Das nächste ist für die Zeit vom 19. bis 21. Mai 2017 geplant. Das kulturelle Leben in Sušice wird auch dadurch bereichert, dass Kinder und Erwachsene in Chören und verschiedenen Theatergruppen mitwirken.

Die Santos Flussinsel liegt im „Luh Park“, zwischen den Armen der Otava. Dieser städtische Park mit seinem

herrlichen Baumbestand wurde in den Jahren 2012/2013 wieder hergerichtet. Ein großer moderner Spielplatz und eine Kegelbahn sind dort vorhanden. An einem Ende der Insel befindet sich ein Schwimmbad.

Hoch hinaus und tief ins Wasser

In der Nähe des Stadtzentrums wurde ein wunderbarer Sportzentrum erbaut, man findet dort ein modernes Hallenbad, ein Winterstadion, eine Kletterwand, ein Leichtathletik-Stadion mit Tartanbahn, ein Fußballfeld mit Kunstrasen und moderner Beleuchtung, Volleyball- und Tennisplätze, eine Bahn für Inline-Skater und Radsportler.

Als besonderes Highlight gibt es noch den Offpark: ein Hochseilgarten und Erlebnispark, ein Streckennetz für Geher, Läufer und Radsportler, ein Kinderspielplatz und ein moderner Skatepark. Nicht zuletzt ist aber auch noch der Otava Freizeitpark zu nennen.

Don't forget to send your recipe and some info on your town to Bad Kötzing!

Fête National in Niederanven:

During the last Douzelage Benelux Meeting, Niederanven cordially invited Houffalize and Meerssen to celebrate Fête Nationale in Niederanven (and Luxemburg City) on the 22nd and 23rd of June.



Douzelage Meerssen drove over (only about 1.5 hour) with eight of us and arrived in the afternoon of the 22nd. Patricia Salvatore arranged very moderate prices for our luxurious hotel, which we could not enjoy for long, because Luxemburg City was waiting for us! The City was crowded, jammed, walk over heads full! So many (young) people, enjoying themselves with music and drinks and... of course watching the football matches of that evening: Portugal-Hungary, Italy-Ireland, Ysland-Austria and Sweden-Belgium. We found out that Luxemburg has a lot of Portugese people! :)

After that the Brass Band will point the way to the Municipality where the Mayor of Niederanven plus some City Council members will give speeches and give way for all celebrations and activities of the day.



The weather was beautiful, even very warm, so drinks were consumed in a fast pace. The food was delicious and everyone was enjoying the celebration to the fullest. We felt very welcome and very much at home! I think you can count us in for next year! Thank you, Niederanven!



We were invited for a delicious meal in the centre and afterwards tried to see the famous fireworks of Fête Nationale. Unfortunately literally everyone in Luxemburg wanted to see that, so it was merely impossible to reach a point where we could see it. But I'm sure it is beautiful! ;)

The next day the Municipality of Niederanven invited - as they do every year - all inhabitants to join them at the municipality for traditional food and drinks. First, optinial, is the religious service in the church of Niederanven, where most inhabitants attend the ceremony.



A school from Zvolen visited Neue Mittelschule in Judenburg

Viele Dank Judenburg! This would be the place to express our great thanks to a wonderful hostess Sylvia Hubl as a headmistress of the Judenburg Mittelschule as well as all the other teachers who took such a great care of us while we visited Judenburg. The group of 16 students with their teachers spend four perfect days in Judenburg and surrounding. We enjoyed every minute of it. Thank you for the art, music, PE or English lessons. They were all very interesting and we had so much fun playing football or performing a rhythm exercise on music lesson. Thank you for a trip up the mountain. It felt fantastic to see the countryside, lakes, mountains, trees and even the snow all around us.



And The Red Bull Ring tour unforgettable experience for all of us. We arrived as guests but we felt and left as friends and I would say that is what Douzelage is all about. Thank you and we are very much looking forward to welcome you all in Zvolen in October.

Zuzana Lászlóová ZŠ Hrnčiariska Zvolen

Last week from 6th to 9th June we were in Judenburg, Austria for an exchange school trip. We did many things, including visiting The Red Bull Ring, hiking in the mountains, had sport lessons, art lesson, visited the town of Judenburg and many other awesome things. We stayed in an army training center, where the soldiers lived too. All the teachers and pupils were very kind to us. We all agreed that Judenburg is a very nice place. We really appreciate the programme we had and we hope we will all meet again soon here in Zvolen.

Samuel Kamenský 8.B

Marsaskala organised a youth seminar on youth's involvement in politics

FOR A BETTER DEMOCRACY - YOUTH'S ROLE IN POLITICS
MARSASKALA (MALTA)
18-20 MARCH 2016



Marsaskala organised a youth seminar last March on the youth's involvement in politics. The seminar challenged the general public to state the reasons why a lot of them look at young people as not able to run for office or work in decision making institutions.

Young people from Sherborne, Chojna, Kőszeg and Sigulda took part in this exchange. A lot of the participants are already involved in political organisations and work for the benefit of the whole community. There were a lot of discussions with Maltese politicians and the participants discussed how they can all change the public's perception of being unable to take part or lead decision-making structures.

It was a successful exchange of ideas because from this seminar, the Douzelage has an effective youth committee which constantly works for the benefit of the youths in our societies. This was just the beginning of a long journey and it was such a pleasure for the Maltese delegates to work to achieve this important milestone.

Ryan Portelli



Meerssen celebrated 25 years of Douzelage in numerous ways

First of all we published from April to September **an article on each Douzelage town** in our local weekly Newspaper, called 'De Geulbode'. So every week the inhabitants of Meerssen could read yet another story on one of the towns. The articles were illustrated with a nice picture of each town and the 25 years of Douzelage logo, made by Marcus Ainley of Sherborne. (See an example of such an article - in this case Judenburg - on the right.)

All our activities had as main purpose to shed further light on Douzelage in a positive and constructive way and to inform our fellow inhabitants of what Douzelage is all about.

Thanks to your cooperation we were able to put nice attributes of your towns in the shop windows of Meerssen, together with the posters of all Douzelage towns: **each shopwindow representing one Douzelage town**. A few shop owners were very willing to make nice presentations in their windows. Others just hung up the poster of a specific town, but nevertheless all cooperated and the public noticed and liked the idea! (See the display of Köszeg on the right. It was displayed in a Fashion store called 'Michelle and Michel')

We also organised Douzelage - and Europe - **presentations on Primary Schools** for children aged 11/12 years old. The 'grand finale' of these presentations was a scouting expedition through Meerssen, checking all shop windows and solving puzzles. The kids just loved it!

Then on the 10th of September we had our **Reception '25 years of Douzelage'** in a big tent - which would be used the next day for the Marathon of Meerssen - in the Center of Meerssen on the Market place near the Basilica - and invited literally anyone to come and meet us and have a drink together. Difficult to count the heads, but probably about 60 people were present, including our mayor, Mrs. Mirjam Clermonts-Aretz and some City Council members. The weather was great, nearly too warm, and the Dutch rain stayed out! :) (See pictures on the right page.)

Then last but not least we organised a **Symposium on 25 years Treaty of Maastricht** and the do's and don'ts for our future in the EU. It was held in the same building where the treaty was originally signed 25 years ago. You can read about it on page 6 of this Newsletter.





Onze Douzelagepartner in Oostenrijk: Judenburg

We zijn aangekomen bij Judenburg. Ook zijn we aangekomen bij ons laatste verslag. De afgelopen maanden hebben we alle 27 Douzelage-gemeenten beschreven en bejubeld. Mocht u een verslag gemist hebben en wilt u de verslagen nog eens nalezen dan nodigen wij u gaarne uit onze website te bezoeken: www.douzelage-meerssen.nl

Judenburg is een stad in de Oostenrijkse provincie Stiermarken. Judenburg heeft een inwonersaantal van ongeveer 10.000 en is

gelegen op een hoogte van 747 meter. Judenburg is genoemd naar de Joden die hier ooit woonden en handel dreven. De stad ontstond uit een overslagpunt voor ijzer rond een burcht aan de handelsroute van Venetië naar Wenen. Een deel van de stadsmuur met wachttorens is nog intact. De 75 meter hoge Stadtturm – hoogste toren van Oostenrijk - op de 'Hauptplatz' is het bekendste object. Deze werd gebouwd in de 15e eeuw, maar helaas heeft de Stadtturm door de eeuwen heen het zwaar te verduren gehad en brandde het meerdere malen gedeeltelijk af: de laatste keer was in 1840.

Deze laatste keer werd van een nood een deugd gemaakt en werd er een start gemaakt om een Planetarium in de toren te bouwen. Vandaag de



dag is dat het modernste, hoogste en grootste Planetarium van Europa. Als u een bezoek brengt aan het 'Sterneturm Planetarium' begint uw ruimtereis op de top van de stadstoren. De sterrentoren met glazen lift, glazen vloer en glazen dak maken de rit naar boven tot

een unieke belevenis. Neem plaats op een stoel en laat u betoveren door de magische kleuren, planeten en sterren die aan u voorbij trekken: u zult zweven door de ruimte!

Judenburg ligt midden tussen de bergen waarin vele wandel-, fiets- en mountainbikeroutes zijn uitgezet. Dat langeafstandfietsen een populaire aangelegenheid in de regio is, blijkt wel uit het feit dat ze er flink hebben geïnvesteerd in het fietstoerisme. Niet alleen zijn er veel op fietsers toegespitste accommodaties te vinden langs de route, ook zijn de faciliteiten prima geregeld en verzorgd.

Die focus op tweewielers is overigens niets nieuws, dat blijkt wel uit een bezoek aan het lokale Puchmuseum, waar je allerlei historische voertuigen van Puchmakelij kunt bewonderen: een aanrader! En zeker voor de schrijver dezes, die graag op een Puchje uit de 70er jaren mag rondtuffen, is dit bezoek wel erg aantrekkelijk. Nu nog beslissen of de reis per Puch moet worden afgelegd!

Judenburg ligt ook vrij centraal tussen een aantal zustersteden van onze Douzelage. Skofja Loka (Slovenië) en Köszeg (Hongarije) liggen op iets meer dan twee uur rijden verwijderd. Ietsje verder, maar nog steeds goed bereikbaar, liggen Zvolen (Slowakije), Susice (Tsjechië), Bad Kötzting (Duitsland), Bellagio (Italië) en onze nieuwste zusterstad Rovinj (Kroatië).

Daardoor is het relatief makkelijk - in ieder geval geografisch gezien - om initiatieven te ontplooiën met de zustersteden in de buurt. (Ditzelfde geldt voor Meerssen met onze Benelux-partners: Houffalize (België) en Niederanven (Luxemburg)).

We blijven het zeggen: Douzelage is een unieke stedenband en biedt voor ieder wat wils. Heeft u reisplannen richting één van onze Douzelage-gemeenten of bent u geïnteresseerd in één van onze activiteiten of projecten, trek dan aan de Douzelage-bel en wij zullen u heel graag verder helpen!

We look back at a busy year. Nevertheless a constructive year. Still it is hard to 'convince' people of an attractive, interesting and diverse Europe in your back garden. Unity in diversity is just not 'selling' so well these days. That is why the activities of Douzelage within our own community should be visible, inviting and concrete. At least that is how Douzelage Meerssen would like it to be.

News from Türi

Triin Toome-Hosman, teacher of Estonian language and literature on the gymnasium in Türi (Estonia), has been announced teacher of the year 2016 in the Provence of Järvamaa. She is very honored! Her husband Martijn Hosman (from Meerssen) and Triin have been very active in Douzelage Meerssen and Türi. They met through Douzelage in 2005 and are currently living with their two children in Türi. It's 'our' official, very first DOUZELAGE WEDDING!

News from Sherborne, Meerssen and Houffalize

Newsflash

On the 9th of October Douzelage Sherborne and Meerssen visited Houffalize and were warmly welcomed by Alphonse Henrard. The tour started at the La Chouffe Brewery (a very good place to start!) and was followed by a nice lunch in

Achouffe. As the weather was just gorgeous, a tour through Houffalize itself was done by foot.

Houffalize is just so adorable in the pretty Ardennes!

(With Marcus Ainley, Clifton Jelbert, Chris MacAdie, Jeremy Barker, Pascale Vossen, Noël Vossen, Harry Timmermans, Alexander Luns and Alphonse Henrard.)



(Leisure) News from Preveza

Dear Douzelage friends,
One of the 150 dolphins of the Amvrakikos Gulf.
Kind regards,
Georgios Alissandratos (Preveza)

