

TWINNING UPDATE (April 2022)

Partnership working with Building Bridges Pendle

Marl invited our Mayor to arrange for a group from Pendle to decorate a life-size cardboard cutout to go in an anti-racism exhibition in Marl in March 2022. Building Bridges Pendle kindly agreed to do this. Having participated in this project, Building Bridges now propose further engagement with our twin towns. They are offering to organise and host a digital conversation between Marl, Creil and Pendle. This would be a follow-up to the International Weeks against Racism in Marl and would highlight Pendle's links to different parts of Europe. Building Bridges are very experienced in running such digital conversations through their Talking Society initiative. **Is this something Members would like Building Bridges to take forward?**

Twinning Colouring Book

Last year Marl asked if we would contribute to a Twinning Colouring Book for school children in Marl. We provided photos of some key sites in Pendle so their graphic designer could put together a double page on Pendle. The pages for each of Marl's towns have been finalised and last week the colouring book was printed. We will be receiving a supply in the next few weeks. Click on the link below for further details -

https://www.marl.de/rathaus-service/aktuelles/news-detailansicht/news/staedtepartnerschafts-malbuch-bunte-reise-durch-europa/?tx_news_pi1%5Bcontroller%5D=News&tx_news_pi1%5Baction%5D=detail&cHash=485c796dfec1d2f3963e699bcb0ea0ed

Creil Festival, Sunday 26th June

Twinning Members are invited by the Creil Twinning Association to attend the Creil Festival this year which is being held on Sunday 26th June. **So far, 3 people have said they might be interested in going for the weekend.** There will be 5 twinning members going from Marl. The Mayor and Mayoress of Pendle normally receive an invitation from the Mayor of Creil to attend.

Invitation for a football team to visit Marl – 12th to 15th August 2022

In August 2021 Jennifer Radschied, from the Mayor's office in Marl, contacted us to say that they could apply for funding to celebrate 75 years of the close link between UK and North Rhine-Westphalia, and were thinking about a football project for young people. She asked if Pendle could find a team of football players aged 16-20 to visit in April 2022, for a few days. The programme would include training with a team from Marl, some trips out and culminate with a match. Marl would apply for funding for the programme. They asked if Pendle could pay for the Team's travel.

The Colne Under 18s Team are very keen to go and plan on taking 12 players and 2 adults. They are going to do some fund raising to help with the travel costs.

At the last meeting Members agreed that 50% of the cost of the 14 flights and transport to the airport up to £1,000 be granted to the Colne Under 18s Football Team, once the trip was confirmed.

Due to the rise in Covid cases this trip was delayed but we have now been told that funding has been secured and the Team can go ahead and book the flights departing early morning on 12th August and flying back late afternoon/early evening on 12th August. We are awaiting the formal invitation from the Mayor's office. It is likely that the Mayor and Mayoress will also be invited. **Hedi has said that twinning members are also welcome to visit that weekend and would like an idea of numbers.**

Loire Castles, 17th to 22nd September,

Nicolle is planning a trip to the Loire Castles. Participants should arrive in Creil on 16th September and depart on 23rd September. **5/6 Twinning members have let me know they might be interested in taking part,** but Nicolle has been told that this very much depends on travel restrictions nearer the time and the cost of the trip. Marl have 18 people interested in the trip.

Hosting a Twinning Trip 2023

At the last meeting it was agreed that members give further thought to the 2023 Members' trip, the date and location, and this be discussed at a future meeting. Previous trips have been to Edinburgh in 2009, and Liverpool in 2012. Marl visitors also used the Fence Gate as a base for days out in June 2018 spending a day in Pendle, Chester, York and Liverpool.