

**TWENTY-FIFTH
DOUZELAGE
CONFERENCE**

HOLSTEBRO
4th - 7th September 2003

PRESENT
*** Social Care Workshop**

- Altea** Angels Berenguer
 Feli Navarro
 Josefa Perles
 Pepa Rostoll
 Josefa Perez
- Bellagio** Maria Angela Gilardoni
 Donatella Gandola
 Alessandro Nettuno
 Daniela Fioroni
 Simone Cattaneo*
- Bundoran** Joe McNulty
 Denise Connolly
 Tiernan Brady
 Dr. Philip Murphy *
 Edel Carlin-Rosanio
- Granville** Jean-Marc Julienne
 Bernard Husson
 Marcel Michel *
 Frédérique Heurguier *
 Annette Michel
- Holstebro** Mrs. Jette Hingebjerg
 Mr. Jørgen Lindholm
 Mrs. Hanne Rahbek
 Mr. Mogens Beck
 Mr. Peter Hoegsberg
 Mrs. Dorte Storper
 Mrs. Mette Grith Sørensen
 Mrs. Mette Mørk Andersen
 Mr. Arne Lægaard, Mayor
- Houffalize** Alphonse Henrard
 Manuela Di Pinto
 Vincent Philippant *
 Docteur Marenne*
 Nadie Lallamant*
 Christian Bauweraerts
- Judenburg** Wilhelm Schnedl
 Gerald Dobnigg

Karkkila	Riitta Huovinen Helena Palm Lillemor Öhman* Pirkko Hynynen* Sari Lehtosaari
Kötzting	Wolfgang Kerscher* Agathe Kerscher Günther Pecher Petra Hohaus Evi Maurer
Meerssen	Nico van de Vliet Ger Kockelkorn Martijn Hosman Timo Wingbermhühle Henk Heuberger Mieke Bayer
Niederanven	Stuart Atkinson Ed Weber Paul Greis Romaine Greis Jos Mouton
Oxelösund	Christer Wargert Torbritt Bökman Emil Carlsson
Preveza	Georgios Alisandratos Barbara Zandraveli Christos Lăinas Eleni Lăinas Theodor Kolovos* Aikaterini-Sotoria Kolovos Vaya Pani* Dimitris Trivlis
Sherborne	Mike Balfour Chris MacAdie Jeremy Barker Karin Robson Sarah Whittick
Sesimbra	Felicia da Costa Ana Teresa Martins António Messias* Horácia Cavaleiro

CANDIDATE COUNTRIES

Chojna Janusz Salamoczyk
 Leszek Slatka

Köszeg István Mátrai
 Ilona Tálósz*
 Katalin Óvári*
 Kristina Mátrai

President's report

The Douzelage 1996-2003

This is the fourteenth and last time that I shall chair a meeting of the Douzelage. The first was in Bundoran and so it is that I have now chaired a meeting in every town except for Judenburg. On only two occasions in all that period can I remember things getting bad-tempered and on both occasions the matter was quickly patched up and the sun of Douzelage goodwill shone again.

So in making this report the first thing I must do is thank you all for your support. It is strangely exhausting chairing these meetings but it is always easy, you have always made it easy and I am very, very grateful for that.

For the rest, permit to say two things about the growth of the Douzelage in the last seven years; one general, the other more particularly about the last three months. As regards the first, in these seven years the organisation of the Douzelage has been transformed. It started as twelve towns. The first task was to find another three. Karkkila was quickly brought on board and Oxelösund a while later. Austria took a long time but that too was eventually resolved and the outcome could not have been better.

The resolution of this matter was a very protracted business, full of frustrations, and I'm sure our decision to contact the five new towns ahead of their countries joining the EU was the right one. The transition that my successor will now have to negotiate will be much simpler. But we will all of us have to do our utmost to make it as easy as may be for all the new towns to become fully involved in our activities and as rapidly as possible. At this point, may I say how specially welcome the delegates from Chojna and Köszeg are.

The organisation too has become much clearer and more efficient. The Agenda is shorter, arranged under clear categories and easy to follow. The Minutes are fuller, more accurate and sent out with a promptness unknown before. Everyone knows what action is expected of him or her.

Financially the Douzelage has all been run on a shoestring. I don't see how it could have been done more cheaply, though that may not always remain the case. I have never asked for all my expenses, have always travelled to symposia at my own expense and I know that Karin has been generous to us in her claims for expenses. We have both of us tended to regard the Douzelage essentially as a voluntary organisation with all that that implies. Others may take a different approach and very reasonably so. It could well become rather less cheap to run.

As regards relations with Brussels, the plusses certainly outweigh the minuses. Rules have been changed to suit our needs, and I have written to thank people for that. On the other hand, there are still things to be done. The rejection of requests for money for Conferences remains a devastating experience and the new President has a major task in resolving that. I have written to Annemarie Bruggink pointing out the illogicality of a not helping an organisation that is doing everything that the

Commission and the European Parliament want twinning organisations to do, and await a reply. I sense that such a rejection again with regard to the new towns could be utterly disastrous.

In general, activities have expanded remarkably. The Play was, I suppose, the outstanding event, but so much else has happened besides. And the value of the regular events we now have is beyond words. I refer of course to the Kötzing European Youth Week, the Mini-Parliament in Bellagio, and the Holiday in the Ardennes, to which hopefully will be added Music in Altea and Sailing in Granville.

Secondly, a word on the last three months which for me have been busy and at times thrilling. The proposed Rules of Procedure took a great deal of thought in order to present you with what I considered, in the light of seven years experience in the Chair and attendance at every single Douzelage meeting right from the beginning, would be clear, simple and practical, and would give the new President the structure he needs. It remains to be seen whether you agree, but there is no great hurry here so long as we get in place at this meeting the new roles for the Vice-Presidents..

The thrilling bit has been the invitations that have come my way since Sesimbra to attend events in the Douzelage towns. There was first the annual twinning visit by Sherbornians to Granville. There followed the visit to the Holiday for young people in the Ardennes, organized by ADEPS from Houffalize, which was absolutely wonderful. I can't say just how impressive I found it all to be. Then it was Judenburg and the presentation of their European Flag of Honour, a moving event indeed, followed by the magnificent celebration for the 900th. anniversary of the granting of their market rights. In the course of it all, Willie Schnedl took Karin and myself to Köszeg where we met the Mayor and Councillors and had the opportunity to plot the future. What a beautiful town that is!

Thereafter, it was Kötzing's turn whose celebrations, I am happy to say, were much enlivened by the Wessex Morris Dancers. All the time one became increasingly aware how alive and dynamic and expanding the Douzelage is, and how more and more people are aware of what it does.

Enough. Let me end by thanking you again for entrusting me with the post of President of the Douzelage, which is onerous, yes, but stimulating, enjoyable, and so very worthwhile and such good fun. One has done all one could within the limits of one's ability to widen other people's horizons, and especially those of the young, and it has certainly widened mine. Thank you. And particular thanks to all of you who have borne the heat and burden of the day to day organising of Douzelage Conferences, to my two Vice-Presidents, to the unfailing support one has had from the Sherborne Douzelage Committee, to Nico for his control of the Translation Equipment and Christer for the IT, to Barbara Zandraveli who has added such dynamism to the Education Committee, to our devoted Honorary Treasurer John Thompson, and above all to the real President behind the scenes, the good woman said to be behind every good man, the super efficient, always calm and cheerful, multilingual, charming and prescient Secretary, Karin Robson.

A. Business Matters

1. The Minutes of the meeting held in Sesimbra 15th - 18th May 2003 were approved.

2. The Audited Accounts for the period 1st April 2002 - 31st March 2003 were distributed and approved.

The Interim Accounts for the period 1st April to 30th September were likewise distributed. The intention now is to close the books at the end of September and to transfer the bank balance and the administration to the new Presidency.

3. Simultaneous Translation Equipment

Eight towns had not yet paid the €50 levy and Sherborne would also receive an invoice for this amount. Once all monies had been received there would be a surplus of €58.69 which meant there was no need to increase the present levy of €50.

Karkkila still hope to be able to reimburse the €800 costs for damage sustained during the conference in October 2001: were this to happen there would be no need for a levy for one or two years. Nico van de Vliet noted that some damage had occurred during the transfer from Sesimbra to Meerssen.

Nico van de Vliet also informed the delegates that he would be moving from Meerssen at a future date and it would then be necessary to find another person to take responsibility for the equipment. Later in the meeting the suggestion was made that a list should be drawn up of the relevant professions or hobbies of delegates who might therefore be able to take responsibility for this in the future. **Action: Ed Weber**

4. Website

Over 15,000 hits have been recorded and details of the new candidate towns have been included. The Education Website still needs input and details of a chatroom proposal from Martijn Hosman of Meerssen are being circulated. Towns are requested to complete the Douzelage Chat questionnaire and email their findings to Martijn Hosman. **Action: ALL TOWNS**

5/6. EU funding : new towns

Following the failure by Holstebro to obtain funding for their conference, Jeremy Barker wrote to Annemarie Bruggink for clarification of the decision. In particular he pointed out that and to point out that the candidate towns are not wealthy and therefore assistance for them is vital. The EU want the new countries to be involved and he wondered if any other organisation has been so quick to do so.

The President then reported that Mme Bruggink had telephoned just as he was leaving for Holstebro and had made four main points :-

- the decision was not hers but that of an independent jury
- there were always more applications for grants than there was money to meet them

- the application was made under the wrong title, it being a business meeting rather than a conference, and if the request had been made for a twinning meeting then, quite simply, the result could have been different.
- Holstebro should have telephoned her office and checked all this.

Mette Grith Sorensen pointed out that in fact Holstebro had been in contact with Brussels and had checked every detail. They had engaged a professional who works with Brussels to make the funding application. He checked with Mme Bruggink's office several times and was told that everything was in order. It was therefore a disappointment and a shock to be refused. She wondered how Holstebro could have done anything differently with their application. She further pointed out that, although the money was obviously important, approval in itself was vital. Refusal was seen by their local politicians as a rebuff for Douzelage activities and they questioned why they should continue to give their support.

There was thereafter much discussion as to what action should be taken. it was resolved as follows :-

- Jeremy Barker would write again to Annemarie Bruggink and explain what had actually happened
- the new President and the Vice-President responsible for contact with Brussels would then pursue the matter further
- the proposal should be put that multi-twinning organisations should have special priority and a category of their own
- MEPs should be lobbied by all the Douzelage towns on behalf of the organisation, and also Nicholas van de Pas and other officials with whom we have had contact

**Action: The President
Vice-Presidents
Jeremy Barker**

B. Survey of recent events

Towns circulated details of their recent activities and reports were also made as follows :-

- Comenius

Two projects have recently been completed: 'All the same but Different' for 12 to 15 year olds involving Preveza, Bundoran, Sesimbra (Co-ordinators) and two other towns. The final meeting was in June with a report compiled by Preveza. 'Sixtowns@one europe' for primary schools involved Judenburg (Co-ordinators), Preveza, Sherborne, Karkkila and Chojna concluded with five teachers and eight pupils from Preveza visiting Sherborne in June. Following the enjoyable experience of the project many friendships have been forged and contacts will be maintained.

New projects include 'My home our Europe' and a secondary school project 'Imagine through Art'. Participants include Granville, Preveza, Susice, Meerssen, Chojna and others.

A new and innovative project with a culture, environment and health theme involving nursery schools is being planned with a meeting in Oxelösund. Interested towns include Oxelösund, Preveza, Niederaanven, Köszeg and Sherborne: further information will be put on the website.

Jeremy Barker would circulate details of a proposal from Peter Such of Sherborne for a secondary school project on 'Social welfare and care for the Elderly'. It is hoped to involve Altea, Köszeg and Scandinavian schools.

Action: Jeremy Barker

Funding is always vital for these projects and with many applications it was noted that this is becoming more difficult.

- 'Séjour à l'Adeps à Engreux'

This popular event was held for the fourth time in June 2003. Some 250 young people participated - including representatives from Bellagio, Granville, Susice, Niederaanven and Chojna - joining in educational and sports activities under the theme of 'Sports as Lifelong Learning'. **Next year's dates are 7-11th June 2004.**

Jeremy Barker and Granville both commentated on the excellent organisation and spirit with ample opportunity to learn about other cultures. Chojna especially thanked those who had assisted with their participation.

- Judenburg Flag of Honour/900 Years Anniversary of the Granting of Market Rights

Details and photographs of this successful and enjoyable event were circulated. The many visitors included Jeremy Barker and Karin Robson who, together with Willi Schnedl, included a stay in Köszeg.

- Kötzing Festivities : July 2003

As well as visitors from Granville, Houffalize, Judenburg, Meerssen, Niederaanven and Susice there were horn blowers from Houffalize, from Sherborne the Wessex Morris Men, 20 mediaeval knights from Judenburg and six dancers from Susice. Rob Waltmans from Meerssen gave an organ concert. This successful event generated excellent publicity for the Douzelage with good coverage from the media. Many local people attended the Gourmet Market and many contacts were made. Other towns should consider similar events.

- Miniparliament

The next occasion of this hugely successful event will be held in May 2004 and will include tenth anniversary celebrations.

C. Projects not yet finished or in preparation

1. Judenburg Symposium 13th - 16th May 2004

Delegates were advised to fly to Graz from where they will be taken by bus to Judenburg. Were they to arrive early enough in Graz, it was suggested that they might like to visit the historic city which has been designated the Cultural City of Europe 2004. There is also a good train service from Wien Airport.

The programme will include mediaeval knights on Friday evening following the meetings. Saturday morning will be occupied with further meetings and a Gourmet Market: an afternoon walk up in the mountains is planned (wear good walking shoes!) If the weather is unsuitable a visit to a Romanesque abbey and the nearby Formula 1 circuit will be arranged as well as a walk around Judenburg. Saturday evening will include a dinner and ball.

Other plans could be for a bus tour to Köszeg which is some 2½ hours away.

The Education Meeting will include a visit to a post school training and educational centre in a nearby village. Further details of specific target group interest will follow.

A workshop will be held on renewable energy and will include items on the insulation of buildings and alternative means of energy such as windfarms. There will be a talk on the history of energy. Expert environmental representatives as well as teachers are invited.

Accommodation will be in pensions, families, inns and guest houses in and around Judenburg. Advice on the total number of delegates to be invited will follow.

Action: Judenburg

It was especially noted that the candidate towns will be invited to join the Douzelage following their admission to the EU on the 1st May 2004 and that a special ceremony would be needed.

Action: The President

István Mátrai from Köszeg took the opportunity to read a well received letter of application for membership of the Douzelage and was invited to give a presentation on the town. Further details of this beautiful and historic town are now available on the Douzelage website.

2. Programme of future meetings

30 th September - 3 rd October 2004	Granville
Spring 2005	Bundoran
Autumn 2005	Meerssen
Spring 2006	Bellagio
Autumn 2006	Sherborne

The theme of the Granville meeting will be the good and bad nutritional habits in Europe.

3. Tennis during Symposia

With five clubs in Judenburg a tournament will be arranged with invitations to all the towns. Information will be sent out in September to be followed by an official invitation at a later date. The deadline for acceptance will be April 2004.

Action: Judenburg

Granville also intend to arrange a tournament during the meeting in Autumn 2004.

Action: Granville

4. Football (Oxelösund)

A modified project description with cost estimates in Swedish Kroner had been circulated and details are also on the website: the contact names are Christer Wargert and Anders Bellstrom (anders.bellstrom@ssabox.com) Oxelösund already have a contact name for Chojna with other towns signifying their interest and contact name as follows :-

Sherborne : Lin Ashby

Meerssen : Martijn Hosman and Paul Claessen

Granville : Stefan Barbier

Niederanven : Paul Greis

Holstebro, Altea, Judenburg, Bellagio, Preveza and Houffalize will all contact their clubs and supply a contact name. Karkkila, Sesimbra and Kötzing will also try again to find a contact.

**Action: contact names urgently
needed from
Holstebro
Altea
Judenburg
Bellagio
Preveza
Houffalize
Karkkila
Sesimbra
Kötzing**

A mixed team format or mini-football was also suggested.

5. Historical Exchanges (Sherborne/Meerssen)

The party from Sherborne was eagerly anticipating the visit to Meerssen where they will be staying in families. Jeremy Barker confirmed his willingness to organise similar visits and asked which other towns would like to have such an exchange of history society members.

6. Language & Culture through Community Networks

The programme has been accepted in principle by Brussels. Travel funding information is still awaited and will then be passed on by Jeremy Barker.

Each partner will have one main event and in the case of Chojna it will be 'Days of Europe'. Brussels is also keen for lesser used languages such as Polish and Finnish to be featured. A workshop was proposed to consider promotion of these less widely

spoken languages. Final details will be known in October and will then be circulated immediately. Details will also be on the website. **Action: Jeremy Barker**

7. Student & Trainee Youth Exchanges (Houffalize)

Comprehensive details were circulated and a meeting arranged between Houffalize, Sherborne, Granville and Judenburg.

8. Centenary Scout Camp : Sherborne 2007.

Contact names were received from Granville, Chojna, Holstebro, Kötzing and Karkkila. Kötzing are also celebrating 100 years and other towns are requested to **forward contact names as soon as possible.** **Action: ALL TOWNS**

9. Sailing (Granville)

New details were circulated with a request for an early response to arrange accommodation. It was particularly noted that the facilities in Granville are superb and that there will be additional features of interest included in the programme.

Sherborne (contact Lin Ashby) and Oxelösund have already signified their participation. Holstebro, Meerssen, Köszeg, Altea, Kötzing, Judenburg (contact Gerald Dobnigg or Andrea Kober), Sesimbra, Niederanven, Preveza, Karkkila and Houffalize (Manuela Di Pinto) all indicated interest. Bellagio also intend to look for a contact. It is very much hoped that this will become an annual event for the Douzelage calendar. **Action: ALL TOWNS**

10. Website Cookery Book (Sherborne)

All towns who have already contributed were thanked with the request that the others should also send items - particularly for themed events such as a Polish evening. Holstebro are making this a school project and their contribution will follow shortly.

11. Douzelage Orchestra/Choir (Altea)

Following the initial event in February, and the subsequent discussions in Sesimbra, it is now hoped to hold a second event in February/March 2004. As much notice as possible of the programme was requested. **Action: Altea**

D. New Projects

1. Douzelage Play APPENDIX A

Details of the Claque Theatre project - aimed at 2006 - were circulated with some five or six young people to be invited from each town. Holstebro, Sherborne, Meerssen, Bundoran, Granville, Köszeg, Kötzing, Judenburg, Chojna, Niederanven, Preveza, Karkkila and Houffalize all expressed their continuing interest. Further details will be made available. **Action: Jeremy Barker**

2/3. 2005 Sherborne Pageant - Douzelage Cavalcade/Town Bands Festival

The 2005 Pageant will be in celebration of the thirteen hundredth anniversary of the founding of the Bishopric of Sherborne and the hundredth anniversary of the first Sherborne Pageant. A Douzelage cavalcade is proposed with representatives of all

the towns in traditional dress. Wine, food and music will be included and the date will be in May or June.

4. Karkkila Dance Group

A small group of some ten people from Karkkila who give modern style performances are seeking invitations from other Douzelage towns to visit. Houffalize will contact their dance group, as will Meerssen whose 'expressionist' group perform without the use of language. Oxelösund, Preveza, Niederanven, Chojna, Sesimbra, Judenburg, Kötzting, Granville, Bundoran and Holstebro undertook to contact possible interested parties.

Action: Karkkila
Houffalize
Meerssen
Oxelösund
Preveza
Niederanven
Chojna
Sesimbra
Judenburg
Kötzting
Granville
Bundoran
Holstebro

Kötzting informed the delegates that information on the next European Youth Week will shortly be circulated.

Action: Kötzting

Sherborne issued an invitation to all the candidate towns - to include a councillor, two teachers and one young person - to visit Sherborne in the near future

Action: Sherborne

Preveza will invite the Mayors of the partner towns to a conference in October 2004. Holstebro, Houffalize, Oxelösund, Bellagio, Karkkila, Kötzting, Judenburg and Meerssen have given the name of their Mayor, address, FAX and email address. Other towns are requested to do the same as soon as possible.

Action: Altea
Bundoran
Granville
Niederanven
Sesimbra
Sherborne

E. Discussion on the future organisation of the Douzelage

1. Rules of Procedure APPENDIX B

It was agreed that this document would be discussed further before the meeting in Judenburg and a new version written for approval on that occasion.

2. Number of meetings in a year

It was agreed, following a long discussion between Jeremy Barker and Ed Weber, that two meetings will be held each year. The main meeting, together with the annual Education Meeting, will be held in the Spring and a smaller conference will be held in the Autumn. There will therefore be no need to make any amendment to the Constitution.

Ed Weber explained that the Spring meeting would be a 'meeting of citizens' with finance for as many delegates as wanted, but with a minimum of five from each delegation. Host towns would need to check on approved items for these discussions.

The second Autumn meeting would be a 'conference' for those people particularly involved with Douzelage projects: not all towns would need to participate and there was therefore no need for a minimum number of delegates.

The host towns must declare whether the format would be a 'conference' or 'meeting of citizens' and confer with the Vice-President in charge of Funding.

It was noted that the Granville meeting in Autumn 2004 would therefore be a 'conference' on Projects.

Election of new President and Vice-Presidents

Ed Weber (Niederanven) was elected President, Alphonse Henrard (Houffalize) Vice-President responsible for liaison with Brussels and Günther Pecher (Kötzing) responsible for Projects.

We owe a great debt of gratitude to Holstebro for organising this election so well and skillfully.

Report from Workshop on Primary Health and Social Care