

OUR COMMITTEE IN 2019

Chair: Marcus Ainley

Secretary: Mary Clothier Treasurer: Clifton Jelbert

Youth Chair: Elizabeth Does

Newsletter Editor: Michael Morrell

Twinning Representative: Scilla Copper

Other Members: Lin Ashby, Mike Balfour, Jeremy Barker,
Linda Bygrave, Ray Dyson (Wessex Morris Men), Rachel Milestone
Moir Western, Sarah Whittick

A SELECTION OF EVENTS

- Sept 21 Sherborne Camelot Challenge
 Sept 21/22 Rokiskis 520th Anniversary Celebrations
- Sept 26/28 Skofja Loka 2nd Mayors meeting
 Oct 13 Meerssen Marathon
- Oct 20 Bellagio Skyrace
 Nov 3 Sherborne Ana and Arturo Fundraiser Concert
- Nov 6 Sherborne Douzelage AGM
- 2020**
- Feb 21/25 Granville Carneval
 Mar 1 Sherborne Young Musicians Day
- Mar Sesimbra Youth in Movement
 May 7/10 Skofja Loka 45th Douzelage General Meeting
- Jun 28 / Jul 3 Young Musicians 2020



NEWSLETTER SEPTEMBER 2019

CHRIS MACADIE R.I.P.

It was a terrible shock when we heard about Chris. We knew he did not seem himself for some time, but no one seemed able to find out what was wrong. He was sent home twice from the hospital, when they said they could not find anything wrong.

The final time he went into hospital they diagnosed motor neurone disease and said he had about two years to live. However, only a few days later he died on - 31st May. We were pleased his family were with him, his ex wife Netta came from Holland, his daughter from Dubai and his son from Bristol.

The funeral was on 20th June 2019. It was one of the longest and best funerals I have attended with, lovely music, lots of eulogies (by son, daughter, a friend and Mike Balfour), a film about his life and an appropriate Scottish song to end (with bagpipes). Everyone was very emotional, but it was great we were able to share in such a good send-off. There was a maximum crowd at the Crematorium, He certainly had a wide circle of friends and acquaintances.



A few days before the trip to Finland he wrote to me to say he could not go, Everyone was disappointed. He died two days before his 70th birthday, He had been planning a big birthday party, but his send-off was the closest we could get to that.

We will miss him very much, His sense of humour always shone through and there are many across Europe, who will miss him too.

Mary Clothier

REMEMBERING THE ASIKKALA GENERAL MEETING

This year our host town was Asikkala in Finland. The topic for the conference focused on the health of the planet and the evidence of climate change and other environmental concerns. For workshops there were 3 main topics, Climate Action, Water Supplies and Wasting/Recycling.

The invaluable aspect of the GMs was the coming together of delegates from 27 different EU countries, each bringing their own perspectives to discuss current experiences, new ideas for the future and an opportunity to share best practice examples, for everyone hopefully to disseminate back home in their own communities. If you just reconsider your daily recycling or transport decisions, then something good will have come from these GM workshops.

There were also Education workshops for all the teachers and other representatives in Asikkala, as well as 40 Youth delegates with their own programme. For these students, whether still at school, at university or recently graduated it was a thrilling experience to be part of such a diverse and varied group, all speaking their own and other languages and sharing their new friendships and experi-

ences on social media. Everybody goes home from a Douzelage Youth meeting inspired by the experience!

A huge 'Thank You' to Merja, Rinna and their team for such a superbly organised and varied programme of events. Thanks also to the staff from the Hotel Tallukka who gave us such a taste of Finnish hospitality. As always the hard working Presidency of Annigje, Mette, Miha and Tibi and their team steered the 'Good Ship Douzelage' so successfully through 2019.

Here's to the next time in May 2020, when Skofja Loka in Slovenia will be our host. We are certainly looking forward to landing in Ljubljana!

Marcus Ainley
Chair Sherborne Douzelage



TURI MUSICIANS VISIT DORSET by AET SARV

Last summer Jeremy Barker invited Estonian folk dancers and singers to visit Sherborne. And on 29th May ten students together with a teacher travelled by train from London. As it was the first time in the UK for all the students, there was a lot to take in.

Moira Western welcomed us warmly at the station. She is the person we would like to thank the most: She did everything and even more for the visit to happen. After a quick rehearsal, the dinner at the Barkers' melted the ice when hosts arrived to pick up the guests. Sherborne charmed the youth with its quaint architecture, so different from Estonia. We had performances around the town and our colourful traditional costumes, authentic for boys but 'travel version' for girls, different music and movements caught attention, so we received a big hand from the audience. However, our folk dances are not totally different from the English ones. We are closer than we think.

Together with Sherborne Douzelage we had a skittles night at the Weavers. As it was not too different from bowling, we did rather well. The last day at Weymouth Folk Festival was exciting, as we danced and sang twice to a big crowd. We had a lot of fun and all

the performances went well.

"Staying with families and seeing their daily life made our first English experience memorable. Everybody was really friendly and despite the 'tiny' age difference, it was interesting to talk to the hosts. We made a lot of new friends and have unforgettable memories. Our sense of humour is really similar."

"The biggest difference to home is that the UK people interact more". Indeed, at the Folk Festival, quite a few asked from where we came and complimented our costumes and performances. Another was so happy to be part of a project, where she learnt about other cultures.

A big thank you, Moira, Jeremy and Katherine and everybody else involved, You will be welcome in Türi.



WELCOME TO SKOFJA LOKA 2020

We look forward to welcoming you in Škofja Loka. After two perfectly organized General Meetings in Scandinavia – last year Oxelösund in Sweden and this year in Asikkala, Finland, it seems only logical to visit Škofja Loka in 2020.

Slovenia is part of Central Europe and Škofja Loka lies almost in the centre of our country. Here the four large European macro regions: the Alps, the Mediterranean, the Dinaric and the Pannonian world are all very near to each other.

In addition Slovenia is one of the greenest, most forested and watered countries in Europe. You will be able to experience and enjoy all this .

The Škofja Loka Passion Play is the oldest drama text in the Slovenian language and in all Europe! In 2021 we will celebrate the 300th anniversary of its creation!

This precious cultural heritage of ours, which is now included in the UNESCO's Representative List of the Intangible Cultural

Heritage of Humanity, can successfully come to life only if the following three conditions are met: respect and preservation of cultural heritage, intergenerational cooperation, transfer of good practices and active volunteering!

These concepts and values are essential for the survival of a living and lively local community.

This also applies to our Douzelage Association and the entire European family. Only if we maintain and develop all these social values, will we keep our European family alive, dynamic, developed and self-confident, whilst functioning as a friendly, sustainable, social and democratic community of equal states and citizens.

For a few days we will be a heart beating in the centre of Europe. The hearts of more than two dozen of us will beat as one – for the same cause.

That is the spirit of the Douzelage.

I am looking forward to seeing you and cooperating with you in Škofja Loka, in 2020!

Jernej Tavcar

TAKING PART IN THE GRANVILLE CARNAVAL

We were a group of 8, 2 chaperones from Sherborne Douzelage, and 6 French A level students, all waking up bright and early on Saturday 3rd of March to catch the ferry at Poole Harbour. Upon reaching Cherbourg, we were greeted by Jean-Claude; our French guide, who kindly hosted us for 3 nights in his lovely traditional French house near the coast. We then drove to Coutances and saw the breathtaking cathedral and beautiful botanical gardens. When after a long day, we reached Granville, the party had already started. People were walking around everywhere in a variety of brightly coloured onesies. An evening of lively music and hearty French food left us excited for Sunday's 145th "Carnaval de Granville".

We met our compatriots at the float dressed as snails and policemen; a protest against the lowering of the speed limit. We walked through the packed streets of the town, with the largest crowds any of us had seen cheering and throwing confetti. The atmosphere was energising, helped by the lively, but deafening, music, and is a feeling none of us will forget, especially during the night time carnival. None of us wanted it to stop. Monday morning we visited both a French school and Mont St. Michel.

On Shrove Tuesday we took part twice in our costumes, assured of "Bataille de Confettis" to come. This was really exhilarating, with confetti thrown from floats in massive amounts to people below. Covered from head to toe in confetti, it was finally time to go home on the overnight ferry.

The carnival was an amazing experience, which we all enjoyed thoroughly, and was unlike anything we have ever done before. We wish we could go again and know that next year French A Level students will love it just as much.

Elena Harrison and friends



OVIDIU ONICIUC - OUR NEW YOUTH LEADER



I joined the Douzelage, because they are like a family, a group of wonderful open minded people having fun, while working hard on building a strong network within Europe. I realized how important it is to collaborate and work with such people.

Douzelage became a part of my soul five years ago, at which time I had no international experience. I have made many new friends and my life changed. I've been traveling in many countries around Europe in the last 2 years in training courses, youth exchanges and youth summits. These experiences helped me broaden my perspective towards our society and made me a very active citizen.

All these experiences came together and built the wings I needed to get involved into our society's problems and trying to fix them.

One huge step for me was to run for Youth Presidency, because I felt ready and completely committed to building a strong connection with young people of the Douzelage, whose network will empower them to be more active as citizens.

So the Douzelage Youth committee decided to focus on this network in the following ways:
Making European / National funded projects with and for young people from the Douzelage community;

Creating a Facebook group with all the youth delegations that have ever participated in a Douzelage activity and posting topics related to European citizenship and upcoming projects to which members can apply;

Creating a Douzelage Youth message system, which will stimulate the youngsters to travel, explore and self-develop them-

OVIDIU ONICIUC - OUR NEW YOUTH LEADER

selves;

Creating a feedback system to improve the quality of all our meetings.

The new Youth Committee is Evelin Koev - Tryavna, Elisabeth Dorres - Sherborne, Julian Hanin - Niederanven, Bor Dolenc and Luka Nunar – Skofja Loka. All are very dynamic and have great minds and interesting visions for the future. I am so happy and grateful to work with them.



WELCOME TO SKOFJA LOKA 2020

