

COMHAIRLE CATHRACH CHORCAÍ

CORK CITY COUNCIL

To each Member of the International Relations Committee

1st February, 2018

TWINNING ACTIVITY REPORT 2017

Rennes:

- Mr. Malo Le Perchec and Ms. Fantine Maillard, athletes from Rennes travelled to Cork in June to take part in the Cork City Half Marathon. Athletes from Cologne, Swansea and San Francisco also took part. Malo and Fantine paid a courtesy visit to the Lord Mayor.



Picture shows Malo Le Perchec and Fantine Maillard signing the visitors book in the Lord Mayors Chamber in the presence of the Lord Mayor, Cllr. Des Cahill

- Students from Lycee de la Salle in Rennes, came to Cork in June to commence their internships in various businesses/organisations in Cork. They spent three weeks on work experience in Cork.

- A delegation from City Hall visited Rennes from June 28th to July 1st to discuss Tourism/Housing projects and International Relations. The purpose of the visit was to exchange good practices around tourism and how Rennes markets itself both nationally and internationally and to visit La Courrouze- a new urban development in Rennes. Both sides had the opportunity to learn from each other and hear how each city tackles particular issues, while also learning about what has worked well for each city.
- A large group of 40 people from Rennes, comprising members of the Rennes – Cork committee and residents of the city spent a week holidaying in Ireland. They arrived in Cork City on 14th July, Bastille Day and that evening the Council hosted a reception in the Council Chambers, City Hall where they met with the Lord Mayor and members of the Cork – Rennes committee. It was the largest group from Rennes to visit the Lord Mayor in a number of years
- **Cologne:**
On 1st October, 2017, a group of 17 athletes from Cork took part in the Cologne marathon and half marathon. Exchanges between athletes from the two cities have been taking place for a number of years now, with two athletes from Cologne also travelling to Cork to take part in the Cork city marathon which is held in June. Mr. Matthias Welpmann, Chairperson of the Cologne-Cork sister city committee and Councillor with Cologne City Council arranged a walking tour of Cologne City Centre for the group. The group also attended a welcome reception in City Hall, hosted by Vice Mayor Andreas Wolter.



Picture shows the group of athletes from Cologne's twinned cities that travelled to Cologne for the Marathon/half marathon. Included are the athletes who travelled from Cork.

- To develop the twinning between Cork and Cologne further, a new "Cork - Cologne - Lecture series started on 20th September, 2017 as part of the showcase of the Cork Lifelong Learning festival which was part of the UNESCO Conference of Learning

Cities. Stefan Jauernig was the guest from Cologne for this first lecture which took place in UCC.

- Exchange students from the Herder Gymnasium Cologne, along with their partner schools in Cork (Douglas Community Scholl and Christ the King) paid a courtesy visit to the Lord Mayor on May 8th, 2017. This school exchange between Cork and Cologne has been taking place for almost 20 years. Cork students travelled to Cologne in Jan/Feb, 2017 where they spent half of their visit at school in Herder, and the remaining half of the exchange on work experience. The project was assisted under the Twinning Grant Programme.



Students from the Herder Gymnasium, Cologne, pictured with students from their Cork partner schools, Mr. Martin Schmidt, teacher and Lord Mayor, Cllr. Des Cahill.

- Ms. Sabine Miessler from Cologne Council visited Cork from May 31st to June 2nd to attend the Grow Smarter General Assembly meeting which was hosted by Cork. Up to 100 delegates from 10 cities across Europe were shown smart initiatives and innovations devised by the Council in the areas of infrastructure, energy and transport.
- Highfield Rugby Club U12 team undertook a tour to Cologne, Germany. There they played AFC Koln, and other German teams, including Bruhl RFC (a suburb of Koln) and a team from Hamburg. An exchange of plaques, pennants and gifts was made after the games. Koln and Bruhl rugby clubs were especially delighted to have established links with a rugby club in their twinned cities. The tour was a wonderful experience for the players, as they had the opportunity to see a major European city and the tour exposed them to memories they will have for years to come. The visit was assisted by the Council's Twinning Grant programme.
- Irish Wheelchair Rugby travelled to Cologne in April to take part in the Bernd Best tournament. This is the largest club tournament in the world of wheelchair

- rugby. A total of six members from Cork attended the tournament. The visit was assisted by the Council's Twinning Grant programme.
- Marco Schneider and Katja Kestermann from Cologne, travelled to Cork in June to take part in the Cork City Half marathon.

San Francisco

- Mayor Lee led a delegation from San Francisco comprising over 90 people who travelled to Cork in September. This was the largest single delegation ever to visit from San Francisco and shows the extent of the strength of the relationship between both cities. The delegation comprised Supervisors (Councillors), officials from the city and county of San Francisco, representatives from the Port of San Francisco and the San Francisco Police Department, Members of the RBA (Residential Builders Assoc), Business leaders and Members of the San Francisco – Cork sister committee. The programme for the visit included:
 - A welcome dinner hosted by Cork City Council.
 - A reception for the delegation in Pairc Ui Chaoimh hosted by Pairc Ui Chaoimh and Cork GAA.
 - The signing of two Memorandum of Understanding (MOU'S), one of which was an understanding to carry out Sister City exchanges focused on the principles of UNESCO Global City Learning and promote collaboration in both cities in the area of lifelong
 - Mayor Lee attended the opening ceremony of the UNESCO Learning Cities Conference in City Hall.
 - Best of Cork & Ireland Food and Craft Exhibition held in UCC. This gave everyone the opportunity to see what the Cork region has to offer in terms of tourism, culture and food produce.
 - A shark tank event in UCC
 - Walking tour of pedestrianised streets facilitated by staff from the Roads and Strategic Planning & Economic Development and Enterprise Directorates.
 - Presentation in City Hall on Social Housing projects and the operation of the RAS and HAP Schemes from Mark Birch and Tadhg Keating of the Housing & Community Directorate.
 - Site visit to the new Capitol development on Grand Parade.
 - That evening the delegation had dinner in the Aula Maxima, UCC.
 - Cork Chamber hosted an early morning breakfast meeting in The Kingsley Hotel to welcome Mayor Lee and the delegation. The breakfast, sponsored by NGINX highlighted the business links between Cork and San Francisco and provided an excellent opportunity to network and build relationships.
 - Members of the RBA, city planners and other delegation members went on a City walking tour led by the Conservation Officer, Pat Ruane and the Heritage Officer Niamh Twomey
 - In parallel, meetings also took place in the Port of Cork offices with the Director of the Port of San Francisco.
 - Members of An Garda Síochána met with delegation members in the Garda Headquarters in Anglesea St
 - Various members of Cork's arts groups held a very constructive meeting with interested persons from San Francisco.
 - Discussions took place between members of Cork LGBT committee and San Francisco centred on rainbow city status.

- Delegation visited VOXPRO offices
- Visit to Cobh Heritage Centre.
- Mayor Lee attended the closing ceremony of the Conference.
- Reception hosted by Johnson Controls at their global headquarters, 1 Albert Quay
- Breakfast hosted by Bord Bia in The Farmgate Restaurant, English Market, followed by a signing between both cities of a Memorandum of Understanding to engage Cork's English Market and San Francisco's Ferry Building Market Place to promote co operation between the artisan food communities in both cities.
- Visit to Apple offices in Hollyhill
- Lunch hosted by IDA Ireland



Mayor Lee with the San Francisco delegation

- Cork poet Kathy D'Arcy represented Cork in San Francisco for a 10 programme, (5th to 17th October), including the Los Gatos Irish writers panel. The programme included readings, seminars and workshops. The programme also included a poetry reading by Ms. D'arcy at Saint Mary's college of California. It is hoped that St. Mary's will send a group of students to Cork for a series of art workshops and cultural excursions. This twinned city poetry exchange enriches O'Bheal's annual programme of events and is supported by the council's Twinning Grant programme.
- Lia Cook, eminent San Francisco based textile artist gave a key note speech at the CIT Crawford College of Art and Design Annual Make Symposium (2nd to 4th March). Strong connections between Lia and academic staff at CIT CCAD were formed, leading to the potential for future collaboration between CIT and the California College of the Arts.
- Mr. Chris Mocko, athlete from San Francisco travelled to Cork for the Cork City Marathon. He won the marathon completing the 26.2 mile course in 2 hours, 26 minutes and 42 seconds. San Francisco Mayor Lee took to Twitter to congratulate Chris on his victory. The Examiner featured an article on Chris Mocko on the Friday before race day. Chris represented the Olympic Club in San Francisco and has competed in marathons since 2010.



Chris Mocko, San Francisco, winner of the Cork City Marathon for 2017, pictured with Alex O'Shea, Cork City Fire Brigade who finished in 8th place.

Coventry

- Kay Forrest of the Coventry Irish Society paid a courtesy visit to the Lord Mayor on 19th January, 2017 and updated the Lord Mayor of the work being done by the Society and the challenges that it faces.
- Coventry poets Andrea Mbarushimana and Russ Berry travelled to Cork and read poetry at the O'Bheal poetry reading on July 24th. The poetry reading was attended by the Deputy Lord Mayor. Both poets paid a courtesy visit to the Lord Mayor with Mr. Paul Casey, O'Bheal, and also met with Cllr. Kieran McCarthy. Cork poets Stanley Notte and Ciaran MacArtain represented Cork from 8th to 10th November in Coventry where they gave two readings of their work, at the Royal Oak as part of the Coventry Peace Festival and at the Tree House bookshop in Warwickshire. A chapbook of their poems was published for the occasion. They visited the Lord Mayor of Coventry. This twinned city poetry exchange which

has been ongoing for several years, enriches O’Bheal’s annual programme of events and is supported by the council’s Twinning Grant programme.



Coventry poets signing the visitors book when they paid a courtesy visit to the Lord Mayor, Cllr. Tony Fitzgerald.

- Cork musicians visited Coventry and Warwick in July, 2017, and two Coventry bands paid a return visit to Cork for the Cork Folk Festival which took place between 28th and 30th September. These visits were supported by the Council’s Twinning Grant Programme.

Swansea

- Two athletes from Swansea travelled to Cork to take part in the Cork City Marathon. Eamon Kirk competed in the full marathon and Vanessa Harragan took part in the half marathon. Eamonn & Vanessa met with the Deputy Lord Mayor, Cllr. PJ. Hourican.



Vanessa Harragan and Eamonn Kirk meet with the Deputy Lord Mayor, Cllr. PJ. Hourican.

- The Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress of Swansea visited Cork for the UNESCO Learning Cities Conference which took place in City Hall from September 17th to September 20th.