

TWINNING ACTIVITY REPORT 2012

Coventry:

- Mayor of Swansea and Lady Mayoress Tim and Nicky Sawdon visited Cork to support Coventry athlete Kyza Derby who took part in the Cork City Marathon
- 2 poets Janet Smyth and Jayne Stanton paid an exchange visit to O' Bheal poets in August. They paid a courtesy visit to the Lord Mayor on 15th August.
- Sheila Linehan, Treasurer of the Coventry/Cork Association paid a courtesy visit to the Lord Mayor on the 18th September. Members of the Coventry International Relations sub-committee were also in attendance.
- 6 meetings of the Coventry International Relations Sub-committee were held during the year.

Rennes:

- A group of French/ Rennes Erasmus students studying in UCC and CIT paid a courtesy visit to Lord Mayors Office on 14th February, 2012.
- Cork City Council supported the screening of Desperados in Triskel Christchurch.
- Musicians from Rennes "Bikini Machine" travelled to Cork to provide the musical accompaniment to the film. This see the start of a reciprocal arrangement between the Cork French Film festival and The Travelling Film Festival, Rennes. Mr Hulots holiday at the English Market on 2012 as part of the 23rd Cork- French Film Festival.
- Cork City Council participated in the Rennes Fair 2012 from 24th March -01st April. Official delegation consisting of Lord Mayor Cllr Terry Shannon, Councillors Joe O'Callaghan, Emmet O'Halloran, Damien Courtney, CIT, Francoise Letellier, French Consul and Noreen Mulcahy visited for the official opening of the Fair and to take part in the 30th Anniversary celebrations from March 22nd to March 26th.
- A group of 7 musicians and dancers travelled to Cork for the Fest Noz-Céilí to mark St. Yves' Day (Brittany's National Day) in Cork. The music and dance celebration took place in the Franciscan Well, North Mall, Cork on the 19th May with music and dance provided by Ossian from Rennes and acts also from Galway and Dublin. The artists from Rennes paid a courtesy visit to the Lord Mayor on Monday, 21st May where all participated in the "circle dance." The event was supported by the International Relations Committee.
- The Owenabue Valley Traditional Group travelled to Rennes in July 2012 as part of the 30th anniversary of the Cork/Rennes Twinning. The visit was assisted under the Twinning Grant scheme.

- Mr. Damien Courtney and Gerard O'Donovan from Cork Institute of Technology visited Rennes in early December to discuss educational partnerships. While in Rennes they met with the Deputy Mayor, Ms. Roselyne LeFrancois.

Cologne:

- Students from Cork travelled to Cologne in January/February as part of a Cork-Cologne school exchange and work experience programme that has been running for approx the past 14 years. Students from Douglas Community School, Coláiste an Spioraid Naoimh and Christ the King School took part this year. A return group of students from the Herder Gymnasium in Cologne paid a courtesy visit to the Lord Mayor Cllr Terry Shannon on Tuesday, 8th November, 2012. The students spent two weeks in school and a further two weeks on work experience. While in Cork they stayed with their student partner families. Also in attendance at the meeting with the Lord Mayor were the German teachers from the three Cork schools and Mr. Martin Schmidt from the Herder Gymnasium. This visit was assisted under the Twinning grant scheme.
- Lord Mayor Terry Shannon visited Cologne in March as a guest of Brigitte Wagner to take part in St Patricks' Day celebrations.
- 2 athletes from Cologne Rainer Herzog and Julia Schnitzel travelled to Cork to participate in the Cork Marathon
- Elaine Coakley travelled to Cologne in July to meet with representatives of Kunstwerk Studios regarding 25th Anniversary exhibition in Cork in June 2013.
- Monica Tonger, Chairperson of Cologne/Cork Twinning committee visited Cork recently. She paid a courtesy visit to the Lord Mayor on 22nd November which was attended by members of the Cork-Cologne sub-committee. She also attended a meeting in City Hall to discuss proposals for the 25th anniversary celebrations of Cork and Cologne's twinning in 2013.

San Francisco

- A video conference between Lord Mayor Terry Shannon and Mayor Lee along with members of the Cork-San Francisco International Relations sub-committee and San Francisco Cork sister city committee was held on the Feb 2012.
- Lord Mayor headed up a business delegation visit to San Francisco in April 2012.

Swansea

- Inspiritu Choir paid courtesy visit to Lord Mayor 13th April - St Finbarres Cathedral.
- A group from Na Piarsaigh Hurling and Football Club visited the Lord Mayor of Swansea, Cllr Dennis James on the 4th July, 2012. This visit was assisted under the Twinning Grant Scheme.

Shanghai/China

Report to follow separately