

COMHAIRLE CATHRACH CHORCAÍ

CORK CITY COUNCIL

To each Member of the International Relations Committee

26th January, 2017

TWINNING ACTIVITY REPORT 2016

Rennes:

- The Rennes Tourism Fair took place from January 22nd to January 24th, 2016. The City Council had a prominent stand in a good location at the fair. The fair provided the opportunity to showcase Cork, and much promotional literature and brochures were sourced and available in French.
- Mr. Patrick Morel, athlete from Rennes travelled to Cork in June to take part in the Cork City Half Marathon. Athletes from Cologne and Swansea also took part. The group paid a courtesy visit to the Deputy Lord Mayor.



Picture shows athletes from twinned cities of Rennes, Swansea and Cologne, signing the Visitors book during a courtesy visit to the Lord Mayor, Cllr. Chris O'Leary.

- Students (15) 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. The group paid a courtesy visit to the Lord Mayor.

- Charlotte Marchandise-Franquet, French Healthy Cities Network and Deputy Mayor for Health, Rennes, was in Cork in May as guest speaker in the Cork Healthy Cities Inaugural Conference **Cork – A City that Connects for Health**.
- The Startup Nations Summit gathered over 150 delegates from 70 plus startup communities across the world in Cork in November. Included in this number were representatives from two Rennes start-ups, Matthieu Beucher (Klaxoon) and Valérie Fédrone (Facetts). They had a private meeting with the Lord Mayor, Cllr. Des Cahill, and over the course of their weekend in Cork had many meetings and opportunities to discuss their visions, culture and business opportunities. They participated in the full programme of events during the weekend.

Cologne:

- In February, a group of students and staff from the Cologne University of Applied Science travelled to Cork to attend their project –webpages launch and award – ceremony in UCC on February 12th. The collaboration titled “Intercultural Learning through Digital Skills: The Virtual Irish-German Classroom took place the previous semester, covering the 12 week teaching period between September and December. Students met online in regular weekly sessions and worked on their projects outside of class time. The project covered 7 lines of inquiry, the aim of which was to develop a module which captured student’s experiences as well as their cities, their places of study and other areas, both in written and digital format. The project webpages were launched in UCC on February 12th. The students and teachers paid a courtesy visit to the Deputy Lord Mayor, Mick Nugent also on the 12th February. The project was assisted under the Twinning Grant Programme.



Picture shows staff and students from the University of Applied Science, Cologne, with course leaders from UCC during their courtesy visit to the Deputy Lord Mayor.

- Students from Cork travelled to Cologne in January/February February as part of a Cork-Cologne school exchange and work experience programme that has been running for the past 19 years. Students from Douglas Community School, Coláiste an Spioraid Naoimh and Christ the King School took part this year. The students spent half of the exchange in the Herder Gymnasium in Cologne and the other half on work experience. The students met with the Mayor of Cologne during their time in Germany and presented her with a letter of greeting from Lord Mayor Cllr. Chris O'Leary. In May, the students from the Herder Gymnasium School in Cologne paid a reciprocal visit to Cork where they met with the then Lord Mayor, Cllr. Chris O'Leary.
- The Deinemaids Vocal ensemble travelled to Cork for the Choral Festival in April. They have links with the Cork Vocal Ensemble Cantabile. While in Cork, they paid a courtesy visit to the Deputy Lord Mayor, and Cllr. McCarthy brought them on a walking tour of the City.



Picture shows the Deinemaids Vocal Ensemble paying a courtesy visit to the Deputy Lord Mayor, Cllr. Ken O'Flynn in April.

- Mr. Markus Mannersdoefer from Cologne travelled to Cork in June to take part in the Cork City Half Marathon. Athletes from Rennes and Swansea also took part. The group paid a courtesy visit to the Deputy Lord Mayor.
- Ms. Joanna Schwolow, Intern from Cologne commenced an internship in the finance department in the City Council on June 22nd to 23rd September.

- Mr. Alex O'Shea, Cork City Fire Brigade travelled to Cologne in October to take part in the Cologne City Marathon. Alex met with Mr. Matthias Welpmann, Chairperson, Cologne/Cork Sister City committee and the Deputy Lord Mayor.
- The tall ship, Roald Amundsen travelled from Cologne to Cork at the end of October with a delegation of 50 people from Cologne on board, including Mr. Matthias Welpmann, Chairperson Cologne/Cork Twinning Committee and some other members of the committee. The group was accorded a welcome reception at the Port of Cork on 31st October where they met the Lord Mayor, Cllr. Des Cahill, other councilors and senior representatives from the Port of Cork. On November 1st, the group paid a courtesy visit to the Deputy Lord Mayor, Cllr. Joe Kavanagh, and Cllr. Kieran McCarthy brought the group on a walking tour of the city. The ship was open for visits from members of the public for a time during its' stay in Cork.
- Tischrunde Ehemaliger Ratsmitglieder. On Tuesday 14th September, 29 former Cologne councillors and their guide paid a courtesy visit to City Hall. They were received by Deputy Lord Mayor Cllr Joe Kavanagh and Cllr Paudie Dineen. The group is part of a circle of former councillors from Cologne. Each year the group go on a cycling tour and in 2016 the group selected Ireland and in particular Cork and Dublin for their visit.

San Francisco

- Cities and Counties from the USA and Ireland gathered in Dublin as part of the All Ireland – US Sister Cities Mayor's Summit in April 2016. The Summit, the first of its kind in the world, identified projects and actions that cities can take together to improve business, education and social justice. The event was attended by some 200 US city mayors, business, education and youth leaders from many of the sixty United States cities that are twinned with Irish local authorities. The Summit marked the centenary of 1916 and also the 60th anniversary of the establishment of Sister Cities International by President Eisenhower. Corks sister city of San Francisco was represented at the summit by Jim Herlihy, Chairperson of the San Francisco/Cork sister city committee.
- INUSA Conference – September 2016. A Cork delegation visited San Francisco in September. The delegation comprised the Lord Mayor of Cork, and senior officials from the City Council, Cork Chamber CorkBIC, Cork Convention Bureau and representatives from O'Callaghan Properties and John Cleary developments. The delegation promoted Cork in San Francisco, meet with Mayor Lee and officials in City Hall, met with representatives of the San Francisco/Cork twinning committee, met with Tech companies based in Silicon Valley including Apple, investigated Coworking spaces in San Francisco and attended the INUSA Conference taking place in San Francisco from September 15th to September 18th. The mission of INUSA is to connect Irish, Irish Americans and Friends of Ireland through business, culture, education and sport.

Swansea

- **Morrison Ladies Choir, Swansea.** The Morrison Ladies Choir, Swansea comprising of more than 40 individuals visited Cork to participate in a concert organised by Soroptimist International Cork on July 26th. The group paid a visit to City Hall and were met by Deputy Lord Mayor, Cllr. PJ Hourican and some members of the International Relations Committee.



Pictured is the Deputy Lord Mayor, Cllr. PJ Hourican receiving a presentation from Rhian Williams on behalf of the Morrystown Ladies Choir.

Coventry

- The Coventry Irish Society has received funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund for a heritage project that will give testimony to the Irish and Cork community's contribution to the city of Coventry and the legacy of the city. Cork City Council has committed €2,000 to the project.