

Twinnings celebrate 20 years of friendship



The twinnings enjoyed dinner at the Passford House Hotel

GLORIOUS sunshine blessed the recent visit of 31 twinnings from Mosbach in Germany to Lymington to celebrate 20 years of friendship between the towns.

On their first full day they and their hosts enjoyed coffee, cake and wonderful views at Lymington Town Sailing Club before a very interesting and informative visit to the RNLI station.

Everyone was deeply impressed by the commitment of the volunteers and the risks they run to save other people's lives. Quite a few hosts and guests then returned to lunch at the sailing club.

After an afternoon spent at leisure, the guests and hosts gathered at the town hall for a reception by the mayor, Cllr Barry Dunning, and councillors.

Special guests who were involved in the start of the Mosbach-Lymington link were Uli and Jenny Welker — Uli who comes

from Mosbach suggested the idea in the first place — as well as Flo and Phil Wiseman, Paul and Christine Buckwell, and Ian and Jane Chislett-Bruce.

Afterwards quite a few of the hosts took their guests to the Walhampton Arms for an enjoyable supper together.

Saturday morning saw more sun as the visitors gathered for a coach trip to Arundel Castle. This proved to be very interesting with lots to see and splendid gardens in which to stroll and picnic.

They spent the evening relaxing with their hosts when Brexit was one of the more serious issues discussed, along with problems which are shared by both countries such as housing, the cost of university education, coping with immigration, and youth unemployment.

More sunshine on the Sunday offered hosts the chance to show their guests something of the

area, and they undertook a wide variety of activities from Scottish dancing at Highcliffe Castle to visiting Yarmouth for lunch.

Then in the evening everyone gathered at Passford House Hotel for a special 20th anniversary dinner, starting with aperitifs and a group photo in the extensive and charming gardens.

Cllr Dunning and Oberbürgermeister Michael Jann both spoke

warmly about the two decades of friendship between the two towns and between individuals and families, which Brexit will not break.

David Beech, chairman of Lymington International Twinning Association, and his Mosbach counterpart Han Happes, endorsed these views and spoke of their hopes for many more successful years of friendship.

After a delicious meal and sev-

eral toasts, everyone reluctantly left as the visitors had to pack to depart for Heathrow the following morning, following a visit judged by all to have been a great success.

Anyone interested in international twinning with Lymington's twin towns in France, Germany or Spain can find further information at www.lymingtontwinning.weebly.com



Lymington RNLI crew explain their work to the Mosbach visitors