

Forging new friendships

On Good Friday, a coachload of 26 visitors from the Cirencester Twinning Association's (CTA) twin town of Itzehoe in Germany enjoyed an array of activities in Cirencester. It included a guided walk around the town and the opportunity to add more Lego bricks to the Abbey 900's replica of Cirencester Abbey.

Although the two towns have been twinned for 35 years, for many of the German visitors, it was their first visit to the Cotswolds and, on Easter Sunday, they were treated to a trip around the beautiful Cotswold villages of Bibury and Filkins before stopping in Fairford to visit St Mary's Church and enjoy a traditional afternoon tea in Fairford Community Centre.

Fairford Mayor, Jennie Sanford, welcomed Renate Wilms-Marzisch, chair of the Itzehoe Partnerschafts-Verein, who presented her with a bottle of Itzehoe

wine. The Fairford Mayor, Jo Wood, Chair of the Cirencester Twinning Association and two other CTA members were then invited to cut the four

incredible cakes made of Königsberg marzipan depicting St John's Church, Cirencester and St Laurentii Church, Itzehoe.

Jo Wood, Chair of the Cirencester Twinning Association, said: 'Each year, the Itzehoe town will invite members of the CTA to their Weinfest (wine festival) at the end of May and to the Christmas Markets.

They are the most wonderful trips and are an opportunity to forge new friendships, learn another language and understand a different culture.'



Cirencester Twinning Association and Itzehoe Partnerschafts-Verein



Fairford Mayor, Jennie Sanford; Richard Gunner; Susannah Gilbert and Jo Wood, Chair of CTA

To find out more about the Cirencester Twinning Association, visit www.cirencestertwinningassociation.org.uk.

Story and photo: Chris Roberts