

Europe comes to Desborough

Thursday 24th - Sunday 27th
November 2011

Ben Murphy-Ryan - Chairman

Desborough in Europe - Desborough & District Twinning Association

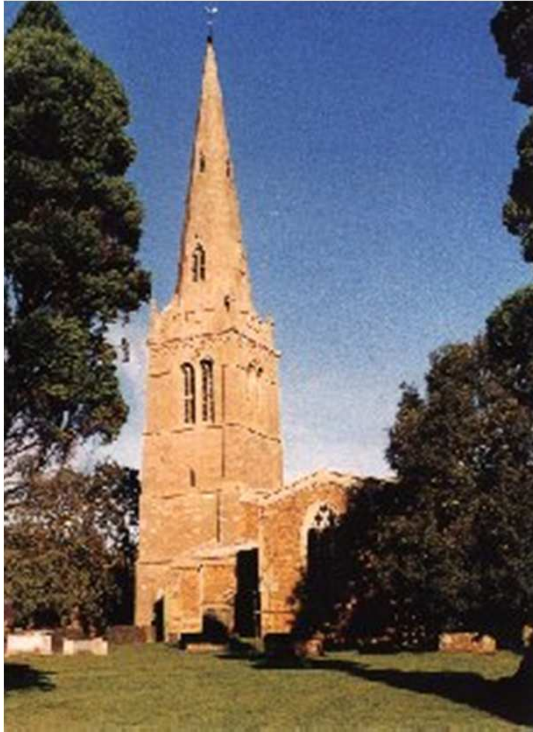


Location

- Birmingham = 50 miles
- London = 85 miles
- Leicester = 20 miles
- Kettering = 7 miles
- Access:
 - Train to London St Pancras International c. 1 hour for Eurostar
 - Plane to Birmingham, East Midlands, London Luton, London Stansted



Desborough



ST GILES CHURCH



THE DESBOROUGH MIRROR



DESBOROUGH TOWN CROSS



Desborough Mini-meeting

- First meeting in Desborough since 1993
- 2 delegates from every Charter member
- Opportunity for shared learning
- Community involvement – local and regional
- Raise profile of the Charter in the UK – press and media attention



Theme - 1

- Workshop sessions – consistent theme following on from the activity in Hepstedt in 2009

“Which are the effects of demographic developments on the number of volunteers needed to maintain a European network?”



Theme - 2

- Experience running volunteer Twinning / Friends of Europe groups – similar to other community volunteer groups
- 2011 – European Year of the Volunteer
- Focus in Desborough:
 - What challenges do we face in organising Friends of Europe and similar volunteer groups?
 - What can we learn from experiences in other countries?
 - How can we develop better contact between European groups?



Programme

Thursday

Afternoon - arrival and welcome

Friday

Morning - Workshop Session 1 – Kettering Borough Council Chamber, reception with the Borough Mayor

Afternoon - Workshop Session 2 – Christmas Tree Festival

Evening - Desborough Gala Evening

Saturday

Morning - Workshop Session 3 – Loatlands Primary School

Afternoon – Free time with hosts

Evening – Friends of Europe Dinner with Desborough Twinning

Sunday

Morning – multi-denominational Church service & Departures



Workshops

- We will ask:
 - all delegates to prepare some (brief) information in advance
 - all delegates to collect information on local volunteer groups in their municipality by theme
 - some countries to share their experiences
 - local groups in Desborough to join the discussion
 - delegates to brainstorm and discuss ideas



Output

- We will produce:
 - a best practice guide with ideas for running successful volunteer groups
 - a Charter directory of local Friends of Europe and other volunteer groups, arranged by theme with copies available online and for delegates to share with their local communities



Delegate Information

- **Two representatives per Charter municipality**
 - Ideally one from a Friends of Europe group and one from a local volunteer group
 - Plus the President and Secretary of Daily Board
- **Travel support:**
 - Fly to local airports – pick-ups to be confirmed
 - Eurostar to London then domestic train
 - More guidance to be given with formal invitation
- **No official gift** – donate to local volunteer group and bring Christmas tradition for Festival



Timeline

- UK Press & Community Launch – 15th July 2011
- Formal Invitation Letter – by email and post, end of August 2011
- Delegate lists confirmed – by end of October

Look out for more info online:

- <http://www.desboroughtown.co.uk>
- Facebook – coming soon!



Thank you!

**We're looking forward
to seeing you soon...**

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