

Visit of Niall Gregory (Cashel - Ireland) to Esch

Last weekend, 29 January until 1 February 2011, Niall Gregory of the organisation committee in Cashel, visited Esch (Netherlands) to give a presentation of Cashel. He also had the important task to draw the lots for the Dutch delegation as there were many people interested in going to Cashel for the big summer meeting!

Niall was hosted by the chairman of Friends of Europe Esch, Martin Greven and me, Ingrid van Slichem, webmaster of the European Charter website.

Niall arrived at Friday and that day we had dinner in the house of the secretary of Friends of Europe Esch, Thea Heesemans and her husband Jan.



Saturday we visited Kinderdijk, this is a famous place with about 19 windmills and Heusden, an old fortified town.

Saturday evening we organised a Meet & Greet with Niall and at the same time, we had a goodbye party for Theo van Roosmalen who has to leave the board of Friends of Europe Esch after 15 year (!) for personal reasons.



On Sunday we drove to the port of Rotterdam and had a splash tour with a special prepared bus through the harbour.



But Monday was the most important day. After a warm reception by Frans Ronnes and Helma van Drunen in the Town hall of Haaren, Niall had to draw the lots for the big summer meeting in Cashel. Several interested already tried to bribe Niall at the Saturday evening party, but they had no luck, Niall was not to be bribed!



First the deputy Head of Mission of the Irish Embassy in the Netherlands, Michael Hurley, gave an overview of the Irish history. Secondly, Niall did a presentation of Cashel and gave us a sneak preview of what is coming during the annual meeting.

But finally, the big moment was there, the lottery.



Niall did the honours and the delegation of Esch now consists of:

Mayor Frans Ronnes (and President of the Charter)
Ans Beijens (board member of Friends of Europe Esch)

Adults:

Jan Heesemans
Ans Vrensen
Desiree Timmermans
Gert-Jan Verstijnen

Youth:

Noel El Sayed
John Vorstenbosch
Isabelle Plasmeijer
Barbara van de Sande

Congratulations to all of you and we hope you enjoy the stay in Cashel.

And after this great weekend, Niall went home on Tuesday, back to Ireland.