



Felixstowe Wesel Association Report

2024 is the 50th anniversary of the twinning of Felixstowe with Wesel.

Over the weekend of 19th to 21st April various events took place in the presence of about 45 guests from Wesel who had travelled to Felixstowe.

There were two events on 19th April – firstly there was a reception at Harvest House where approximately 120 people attended to re-confirm the bond of friendship between the two towns. Speeches were given by the mayors of both towns and a summary was provided by David Sheepshanks. This event was superbly organised by Richard Holland. In attendance were representatives from many clubs/societies in Felixstowe as well as a number of previous Felixstowe mayors. Town hall staff assisted with the event.

Later that evening 73 people attended a meal at Fish Dish restaurant. This was a mix of guests from Wesel as well as members of our Felixstowe Wesel Society. This was a successful event with the restaurant providing excellent food and service.

On Saturday 20th April, there was a 50th anniversary celebration display on the Triangle. We had musicians playing for an hour between 12 and 1. Many residents of Felixstowe therefore were able to learn more about Wesel and the twinning process.

That evening another event was organised at Sea You. This was a buffet followed by music and dancing. This event was attended by 77 people – again a mix of guests from Wesel and members of the society. A tombola was also organised with prizes of bottles of wine. Again a successful event.

The farewell meal with after dinner speeches was held on Sunday at the Alex restaurant. There were 74 people in attendance. A traditional English roast meal was provided.

All the evening social events were organised very well by Francis Cotterell, with very positive feedback from our guests and society members.

Of course putting on all these events is very expensive for a small society that we are. Fortunately the combination of fund raisers, generosity of members and grants from Felixstowe council have meant that we were able to afford them – albeit we will need to increase our fundraising efforts over the next few years so that future anniversary celebrations can be as successful.

A positive aspect from the weekend was that we used different venues (Harvest House, Alex, See You and Fish Dish), which were new to our visitors from Wesel. It is great that Felixstowe does have these additional venues that can cater for large numbers and all staff and representatives from the restaurants were excellent.