



# BILLERICAY TWINNING ASSOCIATION



## NEWSLETTER No 24 FEBRUARY 2015

### VISIT TO FISHERS OCTOBER 2014

Two students and a member of staff from both Mayflower High School and Billericay School visited Fishers in early October. Leaving Heathrow on 30<sup>th</sup> September, the trip out involved two flights arriving at Indianapolis late at night to be welcomed by their hosts. Most of our students were reunited with the American students that they hosted in July which made the welcome more enjoyable. "It was lovely seeing Macey again" said Molly from Mayflower.

The first two days involved visits to the two local High Schools, Fishers High School and Hamilton Southeastern. As to be expected from past visits, the Billericay visitors were amazed in the quality and extent of the facilities, the huge swimming pool, amazing auditorium and an American Football stadium for the school team. Also there was the shock of the length of the school day with attendance needed at 7.00am for lessons beginning at 7:30. There are seven lessons in each school day with only a 20-minutes lunch break. "It was fascinating to observe lessons and engage with students and teachers. I was enthralled" said Janet Bradley, the teacher from Billericay School.



*Students and Teachers at Fishers High Pool*

One particular highlight was our students being asked to be anchors for the live school's news

broadcast at Fishers High. "They did a fantastic job" said James Tuck, the teacher from Mayflower.

The usual visits were arranged; the Town Hall, the Police and Fire Station and some hours at the "Renaissance Faire". Referring to the police and fire stations, Harrison a student from Billericay School commented "There was a stark contrast between Fishers and ones back in England - with the police department being loaded with guns and other equipment!"



*Billericay visitors in Fishers High Gymnasium*

One morning was spent visiting the living museum at Connor Prairie, where scenes from the American Civil War are enacted, enhanced with some stunning three-dimensional graphics. "At one point the students clung together, terrified as animated bullets ricocheted around a 19<sup>th</sup> century grocer's store causing shelves to collapse and horses outside to whinny as the Confederates stormed the town." said Janet.

The weekend was free for the hosts to arrange. Some students went with their host families to Chicago. "My overall favourite point of the trip" said Emma from Billericay School. "We stayed in a very posh hotel, visited 'The Bean', went shopping in an eight-floored shopping centre and ate in a 1960's American themed restaurant".

Molly and James enjoyed visits to Indianapolis and

Molly got a front row seat in the Stadium to see the Indianapolis Colts beat the Baltimore Ravens at a NFL game. "Also I was lucky enough to go back to the Lucas Oil Stadium to have a tour" commented Molly. "There were so many amazing experiences I could talk about them forever!"



*The Lucas Oil Stadium where the Colts play*

But one thing that most visitors commented upon was the food. "Luckily I got to experience one of the traditional deep-dish pizzas, it was amazing," said Harrison. "The portion sizes were double" added Molly.

The visit ended with a Thanksgiving-style dinner where they said their goodbyes and their thanks to their most generous hosts. Several hoped that the trip had forged lifelong friendships. "I hope to return to Fishers and see friends I have made there" said Harrison. "I have experienced some unforgettable moments" said Emma. "The trip was truly a once-in-a-lifetime" added Molly.

## **FISHERS BECOMES A CITY**

*By Marion Wilson*

When I was last in Fishers in October 2013 the discussion locally was about the decision whether or not to change Fishers from a town to a city. I was lucky enough to be invited to speak to their Town Council while I was there and explained it wasn't quite that simple in this country to achieve city status. If you remember, Chelmsford applied three times before being successful.



*Addressing Fishers Town Council*

I told them it was only in certain years that a town could apply, they had to fulfil certain criteria and that ultimately it was "in the gift of the Queen". They loved that last bit.

In spite of some local opposition, Fishers was declared a city and the new Mayor was duly elected on 22nd December 2014. He is Scott Fadness, the former Town Manager. This surprised me at the time, that an employee should become the Mayor, rather than a councillor which would be more likely over here. Having checked up, I now see his job is not one of a figurehead but that of managing the day-to-day operations and to lead the team of twelve department heads.

The Mayor and the Council are elected every 4 years. Six councillors represent their districts and the other three represent the whole of Fishers and so are voted for by the whole of the local population. So similar to us and yet so different.

## **CHAUVIGNY QUIZ NIGHT**

On Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> January, the Chauvigny section held a quiz evening at the Canon Roche Social Centre. The quiz, now becoming a regular annual event, was well attended with some ninety people sharing around eleven or twelve tables. There were eight rounds of ten questions each on a variety of subjects and a marathon round. It was a close run thing with perhaps the tricky marathon deciding the eventual winners who each took home a nice bottle of wine. The evening raised over £500; a nice boost to the Chauvigny section funds. Many thanks to all those involved in arranging such a successful evening and to those who came along to support the event.

## **FRENCH EVENING ON 28<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER**

On 28<sup>th</sup> November 2014, our Chauvigny section arranged a social evening for the Association's members at the Canon Roche Social Centre. Chauvigny members provided a delightful buffet-style meal accompanied by their own choice of wine, beer and soft drinks.



*Welcome to Olivier*

Our friend Olivier came along to provide the entertainment and sang and played some old favourites, in French of course; and we were all invited to join in. The evening went very well providing an opportunity for some twenty members to catch up with one another and have a bit of fun whilst enjoying the singing and food together.



*Olivier entertains*

### FISHERS EMBRACES TWINNING

In celebration of our Twinning, Fishers has organized a Renaissance Faire, presented by the Sister Cities Association, annually since 2005. It is held the first week end in October. The Faire attracts thousands of visitors over a two day period many dressed in mediaeval costumes. The revenue from the Faire is used to help the Twinning activities of the city. The Faire includes a Sister Cities Stand offering information about Billerica town. Visitors to the Faire are able to meet Queen Elizabeth 1<sup>st</sup>, the Mayor of Billerica and spend time in the Billerica Gaol.



*Billerica Jail at the Renaissance Fair*

There is also Billerica Park in Fishers, dedicated in 2003. The park has eight lit baseball diamonds, a multi-use trail through Norsey Woods, a children's playground, and a splash pad with picnic facilities. There is a multi-purpose community building with which opened in 2008. The extent and the facilities can be fully appreciated by looking at the webpage:  
<http://www.fishers.in.us/DocumentCenter/View/25>



Recently formed in Fishers is the Billerica Trio with flute, cello and piano.

	<b>Billerica Trio</b> Julia Mattern, flute John Mattern, cello Michael Scherperel, piano
	<b>Saturday, January 24</b> 7:30 p.m. Trio in G Major by Haydn Trois Aquarelles by Gaubert Sonata in E minor by Bach Trio by Martinu
	<b>Studio 37 Recital Hall</b> Ji-Eun Lee Music Academy 10029 E. 126 Street Fishers, IN 317/576-5562 \$10 admission at the door or \$8 in advance at studio37.yapsody.com

How many mentions of Chauvigny or Fishers names can be found in Billerica to embrace our Twinning?

### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

This year's Annual General Meeting will be a little later than the one last year. It will take place on Monday 30<sup>th</sup> March at Billerica Council's Meeting Room in Crown Yard, High Street. All members are welcome. Proceedings will start at 7:30pm; please put a note in your diary. There will be drinks and nibbles after the meeting has finished.

### FUN WALK 2015

Another date for the diary is 12 July when the annual John Baron's Fun Walk takes place. There are 2 walks to choose from starting at Barleylands. One is 3 miles and takes in the circular public walk around Crays Hill. The second is a shorter walk within Barleylands Farm. This is a good fund-raising event but we need volunteers and sponsors. The walk in 2014 resulted in £1332 added to the Associations funds which included £500 from the Fun Trust. We hope to do just as well in 2015.