

Holidays in Ireland , September 2004

On the 21st of September we travelled to Ireland with a very international group of 23 people which included 16 people from Waldaschaff a couple from America, a young Irish man, a man from Johannesburg, a Dutch woman, a woman from Schweinfurt and a Hesse.

After our bus transfer to Frankfurt – Hahn we all awaited our flight to Ireland in the best mood and atmosphere. Our Bürgermeister Marcus Grimm had the courage to bring a 19 Kilogram sand stone as hand luggage on the flight.

After a pleasant flight, we were collected at the airport by Pauline, Danny, Jim, Dell and Eugene and were welcomed with open arms. We started our journey back to Clonakilty and stopped for our lunch in a small town called Kenmare. We had a choice of beef or Salmon and most people went with the Salmon and had a most enjoyable meal. We continued our journey to Clonakilty which took in some beautiful countryside and scenic views of the Ring of Kerry and West Cork. We arrived in Clonakilty at 19:00 and were invited to a welcoming reception in O'Donovan's Hotel at 20:00. We were welcomed by the Town Twinning Committee, The town Mayor M. Phil O'Regan and had a relaxing evening with Irish Music and refreshments.

The next Morning was free to get our first impression of Clonakilty and the people who live there. At 14:30 we left on a sight seeing Tour of West Cork towards Dunmore, Red Strand and a welcomed stop for a drink in Glandore. We visited Michael Collin's birth place Sam's Cross and his local pub "Four All's Pub" where we enjoyed another drink. The evening was spent in Con & Maura's pub for a Night of Music and singing.

On Thursday we met at Emmet Court for a short bus journey to Courtmacsherry. We enjoyed a walk through a small forest, over green fields and along the coastline of West Cork. After a light lunch we returned to Clonakilty where that evening we were invited to a Bar-be-que in Scannell's Beer garden. The highlight of the evening was the drinking competition between the Irish and the Germans. The final results were not clarified but there was much fun had by all.

The Friday Morning was free to take it easy. In the afternoon we went to Inchidoney Beach on the Tschu Tschu Train where Niall, Marcus and Wolfgang went for a swim in the ice cold Ocean to show us how brave they were. In the evening we were invited to a Bar-be que by Vincent and Caroline Kingstone in Clogheen. They have holiday homes were 8 people from Waldaschaff stayed. It was a cold but a lovely evening with beautiful food and lots of drinks.

A man of 81 years of age played Music and sang Irish songs.

The next Morning was free again and at 1:30 we were invited to Danny Lordan's "Golden Retirement Village" in Clogheen. The Mayor of Waldaschaff Marcus Grimm had the honour of laying the foundation stone. Afterwards Lore Steigerwald the chairperson of "Freundeskreis Clonakilty" was also honoured to open the new garden "Lore's Garden" in Golden Meadows Nursing home. We celebrated with refreshments, Irish Music, singing and dancing together with the residences in the Nursing home. The evening was spent in the Imperial Hotel with a kind invitation from our host Danny and Kathleen Lordan.

After Sunday Church, we paid our traditional visit to the Brewery Bar. The evening was spent in Dunmore House Hotel where we enjoyed the beautiful views, a relaxing evening and an evening meal.

Monday was free for shopping, relaxing and recovering. A small group went fishing and a few women paid a visit to Cork. That evening we were invited to the town hall by the Mayor

M's Phil O'Regan and the unveiling of the sand stone by Marcus Grimm and Lore Steigerwald. Pleasant words were exchanged and all parties were thanked for their hospitality and friendship.

The host families were then invited to the Imperial Hotel for an evening meal by the Freundeskreis Clonakilty and the Mayor Marcus Grimm.

The farewell party continued in Con & Maura's for the last few drinks.

We departed Clonakilty the next morning at 8:00 on our return to Germany. Collected by a bus in Frankfurt --Hahn, we arrived back in Waldaschaff at 17:30. An enjoyable trip and holiday was had by all and we were all impressed with the friendliness and hospitality we received in Ireland.

Thank you