



The York Club has been twinned with Erlangen since 1984 with meetings taking place in each of the countries in turn on a bi-annual basis, creating many long standing friendships. The party visiting Erlangen included President David Fotheringham, his wife Janet, and nine other York Rotary members and partners.

Two full days of visits, excellent fellowship and good drinking and dining !!

Here are David's recollections of the visit.....



#### Thursday May 26th

A party of eight Rotarians some accompanied by partners, making a total of eleven visited Erlangen from the 26th to 29th May.

We travelled by different routes and modes of transport and in spite of some delays on the way we all got to Erlangen in time for the gala dinner on Thursday evening. Jan Dash unfortunately fell and broke her nose and wrist at Berlin airport, in spite of that she made the most of the trip.

Diana and Nigel's travel plans were frustrated by having to spend a night in a hotel at Schiphol airport.

The welcome dinner was held in a lovely fish restaurant Fish Kitchen Nutzel on a fish farm about 5km out of Erlangen. It was a nice sunny evening and Janet and I were lucky enough to be taken there in a perfect 1960s Jaguar belonging to Thomas from Erlangen. After excellent food we had some short welcome speeches and started to reacquaint old friendships and make new friends.

Friday May 27th

Friday morning we set off to Coburg by coach. Coburg is a lovely historic town and the first thing we all did was to sample the Coburg sausages in the market square.

The sausages are 10" long and they are cooked over fir cones and are then served in a small bread bun. The sausages were much enjoyed as you can see from the photograph of Frank and Frank.



After a tour around Coburg we were then taken to Schloss Rosenau where we had lunch followed by a tour around the palace.

The Schloss was interesting because it was a former castle converted into a ducal family house. It was the birth place of Prince Albert.

It was then back to Erlangen in time for the gala dinner.



Coburg

The gala dinner was held in the Schwarzer bar/restaurant. We had an excellent dinner followed speeches from President Klaus of Erlangen and then myself. I gave the introduction in poor German.

Following me Mary Lumley gave a speech in German inviting Erlangen to visit York next May, they were delighted to have that invitation and they were impressed by Mary's High German.

As part of the speeches I presented Erlangen with a picture of the West end of York Minster along with personal gifts of York Gin, York Chocolates and jars of Marmite. Marmite was a difficult concept for the Germans to imagine, but in reality the process was discovered by a German Scientist Justus Von Liebig.



The final speech was from Wilfried and it was very inspirational covering events of the last two years and included grateful thanks from Erlangen for our donation to their flood appeal.

On behalf of Erlangen Wilfried then presented us with engraved tumblers, these were engraved by one of the Erlangen members and reflected the Erlangen sky line



which Erlangen use for their club logo. The glasses will be a lovely reminder of the visit.

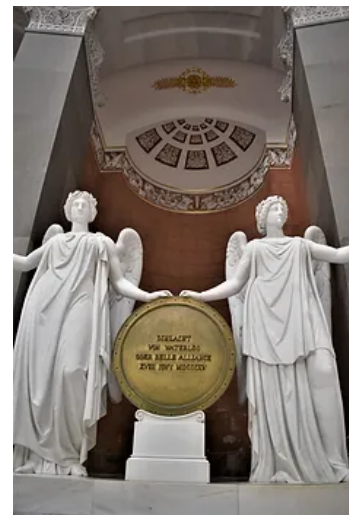
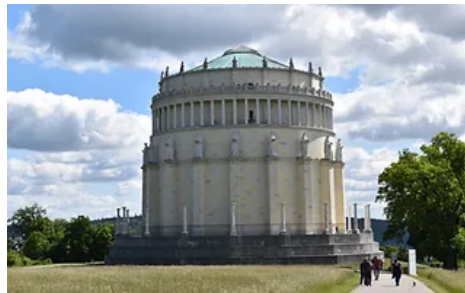




Saturday May 28th

On Saturday we went by coach to visit Kelheim in southern Bavaria. We visited the Kelheim Hall of Liberation.

The Hall is in a magnificent elevated position looking down on the Danube. The Hall is an architectural masterpiece with a lovely domed roof as you will see from the photographs.



After the visit to the hall we went on a forty minute boat trip along the Danube to the Weltenburg monastery.

At the monastery where we enjoyed lunch and yet another beer. It was then on the coach again for the journey back to Erlangen.







After a short rest we all went to the Steinbach brewery bar and restaurant for a meal and a few beers.

After eating the evening was finished off by a sing song lead by Frank Paterson and Johannes Wilkes from Erlangen. When Frank asked if he could conduct a sing song I was nervous, was Frank going to choose appropriate songs.

Frank introduced the singing by explaining that it was a you and us singing competition, faces looked a bit serious until Frank said we would sing in English and Erlangen would sing in German and he hoped we could find a song that we could sing in a common language, at that point everyone cracked up laughing.

Frank led us in the first song and then Johannes and vice versa. It was a magnificent end to the evening, Frank behaved, we all had great fun and we were still smiling the next morning..



Sunday May 29th

Sunday morning brought the weekend to an end and we all set off back to the UK by our various different routes and modes of transport.

We were all agreed that it had been a fantastic weekend. We were really well looked after by the Erlangen Rotarians and the friendship was something special to enjoy.

We saw and experienced some great things over the weekend. One thing for certain was that we were exceptionally well fed over the weekend and we were never short of something to drink. The weekend emphasised the place for great international friendship.

After two and a half years it was nice to be abroad again, even though we were a bit rusty on airport procedures and had to go through the slow lane to get our passports stamped.

The planning for their visit to York next year now starts so as to ensure that we give them a very memorable experience.



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*Auf Wiedersehen.....*

