



# PRESTON TWINNING PARTNERSHIPS

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Date: 15<sup>th</sup> May 2007

## Report PTPs Almelo visit May 2007

### 1.0 Introduction

1.1 Preston College was represented at an International Cooking Competition on Friday, 11<sup>th</sup> May 2007 by six students and were accompanied by two teachers.

1.2 The competition had been organised by the three Twining Committees in Almelo representing their interests in Preston and their German and Turkish twin towns. The German and Turkish twin towns were represented by the same number of students and teachers.

1.3 All three College groups arrived in Almelo on Saturday, 5<sup>th</sup> of May and enjoyed a full programme of appropriate visits together before Competition Day on the 11<sup>th</sup> of May.

### 2.0 Visit by members of Preston Twinning Partnerships

2.1 After some discussion Derek Smith, Brian Manning, Michael Dignan and Jürgen Voges decided to visit Almelo not only to attend the Competition to support the Team from Preston, but also to take the opportunity to hold detailed discussions with Almelo's Preston Committee about the proposed celebrations in Preston and Almelo for the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of twinning between them in 2008.

### 3.0 Report on Visit and Programme 10<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> of May 2007

3.1 Travel was by Jet2com from Blackpool to Amsterdam (via an unscheduled visit to Newcastle on Tyne en route) then by rail to Almelo arriving at Midnight.

3.2 The Almelo Committee had arranged a detailed programme for the representatives from PTPs and met the cost of all accommodation, transport and meals taken with them in Almelo.

### 4.0 Friday, 11<sup>th</sup> May 2007

4.1 A 09:30 hrs meeting at the Town Hall with Burgemeester Knip, other Officers and representatives of Almelo's Preston Committee proved to be interesting and informative. Mr Knip confirmed his Council's wish to send



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Twin-Town Representatives:

representatives to Preston to take part in the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebrations in May 2008 and, of course, to participate fully in the celebrations in Almelo in October 2008. The dates are subject to final confirmation.

- 4.2 Mr Knip also stated that he intended to write to the Chief Executive of the Preston City Council in the near future to request joint discussions about future mutually appropriate projects. Almelo's major forward plan is to be submitted to their council in early June for confirmation.
- 4.3 Mr Knip was informed about the draft programme of the PTPs for the Preston celebrations and confirmed that given convenient dates his Council will be looking forward to an invitation from Preston City Council to be present which would also enable further discussions to be held with reference to the item in § 4.2 above.

## 5.0 Visit to Pius X School

- 5.1 Meeting with the Head; with Victor Pirenne, English Teacher and Elly Scheepmaker, a colleague of his.
- 5.2 Thirteen teachers (incl. Victor Pirenne) from PiusX are visiting Preston from the 6<sup>th</sup> to the 10<sup>th</sup> of June and would like to spend a full day at Ashton High School, observing classes and participating in the lessons. PTPs will arrange an appropriate tour of Preston's attractions on one day of the visit. (50% of all classes at Victor Pirenne's school are taught in English!)

## 6.0 Cooking Competition

- 6.1 This took place at a newly opened Vocational High School. Teams participating were from Almelo, Preston, Iserlohn (D) and Denizli (Turkey). Nationally well known Chefs were employed as judges. The Students were divided into teams including at least one person from each town. They prepared and served lunch for a large number of specially invited guests (including the PTPs representatives). Individual prizes were awarded: one 1<sup>st</sup> and two 2<sup>nd</sup> prizes to the Preston team.
- 6.2 The competition had a real international flavour. The total costs were met by the three Almelo Comités from their own funds and significant financial support from their Council. (I cannot specify costs here; but for information I knew they got €7k from the Council and the Preston Comité quoted amounts like €3.5k from each of the other two Comités)
- 6.3 The Preston team was accommodated in the same hotel as the PTPs representatives and can confirm the very real value which the whole experience had been for them.

## 7.0 Saturday, 12<sup>th</sup> May 2007

- 7.1 Meeting between Almelo's Preston Comité and PTPs Representatives. Detailed discussions about draft proposals for celebrations in Preston and Almelo.
- 7.2 Preston dates now proposed for either 22-26 May or 29<sup>th</sup> May to 2<sup>nd</sup> of June 2008. Yet to be confirmed.
- 7.3 Preston's proposals centre on the proposed Arts, Beer, Wine and Food Festival along with a suggested formal meeting in the Council Chamber involving both Councils in a "renewal" of the twinning arrangements.



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- 7.4 Almelo's proposed dates are 22<sup>nd</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup> October to incorporate a variety of events, including concerts by the Longridge Band, a possible performance by the Certain Curtain Theatre and a Town Criers Competition.
- 7.5 Meeting with the Chairman of the SV Rietvogels Football Club  
Almelo proposed a game between the leading amateur club in Almelo and a team from Preston North End. This possibility was discussed. PTPs will take this back to PNE. (However, the PTP representatives feel that this will not happen in view of the major difference between amateur and professional clubs. If PNE dismiss the idea, they should be asked to consider holding a post-season game in Preston with a team representing Herades FC or Twente FC who are both professional teams in the area. It is possible that the Burgemeester would be prepared to put the proposal to Herades FC.
- 8.0 Saturday afternoon your representatives visited the Weaver's museum, the Baker's museum and Almelo's shopping areas. The Almelo Comité Invited PTPs to dinner on Saturday evening at a newly opened Wok-Restaurant. On Friday evening PTPs had been invited to dine at the famous Preston Palace Hotel and Entertainment complex. (The Ball Room in this complex is to this day always referred to as "Ian's Hall" by the locals – because Cllr Ian Hall opened it officially many years ago).
- 9.0 Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> May 2007
- 9.1 Further informal discussions were followed by a unique ride in a horse-drawn covered wagon into the beautiful and lush green countryside around Almelo. They used us as an experiment as the plan to possibly include this experience in their October 2008 celebrations. This was followed by a typical Dutch lunch in a local restaurant.
- 9.2 Many of the Almelo Comité and also Gerda Wolters, the Secretary to the Burgemeester were at Almelo Railway Station to wave 'good bye' to our delegation.
- 9.3 Train & Plane were on time and we all arrived back in Preston by 23:15 hrs as predicted.
- 10.0 Conclusion
- 10.1 All the PTPs representatives agreed that it had been a very worthwhile and productive visit. Brian Manning and Michael Dignan were visiting Almelo for the first time.
- 10.2 The PTPs representatives met all their own costs. The only cost to the PTPs was the bill for bouquets of flowers bought for the female members of the Almelo Comité as a small token of our gratitude for their hard work in organising the event, their kind hospitality and for spending "Mother's Day" with us instead of being spoilt by their children.

Author: Brian Manning



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