

Backnang visitors to Chelmsford



I have been over to Backnang on many occasions and my hosts were Gerald and Elderheit Ruopp. They gave me amazing times while there, out and about around the area. When I wasn't at planned twinning events or on the stand selling English tea, marmalade, I visited the Christmas shop in Rothenberg and to the Neuschwanstein castle on the Austrian border, some wonderful caves and a boating lake with loads of dragonflies. Their kindness was amazing and friendship overwhelming, they even invited me to one of their daughter's wedding fifteen years ago. They came to stay with me while doing a walking tour around Devon and Cornwall and we got on like a house on fire. Ill health had made it impossible for me to be hosted by them any longer so their daughter Sabine, her husband Weiner and daughter Amelie then took on the role, and I've stayed with them for the past few years.

Three years ago Sabine, Weiner and Amelie stayed with me for a week and they had a very busy time in London, Maldon and Southend and getting to know Chelmsford. This month

they have just returned to Backnang after 9 days with me. They had a good flight here on the Tuesday 11th August, they said the wind was behind them as the flight from Baden, Baden was only 1hour and a quarter, but a bit of a rocky landing!! Wednesday was spent in Chelmsford and the evening was the partial eclipse. The following day they spent in London and a trip to Southend on the Friday and would you believe they went for a swim!!!. Saturday evening they had a chance to meet some twinning members for a social event.

They went to Chelmsford Cathedral for the 11.15am service on the Sunday. They were interested as Weiner is a deacon in a Catholic church in Backnang, could that be another link??.....Monday was a visit to Cambridge , they found out that the cheapest way go was to Stansted airport by X30 bus then the train to Cambridge. Tuesday was another trip to London. Wednesday was the highlight of Sabine's visit as my daughter, Amber, had managed to contact Julie Belemore from Chelmsford Gymnastics Club. We all met Julie in SONGS restaurant in town, when Sabine and Julie were able to talk for about an hour and a half on whether there would be a possibility to have a link between the gym clubs, we do hope so.

Such a busy few days but great fun and enjoyment, they are not treated like visitors but family.... They did some watering in the garden for me and picked blackberries so I could make a blackberry and apple (from the garden) crumble.....I gave them cooked breakfasts every day, provided a packed lunch and cooked meals at night. We had such an amazing time together..

Liz Sutton