

Anniversary Trip 20th anniversary twinning Hoorn-Příbram.

In the context of the above jubilee a small delegation departed on 20 September to Příbram. These 15 men small delegation consisted of former members of the Foundation Twinning Hoorn-Příbram, including the first president, Fons Mok and members of the current administration, supplemented by a number of participants over the last 20 years who were in one way or another involved in the twinning.

Thursday afternoon we were picked up from the airport Prague by the firebrigade of Příbram and we were met at the Hotel Belvedere by Michal Gerčák, member of the twinning committee of Příbram. We waited a good meal and a free evening, partially spent with a long walk and even visiting friends or made early contact with former acquaintances.

Friday was marked by a day trip to the area Brdy. One area that until today is only accessible to the Czech army, by whom we were hospitably received. The area is about 650 meters above sea level. Brdy is a massive elongated ridge that extends 60 km from Prague to the southwest. It is still closed military area for the Czech army was used for own food supply. But also by the German army during the occupation of Czechoslovakia 1939-1945. We visited Padrt's lakes, two large lakes which every year alternately in October provided the army of fish. It was sunny but very cold and the open fire in the forest hut from the army rangers was warm and so was the hot coffee and tea. We visited the hunting lodge Tri Trubky. A military hunting lodge, which in our eyes looked somewhat bleak, but has served and still serve as shelter for important guests.

For lunch, the entire group looked for edible mushrooms. The driver of the bus knew which mushrooms were eligible for consumption.

In the restaurant that belonged to the military complex we were greeted with a buffet full of goodies, including a direct on the spot cooked mushrooms ragout of fresh harvest.

Meanwhile locks mayor Onno van Veldhuizen and Rob van Loon, chairman, joined our group. They had the morning for a visit to a rehabilitation center for the disabled in Příbram and have spoken to the director of this center. During this meeting, the mayor and the president SSHP both handed a check for 250 euros, which is the gift for the 20th anniversary.

After a visit to the ruins of the castle Valdek and a walk around the grounds we went back to Příbram to freshen up for the official part of the visit. The anniversary dinner at Hotel Belvedere. The modest group consisted of mayors, municipal officers and current members of the twinning committee Příbram and our own delegation. It was time for the speeches, we were serenaded by a delegation of miners and the presentation of the gift of Příbram. It was the unveiling of a carving of both our church logos, made by students of the technical school.

Hoorn will find a suitable place where carvings also can be admired by residents of Hoorn.

During this dinner were obviously new and old contacts above and were launched and exchanged ideas for the future. In November, the chairman of the Twinning therefore go back to Příbram to talk about the collective ideas and put them into a plan of activities 2013/2014. In line with our goal will be targeted projects.

Saturday there were no obligations, except for our Esther and Christine, who had given up on the annual cultural event "Svatohorska salmaj" in the field of Svata Hora children's faces to paint. The morning was unfortunately rainy and quite cold, but the afternoon the weather cleared and the sun came out again so that in a short time many children could experience the arts of both.

This does not mean that the rest of the delegation had no active day. Michael Bartels was the whole day out with his Příbramse colleague archaeologist (read his report), there were again contacts

strengthened with teachers of the school for the arts, old acquaintances were searched and searched us or we experienced the hospitality of the cultural festival on Svata Hora.

Afternoon at four o'clock Esther and Christine could no longer hold brush and we had to make it clear that the Hoorn tent was closing. Ank Pollman caused a short relaxing shoulder massage for both before the steps of the Svata Hora descended to our hotel.

In the morning it was decided that this visit to our company Pribram would end with a joint dinner in a restaurant in Pribram. It was a nice evening. The days were taken and activities and memories discussed. In addition, most delicious eaten and enjoyed a nice wine, although it came to our table very chaotic.

It was a memorable conclusion for particular Fons, he got his dinner only when everyone was already was ready. The fun was definitely not less and the salmon finally tasted delicious.

Yes, and then it was Sunday morning half past five, and there even was provided a breakfast for those early birds Hoorn. And again there were two firefighters ready for us to take us to the airport Prague. Transavia today was our very sake and after a nice flight and a smooth bus trip to Hoorn we say goodbye to each other.

This jubileumtrip was a nice and memorable end to a busy twinning anniversary year.

Hoorn, 24th of September 2012