

International guests took part in the anniversary celebrations

Visitors from the partnership towns of Marl participated in the town festival and presented their touristic highlights of their hometowns / Great reunion

The partnership societies are always busy in order to organise international meetings. In fact it is rather rare that all partnership societies get together at the same time and in the same town. This was quite special at the weekend of the 75. anniversary celebrations in Marl.

The mayor Werner Arndt welcomed guests from seven partnership towns. The visitors were from Creil (France), Pendle (England), Kusadasi (Turkey), Herzlia (Israel), Bitterfeld-Wolfen (Germany) and Zalaegerszeg (Hungary). Another group came from the town Changzhi (China), with which Marl has a cooperation. They came by car, bus and plane. It was an international festival!

The visitors from the partnership towns experienced a varied programme in Marl, starting with a guided tour through “the old Marl”. The regional guides Sylvia and Reiner Eggers showed historical traces and structural contemporary witnesses in Alt-Marl. Even some inhabitants of Marl could learn many new and interesting aspects about the history of Marl while walking around the St. Georg Church and the museum of local history. The visit of the international guests gave reason to the first guided tour in English. “I was a bit excited because it was the first time that I did this tour in a foreign language” said Sylvia Eggers. Afterwards the guests enjoyed a barbecue on the premises of the museum of local history. They celebrated their reunion. Minor language barriers were handled easily.

The international guests could experience the activities and attractions around the town-hall and the Creiler Platz during both days of the anniversary celebrations. Another highlight was the visit of two mining waste tips: Brinkfortsheide and Hoheward. The guided tour gave an impression of how green Marl and the surrounding areas are. In addition to that the guests experienced the close connection between Marl and the coal mining industry. Jürgen Milewski from Auguste Victoria and Johann Werner Flack, Haus Vogelsang (green space management) guided the tour. They explained the origin and development of the mining waste tips.

All explanations had to be translated into English and French. It was the first multilingual tour for Milewski and Flack.

The partnership towns introduced their tourism attractions at the anniversary celebrations for the first time in Marl. Michael Williams from Pendle in England presented the highlights of his home town in the tent of the partnership societies. Visitors can explore the story of the Pendle witches and enjoy long walks in a magnificent countryside.

Manfred Degen thinks that the meeting was “really pleasant”. The head of the partnership society Marl-Bitterfeld-Wolfen is happy about the fact that he could welcome a couple of new members. Ingrid Heinen, partnership society Marl-Creil-Pendle, is happy about the successful weekend as well. She sees the outcome of the international meeting in a positive way: “We spent a great weekend with our international friends and enjoyed the cultural exchange.”

Furthermore young people from Creil, Pendle, Zalaegerszeg and Bitterfeld-Wolfen accepted the invitation of the partnership societies and the Hüls AG-Stiftung and came to Marl. The adolescents from the partnership towns took part in the anniversary programme on the big stage in front of the town-hall. The band “Pyromic” from Creil presented French Hip-Hop. The group “Devil Princess” from Bitterfeld-Wolfen entertained the audience with showdance. Young adults from Pendle (KENT) and Zalegerszeg (winners of the ZEGASTAR competition) also participated in the programme.

During the last evening in Marl the guests made plans for meetings in the future. They were checking their diaries and timetables at the dinner table, in order to coordinate further meetings. All of them are looking forward to a reunion.

See you soon.

Bis bald.

À bientôt.

Allahaismarladik.

Viszontlátásra.

Xiàcìjiàn.

Šālōm.