



# Stichting Stedenband Hoorn - Příbram



## Report of our -th jubilee

Dear hostfamilies and best twin town interested,

It is behind us, our 25th anniversary. And what has it been a nice anniversary?

I want to let you enjoy this newsletter (for the host families) or let them know (for all those who still feel involved) how the past days have passed.

So, we start on October 4th. At about 22:00, after a long journey, the bus arrived with somewhat tired but enthusiastic guests at the Van der Valk hotel. The greeting was stormy in all respects. Host families were coupled as quickly as possible to guests, so as to allow the guests to acclimatize at home and prepare themselves for the coming days.



**Thursday 5th of October** became a well-filled day for our guests. For today there was a guided tour in the Westfries Museum, a visit to the Half Moon, a lunch at the WFM and a Virtual Reality performance in the WFM on the program.

The weather was unfortunately very Dutch. Fortunately, we were transported from one location to another "dry".



Despite the storm and rain, the mood remained well. During lunch at the WFM, director Ad Geerdink unexpectedly took the time to welcome our guests, which was greatly appreciated by all.



The visit to the Half Moon was interested for everyone. With the stormy weather, everyone could make a good impression of how a trip on this ship did not look like the current cruises. Especially the explanation ahead of the visit on the boat was clear and understandable.

The Virtual Reality performances in the WFM were also highly experienced. I was an observer this time and it was a lot of fun to see that heads went all the way during the show.



## Stichting Stedenband Hoorn - Příbram



At the end of the afternoon, the sun shone for a while and we decided to continue the planned walk to the lighthouse. Unfortunately, in the middle of the dike, the rain came over us and everyone was soaked. But with a good glass of beer and / or hot tea, this day was finally closed in all gratitude. Our guests had their evening meal with the host family and many of us made sure that the bedroom was already visited quite early.

This evening our chairman picked up Mr Jindřich Vařeka, the mayor of Příbram, from Schiphol. He would be the guest of Mayor Jan Nieuwenburg at Jubileeday and after the anniversary celebrations he would go to Příbram again on Saturday morning.

**Friday 6th October** a small group had a “working” program and a free day for the majority.

The firemen from Příbram went to military airport De Kooij in Den Helder in the morning and the fire station in Hoorn in the afternoon.

The teacher and two students of the Gymnasium from Příbram followed lessons throughout the day and made contact for an exchange with the Copernicus school.

The head of the Příbram Free School went to visit the Westfriese Vrije School Parcival.

Head of the music school Příbram has contacted Gerard Boedijn Music School.

And finally, the mayor of Příbram, the head of the state archives of Příbram and the employee International Affairs, visited the Westfries Archive, with whom they are keen to realise an exchange together with the association Oud Hoorn.

Both mayors met for the first time at lunch in the Hoornse Hop restaurant.

Following this introduction, the chairman of the association Oud Hoorn led the group by, in particular, the construction projects that have grown in the inner city of Hoorn in the years

The walk was walked under sun rays that even heated us in Hoorn.



After that, it was time to go back to the host family or hotel and prepare for the jubilee evening held at Grand Café Turf

The evening had an informal character, with official parts, both speeches of mayors and handing over gifts. Příbram received a Unicorn seal of 500 euro for the further development of the Erasmus + project and an aerial view of the municipality of Hoorn. Hoorn received a photo of photo artist Jiří Jiroušek from Příbram Svata Hora. That will find a place in our city hall.

Our foundation also received a Unicorn stamp of 500 euro from the municipality of Hoorn.



# Stichting Stedenband Hoorn - Příbram



After that it was for everyone, guests, guest parents, (old) city councilors, (old) board members of the Stedenband Hoorn-Příbram Foundation and many other interested parties the beginning of a good evening with watching the film, the exhibition, memories, making a dance and playing the original Dutch game Sjoelen. The music sometimes dominated something, but as someone from the first hour said, "it's the young people who dance now, who you need in the future for keeping this bond alive, not the oldies."



After that, Jan Nieuwenburg opened the small foto exhibition and started the film with interviews made with Příbram and Hoorn residents in the past and present involved in this 25<sup>th</sup> bond.



We will link this documentary to our website so that everyone can see and listen to these conversations. The small exhibition also goes to Příbram.



# Stichting Stedenband Hoorn - Příbram



morning the bus really wanted to get away at 8.00 o'clock.

**On Saturday the 7th of October** the sun had disappeared again and it rained “pijpenstelen”. Nevertheless, for some of the group, there was no reason to stay home and they went by bus to Enkhuizen for a visit to the indoor and outdoor museum. A number of guests stayed in Hoorn, nice at home with host parents and, of course, Amsterdam was still in the running.

Our firefighters have had a great afternoon on the water thanks to the cooperation of Notwin rescue brigade. Not used to much open water and extreme wind it was a great experience for them to experience how to deal with emergency weather and what a lifeboat should do and how it feels.



**Sunday morning, October 8 at 07.45**, all guests were brought to the bus, everything was loaded and of course a group photo had to be made. After that, it was really goodbye with promises again and again that we would really see each other, either in Příbram or in Hoorn.



The evening meal was spent with the host families and eventually another group of hardliners came to Café De Beiaard to celebrate the end of the exchange with a beer. For some this ended in the night, but most of us have gone to bed on a reasonable time because the next



After the photo was taken it was discovered that not everyone was there yet. Too bad!!

What was proved this weekend is that bonds between towns are really useful, not only to close friendships, but to learn less well-known European countries through targeted project exchanges, to be curious about each other's working methods in every area, ideas and experiences. and yes, what's wrong with closing good friendships with European residents in this so anti-European era.

**It was a silver jubilee with a friendship band of gold.**