

Hebden Bridge Twinning Society

First friendship visit to Golegã: Saturday 15th to Wednesday 19th March 2014

The initial contacts between Hebden Bridge and Golegã (“Portuguese capital of the horse”) were exchanges between the equestrian centre in Old Town and stables in Golegã. This led to an invitation from Golegã Council to HBTS for an initial visit to explore possible friendship links. Their welcome was very warm and our programme was extremely interesting. The 1,000 year history of Golegã, Azinhaga and Pombalinho was covered as well an introduction to all the area has to offer today.



The mayor (seated next to Philip Dean) welcomes us



David Parry appreciates the art of carriage driving!



A young equestrian in a display of skill

The culture of Golegã is most famous for the wonderful Lusitanian horses bred in the stud farms of the area. The annual horse fair on the feast of St Martin is the high point of the year and hotels and guest houses in the town are surely unique in that they normally include stabling for horses.



The fascinating Quinta Da Cardiga – once farmed by the Templars.



The central square in Golegã



A vintage car rally in front of the Town Hall

However, the area has much to offer in addition to fine horsemanship! Modern sports facilities for swimming, cycling and football are available; and the local nature reserve looks very interesting. An eclectic range of museums is also to be found, including one celebrating the writer José Saramago (born in Azinhaga & winner of the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1998). Photography and vintage cars are key local enthusiasms – and that’s before we mention the wonderful cuisine of the area....



The beautiful studio of the famous 19th century photographer Carlos Relvas



A fine display of traditional dance



In front of the church with our new friends from Golegã

Jane Jackson
26th March 2014