

Friday 6th September

Arrival in Halle

Sue Walker

After three nights in Berlin it was off to Halle for the first exchange. Mind you we nearly didn't all make it! We had ordered two seven-seater minibuses to get us to the station but, as they only had one available that is all they sent, without telling us. Fortunately we were able to find taxis and made it to the station in plenty of time.

We arrived in Halle to be met on the station platform by our hosts with a welcome placard. Then we were off to our respective homes. Our hosts, Birgit and Ernst live out in the country in a small village called Reinsdorf, and after about half an hour we arrived at a delightful cottage with a lovely large garden. They even have a dedicated BBQ hut that we used another night.



After a quick lunch, we set off to visit the local area. Reinsdorf is part of the old city of Landsberg which was celebrating its 1050 year anniversary. There are some beautiful old buildings and we even went into the pub to look at the old paintings on the wall. We then walked up the local 'mountain'. On the way home we visited a large pottery shop that has an extensive Christmas shop. There were lots of amazing Christmas decorations but I resisted the temptation.

It was then home to change for the welcome dinner which was held on a boat moored on the Salle River in Halle. We parked some distance away so that we could go to a lookout and get a good view of the city and the river. There are several old ruined castles in the area and an interesting bridge over the river, with the cow and the horse symbolising the coming together of town and country.



All in all a very pleasant day to start our German exchange.

Saturday 7th September

Harz Mountains

Bob Walker

Being the wonderful hosts they were Birgit and Ernst gave us choices of where to go on this free day, so we chose the Harz Mountains, which are on the boundary of the former East/West Germany on the East German side.

They rise to just over 1000 meters and are about 2 hrs West of Halle ...well, if you travel between 160-180 Km/hr it is anyway! The former E German autobahns are newer and better than many in former West Germany. Very smooth ride, but the number of wind farms throughout Saxonia is mind blowing, as well as visually ugly.

The Harz are a magical area, full of medieval charm and beautiful villages. We went to the main centre of the mountains – Thale – and took a cable car up to the tops of the hills surrounding the town, where we had great views of the surrounding German plain.



Then we went back down for a wurst and soup lunch and a wander round the quaint town. The weather was very pleasant throughout, 22deg, and we then spent time visiting shops etc.



Thale is famous for its Hexes (witches) and there were a few walking around, some telling tales to groups of tourists, and little reminders of them everywhere with bronze/copper statues as well as souvenir shops full of associated 'witch' artefacts.

We then dropped in on Quedlinburg, - a world heritage town- with some impressive houses and pretty buildings all around. While there we saw a fashion parade being held (in open), with young girls strutting their stuff.

In all a most enjoyable day in a beautiful and tidy part of Germany and with excellent company!



Sunday 8th September

Day trip to Dresden

Ngairé Durnford

We arrived in Dresden after a 1 ½ hour bus ride from Halle Saale.

Dresden was once known as the “Florence on the Elbe” but in 1945 after intense allied bombing it was reduced to a city of rubble. Today it has been completely restored with many historic buildings rebuilt stone by stone back to their original state.



Zwinger Palace

10.00am was the start of our days sightseeing.

Our first visit was to the Zwinger Palace built in 1710 for Augustus the Strong. We stood in the blazing sun while Gutrun (Halle Saale FF member) spoke enthusiastically about it and told us the history.

We then went on to the restored Semperoper Opera House. In previous times it had premiered famous works by Richard Wagner & Richard Strauss. Continuing on, we were shown a huge mural Furstenzug (The Procession of Princes). This is made up of porcelain tiles and is 101 metres long, depicting 35 noblemen in the Saxony history on horseback.



Furstenzug Mural

By this time, we were ready for lunch, Halle FF had organised a packed lunch for us, this was eaten beside the river. Then to our surprise we boarded a boat and went for a 2 hour boat ride on the River Elbe passing some wonderful countryside.



Frauenkirche (Our Lady Church)

After lunch we continued our sightseeing, to the Dresden Frauenkirche (Our Lady Church) a church with one of the biggest domes in Europe.

Then onto Taschenberg Palace now a luxury hotel, then we stopped to look at the Martin Luther Statue in the square.

John, Gutrun and I climbed the 220 steps to the top of the Hausmann Tower for beautiful views over the historical centre of Dresden. After an exhausting day we climbed back on the bus for our return trip to Halle to be collected by our host at 7 p.m.

This was a free (non-programmed) day, and our hosts Wolfgang and Monika took us to meet up with host Myanna and her guest Joy for a combined day trip drive around the countryside south of Halle.

First stop was the town of Naumburg about 50km away, where we visited the historic Dom St Peter und St Paul cathedral. It mostly dates from the 13th century and is famous for the many fine interior carvings and sculptures created back then by an anonymous craftsman known as the “Naumburg Master”. Most interesting were 12 full-size stone statues of nobles known as the “Founders”, who donated for the Dom’s construction in the 10th century. These figures are both works of art and novelties as, in contrast to religious statues of the time, these depict movement and gestures in their bodies and realistic facial expressions reflecting their personalities. Most well-known are those of Ekkehard II and his young wife Uta.



From the cathedral, we drove out of town towards Bad Kosen for lunch at a homely rural restaurant beside the river Saale called the Fischhaus which unsurprisingly served a variety of fish meals which we all enjoyed.



A few kms further on in the small town of Bad Kosen we were taken to a most curious wooden structure which turned out to be part of an historic salt works. This preserved “Gradierwerk” (graduation tower) from the 18th century is a working relic, and shows how salt water from mineral springs is pumped to the top and trickles down the vast sides made of blackthorn twigs to a channel at the base, becoming more concentrated through evaporation. Nowadays, long since being used for salt production, it is used like an open-air inhaler for people with respiratory problems who can breathe the briny mist rather like “taking the sea air”.

Strolling through the Gradierwerk Park, we stopped at a viewing point and looked over the Saale valley, past the edge of the pretty town, to the forested hills beyond.



To conclude the day, we drove out of the town a little way to a solitary café sitting on a promontory high above a bend in the Saale, and had afternoon tea on the patio. From here we had a panoramic view of the countryside and the nearby hilltop castles of Saaleck and Rudelburg. This was a relaxing conclusion to a very pleasant and interesting day before heading back home to Halle.

Tuesday 10th September

Halle

Lis Pyle

Halle is the only large East German city not badly bombed in the war. We started our walk in the square with Handel's statue a land mark here; then visited the Market Church where he learned to play the organ. 14 streets lead into the square, which contain some 4th Century housing.

Meeting in the square – looking down from the shopping centre, which gave great views of the city

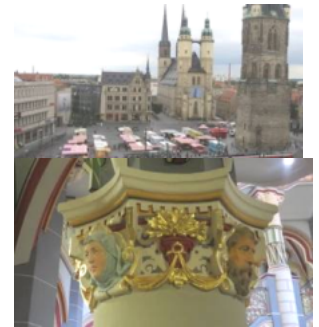


Much of the ancient part of the city has been restored, though some houses still are in need of restoration.

We visited the very ornate state court and the Martin Luther University founded in 1694 and closed by Napoleon in early 1800. In 1813, following Napoleon's defeat a new University was built by the Prussian state. In 1757 the first women were able to become doctors.



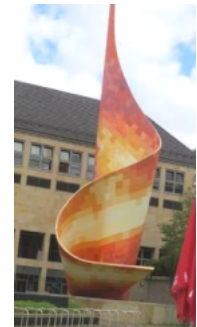
State Court



In the square near the State Court is the Flag Monument, which represents the flame of the revolution.

Flag monument

Walking further round the circle of the city we came across the 2 year old fountain depicting the changing ages of man.



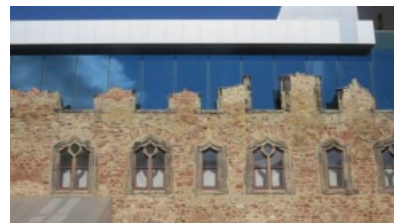
We saw the Dome – home of the Cardinal, one of the two Halle castles and Handel's birthplace.

Halle is a beautiful city and walking around, admiring buildings of interest and beauty made this a special morning.



I loved the windows, which look like lidded eyes;

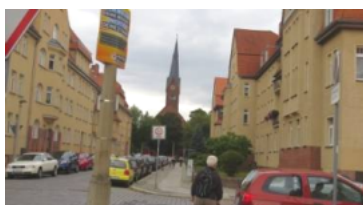
and the modern building incorporating the old



After lunch, Sigi took Jeanette and me to the Salt Museum – Technisches Halloren und Salinemuseum. Here is recorded the history of mining highly concentrated brine from the middle ages to 1964. The Halloren – salt working brotherhood of the Saale Valley – is an organisation still in existence and we were fortunate to meet the Hallore depicted in the pamphlet, who escorted us around the museum. The organisation has a prominent position in the city; members are appointed by lineage, have city privileges and wear a characteristic dress uniform.



Jeanette and Lis with "our" Hallore



Then home by tram to our inner city apartment built in the 1900's; in this area the streets are cobbled.

Near our apartment

We left Halle by train at 0925 arriving at Leipzig 35 minutes later. We passed through beautiful countryside where crops had been recently harvested.



Leipzig has a population of approximately half a million and is about the same size as the state of Saxony. Leipzig has played an important role in Germany and also Europe, as a commercial city. It is the oldest German trade fair centre and was not affected by the 40 year GDR regime. It is about 1000 years old and has been a major cross road between east-west and north-south. In 1479 it had trade fairs and had the right to be the only trading town within a 100km radius. By 1756 the city had established a number of publishing houses. The city flourished in every respect and became well known for its affluent and

varied lifestyle. It became known as a mini Paris. During the 2nd World War, Leipzig was badly damaged. The old buildings suffered total neglect but the trade fair remained. Following the opening of the border in 1989, a new era began. Many buildings were restored and Leipzig is once again experiencing a time of prosperity.

Nicholas Church

Built in 1165, this church is the biggest and oldest in Leipzig. It was situated at the intersection of two important north-south, east-west trade routes and was dedicated to Nicholas, the medieval patron saint of merchants and wholesalers. In 1790 it was redesigned in a neoclassical style. In 1862 an organ was built and is the largest within the State of Saxony.



In October 1989 the church played a major role in the opening of the border. Always known as a gathering place for the curious, the regime critics and the Stasi (State Security Police), the driveways to the church were closed by police during a day in the autumn of 1989. This was to prevent the usual crowd from gathering. However more than 10,000 people assembled with candles burning and protested in a peaceful manner. Military troops and police were drawn into this environment of peace and although some arrests did occur, this movement of non violence played its part in the collapse of the dictatorship.

Monument to the Battle of Nations



This well known landmark is situated where a battle was fought in 1813 where Napoleon was defeated. It is dedicated in 1913 to fallen soldiers, 100 years after the battle. The concrete and granite structure is 91 metres high, and contains a museum where uniforms, equipment, souvenirs and other memorabilia reflecting the soldier's life during that period are displayed. A panoramic view of the city can be seen from the dome which is accessed by 2 elevators and then many steps. In front of the monument is the Lake of Tears representing the many tears that were shed for all fallen soldiers.

We left for Halle by train at 1705 having experience a full and rewarding day at the city of Leipzig.

Thursday was a free day. My hosts Helga and Horst set off with me to Wolfen about one hours drive from Halle to the home of Renata a F.F. Member and also the mother in law of Helga's daughter.

Renata had prepared a wonderful breakfast in her garage for 20 of the Halle and Wellington F.F. group. The garage was beautifully set up and was very interesting as Renata had hosted many F.F. People and they had signed their names on her garage wall. It was interesting to see the different F.F. countries that had visited her. Of course we all added our names to the wall. She had a very beautiful garden that was lovely to walk through, and she had a swimming pool, it would have been nice to have had a swim, however it was drizzling and too cool.



Breakfast was a typical German feast, cheese, meat, bread rolls, hot tomato soup and very interesting and tasty was soft cheese with raspberries mixed into it. Topped off with champagne, which I am sure those who like to drink such unpleasant liquid thoroughly enjoyed.

A group of us then had the privilege of visiting the former 'Photo Vademecum' which is where the film for A gfa was processed. We were taken through the factory and told the history of making the film for cameras before digital came in. It was a very complicated and lengthy process to produce the film. Workers worked in the total darkness and we were told it was a very grueling hard job.

The group then headed back to Halle where several of them went shopping for shoes.

That evening we attended the farewell dinner, again we were impressed with the wonderful German food. The Halle F.F. Choir entertained us with songs interspersed with stories which they had put a lot of thought and time into. We responded with our usual rendition of Pokarekare ana and the N.Z. Anthem. Sadly it was time to say goodbye to the very friendly and hospitable Halle F.F. group.



I was so privileged to have been hosted with Helga and Horst, we had many laughs and shared family stories, they made me feel so comfortable and welcome in their lovely home. I even had a little knitted cover in the shape of a chicken to put over the boiled eggs to keep them warm, so cute to have a little chicken looking up at me at breakfast.

I look forward to keeping up the friendship with this lovely couple.

Tuesday 17th September From Vienna to Pecs via Budapest

Kate Hector

After a lovely evening with a group from the Vienna club, we all met at 7.30am in the hotel lobby, ready for our next leg of the journey.

Everyone handed in their keys and we were ready for our walk, the 5 minute walk to the train station, unfortunately it was drizzling, but we made it safely to station and we did manage to pick up somebody's left backpack. Found the platform number and made our way there and into our carriage and seats, not many people on the train to Budapest so we were able to spread out.

The trip to Budapest went well and we arrived safely, Rhys and John went looking for the Hungarian ticket office as we needed to get our seat numbers. Off to platform 13 and onto the train ready for the last leg of this journey. It was a 3 hour trip to Pecs, the countryside was very green and lots of ploughed fields, there were a few cows and sheep in some of the fields.

Unfortunately there was nobody at the station to meet us, Kate had made a stupid mistake and not let Kriszta know the change in our arrival time. We all moved into the waiting room, a bit like a sheep enclosure, no seats just railings to lean against. I went to find the ticket office and found a very nice young lady with very good English. I told her my problem and the need to find a telephone number for Kriszta. She was not listed in the book, so I asked if there was Wi-Fi so that I could get into my emails, she offered me her computer and we found Kriszta's mobile number at the bottom of one of her emails. The young lady then phoned and told her that we were at the station waiting. I was able to return to the waiting room and told the group their hosts were on their way.

As soon as Kriszta arrived and we had introduced ourselves I took her to one side and told her about Lis and how she was yellow, her reply was "is she Chinese?", with that I asked Lis to come and speak to Kriszta so that she could see for herself. I left Lis tell her about the health problem, fortunately one of the hosts was a GP and when she arrived, she told Lis that she had to go to A & E, with that everyone left with their hosts.

Kriszta, David, Judith and I collected our luggage and went to the car and we made the long drive out to Kriszta and Lajos home. We arrived to be met by 2 large dogs, which were very well behaved. We were shown around the house and told where everything was, we then went to our rooms, had a quick clean up and down stairs to meet the family. We were offered a drink of plinka, I was the only who accepted, followed by lots of talking about the programme and Pecs in general. After dinner Kriszta did phone to find out about Lis, she had been kept in hospital for the night and the doctor would see her again in the morning.

Off to bed another day tomorrow

Wednesday 18th September

Pecs

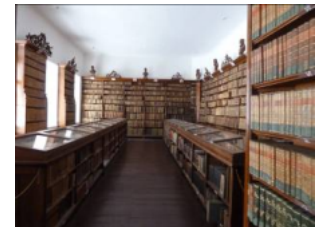
David Hector

Our first full day in Pecs is scheduled for the walking tour of the city and the welcome dinner so after a breakfast of cereals, bread and apricot jam at 8am we set off to meet the rest of the group. Along the city wall much of which is in quite remarkable condition, to the castle and Bishop's palace and the 16th century barbican.



Past a plaque commemorating the three concerts Liszt gave in the city to the nearby Catholic Basilica of 1009, built on the foundations of a Roman Cathedral of the 4th-5th century the crypt of which remains. The Turks, who occupied the city from 1543-1686, did not approve of depictions of the human form and destroyed all the statues and then used the building as a store only for it to revert to its proper purpose after they left. The decoration of the building dates from the 19th century and was restored in 2009. Extensive Roman ruins have been excavated nearby and are very well preserved under cover from the elements.

The Klimos Library was our next stop, originally closed to “idiots or lazy people”. 60% of the material is in Latin and the catalogue is absolutely essential as the works are shelved by colour and style of binding!



The church in the main square was taken over by the Turks as a mosque during their occupation only to revert after they were defeated. The Bishop of the day ordered that bells be rung at noon every day to celebrate the victory and this is still observed today with bell mounted on a telescopic tower which rises to a considerable height for the performance and the shrinks back down again at the finish.



We were then treated to an excellent lunch at the Hotel Palatinus of Veal and noodles followed by chocolate cake before setting off on a tourist train ride round many of the places we had visited on foot regrettably with a commentary entirely in Hungarian. The train consisted of several 4 wheeled trucks towed by a tractor disguised as a steam locomotive and is not on rails.

We then went to a shopping mall for afternoon tea/ice creams according to taste, where two of our number set off store alarms and were extensively checked out to make sure they were not pinching anything. On inspection it was found that some items of their clothing had RFID tags sewn in back in NZ and these must have triggered the alarms! From there we were all collected by our hosts and taken home to prepare for the evening.

The welcome dinner was self catered by the Pecs club and consisted of cold meats, salamis, salads, sweets and coffee with the usual speeches and a slide show.

Thursday 19th September

Pecs, ½ Day guided walk

Rhys Morris

The day started with a visit to the Regional Library. This was a great building boasting a catalogue of over one million books covering 14000sq meters. Although named a Regional Library it was also the university library and the city library. Casual users such as out of town researchers could buy daily passes to use the library's facilities. We were told that construction in Hungary is slow but this 14000sq meter building was completed 13 months. The building housed a magnificent beehived shaped ceiling which was heavily photographed by our party.

Walking on, we passed a very modern music hall which we unable to enter, but were told had first class acoustics and was used by many musicians of international acclaim. Continuing our walk we crossed an intricately designed steel bridge and entered the grounds of the Pecs University where we were told that courses that had outcomes in areas of labour shortages attracted no student fees. There was a magnificent chimney stack in the middle of a large square on this campus. The stack was the site of a former pottery factory and the large square also served as an entertainment area where music students of the university often performed.



Soon we arrived at the Sikorski Pottery Museum. Here we were greeted by a receptionist whose English was a little confused. She mixed up the words coat and clothes and warmly invited us to take our clothes off! With our coats safely in the cloak room we proceeded on a tour of the most magnificent collection of pottery. The collection was stunning and perhaps too overwhelming for the majority of us. The displays were endless and priceless. This museum housed that which could only be described as perhaps the world's best. A definite highlight of our Pecs visit.



It was hoped that we would be able to visit a nearby pottery factory but unfortunately it was closed to visitors on the day of our visit so we had to be content with looking through the windows as we walked by. The factory was an institution in Pecs with time honoured traditions and family connections over centuries. The staff loved their work but more-so, loved the factory's owner. When the owner died he was buried in mausoleum, on a hill overlooking the factory. The staff hand made forty two lions to line the pathway to the mausoleum.

After a short walk we found ourselves in a puppet theatre where we delighted in matching puppets to ambassadors!



Our guide had arranged for us to take the "Toot Toot Train" back to the town square. This was an interesting tour and soon found ourselves at a restaurant where we had a great lunch. After lunch the afternoon was free and we all dispersed in different directions to visit places of interest that were on our personal agendas.

Friday 20 September

Bus trip

Lyn Morris

We travelled by minibus to Kapsovar, over a flat landscape of sunflower and corn fields. We visited Macar (Turk Dostluk Parki), a Corn Leaf Museum, Tajhaz and Szenna. In the evening we attended a dance performance at the National Theatre.

1 The Turk Dostluk Parki is a Park of Friendship between Hungary and Turkey, near the town of Szigetvar. It commemorates a turning point battle in the advance of Suleyman 1 and his Ottoman Army in 1566. Two days before the battle at this place, Suleyman. While we were there, wreaths were laid in front of the memorial, and representatives of Turkish TV were there to film the event.



2 A Community Centre operates the Corn Leaf Museum. At the Centre, locals display products, such as purses, place mats, figurines and containers made from dried corn leaves and stalks. The Museum exhibits ideas and techniques from the Carpathian Basin as well as those from Transylvania (now Romania). The 11th Century village of St Louis (Szentlaszlo) was nearby.

3 Tayhaz. At the end of the 18th century, this area was settled by many Germans, who were very good winemakers, makers of clogs and blue paintings. We visited typical rooms in a German house. The front room was not used except for the arrival of a new baby or for funerals. The number of mattresses on the beds in this room was an indication of the family's wealth.



4 Szenna. This village hosted a Calvinist Baroque styled Church, built in 1785. The church was renovated and restored in 1945. The church was characterized by many flower motifs, especially tulips.

The houses were sourced from many different villages, most houses being at least 150 years old. The building style was somewhat unusual in that

there were no connecting doors between the rooms and each individual room opened up on to a common veranda.



5 In the evening we attended a two part performance at the National Dance Theatre. The first half comprised several short performances of modern and classical ballet. The second half was an exhibition of typical Hungarian music with Hungarian folk dances. The Hungarian dances were extremely energetic and the dancers were polished.

We learnt a lot about Hungarian history. We saw monuments relating to the Ottoman invasions, we saw villages that were settled by migrations from other areas of Europe (especially Gypsies and German migrants). We also learnt about the reduction in size of Hungary after the break up of the Austrian Hungarian Empire following the end of World War One. We also were able to experience Hungarian Culture through dance. A most enjoyable day.

Saturday 21st September

Eggs, Honey and Wine

Judith Burch

Our first visit that day was to the Egg Museum in Zengovarkony, a small multicultural village that has an amazing collection of decorated eggs. The museum was founded in 2000 and houses about 2,000 eggs from 21 countries, with the majority coming from Hungary. The eggs range in size from small quail to larger ostrich. The decorations are mainly folk motives, with some magic symbols and exquisitely decorated Easter eggs.



We then visited the next-door a weaving shop. It had a ‘clean’ room furnished with local furniture including looms, spinning wheels, chests, and plates.

Table cloths and napkins made of the local linen were for sale.

After lunch by a nearby lake we drove to Szekszard to visit the Honey-cake museum.

We were shown a video about the way the honey cakes were made. The original 100 year-old family recipe is still used. We were given some cakes to sample and they certainly tasted delicious. A by-product of the honey cake production is candle making. The sixth generation of the family now runs the business and they use modern means of communication, such as websites and email to advertise their goods.



By chance our visit coincided with the local Wine Festival and we were able to watch the parade with dozens of floats representing different victuallers and vineyards from the surrounding district. Some of the participants wore the typical costume of the region and the parade was accompanied by bands and horses. The nearby streets were lined with stalls selling local produce and handcrafts.



We then travelled south to Villany where we were welcomed by Imre Tiffan, the owner of one of the vineyards. After a dinner of delicious stew with dumplings, accompanied by some of his wines, we went down to the cellar where his best wines were stored. Imre showed us a system of ‘treasures’, which are like bank vaults where clients can store their most expensive wines. We were able to sample various wines and then Imre took the first sample of the 2014 vintage out of the barrel. This was a special ‘treat’ as it is very rare for next years vintage to be sampled so soon. We then drove back to Pecs.



Sunday 22nd September

Bus trip to Revber Puszta Farm

Joy McNicoll

Sunday morning dawned overcast, which was good for travelling north east for 1 ¾ hours through somewhat undulating farming countryside to view farm activities and sample traditional food. On arrival we were welcomed with peach schnapps, Hungarian cake and freshly baked pita bread – lovely. Soon we boarded one of two open carts pulled by horses, one with a 7 week foal travelling alongside, to tour the Farm. We travelled to the River Danube where we saw their small harbour, passing grazing horses and a stork's nest. A nearby village, graced by a steeple or two, was located on the other side of the farm.



On our return to the Farm buildings we went and viewed some of their other animals e.g. pigs, before joining other tour groups, many from Budapest, for lunch in a large covered shed filled with trestle tables and seats – a commercial operation!! Served by women in their national costume, the Hungarian Meat Soup was followed by Goulash and Noodles with Salad, then Cake and Coffee.

When all those gathered there had finally finished lunch their horse spectacle programme began. This concluded with caps being passed around for 'tips' for the riders!! Before returning to our bus most of us visited the craft stalls that were set up nearby. I was pressed into tasting some delicious honey, but with NZ's agricultural policies I had a good excuse not to purchase any.



On our return to Pecs I had time for only a little of the dinner by hostess Eva had prepared for me before leaving for the Theatre for an evening of modern dance performed by Hungary's famous Gyori Balett company. It was a real treat, and I also met some of my hostess's friends too, especially during the interval, several of whom spoke excellent English.

Monday 23rd September

Spa

Margaret Brown

A very cold day today, my turn to do the diary, so look forward to a thrilling account!!

Szigetuar is our place of interest today, and then the afternoon in the most relaxing Spas, at Szigetuar Furdo.



We started in the main square of Szigetuar. In the middle of the square is a Statue commemorating an Italian saint, St Rokus with his dog. He was an exceptional doctor and helped the people recover, with the help of his dog, from the invasions. He also helped look after the people after the great plague.

We started by viewing the church in the main square built in 1560 by the Turks. The windows are Turkish style made from beautiful stained glass. The church is now Catholic, but, was originally a mosque, devoted to Islam. The roof is 18 metres high, the dome was built by the Catholics in 1689 when everything became Christian and free. This town is now 80% Catholic 20% Calvinist.

In 1560, a 100,000 Turkish soldiers invaded this township, 2,300 local people were killed only 7 survived. We visited the memorial on the first day of our visit, which is called the Friendship Park commemorating this invasion and celebrating the friendship of the Turkish and Hungarian people. Nicholas from Hungary helped fight for this freedom.

We also visited the castle call Leghoslesebb Varos, which houses some original prayer writings on the walls dating back to 1617.



In the afternoon we went to the spa pools, originally Turkish baths. The water comes from 200-300 metres from under the ground at a heat of 70-90 degrees Celsius.

There are many different stages of heat in the various pools; some of them had water jets in the middle. When they started spurting forth everybody would rush to the jets to get a body massage, one had to be quick. Most of our FF force were daring and sampled the pools but there were a few that sat on the sidelines.

A good relaxing day was had by all.