

Band takes in some history on twin town concert tour

By Andy Kerr
News Reporter

THE CITY of Lichfield Concert Band returned "tired but happy" from a recent weekend tour to Lichfield's German twin town, Limburg an der Lahn.

Twenty-two members and their conductor, Mark Vause, were the guests of the Limburg Twinning Association.

The band was greeted by the deputy mayor of Limburg, Herr Michael Stanke, and tuba-player Dave Thomas, who organised the tour for the band, presented him with an engraved tankard to commemorate the visit.

A brief tour of the historic city followed, including a visit to the cathedral which boasts no fewer than seven spires.

Half-timbered houses, some dating to the 13th century, adorn the narrow streets and squares of the old town.

The band performed three times during the visit.

The first performance, on the

Saturday morning, was at a campsite near the River Lahn, at Diez, just outside Limburg.

A group of around 30 people braved the cold "typically English summer weather" to listen to the band and then joined them for sausages and beers.

That evening, the band performed on stage outside Limburg's town hall and council offices.

Again, the weather was cold, but a sizeable audience, including some dogs, stayed the course and enjoyed the varied programme.

The third 'gig' was at the Runkel Evangelical Church, where the band accompanied the hymn-singing and played before and after the service.

Robert Share of the City of Lichfield Concert Band said: "This marble-floored building had an excellent acoustic and was a joy to play in."

"Following a typical local lunch, Runkel's historic castle was explored."

Then, on returning to



Clockwise from top. The City of Lichfield Concert Band in Lichfield's twin town Limburg an der Lahn. The band plays by Limburg's "Dandelion" fountain. Tuba-player Dave Thomas, who organised the tour, presents a commemorative tankard to Herr Michael Stanke, deputy mayor of Limburg.

Limburg, the band performed an impromptu concert in another of the city's squares,

to the delight of other visitors and local residents of Limburg who were out and about on

Sunday afternoon excursions. The band wished to thank the twinning associations in

Limburg and Lichfield city for helping to make the tour possible.