



Intercontinental meeting of 2 slowest cities in the world:

As one of its original goals since starting 7 years ago, The Slow Festival has aimed to connect & collaborate with another international Cittaslow town. It is with great excitement that the 2016 festival organisers can announce that Sedgefield's Slow Festival will host members of and crafters from a Cittaslow Town in Turkey.

Plans started in the second half of 2015 when the Slow Festival committee was contacted by Nihat Özdal, chairman of the City Council & Cittaslow representative from the Cittaslow town of Halfeti in Turkey. "We started chatting via email and Nihat suggested the idea of himself and colleagues from Halfeti coming to our festival. He sent through a basic proposal of both Turkish crafts and foods that he would look to introduce to us at the Festival" said Slow Festival organiser, Amanda Dixon.

Having received the official 'green light' via an official Cittaslow letter from their side last week, plans have been set in place for 6 Halfeti delegates to fly out for the 2016 festival. Amanda approached K&P Sedgefield office manager, Belinda Hobson, to request help with logistics to secure 5 days of accommodation for the Turkish delegates during the festival from 22 to 27 March.

Enthusiastic about their visit to Sedgefield Nihat offers a hint of what to expect "We are going to bring our handicrafts such as mother of pearl inlaid copper, embroidery, stone carvings, paper marbling, mosaics and felt" said Özdal. "Also, we would like to introduce our traditional foods such as steak tartar a la turca, kebab with eggplant, chickpea roll, turkish delight with Rose, terebinth coffee, Halfeti pistachio, dried fig and apricots."

And so, with the imminent intercontinental meeting of 2 of the slowest cities in the world, be sure to diarise the dates to come and meet our Turkish guests on the Village Green in Sedgefield during the Slow Festival (25- 27 March).

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