

Bourne End (Bucks) Twinning Association Newsletter – June 2005 – No. 13



Group picture of the coach party with their hosts on arriving in Octeville sur Mer 28th May 2005

Official Twinning Visit

Over the weekend of 28th May 38 members of the Association journeyed to Octeville sur Mer to take part in this years twinning visit. For the first time most of the party travelled by luxury coach and crossed via Euro tunnel. As this was the weekend of the Referendum, when the French people would vote on the European Union Constitution, the occupants of the coach decorated the coach windows with appropriate encouragement (Qui, Non, Peut-être etc.) and arrived to a wild welcome by their waiting hosts.

Everyone quickly found their hosts and, after the obligatory group photographs, left, to settle in.

At 8 o'clock it was party time. The Soiree could not be held in the usual hall (Michele Adams), because it was being used for the Referendum voting, and therefore the soiree was held at the Le Havre Golf Club. An aperitif was served in the warm evening air and welcoming speeches delivered by M. Mairie, the Mayor, and Alain Richard, CJO President. After this guests and hosts entered the Golf club for dinner and as this progressed a theatre company provided, a magnificent cabaret in vivid costumes running over several hours.

On Sunday morning the CJO had built a large stall in the Sunday market and everyone was invited to take an aperitif. Soon a large crowd of

Bourne Enders and Octevillais had gathered and were deep in conversations enjoying each others company.

All too soon Monday morning arrived and it was time to leave our wonderful hosts and many friends behind. On the way back to Calais those travelling by coach and a few travelling by car took a guided tour of the Arc International glass factory. It was a hot day and even hotter in the factory, but everyone found something to interest them and everyone received a gift. Following the visit there was time for some shopping in Calais before catching the train to Folkestone for the homeward journey.

Quiz Night

It was a sell out for the annual Quiz Night held on 11th June at St. Dunstons Hall. The hall was full and noisy as the quiz got underway for 10 rounds of questions. As the answers were delivered there were many exuberant outbursts from tables as they celebrated picking the correct answers. It was a close run competition with little more than a few points separating the leaders, but at the end table 7, "Five Alive", was declared the winners and took the prizes.

All the money raised from the raffle was donated towards providing boat trips (see below) for the Discovery Visitors.

Discovery Visit

During the period of 25th to 28th June a party of children and parents from Octeville sur Mer visited Bourne End. On the Saturday most hosts took their guests to see the typically English fetes of Hedsor Fare and the Donkey Derby. Sunday afternoon was spent at a garden party beside of the river Thames and in enjoying rides aboard the "Alaska" the oldest working steam boat on the river.

Monday was school day and all the French children spent the whole day either at Claytons or St. Paul's School. The French children at Claytons School joined English and Maths lessons in the morning. At lunch time they had a traditional English picnic on the school field (organised by the Parents Teachers Association) followed by an afternoon of games. While the children were at school the parents and some of the hosts went to Windsor for a spot of sightseeing and shopping.

All too quickly it was Tuesday morning and time to leave. Everyone seems to have had a wonderful time and there were some tears as the children were saying goodbye to their new friends.

Our thanks to the teachers and parents of Claytons and St. Paul's Schools, and to Mr. & Mrs. S. Fitzjohn for the garden party and for making the boat trips on the "Alaska" possible.

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