

Lymm Twin Town learns to screw in a light bulb and pat the dog

Lymm has just welcomed fifty French visitors from Meung-sur-Loire as part of the annual family exchange between the two villages. The twinning is now 52 years old and joins voluntary member associations from both sides of the channel once a year following a year of socials and fundraising activities.

Each French family was placed with an equivalent host family from Lymm and the surrounding area. The Society then put on events to help people get together, re-kindle old friendships and get to know any new faces.

This year we welcomed our French visitors to Arley Hall for drinks and a Hog Roast evening meal. After that there was no rest for our guests as we set off at 8:15 the next morning for a day at the Ironbridge Museums. The final organised event was a dinner at the Hallmark Hotel in Grappenhall on the next evening. The evening began with a selection of tunes by the Lymm U3A Ukulele band and finished with a pair of "Bollywood Dancers". They really added sparkle and bounce to the whole evening. At the end of their set they let us join in and have a go at some of their moves. They simplified these for us by telling us to do things like "screw in a lightbulb" or "pat the dog".

We had four new families who hosted a French family for the first time. They were all delighted with how much fun it turned out to be. Here are three examples.....

Jenna Lombardi-Brown commented "The Twin Town Society offers the unique opportunity to not only experience another culture but to learn a new language while making lifelong friendships. Our family really enjoyed the group activities designed for all ages."

Claire Whitworth adds "So sad to say au revoir to our lovely French family. Thank you to everyone in the group for a wonderful few days, both James and I, and Tom and Anna have developed new friendships with our family that will hopefully last many years to come".

Lynn Bryant also adds "This is my first year in the Lymm Twinning Society and first year hosting. I have to admit I had my doubts about joining. Why have twin towns, after all, I can travel around France in my little camper van and it is not a problem. Yes my French may have improved a little, hopefully, but what I found out was that town twinning is really about building relationships and it's a long-term commitment. It has introduced me to new experiences and friends across all age groups in both Lymm and Meung. We met, mixed and got along and shared some really great times together. The events that were organised for the visit were fantastic... enjoyable, entertaining and educational...".

Plans are now in motion for next year's return visit in 2020, when English families will visit Meung for four days. Please contact the society if you are interested in getting involved. Lymm Twin Town Society organises social events to raise funds towards the next exchange visit. The next social event will be a summer barbeque and anyone interested in the society would be welcome to participate. For more details about the society, membership and events, contact lymmtwintown@gmail.com or visit www.lymmtwintownsociety.co.uk



Caroline Barr starts the official speeches at the Evening meal with the help of Olivia Lombardi-Brown and David Williams



The Society practising their dancing skills