

Wortham & Burgate Twinning



Joseph Tustian's Recount of the French Trip

The trip was a thrilling experience since I got to travel by plane for the first time in my life, the plane made my ears pop because of the pressure so we chewed Mentos on the way back which made me feel sick because of the sugar (they weren't minty). It was also my second time in France and my first I can remember. Alright let's start with my first day where I go to their French school...

At first I had a range of ideas, will the school be: boring, exciting, fun/enjoyable, interesting or scary. Luckily a person called Lyn translated for me and at break the children were very interested in me. They asked a mountain of questions which only 6-8 I understood so they used funny actions. To my exhaustion, twenty of them asked to race me, so after the seventh person I raced the rest all at once.

Later in the next lesson, we did SPAG ('spelling', 'punctuation' 'and' 'grammar'.) It was very confusing because it was in French but I caught along. Next I had lunch out of school, it was a picnic, my sister Amber came back too from her other school. Soon I joined the school again realising I was having fun at their school. I joined in their charity event, running round a big track which tricked you into thinking you'd got to the end and then the realisation kicked in that you had another long stretch to go. Even though I didn't have anyone to sponsor me somebody funnily enough gave me a leaf with writing on!

The run was tiring but a lot of people sprinted and were tired out at the start which I think was mainly because everyone was better at short distance. I jogged so I managed to do 8 laps before I found out everyone else in my group had stopped and were watching me, apart from one other boy who finished with me. We were given cake (I love cake!) and some brand of orange squash I'd never seen before but tasted delicious (I love orange squash!). The rest of day was spent looking at Louis' Pokémon cards and Smurfs which in French are Strumphps or something.

The next day we went on a mud walk! It was really fun; me and my sister threw mud and also kicked water at each other. Our guide gave us a history of this amazing castle on a ginormous hill and the ruins of another castle on a wider but shorter hill (what happened? Yes, exactly, the English invaded, got bored and left and so their fortress was sieged where they left it. Well done us ☺ I think there was also something to do with Germany trading stuff.)

After our mud walk in bear feet we looked at the refurbished shops in the castle that sold souvenirs, food etc. When all the adults were sitting down after we'd been around the castle, me and Louis secretly did rock climbing and we got onto a ledge because we found a bit that wasn't very steep but took some skill to climb.

Terrible news when we got back to their house, my feet were sun burnt and swollen red as well as my neck and legs, even though I put on sun cream (which I later found out was only lv 15) so I swam in their swimming pool and later we watched Big Hero 6 in their small movie theatre with an immense screen! (Of course, it was in French with no sub titles).

On the last final day we walked on cliff edges with little railing (which would be illegal in England) and later had pancakes and tried to buy souvenirs but the French refused to let us pay for anything as in *a-n-y-t-h-i-n-g a-t a-l-l*, even the pancakes *we* ordered! Dad tried to hide the pancake bill so we could pay for it but they snatched it when he wasn't looking. We left a big tip because they served the drinks and food in only about 2 minutes.

It was the greatest experience in my life because it was my first time on a plane and second time in France except I wasn't 2 years old. To sum it up I hope more and more children will come next because my sister and I were the only English children. The French will also come over to England. I can't wait for next year.



OUR TRIP TO FRANCE by Amber Tustian

The first thing that happened On the Friday 7th was that I went to a school (a French school) with Louis. Everyone there were really friendly asking me if I would like to play this game with a huge stretchy cotton band that you put around the bottom of your legs, but that's all I know. I didn't understand what they meant and how to play it.

When we got there, the teacher of the class came out and talked to us in English because she learnt some so she could talk to us she also learnt English with her pupils so she knew a bit. We also played Simon Said and I stood at the front to tell them what to do.

I answered lots of questions about my school. My Dad drew a picture of Britain on the board and said it was an old lady standing or sitting on a pig. He then drew a dot for Wortham and said it was on the pig's derrière (rump/bottom) which made them laugh.

My favorite thing was the mud walk on the beach it was rather muddy and when we finished our poor legs and feet were so sun burnt they were sore but it was still fun especially when I got these really nice wafer biscuits which were so tasty. The guide also showed us how to get out of this mud hole then after that we walked over to some rocks to have some lunch.



Hédé Visit, April 2017

On Thursday April 6th, nineteen members of the Twinning Association received a warm welcome from their hosts in Hédé who met them at Dinard airport. That evening we were all entertained for supper at various French friends' homes and thoroughly spoiled.

The next morning, we had a choice of activities. The one chosen by the majority was a trip to Cancale and an introduction to the cultivation of oysters, while a small group decided to take part in a cycle ride around Hédé and our two members of the younger generation, Joe and Amber went to experience school in France for the morning.

The sun shone as though it was summer and at lunch time we had a wonderful picnic by one of the eleven locks on the Ille et Rance canal for which Hédé is famous. In the afternoon, we were taken to Rennes, the capital of Brittany, to see Le Jardin du Thabor. This magnificent garden contained both formal and more rustic designs with glorious displays of colour lit by the Spring sunshine. In the evening our hosts once more entertained us generously at their individual homes with much laughter, chat, French cuisine and wine!

Saturday proved to be much more intrepid and we all rose early to be taken to Le Mont St. Michel. Here we boarded the shuttle to take us out to the famous monument, apparently the second most visited attraction in France after La Tour Eiffel. Before we actually set foot on Le Mont our hosts had organised a guide to lead us on a three hour walk around the bay towards an island called La Tombe à Hélène.

Most of us walked *pieds nus* across the sands and we traversed outgoing stretches of water carefully led by our guide so that the currents did not carry us away! He stopped at various points to recount facts and legends surrounding the area. The island is now a bird reserve but gained its name from the Breton princess who fell in love with a prince from Normandie, a forbidden alliance. Legend has it that she committed suicide waiting for her lover, who sadly never returned from The Crusades. The walk culminated in a picnic under the ramparts of Le Mont St. Michel and then we dispersed to explore the island and abbey as we wished.

That evening we were of course once more entertained in Hédé by our French hosts. Some members went to a local Rock concert after their repast and everyone slept soundly that night.

On Sunday, there was a committee meeting between the French and the English followed by a magnificent lunch in La Salle Polyvalente at Hédé-Bazouges. The tables were set beautifully with posies of red, white and blue flowers and following the meal various dignitaries amongst us gave speeches of thanks. Linda presented the French with some beautiful roses as a thank you and to mark 25 years of twinning, aptly named Friends Forever. Amongst the French and English were also Silke and Christian from Badbergen in Germany whose town is also twinned with Hédé. It was lovely to meet them and we hope to forge links with them in the future. We also met the members of the girls' basketball team who are coming to stay with us in July.

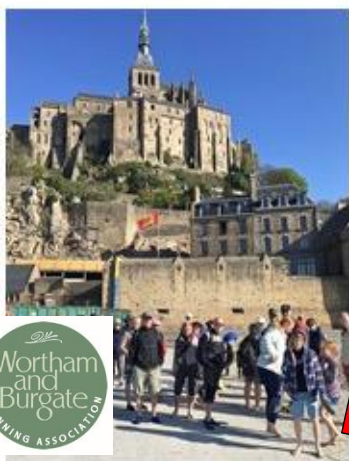
In the afternoon, we were given a choice of activities, a quiz, pétanque or the Breton game of palettes and in the evening the winners were presented with their prizes after we had danced to Breton music led by two ladies in traditional costume, who managed us very well! A barbeque was also organised in case we felt hungry...sausage galettes.

On Monday, the weekend was nearly over, but for those catching the plane at Dinard there was more interest in the shape of a visit to the picturesque town of Diann on the way.

Our French friends gave us a truly glorious weekend which has cemented friendships even further.

Frances Beasley





**More photos on
Twinning website**





Cancale Visit

After an interesting and informative tour of the oyster farm we were invited to sample the subjects of this labour-intensive process spanning three years to the maturity of the oyster. During this period, the molluscs are nurtured in wire sacks - turned and shaken (not stirred) several times a year to prevent them attaching to the netting - secured on trellises in the bay. When deemed to have sufficiently matured the oysters are thoroughly washed in seawater - preserving the flavour - and trained to survive periods out of water to facilitate the transportation of these delicacies to an appreciative market! I have to say they are an acquired taste and my enjoyment of them was much enhanced by the accompanying glass of wine!



Nikki



Links with Bad Bergen Germany

As many of you know, at the Christmas Market in Hédé in 2016 we met with some members of the Bad Bergen Twinning who are also twinned with Hédé. It was suggested at the time that it might be possible to develop a tripartite arrangement with Hédé and Bad Bergen.

We were invited to send a small group to join in the Bad Bergen visit to Hédé in October and Nick, Lynn Clarke Andy and I went over. We were hosted by the French and joined in all the activities planned for the German visitors.

During our visit to Hédé this month, two representatives of the Bad Bergen Partnerschaft (Twinning) joined us during our visit and activities.

We sought your views at the AGM and although there were some reservations people were generally in favour of trying to see how we might move forward with this idea. The reservations were concerned with the cost and practicalities of hosting additional visitors.

I have discussed this with my German counterpart and Bad Bergen are in a similar position to us in that they are a small community and have to fund raise to meet the costs of visits. They and Wortham Twinning Committee feel that perhaps the best way forward is to have links on a more personal basis perhaps facilitated by the Twinning organisations but kept informal.

Having said that, there is a possibility for a few people to visit Bad Bergen when the French go to visit them on 6 – 12 July this year. We are asking therefore anyone who might be interested in this lets us know. The nearest airport to Bad Bergen is Bremen although there might be a possibility of meeting the Hédé coach. Full details can be discussed if you are interested.

To find out more about Bad Bergen please see their website - <http://partnerschaftsverein-badbergen.de>.

Linda



Chairman's letter

Dear Members

As I think you all know, I have now taken over from Nick Beasley as Chairman of Twinning. Nick has done a wonderful job for us over the last four years and will continue to do so as a committee member. He will continue to act as our 'personal envoy' in France since he is often in Brittany and it is helpful sometimes to talk to our friends in France in person.

The committee elected at the AGM are as follows:

- Judith Phillip - Secretary, Dave Long - Treasurer, Nick Beasley, Lynn Clarke, Joy Cornish, Chris Grocott, Pam and Gerry Gurhy, Katherine Hughes, Nikki Miller, Chrissy Odams and Andy Simpson.

We are fortunate to have a strong active committee many of whom take on specific roles, e.g. school liaison, member liaison, language classes etc.

We are also fortunate in that you, our members, are enthusiastic and involved. When the French visited in 2016 a committee of volunteers to organise the visit was quickly formed and got planning making the organisation of the visit much easier. We hope to do the same in 2018.

Thanks to everybody who made suggestions for the programme in the coming year/18 months. We hope you enjoy it and encourage new members to come along.

Finally I would like to welcome new members John and Fay Dunkley and Ruth Slack.

Best wishes

Linda

Forthcoming events and diary for year

Following the AGM when members suggested a number of activities they would enjoy doing we have devised the following programme for the year. We hope you like it and will support these events.

20 May 6-9pm: Members informal soirée Battelys Cottage, The Ling Wortham. £5. Please let Linda know if you intend to come. (01379 644174 or e mail lindaruth11@gmail.com.) If you have friends who might be interested in joining Twinning do bring them along.

8-13 July: Visit by basketball team from Hédé. A group of 9 young women with accompanying parents will be visiting and going to Hartismere school to play some matches. Some of our members are hosting.

19 August: Music and Food evening at Oak Tree Farm Wortham. Starting with games and a treasure hunt followed by a light supper and dancing to live music by The BBs. A chance to enjoy a summer's evening. £15 per head (over 16) (Family ticket price to be confirmed).

October: (Details to be confirmed) Film night - a film in French with subtitles to suit all the family.

December 2/3 or 9/10 December: (To be confirmed). Christmas market in Hédé. As usual we will be taking produce over to sell.

Christmas social: Pie, mash and games evening. Date to be confirmed

13th February 2018: AGM

12-16 July 2018: Hédé visit to Wortham

