

Members of the Twinning Association of Beverley to Nogent-sur Oise

1-4 April 2016

On **Friday 1 April** the group of 16 people from Beverley travelled to Nogent-sur-Oise, some by Eurostar and others by car. We attended the Town Hall for a reception and following the formal speeches of welcome, we were treated to a musical performance by a class of 8 year olds. We then went and had dinner with our hosts.

Saturday 2 April was a trip to Paris in a coach, which meant that everyone could enjoy themselves without the stress, to our hosts, of driving. We spent the morning on a guided tour of the Assemblée Nationale (the French Parliament building). The tour was excellent and very informative regarding both the historical and architectural aspects of the building and the work of the politicians. Although security was tight in view of the recent terrorist attacks it was as unobtrusive as possible.

After our tour we were transported to the 13th arrondissement, China Town of Paris where we had a wonderful Chinese meal in the Olympiades Restaurant. It must be said that some of our number, both hosts and guests, found the rotating centre of the table and eating with chopsticks a bit of a challenge. The coach then took us around the main sights of Paris with the driver displaying a wonderful sense of calm in the madness of the traffic.

Our long tiring but hugely enjoyable day ended once again with dinner in our hosts' homes.

Sunday 3 April dawned bright, with the cold wind and drizzle of the day before gone, and it soon developed into a warm sunny spring day. Our first visit was to Senlis an historic and pretty town nearby, where there was a garden festival. This was in the town square and had stalls selling everything you might need in your garden such as bedding plants, shrubs, garden furniture and equipment, together with stalls selling cooked meat, cheese, wine and beer. There were even a couple of café stalls where you could sample oysters, mussels and Belgian beer. The local Scouts provided a delivery to car service running around with wheelbarrows nearly as big as themselves and there was a miniature train giving rides to children.

This was followed by lunch in 2 to or 3 different places, one of which was an excellent Moroccan restaurant. We then went to a museum showing plaster casts taken of graffiti scratched into walls and buildings dating from prehistoric to modern.

After a brief rest in our hosts' homes, we then reassembled for an evening meal in a church hall in the centre of Nogent. The buffet meal was prepared by members of the French Association, the food was good and the wine flowed which made for a lovely convivial evening as a farewell. Our 17 hosts were joined by other members of the French Association which gave us the chance to meet some of the people who will be coming to Beverley for the first time in July.

Monday 4 April saw us bidding our hosts good-bye and making our way either home or for a further few days in France, tired but full of Entente Cordiale (and food!)