

**Visit of Members of the Twinning Association of Nogent-sur-Oise to Beverley  
27-30 October 2017**

On **Friday 27 October** 17 French people arrived: 14 of them in 2 minibuses and, after unusually heavy traffic, eventually arrived around 8:30pm, meanwhile the other 3, including the Deputy Mayor and 2 other Councillors, had intended to fly but had a late change of plan and arrived by car at 2am. There was a rather curtailed Mayoral Welcome in the Monks Walk pub before the guests went to the hosts' homes for a delayed evening meal.

The weather on **Saturday 28 October** was dull but not bad for the time of year. Despite their late arrival our French guests were up early to explore the delights of shopping in Beverley town centre, for some the attraction was Marks and Spencer and for others it was the market stalls and charity shops (which don't exist in the same number and quantity in France).

We then headed off to the Michaelmas Fair at Burton Agnes Hall. The food stalls at Burton Agnes were popular, with several people indulging in the try before you buy opportunity for the pickles, jams, and cheese. Two of the Councillors were particularly taken with the gardens and managed to negotiate a quick look in the main ground floor room of the Hall. By then the weather had brightened up and Burton Agnes Hall was looking its best, in fact they likened it to Downton Abbey. There was even a performance of Morris Dancing, which people seemed to enjoy.

Dinner was again at the hosts' homes, then the programme indicated Fireworks at Sledmere Hall but only a group of 6 people braved the event. The Fireworks were indeed spectacular but there was a rather too long trudge up a sloping muddy path which proved a little difficult in getting to the viewing position and even more so getting back. An alternative evening entertainment was a Blues Night at several venues in Beverley. The bands at Armstrong Club were so loud that one of the hosts commented "although music is pretty international, it doesn't mean to say that you have to be able to hear it on the continental mainland". The Blues Festival at the Sun Inn seemed at a better auditory level, nevertheless both events were enjoyed by those there.

**Sunday 29 October** was organised so our guests could enjoy a visit to Hull, the City of Culture, and the weather was mostly dry but had turned rather colder. Many people started in the Ferens Art Gallery where the Turner Prize was being exhibited, in addition to the Spencer Turnick Sea of Hull photographs (the blue naked people!). A number of the group including 2 of our guests who are keen photographers took the opportunity to visit Beverley Art Gallery where there was an exhibition of the work of Karl Blossfeldt, the 1903s German Photographer.

We moved on to an excellent guided tour of the old town led by Paul Schofield and learnt a lot about Hull's history and architecture. An alternative for the less mobile members of the group was a ride around the Old Town on the Little Train our guests enjoyed it but remarked that it would have been very nice if there had been a translation of the commentary.

After a short rest at the hosts' homes, with just enough time to warm up and have a cup of tea or other beverage, we then moved on to the Farewell Dinner at the Travellers Rest where the buffet meal was excellent and, in addition to those taking part in the exchange, was attended by the Mayor, Deputy Mayor, the Town Clerk, several other Beverley Councillors and other members of the Twinning Association.

On **Monday 30 October** our French friends took their leave, hoping for an easier return journey. The exchange visits in 2018 are going to be pretty special as it is the 20 year celebration of the link between the 2 towns.