

**Visit of Members of the Twinning Association of Nogent-sur-Oise to Beverley  
27-30 April 2018**

On **Friday 27 April** 22 French people arrived in 2 minibuses and one car. The group included 4 children of primary school age, 3 with one family and one in another. The journey went better to plan this year and they arrived at 7pm. There were 8 host families who met their French guests and took them home for the evening meal.

On **Saturday 28 April** the morning started with shopping in Beverley which had proved such a success on the last Twinning visit. The weather was unseasonably cold with a north wind but at least it was dry. Some of the group took the opportunity to visit the Vintage and Retro Fair in Beverley Minster which afforded some shelter and later quite a number braved the elements walking across the Humber Bridge. It might have been cold but it was very clear and there were wonderful photo opportunities. Part of the group lunched at East Riding Theatre café listening to a jazz quartet, they then took part in an open day at Beverley Bowls Club, the differences between English bowls and French petanque caused much hilarity. One of the families with children enjoyed a Treasure Trail around Beverley and the children were delighted by their small prizes and their certificates presented by their host.

The evening meal was taken by some members of the group in various restaurants in Beverley or by others in at the hosts' homes.

On **Sunday 29 April** it was still cold but quite a bit brighter. However no one fancied the proposed walk in Millington Woods. One host family took their guests around the sights of the Old Town in Hull, together with the Marina and recent renovation of the dry dock to a performance area. In the afternoon we visited the Tulip Festival at Burnby Hall which was superb. The gardens and the tulips were much admired by our French guests.

The Farewell Dinner was held at Beverley Golf Club who provided us with an excellent buffet. English wine was provided by Beverley Town Council and entertainment was by Mambo Jambo a bilingual singing duo who also played an enormous number of instruments. In addition to the 36 people actually directly involved in the Twinning visit there were a further 14 people who joined us for the evening including the Mayor and the Town Clerk of the Council. Many people enjoyed the opportunity for dancing and it was an extremely convivial evening with everyone swapping stories about their different adventures. One of the anecdotes was that the youngest French guest had asked if her hosts featured in the Travel Guide Lonely Planet, which her hosts took as a compliment.

On **Monday 30 April** our French friends departed in their little convoy at 8am after the customary group photo on the steps of the Minister and many handshakes, hugs and kisses. However we heard later that due to a 4 hour delay at the Shuttle they did not get back to Nogent until 10:30 pm, so it was an extremely long day for them.

Moir Brooks  
May 2018