



# Twining weekend 3rd – 5<sup>th</sup> May 2024



Dear Friends,

It's now over 2 weeks since our hugely successful weekend spent in the company of our lovely friends from Montesson. Everything went to plan and even the rain stopped and the sun came out for the duration of their visit!

At precisely 6pm the coach pulled up and we welcomed our 28 guests in style at the Town Hall. Old friendships were renewed and new acquaintances made and we were very pleased that the outgoing Mayor was able to attend to declare the weekend officially "open". After a very brief welcome drink everyone retired to spend the evening catching up or getting to know someone new. Indeed, there were 7 people on their first visit to Thame, all of whom seemed delighted with their stay.



On Saturday, Liz and Bridget accompanied the French party to spend the day at Waddesdon Manor and our friends were thrilled by their visit which included a self-guided tour around the house, a picnic lunch and time spent exploring the beautiful grounds and no doubt the cafés!



After a week of cold, wet weather, we considered ourselves incredibly lucky to have a fairly sunny, dry day. On their return to Thame there was just time for a bit of shopping, a cup of tea and possibly a rest before heading to Towersey Manor for our "party". The Barn looked splendid with its twinkling lights and twinning themed decorations and certainly had the

wow factor as everyone arrived in the early evening sunshine. Yet again we surpassed ourselves in putting on a great evening of friendship, food, drink and entertainment. Linda and Sue were very pleased with all the compliments received for their catering efforts and as usual we were spoiled with a delicious selection of desserts provided by our host families. We are truly a very talented bunch of people!!



Speeches over, the entertainment part of the evening could finally begin. We are very lucky to count Sue and Phil Boyle amongst our number and they treated us to a brilliant bi-lingual quiz which caused a fair amount

of bewildered amusement to the French who hadn't quite understood the bingo concept. Sue and Phil, it was great



fun and certainly added that extra “je ne sais quoi” to the evening. Well done to Jamie, Natasha and their team who eventually claimed the proper 1<sup>st</sup> line and victory!

As if this wasn't enough entertainment for one day, we had the final surprise of the evening – a silent disco, which was undoubtedly a first for many. This was a resounding success with everyone getting to their feet and giving it a go. Everyone entered into the spirit of it and there was a lot of laughing and singing along. Finally, the evening had to end, probably around an hour later than planned, but what a great testament to the enjoyment of the occasion!

We are immensely grateful to Marie-Jane for her wonderful generosity in not only letting us use the barn, but also taking care of the hire of chairs, crockery, cutlery and glasses. Also, for being such a big help in setting out and laying the tables, decorating the barn and finally, helping to tidy everything away afterwards. Marie-Jane, you are a true friend of our Twinning Association and we send you a very big MERCI !



A beautifully sunny Sunday morning was spent with hosts. Many of us chose to go back to Towersey to take part in their very traditionally English activities of crowning the May Queen, Maypole and Morris dancing. What a fantastic way to bring our Twinning Weekend to a close!



The committee would like to thank everyone who contributed in any way, big or small, to make this weekend such a happy and successful event.