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French highlight for festival

By Steve Doohan

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FRENCH singers from twin town Ollainville will be one of the highlights of this year's Tutbury Music Festival at the weekend

Eighteen vocalists from the Gallic group's district choir will perform at the Tutbury Castle extravaganza on Saturday.

They will sing unaccompanied in the function marquee at 2.10pm, and will join Tutbury Band for the finale — including the English and French national anthems — shortly before 9pm.

Bill Crossley, chairman of Tutbury Twinning Association, said: "Ollainville and District Choir is an important group and their visit has been a long time coming.

"Tutbury Band played in France a couple of years ago and this is the return visit."

The choir, based south of Paris, will be among a 45-strong exchange party including the Mayor of Ollainville and members of the town's council.

Its members, the third delegation to visit Tutbury in the six years the towns have been twinned, will be hosted by 20 families.

Tutbury Music Festival will run from 11.30am until 9pm. It will entertain music-lovers with performances including a peal of bells, trumpet fanfare and shows by jazz and steel bands.

Brass band aficionados can look forward to performances from groups including Derwent Brass Band, Uttoxeter Town Band and Gresley Old Hall Brass Band.



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