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Twinning Visit July 2002

32 people from Ollainville visited Tutbury in July 2002. All were accommodated with families, and not everyone could speak great French, but it didn't matter!

The group arrived on Friday tea-time by coach. They were welcomed by their host families and returned to the hosts home for a meal. Some ventured out later on for a walk around the village and a pint in the local!

On Saturday morning we all met at the village hall and went up to St Mary's Church to visit the flower festival. A wonderful smell greeted us as the door opened, masses of flowers and ornate arrangements filled the church. A fantastic start to the day!

The group then split into two to tour the village. Some wonderful hospitality and generosity was evident. For example, the Cornmill ceramic cafe welcomed our guests with free drinks and biscuits. Georgian Crystal gave each guest a glass 'worry bead'. Some guests enjoyed watching glass blowing a Tutbury crystal. The Tutbury Institute presented the French mayor with a glass lamp.

The group then walked up the hill to the Cross keys pub for a lovely buffet lunch, some even tried some 'proper' beer.

After lunch we took our guests over to the Richard Wakefield school fete. The weather was glorious! As well as many stalls, refreshments and exhibits, the French were enjoyed listening to the Tutbury Community Bands (junior and senior) playing.

At 3pm the official signing of the charters and speeches took place. The band then struck up with La Marsillaise and the National Anthem.



one of the flower displays in Tutbury Church



The French arrive!



Signing the charter

After the school fete, some guests visited the Tutbury cricket club and we tried to explain the rules to them !

We all rendez-vous'd at the village hall at 7pm. A magnificent buffet meal was provided by Chris Scarratt catering, I have never seen such a spread, and it showed the French that we can do good food as well as them ! (by the way we all bought our own tickets!) Around a hundred people, not counting the children, attended the function. We were very pleased to welcome many representatives from the local community.

The Tutbury Tourist and trade association presented a Glass decanter to the mayor, Pierre Dodoz.

After being well fed and watered, a large number of us returned to the school for an outdoor disco and live band. It was almost like being in..... well, France! (who did order that weather? - costa del Tutbury!) We crawled home very late.....

Sunday morning started with a trip to the Bowls club , for those of us who could get out of bed! The bowls club very kindly provided cakes and refreshments and showed the guests how to play bowls.

A trip to Tutbury castle was next on the itinerary. Mrs Smith was very generous in letting the guests in free of charge. Some of them were even 'knighted' by Mary Queen of Scots herself, and as she was also Queen of France she could converse with them in their own tongue

The visit was very nearly over, and after a light buffet meal at the village hall (we each provided something), the guests rejoined their coach for the journey home.

We all agreed the trip should be longer next time!

Thanks to:
... All who hosted
... Anyone who helped in any



Your caption

way!

**... The scouts for putting the
flags on High Street**

... The Castle

... Georian crystal

... Ceramic cafe

... Nestles (coffee and chocs)

... Bowls club

... InSTITUTE

... Chris Scarratt catering

... The Cross keys (Wendy)

... Tutbury trade and tourism

**And probably lots of other
people..**