

Sorigny & Box Invade the Gower – May 2018!

There was never any doubt that combining Box and our Twin Sorigny in a visit would not make for a great time together during the May Bank Holiday weekend.

From the moment the Sorignois stepped off the 17.40 flight from Limoges in Bristol the fun started, enthusiastic drivers met the 12 French visitors and transferred them back to Box for a relaxing BBQ set against a music background from Johnny Hallyday and Louise Attaque.

The plan for Saturday was that the party of 21 drive over to the Gower and enjoy wide open spaces at Oxwich Bay after a satisfying lunch at the King Arthur Hotel Reynoldston. The beach walk extended for several miles along to the Three Hills and, with fantastic weather, it was difficult to leave this superb setting but we had tables booked for a Fish & Chip Supper at Mumbles Pier.



The French really like our Fish & Chips, along with Royal Weddings and Royal babies! The Copperfish Restaurant near the pier was well received and with reluctance our guests left for the next stage of the trip.



Because of the Bank Holiday weekend and a local air show hotel space for a party of 20+ was limited so we booked into a small motel near Bridgend where there was definitely a 'welcome in the valley' with a terrific reception in the middle of a wedding disco! The French loved the place and the price! Leaving Sunday morning we took a leisurely drive back to Bath.

Bath is still a major attraction and, for the many Sorignois who'd not seen it before, a 'must see' so a small group were dropped off in Bathampton for a walk along the canal path into Bath for sightseeing and shopping. Still not exhausted we reassembled for a night of skittles and a meal at the White Hart, Atworth, to round up the weekend before departure for Bristol airport on Monday morning. Our committee works tirelessly to make these events work – and thanks to all who made it such a success.

One of our guests Geraldine Polisset, winner of the skittles competition, emailed thanking us:

Difficult to find proper words and accurate to describe how wonderful that weekend has been for everyone from each side of the Channel. You received us with so much benevolence and care that our contentment is far beyond words (once again, I am repeating myself!!!).

We have been blessed with perfect weather and an utterly great company. What a pleasure to meet with you again! I can't tell if the best part for me was winning the trophy at the skittle game or being able to speak English all through the weekend, but what I can tell you is that I thank you for the vegetarian dishes, the attention has been highly appreciated (amongst many other events - barbecue, fish and chips, Mumbles Pier, pubs.....)

The next exchange visit will be in 2019 over to Sorigny – meanwhile we're planning for a small group from Box to visit them in November for Guy Fawkes and Remembrance Day celebrations.

As a reminder Box Twinning welcomes all those interested in a cultural exchange with France – the group is very open and friendly – come along to Box Revels on May 28th and have a chat with us or contact any of the committee members.