

Thirty Years of Friendship

Crewkerne and Igny became twinned in 1976. Thirty years on another town near Igny has asked to join the link. In October we shall be visiting Igny and the new town partner Bures sur Yvette which is in the same area of Paris.

Igny is situated in a beautiful wooded valley about eight miles from the Eiffel Tower. There are good road and rail links into central Paris. Bures sur Yvette hosts a substantial campus of the University of Paris, has a science research centre and access to woodlands. Both towns are near to the Palace of Versailles and other major tourist attractions.

What do twin towns do?

Well, regular visits take place each year. This year at least 60 people will visit Igny for special celebrations. Our 70 seater coach leaves on Friday morning 20 October and returns to Crewkerne in the early evening of Monday 23 October. Those attending will pay £70 for the coach fare. No other costs are involved because we shall be hosted by French families.

Over the years there have also been exchanges involving school groups, musicians, artists, footballers and athletes. Life long friendships are made but there is also time for special "one off" events. In December this year children from Crewkerne and from Igny's German town of Lovenich will share a weekend in Igny with a top cartoonist.

Is there a language problem?

No! Twinners are linked with people whose language skills match their own. People who speak no French will be hosted by English speakers. Those who want to practice and improve their French will be given a suitable challenge!

As children in pre-school and school learn French their parents will pick up some language skills as well, especially when they visit Igny or Bures sur Yvette with their children. An action group of parents and teachers is being established to plan some new initiatives with the French parents and teachers in our two twin towns.

Building a flexible network

The Internet and cheaper air travel between Bristol or Exeter airports and Paris provides great flexibility for those who want to build up their own family, sporting or study link. Our twin towns want to encourage a flexible range of opportunities for us to visit them and for them to learn more about us.

If you want to know more contact the Chairman of the Twinning Association:

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