

# **STAFFORD BOROUGH TWINNING ASSOCIATION**

## **PRESS RELEASE**

**JUNE 5 2009**

### **Begins**

#### **Twinning Visit hailed a great success**

A group of Staffordians returned last week from a visit to Stafford's French twin town, Belfort. The week-long visit, which saw the participants staying with local families, was hailed 'a great success' by the Chairman of the Stafford-Belfort Twinning Association, Stephen Shippard. A series of visits around Belfort and its region saw the group visit the Citadel that dominates the French town, as well as others in the area near the Swiss and German frontiers, learning much about the turbulent history of the region. On a lighter note, the visit coincided with an international music festival, which saw the streets of Belfort thronged with thousands of visitors from far and wide, drawn to concerts by musicians from all over the world.

There was an added dimension to the visit and the group was joined, at the weekend, by the Mayor of Stafford, Mrs Jean Tabernor, and the Chief Executive, Ian Thompson, representing the Borough, at celebrations marking the tenth anniversary of the signing of the Twinning Charter between the two towns. The Mayor joined with Stephen Shippard, and their French counterparts, in celebrating the achievements of the first ten years and all looked forward to strengthening the links in the future, especially when the French group arrive in Stafford next year.

Further information about the Stafford-Belfort Twinning Association can be obtained from Stephen Shippard on 01785 604252.

**ENDS**

For more information

Dr David J. Dunn, Secretary, Borough Twinning Organisation