

STAFFORD AND TARRAGONA TWINNING ASSOCIATION

PRESS RELEASE

13 JULY 2009

CITIZENS FROM TARRAGONA VISITING STAFFORD

Tarragona , a beautiful town in Spain an hour's drive south of Barcelona, has been twinned with Stafford for 17 years. Every year there are exchange visits between the two towns and, later this month, 48 citizens from Tarragona will be visiting Stafford from 20 until 31 July 2009. During this time they will stay with host families within the Borough of Stafford and take part in a varied programme of activities and excursions.

Many months in the planning, the visit has received support from the European Union in Brussels, surely recognition of its importance in building deep-rooted friendships whilst recognising the importance of national identities and traditions.

For three days, 25 youngsters from Tarragona together with 20 students from local schools will take part in a three day activity programme at the Shugborough Outdoor Education Centre. The object, through teamwork, is to break down barriers, create mutual respect and extend their knowledge of the Spanish and English languages. Some of the youngsters are already in email contact through their schools.

The group will visit the National Space Centre in Leicester and The Royal Air Force Museum at Cosford including the new Cold War Exhibition, which was created with the help of Project Funding from the EU. The Churnet Valley Railway will be our next stop which is again an example of how EU regeneration funding impacts on the local community. Of course there is a lighter side and the host families and their guests will attend a family picnic followed by a hog roast and later a jazz band.

We have received requests to take them to Alton Towers, Liverpool and Chatsworth. There will be a day spent on Cannock Chase where Rangers will give guided tours of the Birches Valley area and, in the evening, there will be a game of skittles followed by a very traditional fish and chip supper with bread and butter, mushy peas, and not forgetting the pickled onions!

We hope the weather is kind to us but come rain or shine nothing will detract from either the bonds of friendship already in place or the building of new bonds through our joint experiences.

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