

STAFFORD BOROUGH TWINNING ASSOCIATION

PRESS RELEASE 9 JULY 2008

Continuing a busy season of twin-town activities, a group of people from Stafford's French twin town, Belfort, arrives in Stafford tomorrow. More than twenty people, young and old, will be hosted by local Stafford families and, before they leave on July 16th, they will not only spend time in Stafford but also embark on a few ventures further afield. High on their list of priorities will be a visit to Liverpool, this year's European City of Culture, the Severn Valley Railway and the Black Country Museum. Nearer home, a visit to Shugborough will see the group getting to grips with the county's past.

However, for the Chairman of the Stafford – Belfort Twinning Association, Stephen Shippard, the highlight of the visit is clear. 'This year is very special, marking ten years since the signing of the Twinning Charter between Stafford and Belfort. To mark the occasion, there will be a Civic reception attended by the Mayor of Stafford, Councillor Anne Edgeller, and both the Mayor and Deputy from Belfort. I think that this is a wonderful mark of recognition, signifying the importance of the links, formal and personal, between the people of our two towns. This is an opportunity to welcome old friends and make new ones and we are looking forward to the next decade – and beyond.'

Anyone seeking more information about the Stafford-Belfort Twinning Association and its activities should contact Stephen Shippard on 01785 604252.