

Report on Ballinamuck Twinning 2024

This year a group of twenty seven adults/ children travelled with to France for the 27th Twinning of Essert and Ballinamuck. Most of that group were newcomers to the Twinning and we can now claim the intergenerational dimension of the Twinning that contributes to its dynamism and longevity.

The group of ten children and two leaders travelled out on the 23rd July and initially spent a three days at Malsaucy water sport centre where civic commitment in the form of first aid training, and also raising awareness of Olympic values and sporting activities were developed. There was also a focus on environmental awareness, getting around by bike or walking and a focus on art where a large graffiti painting was created. They then returned to spend the remainder of the trip with host families around Essert. This group had met for the first time in 2024 when a group travelled to Ballinamuck .

The second group of mainly adults arrived on Saturday 27th where they were met with a barbeque at the ever familiar Logis d'amitie in Essert. Sunday was a family day where everyone had the opportunity to spend the day with host families.

On Monday the adults visited Besancon capital of Franche Comte and took a little train to the Citadel and walked in the city centre. The youth group took part in a heritage game in and around Essert and made a visit to the citadel, the lion, the old town – shopping

Tuesday was spent in Epinal, capital of Vosges nicknamed city of print while the children travelled by bus to [Fraispertuis](#)city (theme park about 2 hours'drive)

Wednesday started with a cookery demonstration in Logis followed by Lunch and some exercise with a pétanque tournament where we were joined by a Cllr Gary Murtagh and CEO of Longford Co. Council Paddy Mahon. The children worked to complete their projects of art / first aid. That evening there was a Reception in Essert Town Hall hosted by Dominique Jeannin followed by music and dancing. That was the final night to what was a very enjoyable trip to Essert.

Preparation for trip

In preparation the group met regularly to plan for the trip. This included raising funds by holding events such as bagpacking, table quiz, churchgate collection. On our return from Essert we met with the group and linked in with the French to evaluate the trip. We are also grateful to Longford Co. Council for their annual funding for the Twinning. This year we look forward to welcoming twenty five adults/ children from Essert and preparations are in place.

