

A total of 26 members of the Gace Town Twinning organisation spent a week with their Kinross hosts enjoying a varied flavour of Scotland in their short time here.

Arriving the previous Thursday evening at the Loch Leven Community Campus Museum, the party found refreshments and an exhibition of twinning history organised by local historian Dr David Munro. Following an evening meal with their host families the Friday was given over for host families to decide what they wished to do with a number visiting the Scottish Deer Centre at Cupar whilst others visited local attractions including Falkland Palace and the Loch Leven heritage trail.

Saturday saw the first organised visit with a trip to Dundee via the Fife coast, crossing the Tay Bridge and then spending time visiting the suggested options of R & A Museum, Science Centre, Discovery and McManus Galleries. The party then visited Cairn o' Mohr winery for a guided tour and tasting session before returning to Kinross.

With Dollar twinning hosting their French town La Ville aux Dames, the Kinross twidders spent the afternoon and evening with their Dollar hosts culminating in a barbecue. A non-language treasure hunt as well as volleyball took place before the heavens opened to put a damper on the outdoor activities.

On Monday the party travelled to Edinburgh where they were given a guided tour of the Scottish parliament at Holyrood. A mini-cruise on the "Maid of the Forth" under all three Forth Bridges and stop at Inchcolm Island completed the itinerary for the day.

Tuesday was a free day with host families and again a number of local attractions were visited by the different families.

The bowling competition involving Scottish bowls followed by French boules had to be adapted due to the heavy rainfall. The bowling green was waterlogged which scuppered the Scottish bowls competition resulting in the group heading to the local Campus where they played petanque on the two outdoor rinks. After forty minutes play the heavens opened again causing the games to be halted and the scores totalled up to that point. I suppose you could say it was a "one sided affair" with the Gaceans being ahead on both petanque courts when rain stopped play. This meant that Gace was declared the winner of the perpetual trophy played for on each occasion an official twinning visit takes place. This means that Kinross will have to wait until 2021 to attempt to win back the trophy which they had won in Gace in 2018.

A farewell buffet meal was held at Milnathort Bowling Club where Provost Dennis Melloy was the guest of honour. Following the meal Provost Melloy welcomed everyone and spoke on the merits and benefits to be had from organised twinning visits. He concluded by proposing a toast to both twinning organisations. Kinross twinning chairman, Dale Coldwell, thanked the provost for his kind words before going on to present a twinning gift to the Gaceans of 3 engraved empty whisky bottles each with light strings in the colours of the French flag: red, white and blue. Gace president Michel Brodin thanked Dale for the gift and handed over their gift to Kinross which was a high powered water jet plaque shaped in the form of Normandy, mounted on a base featuring the towns' twinning logo.

A musical evening followed with pipe music provided by local piper Douglas Mair, folk singing by local languages' teacher Paul Becher who was later joined by Marie France Brodin who played an unusual wind instrument with button keys like an accordion. Local DJ Bill Freeman then played a range of music featuring Scottish dance music and more modern music, concluding with Loch Lomond.

Thursday then saw the party assemble at the local Campus for departure and the return journey via the Channel Tunnel to Gace.

It was heartening to see a number of youngsters in the Gace party which augers well for future twinning visits.

photo 0267 shows Gace president Michel Brodin (left) shaking hands with Kinross president Dale Coldwell (right) behind the opened gifts to each association.

photo 1796 shows Paul Becher (left) and Marie France Brodin (right) playing their musical duet.

David Munro

secretary

Kinross & District Town Twinning Association