



COMBE PAFFORD SCHOOL

Visit to China

Diary Entry 7

6th November 2019

Day 7

This morning we were up early, completed packing our cases and after breakfast, we attended Dong Fang School, which is the school we began our link with 12 years ago. We are always assured of a warm welcome and have worked with many of the staff for several years and a few of them have visited Combe Pafford. We had a tour of the school, which included be able to see their chrysanthemum flower show. One of the schools specialisms is horticulture and they have a national standard teacher here who took us on the tour. We then joined in morning exercises, which the whole school do for 10 minutes at 10.00 every day. They we had a lesson in Chinese tea making and tried both oolong and black tea.... (Most still prefer coca cola!). Then we went for a flower arranging lesson where everyone made a really good attempt at following the guidance and finished with a decent display..... (Mr James needed significant assistance from not one, but two students!) Then we went and made dumplings and kindly had a school lunch provided which included dumplings!

We said our farewells and gave out some small gifts which is the Chinese custom and each of us received a small gift in return, then it was back on the coach for a last shop at the Pearl Market before a Chinese meal and then the train to Xian. Beijing Railway Station is like an airport departure lounge, very large, very busy with shops and cafes and a large number of waiting rooms. We had about an hour and quarter to wait but the time passed quickly and soon we were in our 4 berth sleeping compartments stowing cases and getting ready to depart at 8.40pm. Youngsters were soon into pyjamas and it wasn't long before most were asleep, some slept well and some not so, but everyone was up by 7.30am as we arrived at 8 to be met at the station by a guide who took us on the service bus to the hostel which is very comfortable and welcoming. 19 travellers with large cases on a bus seemed not to be a problem.....!!

Mr Lock