



# PRESTON TWINNING PARTNERSHIPS

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*The Right Worshipful Mayor of Preston Councillor Christine Abram*

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## Exotic visitor to Preston

Last month, the Preston Twinning Partnerships arranged a short period of work experience and hosting for Karima Bouchaara, the PA of the Mayor of Meknes, a town of almost 1 million inhabitants, in Morocco (twinned with our French twin Nîmes).

Karima came to Preston ostensibly to brush up on her English and learn about waste recycling from the Preston City Council Works Department in Argyll Road.

Karima touched everyone who met her with her warm friendliness, sharp intellect and outstanding communication skills. Her kind hosts, Esmée and Peter Grossman, were instrumental in making her stay here a wonderful and wholesome experience, free from the quite enormous pressures she is subjected to as a woman in a man's world at home in Morocco. In short, and in her own words, she felt cherished, protected and respected.

The Secretary and his son were pleased to take her to Liverpool to see the Cavern Quarter. There she was delighted to see with her own eyes a piece of pop-history all around her and, of course, could not miss the opportunity to pose with the statue of John Lennon and have lunch in a nearby pub.

Karima is organising an International Environmental Conference in October 2008 to take place in Meknes (130 km East of Rabat and 60 km West of Fez) to which all of Nîmes' twin towns, that includes Preston, have been invited. In the interest of international friendship and co-operation, the Preston Twinning Partnerships hopes very much that a delegation from Preston will take part in this important gathering.



Author: JOH Voges



[Almelo](#) (1948)



[Nîmes](#) (1955)



[Recklinghausen](#) (1956)



[Kalisz](#) (1989)