

Coalville & District Town Twinning Association

CHAIRMAN : Mrs J Chapman
Tel. 01530 836700

COALVILLE - ROMANS-SUR-ISERE
www.coalvilletowntwinning.org.uk

SECRETARY : Mrs. L. Storer
Tel. 01530 262361

NEWSLETTER MARCH 2015

OVER 50 YEARS OF TOWN TWINNING

ROSA LEBENS : 1917-2015
It was with very great sadness that we heard of the death of Rosa Lebens, our honorary president. Her funeral was on 16th March at Gilroes Cemetery in Leicester.



Our Town Twinning Association was represented at the funeral by Sybil and Peter Bennett and by Delphine and Chris North.

Rosa had been involved with our Town Twinning Association since its inception. Her husband, Eddie, was one of the founders. Rosa participated in nearly all the exchanges and made a great many good friends in Romans. Many other members of her family (4 sons and 1 daughter) have been to our twin town either as a participant in an exchange, both youth and adult, or on private visits.

Rosa's sense of humour and fun was always in evidence, as also was

her willingness and determination to do everything in the programme - even on her later visits (and she kept going into her nineties!). She has been a great ambassador for twinning, living out its principles of getting to know and understand and accept how other people live.

She was always supportive of the committee and liked to help in any way she could. She ventured out in the worst of weathers to dinners and other occasions: and bore searingly hot days (in Romans, not Coalville !) without flagging.

She once broke her foot when in Romans. Did that stop her? No ! She still appeared everywhere with her leg encased in a big black contraption that the French doctor prescribed. This became known affectionately as 'Rosa's boot'. She was the centre of attention, needless to say. She will be very much missed by Town Twinning for her enthusiasm and for just being Rosa.



I am sure that you all have a favourite reminiscence about Rosa. If you would like to share them with us, there will be a place for them in the next newsletter.

SIGN UP FOR TWINNING EXCHANGE AUGUST 2015

This year it is our turn to go to France. So far we have not had any confirmation of the dates from Romans. We have suggested looking at the weekend of 22/23rd to the 29/30th (depending whether it is a Saturday or Sunday departure). If you think that you would like to go, then still please get in touch with us and we will keep you informed.



AGM 2015

This year's AGM was held on the 12th February. The positions held in the Association are now as follows:

Chairman	Jennifer Chapman
Vice Chairman	Paula Purver
Secretary	Lesley Storer
Treasurer	Janet Christopher
Minute Sec.	Hazel Lilley

The committee chairmen are:

Membership	Keith Pare
Social	Lyn Jordan
Adult Exchange	Lesley Storer
Publicity	Delphine North
Webmaster	Chris North

SUBSCRIPTIONS DUE

Subscriptions are now due for this year. The cost remains the same - £4 per family.

We hope that you will all continue your membership of Town Twinning. We know that not everyone wishes to visit or go on an exchange every year, but we do appreciate your support. You also get to find out what is happening on the twinning front, and we have

social events as well. That way you can keep in touch.

There is a slip attached to this newsletter for payment. Please send it with your payment to

**Keith Pare,
Membership Secretary
103 Tressall Road, Whitwick.
LE67 5QE**

QUARTERLY MEETING THURSDAY

**7th. MAY
6.15pm**

Council Offices, Coalville

Open to all Members

Come along and find out what goes on to make the Exchanges happen and give us your ideas

THANKS TO SYBIL AND PETER BENNETT

You may have noticed from the positions after the AGM that neither Sybil Bennett nor Peter Bennett's name is there. They have decided to relinquish their jobs and we are really sorry to see them go. They have been designated committee members for many years now.



Sybil has been Social Secretary and Peter the Member Secretary. Peter has also been in charge of the Adult Exchange programme. They have both worked really hard and twinning has benefited from their expertise. We hope to still have their help and advice on the committee. Once again, thank you for all your hard work.

ELECTIONS IN ROMANS

Our elections will be taking place shortly. In Romans they were held last year. M. Henri Bertholet, who has been in charge for many years had decided over a year before, not to stand for re-election. He stood down as mayor at that point. The vote in the previous election was very close and this time it swung in favour of the opposition party. So Romans now has a new party in control and a new Mayor, Mme. Marie-Helene Thoraval.



RECENT EVENTS

NEW YEAR'S DINNER

In January we got together for our traditional New Year's Dinner. This is the moment before we start organising anything for the coming year, so we are able to relax. And, yes, we had a good evening again weather-wise, so we could concentrate on the food and the company. The Hermitage Park Hotel looked after us very well, so thank you to all the people there. And thank you too, Sybil, for organising the whole evening.



100 YEARS AGO

At the moment in the papers if you see a report headed '100 years ago' you will be reading about the First World War, the conditions, the battles, the tactics, the soldiers. So what about chicory for a change? This was the topic in the Times early in 1915.

This is apparently (or was) the national vegetable of Belgium. But it was also a large export commodity. However, since the start of the war in 1914 little was being sent to one of its main outlets - Germany - and in its other main outlet, France, trading was just not possible. Add to that that chicory was also sent to America on the Red Star Line ships and these ships had ceased to operate and you can see that Belgium had a surplus. England being close by seemed like a possible market and large supplies were sent over to Covent Garden market and from there reached large stores and fruit shops.

The English did not really know how to use it. The Belgians therefore produced some small cookbooks for the English cooks and hoped that it would become appreciated and part of their normal diet. And looking ahead they hoped that after the war we would become one of their customers. (100 years on and you do see chicory in this country but it is certainly not part of our staple diet.)

FILM EVENING

Last December we had a film evening at Thringstone Community Centre. A good number of people turned up from a variety of French groups to see a French film. It was a comedy about a man from the south of France being sent to work in the very north. Not only do the southerners not think much of the northerners and vice versa, there is also a difference in the weather, and in the language. There are some areas in the north where the people are referred to as 'ch'tis' from the way they pronounce some of the words.

There was a lot of play on this difference in the language. Indeed, even in France the film is shown with subtitles ('ch'ti' French being translated into basic French). The resulting film was hilarious and a very good time was had by all. It was a good job that we showed our snippets of Romans before the main film - people would not have appreciated them otherwise as they would still have been wiping the tears from their eyes. Thank you to Keith Pare for organising the evening.

TIGER, TIGER

At the end of last year dozens of police officers, soldiers and veterinary experts spent two days looking for a man-eating creature which was said to be on the loose on the outskirts of Paris. The hunt was finally called off when the national office of hunting and wildlife analysed a footprint and announced that the creature was something between a domestic cat and a bigger feline. The cause of the panic was a photo taken in Montrevain in a car park which showed what looked like a tiger. The mayor of the town, which is near Disneyland, agreed, and the information went to the highest authorities. So no tiger this time, but should there be in the future they all know what to do: According to information from the Pinder circus - You have to shout as loudly as possible. And, even better, shout in German because the guttural sounds will frighten the animal and it will go away. (So now you know.)

PUBLICITY

Please contact Delphine North
01530 836700 if you have any
enquiries or articles for the
Newsletter.

www.coalvilletowntwinning.org.uk