

# Coalville & District Town Twinning Association

CHAIRMAN : Mrs J Chapman  
Tel. 01530 836700

COALVILLE - ROMANS-SUR-ISERE  
[www.coalvilletowntwinning.org.uk](http://www.coalvilletowntwinning.org.uk)

SECRETARY : Mrs. L. Storer  
Tel. 01530 262361

## NEWSLETTER NOVEMBER 2015

### OVER 50 YEARS OF TOWN TWINNING

#### TWINNING EXCHANGE 2015

At the end of August a small group travelled to Romans for our annual exchange. The journey itself was not without incident - a landslide on the line down to the south coast meant that the TGV trains stopped at Lyons and you had to change to a local train - after finding out which platform it would be that the next train left from. However, everyone arrived safe and sound albeit a bit later than intended.



The first day there we went to the **Musee de la Revolution at Vizilles** just below Grenoble. The museum was very interesting with lots of different approaches to the revolution - from paintings, to objects, to historical records, to items of clothing, to excerpts from films made about the period. It was a good day to be inside. It absolutely threw it down with rain - the windscreen wipers had to go as fast as possible to cope with the downpour. We were told it was only the second time it had rained in two months. It was obviously holding everything ready for the English - a surprise greeting.

A totally different outing was to see a **free-flying display of parrots**. You sat on benches in a little clearing with trees all round. Firstly, individual parrots did little 'tricks' and then they flew from tree to tree over the tops of our heads. They



were of all different varieties, so there was a very big colour range. Lovely to see.



One evening visit was to an **open-air bar**, which was set up round the chapel/shrine on the hill in Tain Hermitage. It is just there during the summer months and you can have a drink and admire the spectacular view. We also visited **Ravioles du Dauphine** where they showed us a film about the firm itself which explained how two brothers had started it with their grandmother's recipes, and then showed us the process. After this we



went on to a village on the far side of the Isere. There were a lot of interesting architectural features, some stories about the early owners of the chateau and the history of the church which was totally demolished during the Wars of Religion in France and eventually rebuilt many years later - with the abbot visiting regularly to comment on its design and its failings ( which had to be rectified).

We also went to the **Caverne du Pont d'Arc**. This was a *must* since it has only just been opened and has been the subject of a lot of international talk. Some years back a cave was found against the Pont d'Arc which was older than the one at Lascaux and which also



had lots of cave paintings. This cave people have been able to visit over the years and its condition has begun to deteriorate, the walls becoming covered in micro-organisms and a greenish bloom. They did not want that to happen to the new cave.

The solution was to build a replica. This is some miles from the original, set in woodland where people can walk about and also come across panels giving more details of the background to the cave and the project. They took hundreds of thousands of measurements of the cave and used these to reconstruct it. The paintings similarly were reproduced. You walk on a raised walkway through the cave and can see skulls and bones littering the floor, just as it was when it was originally opened up. Even though it is a reproduction, it has an atmosphere and you do not feel it is all make-believe. Then, moving right back to the present day, on the Saturday there was a big **international horse-jumping event** not



far to the north of Romans. To this we all went separately to fit in with our timetables for the day. Then in the evening, a final meal at Fabienne and Philippe's with everyone taking something towards the food. It had been a thoroughly enjoyable exchange, and we would like to say a big

thank you to MarieLou Chapoutier for making sure that it happened in the first place. Once Romans International was side-lined from the adult exchanges, it needed someone to say they would take on the meetings and see that it all got organised. Marie Lou was prepared to do that - so thank you once again. Also many thanks to the other members of the exchange who then got involved in the events and helped to sort out the programme. To them all -'un grand merci'.



Drinks at the home of Monique Thevin on the way back from Pont en Royan

## FORUM DES ASSOCIATIONS

When we were in Romans there was a big event in the town hall square and in several other buildings nearby, where



over 120 local Associations had stalls to tell people about their work and activities and to encourage people to join the various groups. These ranged from sports to music and cultural activities as well as stalls with information about support organizations. The main square was full of tents and the event was very well attended. Maybe this is something that could be done in Coalville Town Centre.



Everyone gathered for the final meal at the home of Philippe & Fabienne Dufour



A picnic and a chance to enjoy the sunshine following the visit to the Caverne du Pont d'Arc

## PETANQUE

**In July we had a session of petanque at Newton Burgoland.** A local group meets there on a Sunday, and they offered to give us some help if we went on the same day.

It was a very social occasion.....plenty of petanque, and if you wanted to eat then there was food at the Belper Arms. We were pleased to welcome our MP Andrew Bridgen who came along to support us. Thank you to Lyn Jordan for organising it all.



## GEORGE & JOYCE DIXON : 90 + 90 No, it is not a maths test.

**In October George Dixon celebrated his 90th birthday, and then one week later Joyce Dixon celebrated her 90th.**

They have been staunch Town Twinning members for many years and have a lot of friends in Romans. We always say that the friendships formed there last a long time.

Well, the student that Paul Dixon, their son, exchanged with on the youth visits, firstly visited them the other year ( and we had their picture all together in the Newsletter), and secondly he rang up to



wish them both a very happy 90th birthday.

We, too, would like to say 'Bon Anniversaire a George et a Joyce'.

## NEW YEAR'S DINNER

We will be holding our Annual Town Twinning Dinner in January 2016  
If you are interested in joining in, please contact

Lyn Jordan 01530 832804

or

Paula Purver 01530 451861

Date and Venue to be decided

## COFFEE MORNING

**At the end of October, Paula Purver held a coffee morning to raise funds for the association.** It was a really nice event with lots of coffee, tea, biscuits and cakes, plenty of people to talk to, the marble game with Peter Bennett in control (and with the stopwatch). This time it was won with a score of 53 - people are getting really good at it. There was also a raffle: and there were Christmas cards for sale. Paula would like to say thank you to everyone who came along:



## THANK YOU

I am very pleased to tell you that our recent Coffee Morning raised

**£106.50**

for

**Coalville & District Town Twinning Association**

Many thanks for your help & support

## PUBLICITY

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