

Coalville & District Town Twinning Association

CHAIRMAN : Ms. Paula Purver
Tel. 01530 451861

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

SECRETARY : Mrs. L. Storer
Tel. 01530 262361

NEWSLETTER AUGUST 2018

55 YEARS OF TOWN TWINNING

HERMITAGE FM RADIO LINK FROM ROMANS

While in Romans in July, Chris and Delphine North had arranged to send some reports to Hermitage Radio. They did a piece describing the town as they looked at the river, the squares and shopping areas and the mountains in the distance, as well as a commentary on the International Festival of Folklore as the procession of dancers moved through the town. They even managed to find one or two people who would answer a few questions in English. The recordings were broadcast as features on Jon Sketchley's Afternoon Show. You can replay the recorded broadcasts on our Town Twinning web site.



BOOK EXCHANGE

The Book Exchange that we arranged last year between Coalville Library and the Mediatheque library in Romans has expanded with a further exchange of books this year. Delphine and Chris North delivered another parcel of books to the library in Romans when they visited in July and were given a bag of books to bring back to Coalville Library.

The books which the French have given for our library this time are examples of modern French writing from fiction to autobiographies. They will be on display on the Town Twinning Book Exchange shelves in Coalville library shortly and people will be able to borrow them and get a feel for what the French do and read. It all helps to maintain the links between our two towns.



CONTACTS IN ROMANS

Fred Deshayes has been one of our contacts at the Mairie in Romans for a long time now. He dealt with various international topics. He has now moved to a job in Nantes. We are sorry he will no longer be our contact but we wish him all the best in his new work.



Whilst we were there this summer we met the Councillor with responsibility for Social Cohesion and International matters, Cllr Alain Dones.

The Mayor's current priorities are the mobility of young people (including securing work placements in local firms) and territorial economic development. Our Council has been offered the opportunity to participate when the Economic Fair takes place in Romans in the Autumn.

CHANCE MEETING

Chris and Delphine North were in Romans and, walking through the town, stopped to take a photo of one of the little back squares. A lady was about to walk past, but then waited. When the photo was taken, she went on her way, but then turned round and casually asked if we were visitors. It then turned out that she knew Coalville - she had been on the exchanges. She remembers vividly going on a visit down the mine. That, she said, was an incredible experience so we recorded an impromptu interview on the phone! It turned out that a burnt out shop we had seen in the old town last year was opposite her house, which had also been set on fire by the heat from the shop fire because the Medieval streets are so narrow. She had only just been able to move back in after a year! You never know who you are going to bump into.

PETANQUE MASTERS

Romans was very busy in July. Just as last year, they hosted the Petanque Masters competition - straight after the International Folklorique. For this, the council has to set up a big arena at the top of the town with a large area of tents alongside - rather like a Medieval encampment with pointed topped tents. You can not miss it!



There is a temporary petanque area in front of the town hall for the locals.

FOOTBALL

While the Folklorique was on, the World Cup was taking place. One evening, about 5 o'clock, you started to hear car horns tooting away - just as they do when a wedding group is coming past. But this continued and grew louder as more and more cars joined in - some going in procession round the square. Then flags were being waved from the car windows. Round the streets people getting into cars were all bringing flags with them as well and tooting the horns as they set off. This was because the French team had just won the match to take them into the semi-finals. Can't imagine what it was like after the final!

TWINNING TEA

Please support our Afternoon
Tea Event at Paula's house
WED. 15th AUGUST

£5 2pm - 4pm

16, Hough Hill
Swannington. LE67 8RE

Let Paula know by 13 Aug if you
intend to come 07894 935 256

FOLKLORIQUE 2018



This annual event is now in its 41st year. This July there were 8 groups from around the world: India, Peru, Rwanda, Russia, Chile (with dances specifically from Easter Island), Nicaragua, Macedonia and the local traditional French Dance group from Romans, Empi and Riaume. It is this group which organises the whole event.

There were evenings of entertainment in both the Ernst Gaillly and Maurice Faure squares. You were still searched this year as you went into these events as part of their anti terrorism precautions and there were 'gabions' (metal mesh squares filled with stones) around the squares to prevent vehicles entering.

On the Sunday there was the procession from the park near the river, through the old quarter down to the market, through the busy market (as people are doing their shopping, it is very vibrant) and up to the Jules Nadi square. This year the dancing had to finish at the top of the street turning into the square. Normally the groups each take a turn on the bandstand, but that is undergoing renovation at the moment and was unable to be used.

This year at the events, both in the town and at the big final evening on stage in the museum grounds, they had some very unusual lights. They came up like flower heads and were made of different kinds of materials.



PUBLICITY

Please contact Delphine North
01530 836700 if you have any
enquiries or articles

RENOVATIONS IN COALVILLE & ROMANS

Both towns are undertaking renovations to their landmark buildings this year. We are working to preserve the Clock Tower War Memorial and in Romans they are renovating their 'Kiosk' - the well-known bandstand built in 1888 in front of the Town Hall, which has been a focal point for the town and our twinning activities over the years.



Both buildings are surrounded by hoardings and covered in scaffolding. The hoardings around the bandstand in Romans are very smart and show the details of the work and how the structure will be returned to its original form with a Turkish 'onion' dome on top. Much of the decorative and structural ironwork has to be replaced, as well as the roof. It will cost 149,000 euros (£133,000). Our Clock Tower repairs will cost £116,000, funded by the National Lottery (£60,000) the War Memorials Scheme (£30,000) and the District Council (£26,000).



But there is much more afoot in Romans. The square at the top where you could walk and sit among the trees and where the petanque area was, is at the moment all bulldozed over - apart from some of the trees which have been kept and are encircled with plastic piping to protect them. The aim is to create an urban park with lots of trees and things to do. At the moment it is not in a state to imagine what it will look like - we will wait and see.

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FRENCH ROADWORKS & SPEED LIMITS

As you travel round France at the moment there are a lot of roadworks. Many of the main roads are having barriers put between the two directions of travel. Confusingly, speed limits on motorways and dual carriageways have been dropped to 80km/h (50mph) where there is no central barrier - but on normal single carriageway roads you can still drive at 90km/h (56mph) !

The disparity between the speeds on the autoroute and on the ordinary main roads has got every one talking - and Charlie Hebdo - the satirical magazine - has had a field day, with a double spread cartoon showing people's reactions.

So, if you are driving in France - watch out for all the different speed zones (and of course where the works are taking place there are other speed restrictions to look out for as well !)

If you are intending to travel by car anywhere near Paris, Grenoble or Lyons you need to get a 'clean-air' sticker for your car.

If pollution reaches critical highs on hot, still, summer days then the mayors of these three cities have power to ban the worst polluting vehicles from urban roads. Although restrictions will only apply on these days, it is a legal requirement for all vehicles to carry a sticker at all times in these areas. Fines for not doing so could be as high as £120. The certificate lasts the lifetime of the car. To get the sticker, you have to scan in the relevant page of your car documentation and upload it with your application on the French Ministry of Transport website at : www.certificat-air.gouv.fr/en. The cost is E4.80. You might want to get one - just in case, since a further 21 French towns and cities are said to be considering similar rules.

QUARTERLY MEETING

THURSDAY 1 NOV 2018
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