

Coalville & District Town Twinning Association

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COALVILLE - ROMANS-sur-ISERE
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NEWSLETTER MARCH 2019

OVER 55 YEARS OF TOWN TWINNING

A TOWN TWINNING ASSOCIATION FOR ROMANS ?

This year we are hoping to get a Town Twinning Association established in Romans in order to engage local people and generate interest. Not just the possibility of exchanges but also forming links between local organisations, clubs and societies.

Town Twinning Exchanges were originally organised by the Town Hall in Romans and later by Romans International - an arms length department funded by the Mairie. However, the funding for Romans International was cut about four years ago so they are no longer organising exchange visits and Twinning activities. Their priorities are now International Mobility, Territorial Economic Development and Young People. One of the volunteers there has attempted to get people together but without success. Perhaps we need to look at promoting an independent Town Twinning Association in Romans, similar to the one that exists here in Coalville - run by local people but supported by the Council. Both Councils signed the Town Twinning Charter in 1962. This commits the Councils to promoting Town Twinning to further understanding and relationships between the peoples of the two towns. We will be discussing how this might be achieved and how we might re-establish exchange visits and encourage more contact between our two towns.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Please don't forget to renew your membership subscription

STILL ONLY

£4

Per Household

Please send to Keith Pare
Membership Secretary
103 Tressall Road
Whitwick

ROMANS SCOUTS HOPE TO VISIT COALVILLE IN SUMMER 2019

We have been in contact with a Scout Troop in Romans who are hoping to visit Coalville in the summer. They will be coming over to the UK for an international scout camp near Birmingham and we have put them in touch with local scouts here.

There have been exchanges between local organisations in the past, including Judo and Swimming clubs - and the Coalville Ravens under 14's football



team, who went over to Romans in 2008 to take part in the Romans football club's Centenary celebration competition which involved teams from its twin and partner towns in Italy, Germany, Armenia, Beit Sahour as well as three local French Teams. And our youth team were runners up to the Romans youth team !



GEORGE DIXON

It was with great sadness that we heard of the death of one of our long-standing members, George Dixon. He and his wife, Joyce, have been on many exchange trips to Romans, exchanging with a number of different families.

As well as hosting those families back in England, they have also hosted the exchange students of their children, Lesley and Paul.

George was not able to speak French to begin with. Then they all went to visit the family of Pierre, the student who had exchanged with Paul. Paul, Lesley and Joyce could all speak French and George felt left out of the conversation. When he got back to Coalville, he went straight to the Tech. College and enrolled on a course. With the lessons and the visits to France he was soon able to hold his own in any conversation, and he never looked back.

The Dixons and their son Paul (left) with his long established exchange partner Pierre Miribel (centre) in Thringstone, 2012

Through the years he did a lot of work with Town Twinning. He has been Chairman, Vice Chairman and Publicity Officer. He once organised a group of engineers to go to Romans. He and Joyce were group leaders of a senior citizens' exchange and they hosted garden parties for fund-raising. He was always there to help new members feel welcome, and you could ask him to answer any questions that you had, or explain procedures.

Town Twinning played a big part in his life and he played a big part in Town Twinning.

He will be missed.

FRENCH FILM NIGHT

Tuesday 2 April 2019

7.30 pm start

Hall Lane Methodist Church
Near the Lady Jane

A popular and amusing French Film
with English Subtitles

ROMANS GETS RENOVATED

The Town Hall in Romans has launched a number of initiatives to improve the physical and social fabric of the town.

The Council's 'Shop in Romans' project has provided 23 units on the Cote Jaquemart (adjacent to the Jaquemart



tower). Twenty of these are already occupied. A new pedestrian link is being developed to link the Factory outlet shopping centre (Marque Avenue) on the edge of the town centre to the main shopping area. Works have also been carried out to improve the town squares and the town centre park, the Champ de

Mars, which has been completely reimagined and a large number of trees planted.

A major housing improvement project has also been launched within the town centre action area which will see 300 dwellings renovated within 5 years as part of the Council's acquisition-renovation plan. There will also be grants to help private owners improve their properties. The Mayor says that the 'Romans Gets Renovated' project provides a unique opportunity to capitalise on the charm of the old stone fabric of the ancient town.

A crowd-funding campaign has also



been launched to fund the restoration of the medieval Jaquemart tower - the symbol of Romans.

More details in our next Newsletter.

FILM NIGHT

Our first film night this year was held at the Charles Booth Centre in Thringstone. The film was 'La Gloire de mon Pere' - all about the early life of the French writer, Marcel Pagnol. It was the sort of story that just took you gently along with it. There were subtitles so that you did not need to miss anything of what was happening. At the end everyone had enjoyed the film and wanted to know when we were showing the one that is the follow-on, telling the next part of his life story. We thought it would be a good idea to show it reasonably soon while people still remember the first story - though it is not necessary to have seen 'La Gloire de mon Pere' before seeing the follow-on at Hall Lane Methodist Church on 2 April.

BREXIT : A BACKGROUND NOTE

Fifty years ago this April Charles de Gaulle who was then President of France, resigned.

He very much believed in France's independence and was not in favour of his country joining NATO or joining the Common Market. He also vetoed Britain's application for membership of the Common Market - not once but twice. He spelt out in detail his reasons for remaining opposed even to the opening of negotiations for British entry.

He said at the time that the report of the Brussels Commission had shown clearly that membership of the EEC was incompatible with the economy of Britain, with her chronic deficiency in balance of payments. He also said it was also incompatible with the British tradition of obtaining cheap food from all parts of the world.

DeGaulle also believed our membership was incompatible with the restrictions we had imposed preventing the removal of capital from the UK and with the state of sterling. We had devalued and had loans. So all these things prevented Britain joining the solid, interdependent and assured society of the EEC he said.

Later the Guardian reported that M Couve de Murville, the French Foreign



Minister, explained to the National Assembly that France had in no way obstructed the negotiations. But only small problems such as those of industrial products from the Commonwealth had been solved. On the main issues of the common external tariff, the agricultural policy and the European Free Trade Association, the British Government had completely failed to satisfy the negotiators on the other side.

He went on to pay tribute to the integrity of the British Government's intentions and drew a small applause at this point from the deputies, but he returned to President de Gaulle's argument that the British people were divided on this issue, and repeated the President's offer for "association."

When De Gaulle resigned it paved the way for Britain to join the trading group which would eventually become the European Union.

ANNUAL DINNER

At the end of January we held our annual dinner. We went again to Da Vinci's in Coalville where we had been the previous year. Again we had an excellent meze meal with lots of different dishes brought to the table for us to try. We were also joined for the occasion by Cllr and Mrs Cotterill and Cllr M Specht, the Council's representative on our Town Twinning



Committee. Cllr Paula Purver, the Town Twinning Committee chairman, thanked everyone for coming. She also thanked everyone for all the hard work they had put in last year.

NEXT QUARTERLY MEETING

6.15pm

Thursday 2nd May

**Council Of ces
Coalville**

All Members welcome