

# Coalville & District Town Twinning Association

CHAIRMAN : Paula Purver  
Tel. 01530 451861

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

SECRETARY : Mrs. L. Storer  
Tel. 01530 262361

## NEWSLETTER MARCH 2020

### 58 YEARS OF TOWN TWINNING



*The iconic red phone box presented to the town of Romans has been removed*

#### RED PHONE BOX DISAPPEARS FROM ROMANS

The iconic red phone box presented to the town of Romans by Coalville and District Town Twinning Association in 1992 to mark the 30th anniversary of our Twinning, has disappeared.

This came to light when we made enquiries about making a publicity call to the phone box in Romans from the one recently installed by Hermitage FM Radio station in front of their studios and cafe in the centre of Coalville, as part of plans to mark its opening as a community telephone when it becomes operational.

We have been told by the Mayor's office that the red phone box in Romans was dismantled and taken away by France Telecom in 2013/2014, because of its very degraded state. We have a photograph of the phone box standing in front of the railway station, taken on 30 August 2015, at the end of the Exchange visit that year.

It is a pity that we were not told that the phone box was to be removed since it was a gift to Romans from our Association and the people of Coalville. We could perhaps have contributed to a renovation project by supplying the

proper paint and some new perspex glazing. These iconic phone boxes currently cost around £2,000 when derelict and over £3,000 restored (without the phone and internal fittings). Many are now being converted into a wide range of useful facilities. Transportation is also costly since they are made of heavy cast iron and it was no mean feat for our Association to arrange for the phone box to be transported from Coalville to Romans.

It is a great pity that this symbol of friendship between the two towns has been removed.



*The Recently Renovated Phone Box In Coalville outside Hermitage FM Radio Station will provide free calls to services*

#### ASHBY TWINNING CELEBRATES 60 YEARS WITH 50 FRENCH VISITORS

Our neighbouring town, Ashby-de-la-Zouch, celebrates 60 years of Town Twinning this year, with Pithiviers in northern France. The Ashby Town Twinning Association will be hosting around 50 French visitors and has arranged a variety of activities and cultural excursions.

The Ashby-Pithiviers Town Twinning Association, like ours, is run by local people who raise funds by organising various events throughout the year in order to pay for the activities for their French visitors. Their organisation is recognised as the official Town Twinning body by the Mairie in Pithiviers.

Our 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Twinning with Romans-sur-Isere is in 2022.

#### AGM 2020 - Officers

This year's AGM was held on Thursday 13 February 2020. The positions held are as follows :

**Chairman** Paula Purver

**Vice Chairman** Jennifer Chapman

**Secretary** Lesley Storer

**Treasurer** Janet Christopher

**Minute Secretary** L. Storer / J.Christopher

**Other Positions on the Committee are :**

**Membership** Keith Pare

**Social** Paula Purver

**Publicity** Delphine North

**Webmaster** Chris North

Plus 2 Councillors and co-opted members

**OUR FRENCH  
FILM NIGHT  
7.00 for 7.30**

**Wednesday 11 March  
Hall Lane Methodist Church  
Raffle tickets £2**

Come along and bring your friends

# FOCUS ON FRANCE

## ELECTIONS IN FRANCE



In March it is time for the local elections as it is throughout France. They have two dates for voting - Sunday 15th March and Sunday 22 March. In France those who wish to put their name forward come to stand collectively as a list. Each list

has to be submitted and their objectives published in what is known as a profession de foi. And this is distributed by the postal service to every inhabitant.

Voters vote for a list. The list that gains more than 50% in the first round - or if no list does this, then the one with the majority vote in the second round - wins and takes the position of mayor and adjoint plus the majority of seats with the others allocated according to the percentage of votes won. We will let you have the results for Romans in the next newsletter.

## NOTRE DAME

Notre Dame went up in flames last year on April 15th. One big loss was the mechanical movement that drove the hands of its four clock faces.



PHOTO courtesy of : eutouring.com

These faces were in dormer windows perched on its roof. This movement weighing about 3/4 of a ton melted and crashed to the floor. No model for reconstruction existed because, unlike the architecture, the clock structure had not been recorded digitally. Then - a miracle discovery. A twin of the two metre wide machine was found in a storeroom in a church about two miles away. It had been stored away after being replaced by an electronic version in the 1960s. The plaque reads 'Annee 1867. Construite par Collin.' That year was about the time that Collin and Wagine installed the one in Notre Dame. It can now be used as the basis for a reproduction of the Notre Dame version which was bigger and more elaborate.

## FRENCH CHEESE - YES, PLEASE?

You may love camembert or roquefort or one of the other many French cheeses, but at the end of last year at the World Cheese Awards held in Bergamo in Italy, France did not rule the roost.

The winner was a cheese from Oregon called Rogue Ruby, a blue cheese made with organic cows' milk, aged for up to 11 months and then wrapped in Syrah grape leaves soaked in pear liquor.

Britain made a 4th place with Pitchford Cheddar from Somerset. And France - their highest placing was 8th with a cows' milk cheese from Burgundy. That was their only placing in the top 15. The Ouest-France newspaper wrote that it was shocked that the world's best cheese was not French. But John Farrand, of the Guild of Fine Food who organised the event, said: Good cheese is made all round the world, not just by the French.



PHOTO : Rouge Creamery - Ruby Blue

## ANNUAL DINNER

We held our annual dinner at the end of January. We met up at Da Vinci's restaurant in Coalville and we had a splendid tapas style meal. With a long table all down the side of the restaurant. the conversation flowed all evening.

Thank you, Marco, for looking after us so well. Jennifer Chapman, our chairman, thanked everyone for coming and she also thanked Marco and team for our very pleasant evening.

**REMINDER : Subscriptions Due  
£4 Per household**



Annual Dinner January 2020