

# Coalville & District Town Twinning Association

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

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## NEWSLETTER SEPTEMBER 2008

### YOUTH EXCHANGE IN ROMANS

Seventeen students travelled to Romans-sur-Isere for the youth exchange in July. The first two days were spent discovering the area.

On the Tuesday there was a treasure hunt based around Romans itself and then on the Thursday they went walking in the Vercors, the mountains on the other side of the river to



the town. Incredibly they were lucky enough to see marmots - incredibly because, in order for the little creatures to appear, the whole of the group (17 English and 17 French and their leaders) had to remain silent for quite some time. This must have been the most difficult part of their whole stay.

When they visited Valence, a nearby town, they called first at the area around the TGV station. Here they had a presentation showing how the area was being developed as an environmentally friendly business park, promoting the use of sustainable building materials. From the new to the old, as they then had a tour of the old town of Valence and heard



about some of the gorier bits of its history.

On the Wednesday of the second week there was another trip, this time to Marseilles. and the highlight here had to be lazing on the shore-line and the swim in the sea. The weather was obviously much hotter than it has



been here as all the students were made to cover themselves in sun cream and keep T-shirts on to prevent them getting burned.

Among all these activities there was still time to visit Romans' market, to go round the Shoe Museum, play a variety of games and go accrobranching. This is a way of manoeuvring yourself through the treetops at ever-increasing heights (suitably attached



to a rope, and wearing a helmet). Apparently only one rescue was needed not of one of the leaders we are assured!

The final evening there was a party. Everyone spent the afternoon getting ready for it - decorating the area,

moving the furniture, choosing the recipes and cooking them. The chocolate fairy cakes were not quite as expected- they were mistaken for chocolate mousse and put in the fridge instead of in the oven. (Still



cake mixture often tastes just as good from the basin as when it has been cooked!) In spite of this little mishap the whole evening was a great success with all the host families joining in.



The next day everyone managed to get to the meeting point in time for a prompt departure. However there was then a delay at the airport for three and a half hours. Finally the group arrived home at 9.00pm instead of 5.30pm.



Also check out our new web site  
[www.coalvilletowntwinning.org.uk](http://www.coalvilletowntwinning.org.uk)

## FOCUS

### FRANCE IN FOCUS

France has some new road signs - 20 of them. Some are similar to existing ones - for example, a bunch of grapes indicates that wine products can be found in the area, a man with a canoe indicates a boat launching point. However, two of the brown information signs may leave motorists wondering just what there is to see.

A dotted line round the letter 'm' indicates a museum of France, and two facing half-moon shapes apparently advise you of the fact that nearby is a garden officially certified as a garden of note. What does that entail? - a garden having design, plants and care of a remarkable level. Another sign which shows a speeding train indicates a station with traffic above 30,000 passengers a year. Another indicates the entrance area to a sensitive natural space.

France, historically, has always been keen on road signing, going back to an international conference of horseless carriage nations in Paris in 1904. The first recorded sign was an 1894 danger warning on the Route Nationale 7 near Cannes which was put up before a bend by the Touring Club de France. Recently, most of the pictograms have a French origin.

Jean Pierre Lemonnier, secretary general of the National Driving Instructors Union, says that some of the signs really serve no purpose. He says it is an over-abundance of information when you are told that you may bump into a slower vehicle or that you are at the exit of a tunnel.

### ADULT EXCHANGE



The French adults have just been in Coalville for a week. They went back on Bank Holiday Sunday. Among the activities organised for them was a presentation and reception at the Council Offices with talks about the Green Footprint and recycling. (Full report in next Newsletter).

## RECENT EVENTS

### TEA AND CHAT

The whole of the week before the Tea and Chat at Sybil and Peter Bennett's house, it looked as though the event would be indoors. But coming up to midday the clouds lifted and we had a really pleasant afternoon. Plenty of tea was drunk, plenty of cakes were eaten and plenty of games were played. The marbles game was once again the scene of great rivalry. A high score was achieved quite early on and everyone really wanted to beat it, but it proved unassailable until the very last try. That high score was beaten by just 1 point. The winners on the day were: Treasure Hunt: Barry Marbles: Richard Bennett Buzzer game: Shaun Name the cheeses: Delphine North. Guess the beads: Lesley Storer. Overall the Tea and Chat afternoon raised £211.60 for the Association funds. Thanks go to Sybil and Peter for all their hard work. Thanks too to all the others who came and helped with the tea and the cakes and generally helped the afternoon to run smoothly.



### CAR BOOT

Jennifer Chapman took items to a car boot sale in July. Unfortunately it was one of those mornings when it just rained and rained. It cleared up a short while before the end - but of course by then people had decided not to go. Even under these circumstances Jennifer managed to make £16 for Twinning funds. The rest of the items will now go to another car boot event a little later on.

### QUARTERLY MEETING

Thursday, 6 November, 2008.

6.30pm Council Offices  
Coalville.

Open to **all** Members

## STOP PRESS

### NEW LOOK WEB SITE

Our web site now has a new look and some new features. Do log on and see what you think to the changes.

We are developing the site as a resource for our own members and for people in Romans - so that they can find out more about Coalville and the places of interest in the area. There are direct links to other web sites covering local attractions and information as well as links to the Romans web site and *Romans International* - so you can see what is going on in our twin town throughout the year. We also have links to the other towns that are twinned or partnered with Romans.

Welcome to  
**Coalville Town Twinning**  
Coalville & District - Romans-sur-Isere  
Town Twinning Association

The town of Coalville,  
now at the heart of the new National Forest in  
Leicestershire,  
is twinned with the historic French town of  
Romans-sur-Isere,  
55km southwest of Grenoble, 80km south of Lyon.

**Our Web site address has changed**  
Please update your favourites to our new .org address  
[www.coalvilletowntwinning.org.uk](http://www.coalvilletowntwinning.org.uk)

Membership of the Town Twinning Association is open to anyone living in the Coalville Area.  
New Members are always welcome. You do not need to be able to speak French.  
Membership entitles you to go on exchange visits to Romans-sur-Isere every alternate year.  
If you go on an exchange you are expected to put up a French person or couple the following year (usually the people you have stayed with).  
You can also offer to put up a French Visitor, even if you do not wish to go to France.  
The Membership fee is £4 per year for a single person

**LATEST**  
Adult Visit to Coalville  
17-24 August 2008  
Report and Photos

Internet | Protected Mode On

A new feature due to go 'live' shortly will be a form that people can use to email us direct - so you don't need to know our email address - you will be able to get in touch directly through the web site. We may also be able to set up a chat blog - for example just before a youth exchange, so people can get in touch with each other.

*Email us and let us know what you think about the site and any suggestions for making it more useful.*

Make sure you have the new web site address - you can still view the site from the old address but this will stop working shortly. We are now .org.uk (NOT .co.uk).

[www.coalvilletowntwinning.org.uk](http://www.coalvilletowntwinning.org.uk)

Do tell your friends over here and in France to look at the site regularly.