

## TWINNING MEMENTOES

We hope to arrange a supply of twinning teddy bears and tea towels dedicated to Robertsbridge and St Brice and will have samples at future meetings to test interest. Please do let us know if you would be interested in buying Teddies (about £8/9) and towels (about £2/3) by emailing us. We need to know the interest before committing funds to the production, so we would really appreciate your input.



## MEMBERSHIP

We are "on a roll" at present with increasing membership, a host of planned activities and a really professional looking set up with our printed events calendar and publications, an updated website and an enthusiastic committee. But we are determined not to let the grass grow under our feet and want to continue the momentum. There is a lot of untapped support in the village and if you can encourage any friends and neighbours to join, please contact our membership secretary:

**Marilyn Faithfull** on [cowbix@lineone.net](mailto:cowbix@lineone.net)



## CHAIRMAN

David Faithfull was appointed our new Chairman at the AGM and has already made his imprint on the association. He has taken on a lot of work personally, designing and printing the brochures, arranging the functions and has really hit the ground running. We editors will give him all the support we can in continuing the association's momentum and ask you all to help in this worthwhile task, not only for the association but to help improve the quality and cohesion of the life of our village.

*We would really appreciate your emails and comments on this newsletter and, as it is a first attempt, your advice on how it can be improved. For all the matters mentioned above we can be contacted on [alecm\\_kent@hotmail.com](mailto:alecm_kent@hotmail.com) or [rosemary@theostrich.plus.com](mailto:rosemary@theostrich.plus.com)*

*Kind regards,  
Rosemary & Alec*

# Robertsbridge Twinning Association



# NEWS

## September 2011

**Robertsbridge Twinning Association**

c/o The Ostrich • Station Road • Robertsbridge • East Sussex • TN32 5DG

email: [twinning@robertsbridgetwinning.org](mailto:twinning@robertsbridgetwinning.org)

[www.robertsbridgetwinning.org](http://www.robertsbridgetwinning.org)

Dear Member,

Welcome to this, our first newsletter of our twinning association for some time. We hope to be able to make it a regular, quarterly publication. The editors are myself, Alec Knox, and Rosemary Robins. I have been a member for 6 years while Rosemary was a founder member. We thought we might start by Rosemary telling us why she joined and her experiences. We would also like to ask members to email either of us to tell us of their twinning experiences - the more humorous the better. All writers of letters published will receive a twinning tea towel, a true collectors' piece you will want to leave to your grandchildren!

## JOINING THE ASSOCIATION (ROSEMARY)

I was keen to join the Twinning Association. I had been to the very first meeting in the Church Room when we all voted for the country we wished to twin with; visited the 3 French villages that were considered by the Twinning Bureau (now defunct) to be most compatible and, along with the other 4 on that initial visit, had been delighted with the warmth and friendliness of the people of St Brice.

I thought it was a brilliant idea to twin with a place in the champagne region and wanted to have champagne from St Brice available here in The Ostrich. The son-in-law of my charming hostess had a vineyard and was happy to provide the twinning champagne. The problems only arose when I returned to Robertsbridge and my husband, Tony, telephoned Customs and Excise to see how to go about it. Several complicated telephone calls later and, sporting a headache by this time, Tony had established how very, very complicated it would all be and we had to abandon the idea.

If anyone knows more about how to do this legally and would be willing to advise, then I would be only too pleased to talk to you. I haven't given up hope. In the meantime, I still thoroughly enjoy visiting St Brice. At one time, we even had a barmaid here for about 6 months as a result of one of my visits there. Now, that's what I call twinning.

## DAVID CLAYDON

A few years ago the association was in poor shape. Nobody's fault, just a mixture of people relocating, illness and nobody stepping up to take the helm. David Claydon, our local postmaster and travel agent, who was a founder member stepped in after a few years absence from being active. David formed a new committee, got things moving and has now retired again from active committee membership, his job done. We owe David a debt of gratitude for his actions and will continue to try and improve the activities and profile of the association.

## QUIZ NIGHT

Our ever popular annual quiz night will be held in the village hall on Friday October 21st at 7.30 pm (for 8pm). This is our main fundraising event of the year and will be another fun-filled night. As well as normal questions, this year we will include picture, film and music clues. The redoubtable Tony Brooks will again be presiding as our jovial quizmaster. As usual, there will be a bar selling wine and soft drinks and we would prefer if you could enter teams of six - but don't worry if you cannot, because we can assemble some teams on the evening - so do still come. Tickets will be on sale at the usual village outlets or from the editors and Marilyn Faithfull.

## REIMS CHRISTMAS MARKET

We plan a weekend trip to St Brice on Dec 3 & 4 the focal point of which will be the Reims Christmas market, one of the biggest in France with 125 stalls. It is a truly great spectacle of music and market activity and should not be missed and, as usual, there will be the truly magnificent hospitality from our hosts in St Brice. More details will follow but do keep the dates clear and we will try to have enough members going to warrant hiring a bus.

## PARISH COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE

At our last AGM we welcomed the Parish Council representative, Nigel Lockwood, to the committee. We hope Nigel enjoys his time on the committee; we are already enjoying working with him.