

Robertsbridge Twinning Association

Robertsbridge



St.-Brice-Courcelles

NEWS

Christmas 2018



Robertsbridge Twinning Association

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What is happening with our Twinning Association?

It has been “*All Quiet on the Twinning Front*” for some time now, and for that I apologize. The plans that we made during the meeting with Monique (St. Brice Twinning President) and many of our other French friends when they came over in April, are still being worked on, albeit rather sluggishly.

I thought that it would be right to let you know what the situation is, and to reassure you that the re-birth of the Robertsbridge Twinning Association is in progress—but it’s proving to be a long, hard and rather painful labour!

As a result, this is a very short communication, and it is intended not just for those of you who kindly agreed to help or simply asked to be kept informed, but for our French friends also, who quite understandably are very keen to see things happening. And if you feel inclined to pass this on to a wider audience, please do so!

- The Website

At our meeting in April we decided that a joint website for letting people know about events in both our villages, and with a messaging facility so people could contact others and arrange visits, would be a huge step forward. Tim Faithfull, a dab-hand at such things, has kindly agreed to create this, and is working on it. We hope that a trial version will be available soon in the New Year. To whet your appetites, here is the front page he has designed (a huge improvement on my prototype example!):



He has also created a presence on FaceBook (much as I dislike social media I think that we need to make use of it!) and eventually it will be on Twitter as well.

I'll be meeting with Tim over Christmas, and will keep you informed on progress.

(The link to the Facebook page is <https://www.facebook.com/robertsbridgestbrice/> and people who are logged in to Facebook can find it by typing '@robertsbridgestbrice' in the search field.)

- The 2020 Anniversary celebrations

I had a very helpful meeting with Roger Palamarczuk and a long telephone chat with Sean O'Hara a while back now, and we came up with some good ideas. Firstly, to 'piggy-back' the 2020 Village Summer Event, with a Twinning 'stall' and maybe some French wine and food tasting and even a mini boules competition. This would mean asking the Parish Council to agree a date in June/July that did not conflict with the celebrations in St. Brice (especially the Fête de St Jean, held on or close to 24th June). I'm hoping to have an opportunity to address the Parish Council in the New Year to ask for this, and to bring them up to date with developments.

Roger also had the great idea of commissioning a play from our "village playwright" Leon Hillier, who runs a community theatre group called Lantern Tree Theatre. I have contacted him and am hoping to arrange a meeting with him soon. This could be performed in the evening of the same day, perhaps preceded by drinks and nibbles! Our French friends would of course be invited to come, so we will probably be doing the rounds seeking accommodation. You have 18 months to build that extra bedroom! If you have any suggestions or thoughts on these ideas please do let me know.

- Visit in May

Monique, President of the St. Brice Twinning Association, is organizing a trip to England in May/June for their members, and is keen to include Robertsbridge in their itinerary. The dates suggested by Monique for a stop-by in Robertsbridge are 30th May or 1st June. I'll let you know as soon as possible when I have an idea of numbers and timings, and some ideas about how we might organize the day(s). If you have any ideas, please do let me know.

- Visit to Canterbury Cathedral

Rosemary very kindly gave me the name of her contact at the cathedral, Frankie, who arranges and conducts tours, and I am hoping that at some stage we can organize a trip there with our St. Brice friends – possibly even for their May/June visit.

- Pictures!

Finally, some pictures: firstly of the French visit in April, and secondly - really for the benefit of our French friends - some pictures from the recent Christmas Capers in the High Street.

I'll keep you posted. In the meantime, if you want to talk about any aspect of this, please do contact me:

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Wishing you all a very happy Christmas and a peaceful, healthy and fun-filled New Year.

David



“Christmas Capers” Friday 7th December

The High Street closes between 6pm and 9pm, and all the shops stay open, many providing free drinks and mince pies. The village choir, RoCoco, sing outside the church, and there are stalls selling food, including this year a delicious goat curry courtesy of the Salehurst Halt!







The April visit to Robertsbridge

Dinner

Left-to-right:

Sylvie, Benoit, Jenny (hidden!), Michel, Suzanne, Martin, Francoise, Tricia, Gervais, Monique, Louis, Marilyn



The full-English breakfast before the meeting (anyone would think all we did all weekend was eat and drink...)



Sadly, time for our friends to leave