
the aim of twinning

.....is to enable groups and individuals in the two villages to make links and forge friendships and to find out more about each others' culture and lives. This might take the form of groups from each village visiting the other, say, to take part in sporting activities, performances or just to meet each other informally.

What happens next?

....An enthusiastic (and growing) twinning committee - including French speakers - has been formed at our end and the next stage in Kingsclere is to meet with interested groups or individuals and share some ideas for making links. A meeting has been arranged for the Fieldgate Centre on 29th January at 7.30 – invitations will be going out to the village organisations but the meeting is open to all. The committee will then help put groups and organisations in touch (and help with putting together e-mails and letters in French). It's also hoped that we might be able to put on a series of French classes in the village – to boost confidence or just give people a grounding in the language.

Kingsclere-Cormicy Twinning News: December 2009

As reported in the last edition of the Tower, Kingsclere has begun the process of becoming twinned with the French village of Cormicy, in the Champagne region of France. It's a village of about 1500 inhabitants some 20km to the North-west of Reims, the main city of the region. Cormicy lies in attractive rolling countryside and has a beautiful ancient church at its centre. Most of the village has been rebuilt since the First World War; Cormicy saw fierce fighting and was almost completely destroyed. It's extremely well-placed to get to being only a few kilometres from motorway, major airport and TGV train station



Getting involved..

We are sending this newsletter to all organisations in the village which we have contact details for. What we hope is that we can begin the process of thinking about ways in which organisations (or individuals) could become involved. Some information about the groups and organisations in Cormicy is given on p2 of this newsletter

The next step is to come along to the meeting at **The Fieldgate Centre on Friday 29th January at 7.30** where there will be more information and a chance to discuss the twinning project

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Parish council website: www.kingsclere.gov.uk **Cormicy website:** www.cormicy.fr

What sort of twinning activities could happen?

The range of activities is only limited by the imagination and energy of groups and individuals in the two villages. Just a random selection of thoughts which come to mind are:

- Sporting teams arranging a match against each other, maybe as part of a tour
- Choirs or other musical groups travelling to put on a concert in each other's village
- The rambling or cycling group hosting a weekend of walks or rides for a visiting group
- Local traders of produce or crafts travelling over to sell at a village market
- Inviting individuals over to visit the village as guests for community events - like a flower festivals, Hippo Trail or archaeological dig

But it's not necessary to travel or host guests to be involved in twinning activities. How about...

- Children from the schools becoming pen pals
- The photographic societies putting together a portfolio of images to e-mail over to the other villages

...and there are sure to be a host of even more creative ideas

How will our plans and ideas become reality?

The twinning will become official sometime next year. But planning can begin now; the twinning committee have contact details for the groups in Cormicy and, of course in Kingsclere. In some cases it may be easier for contact and exchange of ideas to happen centrally between the committee and the Cormicy council, in other cases it may be better to put individuals in contact. There are a number of French speakers on the twinning committee so we can offer translation services for e-mails, letters etc. More details will appear in future editions of the newsletter and in the Tower

We would imagine that in most cases would be about Summer 2010 as the earliest to plan any events or exchanges



Organisations and groups in Cormicy

Although it is smaller than Kingsclere, Cormicy has plenty of community activity, with sporting clubs (for example football and archery), and a heritage and cultural association which puts on concerts, exhibitions and talks. There is a primary school (and pre-school) and a particular emphasis on providing activities for children within the village. Further afield in the local area there are choirs and music groups who often perform in Cormicy.

