

Article for October 2016 Box Parish Magazine – deadline Wednesday September 14th

Almost four years after their first visit to Box our friends from Sorigny arrived on Friday September 2nd for the ‘marriage’ between our two villages. The ‘courtship’ had taken place with many visits and ups and downs over the years but finally it ended in the public ceremony of ‘twinning’ on Sunday 4th – an historic day for both villages.

In the lead up to Sunday the Box committee and helpers entertained our guests with drinks on arrival at the home of Corinne and Thierry Sarkissian, a shopping trip to Bath, ‘parlour games’ at Kev and Annie Ford’s home and a pub meal and skittles at The White Hart, Atworth, where Corinne Burgain-Bertoia was declared champion .



With a formal ceremony in the Box Pavilion, in front of invited guests, Stewart Barnes (PC Chair) welcomed our visitors, Alain Esnault (Mairie de Sorigny) responded whilst our MP James Gray emphasised the importance of international links between individuals of different countries. Fred Shepherd, our President, stressed the value of linking Box with Sorigny and encouraged young families to get involved to enjoy the cultural exchanges between us. Leader of Wiltshire Council, Baroness Scott, spoke of twinning experiences throughout Wiltshire and presented the Mairie with a mounted Wiltshire Crest for his office.



The official signing of a Friendship Charter between the two villages will be repeated again in Sorigny next year over the weekend March 25/26th – more details will follow.



In a unique move Box initiated the signing of a 'Junior Charter' to strengthen the bonds between the young people of Box and Sorigny – our signatories were Nell Callaway, Isabelle Nash and Amelia White – they didn't have to make speeches!

*Junior Twinning
Charter
between Sorigny and Brix*

*We, the children of Sorigny, make an oath
and of this, witnesses of all that exists or
may exist of the close friendship being
formed between us, declare that we now
wish to strengthen our relationship through
a "Junior Charter".*

*In the spirit of brotherhood and friendship,
through close personal relationships
between our citizens and particularly
through our youth, to foster peaceful
cooperation between France and Great
Britain and thus create a happy and
peaceful future between our two nations,
wishing at the same time to aid and
encourage the development of fraternity
between all the peoples of Europe.*

*Signed on behalf of the children of Brix,
Signed sur, sous des enfants de Brix.*

Nell Callaway

Isabelle Nash

*Serment de Jumelage
Junior
entre Sorigny et Brix.*

*Nous, les enfants de Sorigny, faisons un serment
de ceci, témoins de tout ce qui existe ou
pourra exister entre les Français et les
Britanniques de deux continents, nous le faisons
par nous-mêmes exprimant nos vœux en
"Charte Junior".*

*Nous, en esprit de fraternité et d'amitié, nous
faisons de notre mieux pour faire avancer les
rapports personnels entre nos deux villages et
en particulier entre nos deux jeunes gens,
encourageant la coopération entre la France et le
Grande-Bretagne afin d'assurer un avenir
pacifique pour nos deux nations, tout en voulant
aider au développement de la fraternité
entre tous les peuples présents en Europe.*

*Signed sur, sous des enfants de Sorigny
Signed on behalf of the children of Sorigny.*

London White

*Sunday, September 4th, 2016
Dimanche 4 septembre 2016*





With the hoisting of each nation's flag, including Wiltshire's, the ceremony concluded with rousing renditions of our national anthems.



To underline the solemnity of the morning's events the participants attended a Service of Prayer and Dedication for the Twinning and for the World arranged by Rev. Dr. Janet Anderson- MacKenzie, Priest in Charge at St. Thomas a Becket Church, where our French visitors read bible passages in French – a very moving end to the day's celebrations.

The informal celebrations continued with a walk around Lacock and afternoon tea in Bradford-on-Avon. Our Box Committee hosted a Celebration Dinner at Kingsdown Golf Club and were entertained during the meal by John Roberts and Friends playing a wide range of music which was very much appreciated. The entertainment continued with Kevin Ford and Liam Holley organising a 'race night' – the 'home team' led by Adrian Dolan was declared the winner.

A few comments received by the Box committee from our guests:

I would just like to thank you all from myself and on behalf of the Parish Council for all your efforts in making the weekend Twinning such a wonderful and happy occasion. I was particularly struck by the rapport and friendship that you have already built up with nos amis de Sorigny, and the whole weekend went off very smoothly. I am already looking forward to going to Sorigny in March, so I will have to brush upon my French in the meantime. (Stewart Barnes – Box Parish Council, Chair)

Thank you so much. It was a pleasure and honour to be there, and I am so glad that my remarks were well received. I have put something about it in this week's Column. (James Gray MP North Wiltshire)

I am most grateful you invited me to the excellent Twinning Ceremony event today - memorable and truly momentous. Very lovely to witness the proceedings and receive the good messages from the speeches. I shall look forward to going over to Sorigny in March. (Vaughan Hill – Parish Councillor)



Us and our driver 😊

I wanted to take this opportunity to send you warm thank you for all you did and organised throughout that wonderful weekend we all enjoyed by coming to Box. It is always a renewed pleasure to come and see you as you always act in order to make us feel comfortable and at ease. We were all merry and delighted in signing that final engagement with you and your community. It is really difficult to express with mere words all the good emotions and feelings we went through. So on behalf of all the "dream team" thank you once again and we are looking forward to welcoming you next March. In the meantime, take good care of you all and we keep in touch for all the good things to come and do. (Celine (Lili) L'Huissier – President Sorigny Jumelage)