

NORTH FERRIBY: Village is one step closer to a twin town

Bonjour to firm French friends

in short

North Ferriby is closer to officially twinning with the French village of Le Pellerin after signing a Friendship Agreement.

Representatives from the East Riding village have taken part in a ceremony in north west France.

By **DAVID PAINE**

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AN EAST Riding village has taken a step closer to officially twinning with their French counterparts.

For four years, villagers in North Ferriby and Le Pellerin in north west France have been visiting each other in a bid to become twin towns.

That dream has now taken a step closer to reality after representatives from both villages signed a Friendship Agreement.

The document was initially signed in North Ferriby earlier this year and has now gone through the second stage of the process in France in front of more than 100 witnesses.

Chris Swindin, chair of the North Ferriby Le Pellerin Twinning Association, said: "We are delighted this official recognition has been reached after four years of exchanges and contacts.

"We are very pleased so many residents of Le Pellerin have joined us to witness the signing."

The ceremony takes the villages a step closer to becoming twinned.

Alongside Mr Swindin, North Ferriby was represented by John Halmshaw, the newly-elected chair of the Parish Council.

The recently installed Mayor of Le Pellerin, Valérie Demangeau and the president of the Le Pellerin Twinning Association, Carole Gauduchon, signed the agreement on behalf of the French.

Residents from the two villages have been visiting each other on a regular basis since 2003.

Next month North Ferriby will welcome a party of 40 adults and children as their guests.

The idea of twinning came from a friendship between Jane Knight and her former au pair Carole Gauduchon.

Mrs Knight, of Parkfield Avenue, North Ferriby, is also secretary of the village's twinning association.

She said: "I met Carole in Cardiff more than a decade ago and we have remained friends."

"When I moved to North Ferriby she came to visit the family and noticed the similarities between the two villages - that set the ball rolling.

"The relationship between the two villages has been developing steadily, involving not only the two associations but also primary and secondary schools on both sides.

"People have also been staying in each others' homes and we have developed some amazing friendships."

Links

North Ferriby Le Pellerin Twinning Association

www.ferriby.info/twinning.htm

Town Twinning

www.towntwinning.org.uk



FRIENDSHIP AGREEMENT: President of the Le Pellerin Twinning Association, Carole Gauduchon, left, with secretary of North Ferriby's twinning association Jane Knight and John Halmshaw

PICTURE: Jack Harland

What the villages have in common



PICTURESQUE: Above and below, Le Pellerin village



GEOGRAPHICALLY North Ferriby and Le Pellerin are very similar.

Both villages are situated near huge estuaries; the River Humber and France's longest river, the Loire, respectively.

Le Pellerin is just a few miles from the regional centre, Nantes and North Ferriby is a similar distance from Hull.

They both also have similar populations with about 3,700 people living in the French village and approximately 3,819 in North Ferriby.