

Meet the Trevellyans

She's from the United States. He's from England. Through a long distance relationship they eventually married and found their way to Chatham where they run a successful website design business.

By DeeAnn Veeder

Robert and Suzanne Trevellyan and three of the websites they have designed.



Photo by Deidre Malfatto



The odds of their finding each other – twice – could be proof of destiny. Suzanne and Robert Trevellyan met while they were both in college, although their colleges were an ocean apart. Suzanne was majoring in communication at SUNY Brockport near Rochester and Rob's major was computer science at Brunel University in London. On a trip to Toronto, Rob decided to visit a friend over the border in Brockport.

"We literally met in the street," said Sue. The attraction was immediate and mutual, but Rob had to leave to go home to London the next day.

"We were pen pals," said Sue. They corresponded for two years, but their separate lives got busy and they lost contact.

Enjoying graphic design

Sue started at the Times Herald-Record in Middletown and found that she most enjoyed the graphics aspect of the newspaper. She moved on to become the advertising manager of Adams Fairacre Farms, a job with immense creative freedom. "I loved working for them." She would stay with them for twelve years, while also growing a freelance graphic design business on the side – with their blessing. "One of my first clients was their nephew."

Meanwhile in London, Rob was pursuing game developing. "At that time, there wasn't a degree program for it, no DigiPen [America's first video game college]. You had to work your contacts." He did, he was offered an opportunity to write a program as a demo for a video game developer, and he was hired immediately.

Ten years later, Rob found Sue through a fellow BMW motorcycle enthusiast running a rally in Rhinebeck. Rally guy looked Sue up in the phonebook and gave her Rob's email. She emailed.

Intercontinental relationship

An intercontinental relationship began, with trips back and forth for about a year until they decided someone had to move. In the spring of 2001 Rob obtained an H-1B visa, which enabled him to work with Vicarious Visions in Albany for up to six years.

"Visas and green cards are hard to get, even for those with the most privilege," Rob said. The company later sponsored him for a green card, which allows him to stay here permanently.

"Once Rob and I knew we were going to get married, we decided to move closer to his work. I knew for a long time that I wanted to some day have my own business. Rob was making a good salary and had health insurance, so this seemed like the perfect opportunity," said Sue. "When we moved to Chatham in early 2003, I got to work building the business right away."

From the moment they arrived here in January 2003, after a harrowing trek through a snowstorm from Saugerties, the Trevellyans have been happy to be in Chatham and grateful to the neighbor who invited them over for a warm dinner that night. They chose Chatham after a practical discussion and deliberate search, and they love it.

"I wanted to be somewhere we could walk into town, and I wanted a town with a small movie theater," said Sue. "And Columbia County is close to my family in Ulster County."

"I wanted a wood stove," said Robert. Yes, there is a wood stove in their welcoming home on Jones Avenue that is also their place of business.

Rob joined Trevellyan.biz in 2009, and their business today is a playground of capabilities. From website development to graphic design to marketing to IT help, the range of services they offer is amazing for a two-person operation. Their website is enormously generous with information – "to give an example of the importance of content," said Sue – and engenders great confidence in their collective knowledge.

"We don't outsource anything," said Rob. "It narrows our capacity, but keeps us completely hands on."

This, from their website, describes them well: Our small shop is unique in that we have both: style + logic, creativity + reasoning, right side + left side.

It's not hard to see why the Trevellyans are so popular (Trevellyan.biz was voted Best Web Developer in Columbia County in 2015 and 2016 by the Columbia County Chamber of Commerce and Columbia-Greene Media readers). Their separate skills compliment each other perfectly, and they are a refreshing couple, down to earth, comfortable, harmonious. ☺