



Friends of Triel

Newsletter of the Leatherhead & District Twinning Association

Issue 9 – Dec 2007

AGM 2007

Our AGM was held on Thursday 15 November 2007 at 8pm in the Reeves room at Leatherhead Parish Church and we were delighted at the large number of members who came along on a rather bleak winter evening to share some cheese and wine. Here is a summary of the Chairman's Report.

Chairman's Report

2007 has been a year in which the Twinning between Triel-sur-Seine and Leatherhead & District has gained considerable momentum. The Association is now at an exciting point where 2 or 3 community groups may well be forging links, an aim which the committee has long sought to promote.

During 2007, the committee organised several events: In March, there was a Quiz Night with a French flavour which was very well attended and a lot of fun. On 25 May, the largest ever 'Friends of Triel' group (40 in total) gathered in Leatherhead to make the journey to Triel by coach. Philippa Dralet and her committee had worked hard to find accommodation for such a large contingent, but, happily, local families were found to host all 40 of our group.

The weekend began with an official Reception hosted by the Mayor, Jean-Pierre Houlemare where we were delighted to present the Mayor with a charming framed print of Georgian Leatherhead, created by Jill Goodchild. We also had a guided tour of Triel lead by Lucette Delcayre which incorporated the now famous watery fly-past of flags, held aloft by 3 water skiers on the River Seine! Saturday evening saw us all enjoying a delicious meal and during the evening, we were entertained by amazing skills of a young magician at our tables.

On Sunday we had an unscheduled but welcome visit to wine tasting at local wine merchant. After a sumptuous indoor picnic, we set off for Monet's garden at Giverny which looked lovely despite the very "British" rain!



On our return journey we visited the Chateau of Chantilly, where a charming French lady gave us a fascinating guided tour. Equally enjoyable was a stop at Cite Europe in Calais for those all-important last-minute purchases of cheese and, yes, you guessed, wine!

In mid-August, Navin and Beverley kindly hosted a picnic for all the 'Friends of Triel' at their house in Leatherhead. It may have been a cool and cloudy day, but spirits were high as we gathered to welcome new friends and chat with fellow travellers. And what a spread that was...!!



Finally, the 'Friends of Triel' took part in the annual Autumn Fair at the Parish Church in Leatherhead on 13 October. Sue, Pete, Navin and Beverley set up a colourful stall and our wine raffle raised £119 for the church.



Election of Officers

All existing members of the committee except Julia Baker, our Treasurer, stood for re-election and were voted onto the committee. We would like to thank Julia for being such an able Treasurer and are pleased to know that she will remain a member of Friends of Triel. We are delighted to welcome Bernard Salsbury onto the committee as our new Treasurer and our thanks to him for volunteering.

Friends of Triel Committee 2008

Chairman: Paula Hancock

Secretary: Navin Mehta

Treasurer: Bernard Salsbury

Membership Secretary: Sue Brader

The remaining committee members are Peter Brader, Winnie Benford and our council representative, Councillor Bridget Lewis-Carr.

Christmas Links

The first weekend in December saw the annual Christmas market in Triel, for which both Julia and Paula made a Eurostar trip to Triel. Phillipa was selling crackers, tea, biscuits and mince pies on her Twinning stall, all of which had been snapped up by the end of the weekend.

Future plans

Looking to the future, there are some exciting plans in the pipeline.

The committee are pleased to confirm that we have now invited the French to visit Leatherhead from Thursday 8 May to Sunday 11 May 2008. This annual exchange has been going strong for 15 years and we hope to welcome a large and enthusiastic group of Triellois to Leatherhead next May. Initial ideas for the weekend include a boat trip with cream tea, a 60's Jive Band on the Saturday evening, and the possibility of a veteran's (over 40's!) football match hosted by Ashted Football Club. We also have an exciting opportunity to take part in a tour of the Houses of Parliament, lead by one of our members, Paul Pickering, who is a Blue Guide. If we are unable to incorporate this tour as part of the exchange weekend next May, the committee would like to organise a trip for the combined members of the 'Friends of Triel' and the International Club to tour the Houses of Parliament as we feel it will be a fascinating outing. Please contact us with any of your ideas.

In June 2008, Leatherhead Choral Society are planning a trip to France to perform in Triel, an exciting musical venture which we hope will prove to be a strong community link in future.

During September /October 2008, the Triel Art Group will be mounting an Art Exhibition. We are very much hoping there will be some involvement from this side of the channel and Eddie Nowak, who painted 'Leatherhead Bridge in the Mist' as a twinning gift 4 years ago, has expressed his interest in taking part. Similarly, we have approached Jill Goodchild from Leatherhead Art Club to sound out their interest.



Joyeux Noël to all our members – see you in the New Year!

STOP PRESS!!! 2008 Subscriptions

Your subscription are now due, the good news is that the price remains unchanged. Please send them to Sue Brader 29 Agates Lane Ashted KT21 2ND, and make cheques payable to Leatherhead and District Twinning Association.



Friends of Triel (Leatherhead and District Twinning Association)

Annual Membership Application 2008

(£5 for Family or Organisation membership)

Name

Please tick the boxes below to indicate your interests:

Address

Host a French Visitor

Take part in an exchange visits

Telephone

Help organise an outing

Email

Please enclose a cheque for £5 made payable to "Leatherhead and District Twinning Association" and send to Sue Brader, Membership Secretary, 29 Agates Lane, Ashted, Surrey KT21 2ND

Signed