



Friends of Triel

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Newsletter of the Leatherhead & District Twinning Association

November 2016

Exchange No 12

Every visit is better than the last one! There was a buzz of anticipation as we waited for our 30 Triellois guests to arrive on Friday 13th May. We were not disappointed – the weekend sped by with a visit to Greenwich followed by a pan London sightseeing tour driven by the French coach driver. There was some great down time with our visitors as well as the formal events.



The civic reception featured the talented Petrovitch family with mother, Beth, playing guitar and singing

with her daughter, Natasha (16), who also wowed us with her violin and Mika (12) who is already a virtuoso on the piano. After the exchange of gifts we enjoyed some delicious refreshments. Thanks to everyone who contributed.

Tyrell's Wood Golf Club provided again a warm welcome, a delicious buffet and the wine flowed freely. The music of Atlantis brought everyone onto the floor.



Anik and Arnel teaching us a line dance!

And from a French perspective

I was one of 30 Triellois from the Amitié Européenne who visited Leatherhead in May. En route from Triel we stopped to discover Leeds Castle.. Quel château magnifique et quel beau jardin ! Then on Saturday we went to Greenwich and visited the Old Royal Naval College. We had so much on during that weekend that I have more or less forgotten what we exactly did! I do however have a very strong memory of the musicians we listened to at the Mansion House. They were pupils from the Yehudi Meuhin music school and were absolutely fabulous. Then we had a lovely lively evening at the Golf Club and went back the following day stopping a last time in Royal Tunbridge Wells before taking the shuttle back to France. Don't ask me what the weather was like since it seems to me that the sun is always shining when we come to visit!
Au plaisir de vous voir l'année prochaine à Triel !

Claire Muff

ADVANCE NOTICE

If you want to respond to Claire's invitation to visit Triel put these dates in your diary NOW – Thursday 1st June to Sunday 4th June 2017

Summer Social

Our annual garden party has become quite a tradition. This year we gathered in Navin and Beverley's garden on September 4th. Lively conversation as old friends met up and indulged in eating a huge variety of delicious cakes that led to many vows of a diet starting tomorrow!



The only way to counteract that over full feeling was to play a lively game of pétanque.



All eyes on the boules as our pétanque competition reaches a tense finale!

Pétanque: it's all due to rheumatism!

- First played in 1907 in the town of La Ciotat near Marseille.
- A café owner, Ernest Pitiot, had a friend with severe arthritis who could no longer play the traditional "jeu provençal" because that game required a run up of 3 steps before throwing the balls.
- This new game kept your feet on the ground standing in a small circle. In the old Provençal language "pè tanca" means foot fixed to the ground.
- throughout France and then to many other countries. Every July there is now an annual "Mondial la Marseillaise de Pétanque" in which more than 10000 players of all ability participate.
- If you want to enjoy a game of strategy and skill make sure you come to next year's garden party!

Autumn Challenge

1. In the Tour de France, who wears the maillot blanc?
2. What kind of vehicle is a camionnette?
3. On which day of the year would you eat galette des rois?
4. Who would sleep in a caniche?
5. Which is the odd one out: panais, tomate, rutabaga?
6. Who wrote *Boule de Suif*?
7. What does a *sage-femme* do?
8. For which industry did Lyon become famous?
9. Who said, "Après moi, le deluge"?

10. Which English poet fought on both sides in the French Revolution?
11. Finish the line of this well-known French nursery rhyme: Ainsi font, font, font les petites ...
12. What is the British equivalent of the TV programme *Des Chiffres et des Lettres*?
13. What has happened to Marc if he has "perdu la boule"?
14. If you ordered "une piscine" what would you be given? (The answer is not a swimming pool!)
15. What is "une manif"?
16. On which part of your body would you wear your "tennis"?
17. Which flower is "une gueule de loup"?
18. Which sport is associated with the town of Hardelot near Le Touquet?
19. Which French singer was known as "le moineau"?
20. In what year was the guillotine last used to execute someone in France? (a) 1831 (b) 1977 (c) 1822 (d) 1902 (e) 1893

Many thanks to Christine Hearn for setting our Autumn Challenge. She and Martin won the Quiz in 2015 and were rewarded with a bottle of wine and the chance to bamboozle us all in 2016. Answers please by email to christinehearne04@gmail.com by the end of November.

Entre Nous

"Between Ourselves" is the name of the small group who entertained us when we went to Triel in 2015. Margaret Cooksey was so impressed by their performance that she invited them to come and perform at the Mole Valley Arts Alive Festival this autumn.



An expectant crowd at the Dorking Christian Centre awaiting the start of the concert "Sons de Jumelage"

During the first half we were entertained by the guitar

band from the Music School in Guvieux which is the twin town of Dorking. After an interval where we could relax and chat over a cup of something we were held spellbound by an hour's set performed by Entre-Nous. Marc was on guitar, Geraldine on ukulele and Christine on accordion. I felt that the accordion was almost speaking to me. They sang a wide variety of songs from many genres mostly in French, but even when I

could not understand, their songs spoke to me because of their emotional intensity.



Above: **Entre Nous** performing at their "international debut" at Dorking Christian Centre
Below: **Christine** on her "singing" accordion



I think this concert made me realise in a small way what we are trying to achieve in our twinning associations. We want to build not just friendships but cultural and educational links, so that we deepen our understanding and respect for each other's country.

Maybe one day we will be able to send some of our musicians to Triel.

Notes from the Treasurer



I am pleased to report that we have maintained a healthy financial position. We had a deficit of just £87 arising from the visit of the Triellois, but overall we achieved a surplus for the year of £78 leaving our bank balance at £2982. The cost of the visit to Triel in 2017 (1st to 4th June) will be higher than in the past because of increases in the coach and ferry fares and the devaluation of Sterling against the Euro. We will need at least 35 of us to join the trip to break even. However, to make the visit as affordable as possible we will ask for just £190 a person (with a discount for under 18s).

This price is the same as in 2015. So if numbers going do not reach our target then we will subsidise the visit from our reserves.

Please book a place as soon as possible to simplify financial and accommodation planning. DO invite friends. Full details will be given at the AGM. Please pay the £5 subscription at the AGM or as soon as possible after the AGM either by cheque to Leatherhead and District Twinning Association or by bank transfer to our twinning account, 30-92-70, account number 01983584. If you have any queries and cannot be at the AGM please phone me on 01372 452845. Cheques can be posted to 17 Fife Way, Bookham, KT23 3PH.

David Crutchley

Can we whet your appetite?

Where is this wonderful building?



Answer: The chateau of Vaux-le-Vicomte.

It was featured in the November 16 edition of the magazine "France" where it was described as a chateau and garden to rival Versailles but without the crowds. It just happens to be the destination of our day out on our 2017 visit to Triel. It can be found to the south east of Paris hidden away in the countryside of Seine-et-Marne. The house was owned by Nicholas Fouquet who was Louis XIV's Minister of the Economy. It was his lavish spending on the chateau that led to his being sentenced to life imprisonment by his boss who accused him of misappropriating public funds.

We will enjoy a guided visit to the chateau and its wonderful gardens laid out by the famous André le Nôtre. If you have never joined us on a visit to Triel before you are in for a treat. If you are coming because you want to renew old friendships the chateau of Vaux-le-Vicomte will add additional interest to your visit.

Boîte aux lettres

I would love to receive "letters to the editor" about any items of interest with a French flavour. Do you have a favourite recipe or a wine that you would recommend? What about pictures of recent French holidays? Any points of view welcome.

Elaine Crutchley