



Friends of Triel

www.friendsoftriel.com

Newsletter of the Leatherhead & District Twinning Association

November 2017

Autumn Newsletter

Welcome to our round up of Triel activities over the last six months. A special welcome to new members this year, and if you came to Triel we hope this marked the beginning of developing relationships with our twin town in France.

I am trying a new approach with this newsletter. I can never do justice to all the pictures we accrue on our visits and social events, so I am suggesting that you look at these on the web site (www.friendsoftriel.com). This newsletter will then focus on news and articles about what we are about in Friends of Triel. I am sure you will give me feedback on this idea at the AGM.

Our visit to Triel June 2017

It is always an early start but our journey across the channel, stopping in Amiens for lunch (the cathedral always amazes me) and arriving at Triel at 6pm went really smoothly. 31 Brits, ages 6 to 96, were given a warm welcome by the Triellois. Joel Mancel, the "mairie" of Triel gave us an official welcome and Simon Ling, the newly appointed Chairman of Mole Valley Council responded on our behalf. Nicole and Paula spoke for each of the twinning organisations. Then we were swept up by our hosts who made us feel so at home over the next few days.

Friday: our day out was to the Château and gardens of Vaux-le-Vicomte, the first example of an interaction between architecture, interior and landscape design, which became the Louis XIV style. We had 2 guides who took us around the magnificent interiors. We ate our picnics in the beautiful gardens overlooking the lake and the hill beyond on which stands the golden statue of Hercules. Visit <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vaux-le-Vicomte> to learn more about the sad history of its owner, Nicolas Fouquet.

Saturday: first up was an invitation to visit the Fire Station, whose firemen have cycled to Leatherhead on 3 occasions. Some of our party were treated to the high ladder experience rising to 30m above ground for a great view of Triel and Chanteloup-le-Vignes. We learned that the fire service are first responders and

therefore are prepared for medical emergencies, arriving first at an accident and even delivering babies!

At 11 many of us were driven to St Germain-en-Laye, a lively small town on the outskirts of Paris. A wonderful place to shop, enjoy a relaxed lunch, explore the park with its views of the Paris skyline. Did you know that this is the town in which James II lived and died after he fled England?

And in the evening a great party! Where? The Coq d'Or of course, a great place to eat overlooking the river and the town of Triel clambering up the cliffs opposite and then to boogie to The Rolling Stones cover band until midnight. Our youngest participants were stars. Ollie (7) taking pictures and Charlotte (6) enjoying the dancing. Our most senior member, Connie Edser, distributed Royal Worcester floral mugs to commemorate the first contact between our two town 25 years ago. From little acorns grow great oaks.

Sunday: after our usual prolonged farewells, hugs et gros bisous all round, there were a quiet few hours sleeping as we headed to Le Touquet. Most of us crammed into a fish restaurant, drank rosé and savoured some delicious fish specialities. It was a great way to round up a weekend in which friendships had been forged, had been renewed and deepened. Our hope is that twinning visits like this will help to maintain positive relationships with our French neighbours in these uncertain days.

Jazz in the garden 10th September

It's not often we can boast a jazz band at our summer social. We were treated to some great music by "Moodswing", a trio who offered their services for free to support the values that twinning encourages. Unfortunately the weather was rather chilly and showery but that did not deter us. Gill Northcott put her house and garden at our disposal and we enjoyed a superb buffet and the fun of a rather crazy raffle. Our 4 year old grandson was entertained for hours with a cardboard tube and an apple tree. I think the warmth of our interaction more than made up for the weather. Do check out Kathy Munson's magnificent array of sunglasses on the web site.



From our Treasurer

I am very pleased to report that our accounts are in a healthy state with £2878 in our bank account at our year end. There was a deficit of £103 this past year which was due to a loss on our visit to Triel. With the weak pound sterling, and having to pay much more for the coach and driver it was difficult to budget precisely. If two more had come with us we would have covered our costs. I will give more details of the accounts at our AGM on 1st November.

We welcome our visitors from Triel from 10th to 13th May 2018. Please offer to host if you possibly can. Our Dinner Dance on Saturday 12th May will be held at Tyrell's Wood Golf Club. Even if you are unable to host we would love to see as many members coming as possible. We had a great evening in 2016 which promises to be repeated.

The subscription for the coming year remains at £8 per person (under 18s are free). Please pay by cash or cheque at the AGM or by bank transfer to "Leatherhead and District Twinning Association", Bank Code 30-92-70, Account No. 01983584. If preferred you can send a cheque to me at 17 Fife Way, Bookham, KT23 3PH.

David Crutchley
(Tel.01372 452845; elaine.crutchley1@gmail.com)

Fireside Quiz

As the evenings darken and you are snuggling up by the fire what is better than a glass of vin rouge and a good brain teaser to while away the winter evenings? Here is a quiz to get the little grey cells working. There will be a bottle of wine for the 1st set of correct answers that reaches me before 31st December. An extra bottle for the Christmas celebrations!

1. What is the first name of President Macron?
2. Which themed amusement park in France is based on the stories by Alberto Uderzo and Rene Gosciny?
3. Name the third largest French city on the Mediterranean coast?
4. What was the main airport of Paris prior to the construction of Charles de Gaulle airport?
5. What was written in 1792 by Claude Joseph Rouget de Lisle in Strasbourg?
6. Which French newspaper's title translates as "The World" in English?

7. Which French President formally opened the Channel Tunnel with Queen Elizabeth I?
8. Chablis is the northernmost wine district of which French region?
9. What title was given to the heir apparent to the throne of France from 1350 to 1791?
10. Which city advertises itself as the "Capital of the Alps", due to its size and proximity to the mountain range?
11. Which language has declined from more than a million speakers in the 1950s, to about 200,000 in the first decade of the 21st century?
12. Why is Milau in southern France in the Guinness Book of Records?
13. In Paris what is the Francilienne?
14. What was named by Romans as *Sinus Cantabrorum* and also, *Mare Gallaecum*?
15. In which region of France would you find Napoleon Bonaparte Airport?
16. Best known for his book *Les Propheties*, in which century did Nostradamus live?
17. Which high fashion luxury goods manufacturer has a logo consisting of a "Duc carriage with horse"?
18. Brigitte Bardot became world famous in 1957 after starring in which controversial film?
19. Which is the most populous French department?
20. Francois-Marie Arouet is better known by which *nom de plume*?
21. Which city hosted the G20 conference in 2011?
22. Which French author lived in exile in St Peter-Port, Guernsey from 1855 until 1870?
23. Why did Hamida Djandoubi become famous on 10th September 1977?
24. Can you spot 2 deliberate mistakes in these questions?

For your diary!

Tuesday 21st November at 8pm in the Reeve Room of the Leatherhead parish Church Hall is our short AGM followed by a plentiful wine and cheese. The committee is up for re-election including our newly co-opted member, Kate Jhugroo.

Triel visit – **May 10th – 13th**. We are planning a visit to Arundel with a guided tour of the castle. We hope that some members will join us on this trip. And please put the Dinner Dance on May 12th into your diary.

Spring Social – we have not yet planned an event, and would welcome any suggestions.

There had been a suggestion that we might arrange an occasional French conversation evening. Please let me or anyone on the committee know if you are interested.

Joyeux Noël et bonne année !