



# Friends of Triel

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Newsletter of the Leatherhead & District Twinning Association

May 2019

## If you go down in the woods today



Deep in the backwoods of Wisley, hiding among the tree ferns, an intrepid party of the Twinning Association came face to face with a rather shy teenage brontosaurus. Did you know there was a bit of Jurassic Party in Wisley? Many of us were taken totally unawares. So how did this come about?



It was Sunday April 14<sup>th</sup>. The day was somewhat wintry but that did not stop a group of 14 members meeting for lunch at the Wisley Food Hall. Warmed and replete with food we then met with Helen our guide, for a tour of the famous gardens. She has been a volunteer for many years and lead us up hill and

down dale, regaling us with facts about the history of Wisley, introducing us to new plants and areas of the garden such as the fern wilderness on the far side of Battleston Hill. We enjoyed the colour of the early spring flowers and the Alpine Glass House shown above was particularly colourful. We also enjoyed the extravagant colours of tulips, dainty anemones in the woodland, and the buds bursting on trees throughout the gardens I think we all agreed that our guide had given us some fascinating insights onto the history and current workings of Wisley which will enrich future visits to the gardens.

## Parlez vous français?

We have finally launched our French conversation group. We have met twice – the 1<sup>st</sup> time at Bridget's house in Leatherhead and the 2<sup>nd</sup> at Frances's home in Mickleham. Some of us have realised how rusty our French is and really appreciate that those who are more fluent can help us with our stumbling search for that word which we seem to have forgotten. The conversation is helped by drinking copious cups of tea and indulging ourselves with some delicious cakes courtesy of our hostesses. If you would like to practise speaking French please email me at [elaine.crutchley1@gmail.com](mailto:elaine.crutchley1@gmail.com) and I will send you details of our next meeting on 14<sup>th</sup> June.

## Le quatorze juillet



14<sup>th</sup> July is Bastille Day – the French national day commemorating the storming of the Bastille, which marked the onset of the French revolution in 1789. This year it is on a Sunday and as we are unable to arrange a visit to Triel this year we have decided to mark this day with a grand summer garden party. We have asked "Moodswing", the musical group who entertained us in 2017, to set the scene. We will gather from 12.30 in Gill Northcott's garden in 16 Oakfield Road, Ashted. Please invite friends so that we can make this a very special day. Wine and soft drinks will be provided. But we are relying on each guest to bring and share a plate of food for 6 people. From past experience we will end up with a sumptuous feast. There will be garden games and plenty of time to chat so make sure you RSVP to [johannahancock@hotmail.com](mailto:johannahancock@hotmail.com).

## The Geleitsfest, Seligenstadt



Triel-sur-Seine has been twinned for 50 years with Seligenstadt, a town on the river Main, 25 km south of Frankfurt-am-Main renowned for its timber framed houses. Every 4 years the town celebrates its rich history. A group of us will be joining the festivities this year and we will bring back a full report for the next newsletter.



The Geleitsfest procession through the old town.



The climax of the festivities is the "Main in Flammen", literally the river in flame.

This will be an opportunity to meet not only with the German hosts but also with some of the Triellois. Hopefully we will be clearer about how we can arrange a visit next year.

## Mole Valley Heritage Open Days

For the first time since Heritage Open Days were launched, the festival will be running for 10 consecutive days from the 13<sup>th</sup> to the 22<sup>nd</sup> September. It will also be

a first for our Twinning Association, because on Saturday and Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> September we will be running an exhibition in the Letherhead Institute. Our aim is to show how twinning celebrates the history and culture of two towns. By sharing our heritage with each other we deepen mutual understanding, develop relationships and learn from each other.

I find it fascinating that when James II was deposed in the Glorious Revolution he fled to France and was permitted to live in the chateau at St Germain-sur-Laye, a few miles from Triel. This is a town we have visited a few times on our trips across the Channel. There is also a legend that he buried some of his treasure in Triel itself although, as yet, it has not been found despite numerous attempts!



The Château of St Germain-sur-Laye.

This is just one possible piece of historical information we might include in our exhibition. This will be open from 10 until 4 on both days and we hope to man or woman it with as many of our members as possible. We will also be delivering 2 short talks at 12 midday and 2.30pm as well as providing light refreshments for whoever visits our exhibition.

This is a great opportunity to raise the profile of the twinning and possibly recruit new members. It would be great to have volunteers to help at any time on those 2 days. We would also appreciate any photos you might have of visits to Triel as well as ideas for what we might include in the exhibition.

## Dates and Information

The AGM followed by wine and cheese will be held on Tuesday November 19<sup>th</sup>. Please put the date in your diary.

Contributions to the autumn newsletter would be very welcome. Have you a story about a visit to France, or some interesting facts you have read? Please send them to me – [elaine.crutchley1@gmail.com](mailto:elaine.crutchley1@gmail.com).

Finally, don't forget to visit our website from time to time or our facebook page Friends of Triel.

I look forward to meeting many of you with your friends at our Quatorze Juillet Summer Garden Party.