



Friends of Triel

www.friendsoftriel.com

Newsletter of the Leatherhead & District Twinning Association

November 2019

Autumn Newsletter

It's been an unusual year, for the nation and for our association. As a result of the uncertainty over the post Brexit arrangements for private coach hire, we never made it to Triel. We hope, however, that our efforts to celebrate the French National Day with our summer garden party as well as other events, have helped to keep alive our desire to be good twinning partners. I hope those of you who were able enjoyed visiting Café Triel over the Heritage Weekend. Thank you for contributions from members and friends for this newsletter. I love receiving them.

Elaine Crutchley

Our Summer Garden Party

A big "Merci Beaucoup" to Gill Northcott whose lovely garden provided a special venue for our celebration of the Quatorze Juillet, the French National Day. Moodswing certainly got us into the mood as did the delicious meal laid out for us due to all your contributions. The younger members made sure we didn't just stay seated either. Charlotte Pyatt showed us how to play Molky. For those who could not join us this was a game that resembles skittles but with a few twists. Here are a few pictures to remind you of summer days.



Moodswing getting us in the mood!

The mysteries of Molky!



But Molky proved to be a great game for old and young!

And there were some very young ones – welcome to Rosa and her teddy!

And we hung out the flags and dressed in our red, white and blue enjoyed our time together.



Visit to Seligenstadt

Seligenstadt is a quaint German town about 25km southeast of Frankfurt. In August a small group from the Leatherhead Twinning Association, along with our French counterparts from Triel, travelled there in order to attend Seligenstadt's festival, Geleitsfest, as I will explain later.

On our first day, after a two hour walk through woods and fields into a neighbouring town, we were greeted by



two small tractors pulling carriages which had tables specifically designed to hold bottles of wine. We were then driven off on a wine tour around a vineyard,

tasting at least 6 bottles of wine - not one each I hasten to add. The views were breath-taking, the wine delicious and the songs that our French friends treated us to, great fun. Our walk back to the train steered an interesting course!



The next day gave us time to explore the historic centre of the town. We were offered a glimpse into Seligenstadt's rich history with the Geleitsfest festival. This three-day event happens every four years to celebrate the old crafts and trades of the town. Seligenstadt used to be an important stop for

merchants on their journey to Frankfurt as it meant they were likely to arrive at the city with all their wares still intact, so there was a huge celebration in the town. The meeting of the merchants and the townspeople is recreated during the festival, with both groups parading through the town beforehand, watched by cheering crowds. There is every trade imaginable represented on the march, bakers, fishermen, brewers, to name a few, and they are accompanied by several bands. With the old-fashioned costumes, the cobbled streets and the old buildings, it felt as if we had been transported back to a past era, and I remember feeling so excited as I stood on the streets. It is such a joy that this festival happens: all the towns people join together to make it successful and the sense of community is most impressive.

After the parade, everyone makes their way to the town square for the ceremonial drinking of the spoon. Three people who are considered important to the town are bestowed the honour of drinking a litre of wine from a large spoon. One of the three this year was Nicole



Jusserand, who heads up L'Amitié Européene de Triel, our twinning partner. Nicole along with two local men were then made Knights of the Spoon!

Don't forget the AGM on Tuesday 12th November at 8pm at Leatherhead parish hall. The place to be to enjoy delicious cheese and wine.

On our final evening most of the town gathered by the River Main to watch the end of festival which took place on the river and we saw water-skiers, a man hover boarding, a Viking ship, burning effigies and, lastly, fireworks.



The spirit of preserving history echoes around the rest of the town: the Benedictine monastery gardens are maintained to perfection, growing flowers and herbs and even hosting an albino peacock.

The town commemorates the darker side of its history too... Synagogue Square is all that is left of the Synagogue that was burnt down in 1938, a chilling reminder of the horrors that took place under the Nazi regime. But it shows the strength of the town's residents that they do not allow this event to be forgotten, whilst also not permitting themselves to be solely defined by the darkest hours of their country's history. That part of Germany is beautiful, filled with a diverse population, excellent food and very interesting places... all of which I highly recommend you explore.



Exploring the historic town centre

Freya Jhugroo

Friends of Triel at the Leatherhead Institute
We were very pleased to be asked to represent our Association at the Institute over the weekend of September 21st and 22nd. It was a great opportunity to advertise our activities and to show our pride in maintaining our European links. Friday evening found us decorating a spacious room with flags and balloons, setting up tables, café style, and laying out a service area to serve wine, cheese and additional coffee, if someone had not already had one in the library. We also launched our new information leaflet, along with maps, books and more information about Triel. We then invited anyone visiting to join us in Café Triel. Paula gave a couple of talks on Saturday and a further one at lunchtime on Sunday which gave further background to the history of our twinning as well as exchange visits and social activities.



Over 60 people visited the Café over the 2 days, and some showed real interest in joining us. We were also challenged by a few about the value of twinning and wasn't it a bit passé? Maybe the outcome of this weekend will not only be a few more members, but also a renewed belief in what we are doing in these days of Brexit induced Europhobia!

Parlez vous français?

Since July we have met for French conversation over tea and cakes in members' homes. A few of us are experts, most of us are trying to hang onto our school French, but whatever our level of linguistic ability we all enjoy speaking this lovely language. If you can speak some French (apologies we are not a group for débutants!) please come and join us. Please speak to one of the committee and we will give you details.

Notes from the Treasurer



For this past year we have had 47 paid up members, which is a modest increase over recent years. I will propose at

the AGM that our subscription remains at £10 per person for 2020 and free for anyone under 18. This year our expenses exceeded our subscription income by £115. Exceptional expenditure this past year included the summer garden party and the publicity for the Heritage Weekend. As a committee we hope that the leaflet produced for this weekend will be used to make as many as possible aware of The Leatherhead and District Twinning Association. If you can come to the AGM on the 12th November please take some leaflets to share with family, friends and any places which might be a good place to advertise our Association.

I am very pleased to say that we have been able to secure an executive coach to take us to Trier on **Thursday 21st May to Sunday 24th May 2020**. The cost will be a mere £210 per person (£160 for under 18s), which is our first increase for six years! It is only 10% more than our last visit in 2017. Please, please come if you possibly can and invite family and friends even if they are not yet members. I would ask for a £50

deposit by **31st December** and the balance by **31st March**. The price includes coach and ferry, visits and full board while in Trier. All you will need to bring is money for your own spending and for meals en route to and from Trier.

Please visit our website www.friendsoftrier.com where you will find a reservation form. Details for how to pay at the end of this newsletter.

David Crutchley

Classic Cuisine

As the evenings draw in what about some warming dishes to accompany that glass of deep red wine? Here is a recipe from Gascony. David and I visited a few years ago and we loved the cuisine, although I have to admit it is not vegetarian or vegan friendly. My vegetarian sister-in-law discovered that despite this meat orientation they could cook a mean omelette!

Ragoût Faisan



de
aux Noix

You will need: -

2 pheasants, each cut into 4 pieces
75g/3oz plain flour
100g/4oz duck fat
300ml/1/4pt dry white wine
1 bouquet garni
200ml/7fl oz double cream
100g/4oz shelled fresh walnuts
Seasoning

Season the pheasant pieces and roll them in the flour. Heat the fat in a flameproof casserole and seal until golden all over. Tip off the fat, pour in the wine and reduce by half. Add 100ml/4 fl oz boiling water and bouquet garni, cover and cook over low heat for 45 minutes, until the pheasant is tender.

Take out the pheasant and reduce the cooking stock to 100ml/4 fl oz. Remove the bouquet garni and pour in the cream. Add the walnuts and return the pheasant to the casserole.

Heat for about 5 mins until the sauce covers the pheasant. Check the seasoning and serve.

Bon Appetit!



Puzzle



Heads

Christmas is Coming



Literary Lingo

Can you name these English novels translated into French?

1. L'Âge de L'Innocence
2. Les Temps Difficiles
3. Le Signe des Quatre
4. Cinq Petits Cochons
5. L'Homme Invisible
6. La Couleur Pourpre
7. Peur et Dêgoût à Las Vegas
8. Le Faucon de Malte

Qui Suis-Je ?

Who is the famous French person talking about themselves here?

1. Je suis née le 13 avril 1953 à Amiens.
2. Mon nom de naissance est Trogneux.
3. J'étais professeur de lettres jusqu'en 2015.

And here's another person.

1. Je suis né le 19 mai 1946 à Coulommiers et mort le 27 janvier 1993 à Paris.
2. J'étais lutteur et mon surnom représente ma taille – je mesure 2,24m.
3. J'étais aussi acteur dans le film *The Princess Bride*.

Your Committee

We are a team that work together to keep the organisation on track. But some of us have specific responsibilities. Just in case you need a reminder of what each of us gets up to here are some details.

Paula Hancock is our Chairman and represents us on all formal occasions.

David Crutchley keeps an eye on our finances.

Navin Mehta is the secretary and takes our minutes.

Johanna Hancock keeps track of our membership and sends out the emails.

Julia Baker manages bookings when we go to Trier and when the Triellois visit us.

Bridget Carr used to be our Council Rep and continues to help us with liaison with the Council, especially important as our current Rep has never made contact with us.

Elaine Crutchley edits the newsletters and writes articles for local magazines.

Kate Jhugroo is our most recent committee member and brings a lot of creativity and enthusiasm.

We are also grateful to Brian Baker who looks after our web site.

Do you enjoy Christmas Markets? The colour, music, ambience give me a sense of excitement. Did you know that L'Amitié Européene de Trier take part in a Christmas Market every year? So if you are crossing the channel maybe this is one to head for.

And here is a picture from the wonderful old church in Trier to get you into the Christmas mood.



Joyeux Noël!

Last word from the Treasurer

Here is how to pay your

1. **Subscription:** £10 by cash or cheque made out to Leatherhead and District Twinning Association at the AGM, or by posting cheque to David Crutchley 17, Fife Way, Bookham, KT23 3PH, or by bank transfer (see below).
2. **Trier trip:** £50 deposit by 31.12.19., balance of £160 by 31.03.20 (£110 for < 18 years, either by cheque as above or by Bank Transfer

Leatherhead and District Twinning Association

Bank code: 30-92-70

Account number. 01983584

If you pay by bank transfer please let me know by phone on 01372 452845 or email to elaine.crutchley1@gmail.com