



Friends of Triel

www.friendsoftrielf.com

Newsletter of the Leatherhead & District Twinning Association

December 2020

Christmas Newsletter



2020 has been a year like we have never known. So this newsletter is coming to you for the 1st time in December. We would like it to bring you a bit of festive cheer as you sit in your bubbles whether they are filled to capacity or not. Thanks to all our contributors – recipes, quizzes, pictures and lots of updates, to help us look forward to 2021 and a return to meeting together as the Friends of Triel. Enjoy reading and a Very Happy Christmas to all of you from the Triel Committee.

Elaine

A message from Paula

Despite these difficult times, I feel certain there is much we have to be grateful for and also to look forward to. In 2020 Covid has become very much a part of 'la condition humaine' and, whatever our personal situation, we share a common sadness at the loss of contact with family and friends.

Our friends in Triel have been affected by the virus just as adversely as we have, and there is a definite feeling of 'fraternité' in my exchanges with Nicole. However, we are now looking forward with hope as we reach the end of 2020. There is the promise of a more normal life on the horizon with the advent of a vaccine and, as you will see from my recent email and this newsletter, there are now also a few dates for your 2021 diaries.

To me, our twinning is not an abstract concept – it is each and every one of you, our members, as well as all our friends in France and I would like to wish you all a *Joyeux Noel* and a much better year to come. I hope we will all see each other again soon.

Paula

For the long dark evenings

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We have 2 quizzes to test the "little grey cells" during this strange Christmas

season. First of all congratulations to Rodney Bligh who won the French Wine quiz in our spring newsletter. He

will be receiving a bottle of French wine for his efforts. There will be more bottles to give away to the first member to send in correct answers to either quiz by 6th January.. We will post the answers on our website www.friendsoftrielf.com on 7th January. Answers received at elaine.crutchley1@gmail.com before that day will be considered for a prize, to cheer you on your way in the grey January days

What do you know about France?

Thank you to Brian Baker for testing our knowledge as Francophiles. What do we *really* know?

1. How many French 'Departements' are there in total?
2. What is the name of France's highest active volcano?
3. There are six castles in Disney Parks around the world; three are named after Sleeping Beauty (*Le Chateau de la Belle au Bois Dormant*), two after Cinderella (*Cendrillon*); the sixth one is the Enchanted Storybook Castle (in Shanghai) and features homage to all the Disney princesses and isn't just modelled after one. Excluding Shanghai, where is the tallest Disney castle?
4. The author of *La Belle au bois dormant* and *Cendrillon* also wrote *Le Petit Chaperon Rouge* (*Little Red Riding Hood*), *Le Maître chat ou le Chat botté* (*Puss in Boots*) and *Barbe Bleue* (*Blue Beard*). What was his name?
5. What do Terry's Chocolate Orange, Beefeater Gin and EDF Energy have in common?
6. Paris is divided into how many "Arrondissements"?
7. Which two French cities are linked by the A7 auto route?
8. What is the capitol of La Réunion?
9. The Millau Viaduct, Norman Foster's magnificent motorway bridge in France, is the world's highest multi-span bridge and the longest suspended bridge in the world. Over which river does it stand?
10. "*Les aventures de Robinson Crusoe*" was the original title of a TV series made in France and



first shown in the UK in 1964. Readers of Daniel Defoe's novel on which it is based never find out the real name of the island on which Robinson Crusoe is shipwrecked but what does he call it?

Before exercising your brain again why not nibble some comfy cake?

Thanks to Julia for a delicious, easy to bake cake. Exactly what we need at the time when we are busy writing cards and wrapping presents. Julia told me that this recipe is a great way of using up odds and ends of fruit especially if it looks a bit dry, as long as the total adds up to 45gm.



Ingredients

6oz (150g) currants
6oz (150g) sultanas
6oz (150g) chopped dates
Rind and juice of 2 oranges
1/2pt (250ml) hot tea
12oz (300g) self raising whole meal flour
1 egg

Method

Put fruit, orange rind and juice into a bowl and pour over hot tea.

Stir well, cover and leave overnight.

Grease and line a 2lb loaf tin, or two 1lb tins.

Stir the flour and egg into the fruit mixture and mix well.

Put mixture into the tin and bake at 150C, 300F, gas

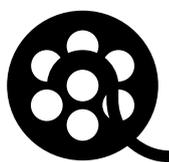
Mark 2 for 1 and 1/2 hours

Allow to cool on wire rack.

This recipe makes two small cakes, so you can eat one and freeze one. What about using dried cranberries to bake a Christmas version?

So now, with a slice of cake and a glass of wine, why not settle down to Quiz No.2?

Guess the Movie Quiz



1. Went away because of flatulence.
2. My girlfriend works in an amusement park.
3. There is a twist in the tale.
4. An Australian Magician.
5. A windup fruit.
6. it's the "White House" in Spain.
7. Birds of prey go for a challenge.
8. Pumps blood with courage.
9. Not white or ugly.
10. A novel of dense forest.
11. Vocalising when the weather is bad.
12. A high temperature at the weekend.

13. Would Felix burn his paws here?
14. Let him go when caught in a zipper.
15. A rebellion on this chocolate bar.
16. The toilet at an animal park.
17. Not the shortest 24 hours.
18. Abel's brother is a resident.
19. Things always go wrong for Fonda's daughter.
20. Flaming wagons.

What do Epsom and Ewell, Chantilly, and a china factory have in common?

Some members of our Association were invited to a Zoom talk by the **Epsom and Ewell Twinning Association**, given by one of their members, Caroline Baldock, on November 13th. Chantilly is Epsom's twin town, and its china factory was made famous by an English man, Christopher Potter of Bethnal Green. Thanks to Navin for this article about a man who had a colourful life.

The title of her talk?

Christopher Potter of Bethnal Green (1751–1817).

"The Man and the Porcelain"

Christopher Potter was best known for introducing into France the method of printing on porcelain and glass, a process for which he enjoyed a virtual monopoly for many years

How did this come about?

Christopher Potter was born in Southwark, the first son of George and Betty Potter. George was a maker of Archel dye at the Falcon Steps between 1749 and 1755, an area where glass was made that rivalled that imported from the continent. Young Christopher learned how to use lichens and chemicals to develop these dyes and thus an interest in chemical processes. He tried growing woad on his newly acquired estate near Ely, but disaster struck and by 1786 he was bankrupt and had to sell all his properties to clear his debts.

The French adventure



A porcelain plate decorated using the technique of printing introduced by Christopher Potter

Nothing daunted in 1788 he left England to make a new career in France. Against the backdrop of the turmoil created by the Republican Revolution in 1789, he managed to establish potteries in Paris. There he introduced the technique of printing on porcelain and glass, for which he took the credit, although this technique had been discovered back in England 20 years earlier. He also reopened the Chantilly porcelain works, which had been closed through the emigration of

the Condé family. There he employed five hundred men, and produced nine thousand dozen plates a month. He opened further potteries at Montereau and Forges-les-Eaux. Then In the autumn of 1793, another personal disaster. The royalist city of Toulon had surrendered to the Anglo British fleet and English people in France were taken as hostages in retaliation. Potter was now imprisoned at Beauvais and Chantilly. In 1802 he received a gold medal for his work, and he dined with Bonaparte in 1804. In 1811 he advocated the cultivation of woad in France, citing his Cambridgeshire experience, and between 1794 and 1812 he took out five patents for agricultural and manufacturing processes.

In 1815 he returned to England temporarily, but health declined as did his financial situation. In 1817 he was imprisoned for debt and died in Fleet Prison in November 1817. He was buried at St Matthews, Bethnal Green.

No specimen remains of Potter's ordinary ware. The Victoria and Albert Museum, however, has Chantilly porcelain it identifies with the Potter period. In the Sèvres Museum there was a cup, ornamented with designs of flowers and butterflies, with his initials, surmounted by Prince of Wales's feathers.

Members Corner: Lockdown Stories

What have you been doing during lockdown? Has it been tough – relatives you cannot visit or even see? What about home schooling – how did that go? Did anyone get away? Did you enjoy your exercise?

The best story is Connie Edser's. **Congratulations Connie for reaching your 100th Birthday in August!**



Connie was the British founder of our Twinning and she has remained deeply committed to all that we do. On our last trip to Triel she gave a cup to each of our French hosts to show her appreciation for all they had done. Always generous and very determined, we have many great memories of your involvement Connie.

On behalf of us all, I wish you continued good health and express our thanks for all you contributed.

Here is my story. Both lockdowns have been busy and I hope productive. Here in Bookham, we have been concerned for the spiritual needs of old people who are lonely and isolated, because of physical frailty or progressing dementia. I have led a small working group

drawn from churches in Bookham. We have teamed up with a local charity called **The Meeting Place**, whose objective is to decrease social isolation. Our aim is to set up a Befriending Service and community chaplaincy for people over 65 who have lost social networks for various reasons. In January we launch a Telephone Befriending Service and already there is a trained team



in place, getting ready to phone people who would like a regular call. We want this to become a visiting at home service when Covid restrictions are lifted. Our next step is to find someone who can also meet the spiritual needs

of this age group. There is a nation-wide network of people who are called Anna Chaplains (named Anna after the old lady in the Bible who got excited when she met the baby Jesus with his parents!). We want someone like this to work in our care homes and with care agencies providing spiritual support alongside physical and mental health needs. I am not sure whether we would have made so much progress without having more time to focus on the project.

Are there any other stories out there? Please share them with us, as a way of increasing our friendship despite being unable to meet socially this past year.

Elaine Crutchley

Dates for your Diary

AGM (by zoom) Tuesday 12th
January at 8pm

Spring Social Saturday afternoon
May 15th for a walk and picnic

Parlez-vous français?

We would like to re-start our French conversation group, but it looks as if we will be confined to Zoom for the foreseeable future. We are suggesting a Zoom rendezvous on **Monday 18th January between 8 and 9pm**. If you would like to join us please let me know: elaine.crutchley1@gmail.com. Once we know how many people would like to join we can arrange the format of the meeting.

Notes from the Treasurer



I am pleased to report that we are in a sound financial position. Our expenses have been low over the past year as we have not been spending on social

events. Of course, we don't know as yet what we can do in 2021, but the committee has decided not to ask for a membership subscription for the coming year. I hold £1700 as payments towards our next trip to Triel, and we have made a deposit of £500 with the coach company. However, we have decided that with all the uncertainty over Covid 19 and vaccinations in UK and France that we should not expect to go to France until 2022. By then hopefully the crisis will be over. I have already funded some deposits and will, on request, refund more as required.

We will be renewing our website subscription so please visit www.friendsoftriel.com. By far the largest visitors to our site are people from abroad, especially the USA!

Please do not hesitate to ask me about our accounts by ringing me on **01372 452845** or emailing elaine.crutchley1@gmail.com.

David

Puzzle Heads



Here are a few more puzzles to bring this newsletter to a close and to keep your mind ticking over as you eat your way through cake, pudding and mince pies. Can you match the pictures below with their French names?



1. Santons
2. Chaussette de Noël
3. Couronne
4. Boule de Noël

Qui suis-je?

Who is the famous French person talking about themselves here?

1. Je suis né le 19 mai 1946 à Coulommiers et mort le 27 janvier à Paris.
2. J'étais lutteur et mon surnom représente ma taille – je mesurais 2.24m.
3. J'étais aussi acteur et j'ai joué un rôle dans le film *The Princess Bride*.

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Don't forget our website.

We would like photos, articles, and anything of interest to be posted there along with our newsletters

Brian Baker will post them for you. Email him on brianbaker@btconnect.com

And finally to get yourself in the Christmas mood here is a French poem appropriately called **Noël**



Courez à la forêt prochaine,
Courez à l'enclos des fermiers ;
Coupez le gui sur le grand
chêne,
Coupez le gui sur les pommiers !
Coupez le gui ! Coupez le houx !



Feuillage vert, feuillage roux ;
Mariez leurs branches !
Perles rouges et perles
blanches.
Coupez le gui ! Coupez le houx !
C'est la Noël ! Fleurissez-vous.

Chassez les grives et les merles,
Chassez la mésange au dos bleu
Du gui dont les fleurs sont des perles,
Du houx dont les fleurs sont du feu !



Charles Frémine

I hope I have given you enough clues to guess the meaning if you do not speak French, but if I have not why not use Google translate – it is not bad for this!

Joyeux Noël!