



Friends of Triel

Newsletter of the Leatherhead Twinning Association

Issue 1 - December 2003

Leatherhead Group Visit Triel in 2003

In May, a group of 14 local residents accompanied by Heather Ward, then Chairman of Mole Valley District Council, spent a long weekend in Triel-sur-Seine. Triel is a small town of 11,000 inhabitants on the banks of the River Seine about 30 kilometres west of Paris. Informal exchanges between Leatherhead and Triel have taken place on a regular basis since 1992, but now there is a new impetus to formalise and extend the close links already in existence by an official twinning.

During their stay, the visitors enjoyed a tour of the Chateau of Chantilly and its famous stables and a visit to Chateau Malmaison, home of Josephine and Napoleon Bonaparte. Several of the visitors spent a fascinating afternoon at the Observatory in Triel itself, while others went to a local market for the all-important shopping!



Leatherhead group outside Chateau Malmaison

As ever, the French welcome was generous and enthusiastic and their hospitality outstanding. Two long, sunny and very delicious lunchtime picnics were followed in the evening by much wining and dining as only the French know how!

From an official point of view, the twinning committees of both towns met, led by their respective 'mayors' and



Former Mole Valley DC Chairman Heather Ward and Triel Mayor Jean-Pierre Houlemare

agreed to work towards the objective of a formal twinning in the near future .

There were representatives from French choral societies, football clubs, schools and a host of other organisations in Triel who are keen to foster links with similar organisations in the Leatherhead area, and the twinning committee would be delighted to hear from any local groups who would like to join the 'Friends of Triel'.

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Committee Member Constance Edser presents a gift of a traditional English teapot to Jean-Pierre

Similarly, the committee would welcome any individuals or families who would like to join as new members – don't worry if your French is a little rusty as we have found that a smile, a few words in French and some sign language goes a long way! If you are interested in joining or finding out more, please contact Peter Brader on 01372 275862 or email him on peter_brader@hotmail.com.

About Triel

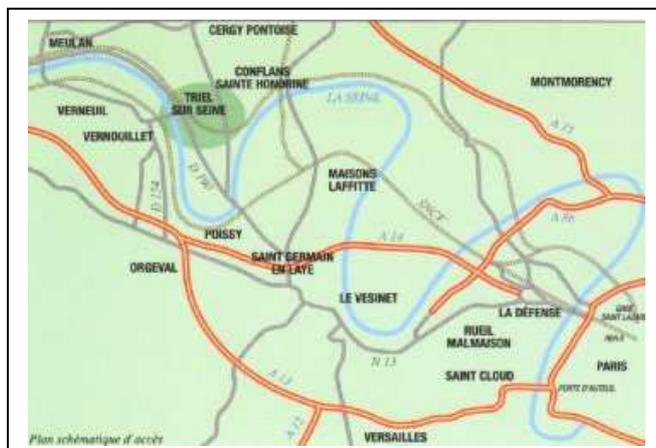
Triel-sur-Seine is a small town of 11000 inhabitants situated approximately 30 kilometres north-west of Paris on the banks of the River Seine.



Located on an old trade route which ran from the coastal towns of the north-west to Poissy and Paris, Triel was proclaimed a free town in 1221. The ancient church of St Martin in Triel, which dates back to 1240, is renowned for its impressive stained glass windows. Triel also has a small theatre in a recently-restored 18th century building.

The wooded hills behind the town are known as the Bois de L'Hautil and are a popular place for walking.

On the crest of these hills is the Chateau de la Tour which was built in 1890 and now houses the Triel Observatory. Opened in 1991 and known as the "Parc aux Etoiles", the observatory affords an unparalleled view of the universe and is a stargazer's paradise!



The people of Triel-sur-Seine are known as "les Triellois" and are not only proud of their town, but also extremely hospitable. We hope that you will take advantage of their hospitality and discover Triel for yourself.

For more information see the web-site <http://www.mairie-triel78.fr/> ■

Good News for 2004

Paula Hancock (Chairman)

The committee have invited our French friends in Triel to come to Leatherhead in 2004 and are delighted that they will be putting together a group to visit us next May for a long weekend.

The Friends of Triel here in the Leatherhead area are starting to work on plans to welcome our French visitors and ideas for outings and places to visit will be under discussion in the near future. In past exchanges we have been to Hampton Court, Wisley, Brighton, Windsor Castle and Chartwell and organised events as diverse as barn dancing, barbeques and a meal at The Greek Vine. Suggestions for this programme of events would be very welcome from anyone interested in joining the exchange.

The party visiting us is often 12-18 strong and visitors are offered accommodation in our houses. There is therefore some entertaining at home involved, although one or two evenings are usually spent dining as a group. Travel is usually by car to get to our destinations.

All in all, weekends with our French visitors are lively, interesting and lots of fun! We have had children as young as 7 and grandparents of 80 in our exchange

groups in the past, and everyone ends up having a wonderful weekend, practicing some French and making new friends. Language is never a barrier, so don't be shy!

The committee are keen to welcome new members to the Friends of Triel and hope that you and / or your organisation will want to join. Please return the form at the end of this newsletter or contact any member of the committee if you would like to know more about the Triel twinning or the proposed exchange next May. The friends of Triel plan to send out another newsletter in the New Year which will contain more information and confirmed dates for the may visit. We hope to hear from you soon! ■

Committee Members

Chairman	Paula Hancock
Treasurer	Julia Baker
Secretary	Peter Brader
Member	Alison Bentata
Member	Sue Brader
Member	Constance Edser
Member	Navin Mehta
Member	Alex Reaveley
Member	Maureen Reaveley

Contact

01372 275862
peter_brader@hotmail.com

Friends of Triel
Annual Membership Application
(£5 for Family or Organisation membership)

Name	
Address	
Tel no	
Email	
Signed	

I enclose a cheque for £5 made payable to "Friends of Triel". Send to:

Julia Baker
Treasurer
25 Childs Hall Road
Bookham, Surrey
KT23 3QF

Please tick the boxes below to indicate your interests

<input type="checkbox"/>	I am willing to host a French Visitor
<input type="checkbox"/>	I am willing to take part in the exchange visits
<input type="checkbox"/>	I am willing to help organise an outing