



Friends of Triel

Newsletter of the Leatherhead Twinning Association

Issue 5 – February 2006

'Land of Hope and Glory' rings out in Triel!

In the autumn, members of Leatherhead Parish Church spent a day in Triel as part of a 5-day pilgrimage to Normandy.

The group were invited to join the Triel congregation for morning Mass, which took place in the ancient and beautiful church of St Martin. Canon David Eaton took part in the service and the whole congregation was greeted with a rendering of 'Land of Hope and Glory' played on their English organ, of which their organist was inordinately proud.



BBQ extravaganza

In August, the Chairman's back garden in Ashted was the setting for a memorable barbeque to which many existing members and a large number of potential new members came.

Having started out as a spontaneous invitation to those who went to France in May, the occasion happily expanded to include anyone who was even remotely interested in finding out more about Triel and the twinning – which ended up being some 45 happy picnickers!

After the service, visitors and congregation joined together for drinks in the bright sunshine on the terrace of the church, and the Mayor of Triel, M. Jean-Pierre Houllemaire, welcomed the Friends of both twinning groups. Canon Eaton then presented the Mayor with a framed photograph of Leatherhead Parish Church which was received with much appreciation. A delicious lunch was shared by all in a convivial gathering which took place in Maison Senet, a beautiful and historic house overlooking the River Seine. After lunch, the group embarked on a brief tour of the town before leaving Triel to continue their travels.

This happy and welcoming occasion set the tone for the remainder of the trip which was greatly enjoyed by all those 'pilgrims' who travelled together to Normandy.



Paul Hancock did stout work on the barbeque (it's always the fellas who get lumbered!) and managed to turn out steak after sausage after drumstick - all cooked to perfection! Several spontaneous games of boules broke out later in the afternoon amongst those who could still manage to rouse themselves, and a fine time was had by all.

The committee hope these events encourage new members to join the 'Friends' as we are always happy to welcome new faces and keen to expand our membership.



AGM report

The Friends of Triel AGM took place on Tuesday 22 November 2006 in the Reeves Room of Leatherhead Parish Church. There was a wonderful turnout, with 28 people present in addition to the 6 members of the Committee.

The Chairman reported on what had been a busy year, with the very successful twinning ratification visit to Triel in mid-May. This trip attracted 17 members, including 3 Councillors, who were treated to a water-skiing display, a tour of Triel in vintage cars, a boules tournament and a Gala Dinner.

August saw the staging of a huge barbeque for the 'Friends' (and their friends!) and in October, Canon David Eaton and a party of 25 people from Leatherhead Parish Church visited the church in Triel and were greeted by the Mayor (see above).

The committee were all re-elected and Sue Brader was elected as the new Membership Secretary. In 2005, the Friends received a grant from the Council and this has greatly improved the organisation's bank balance. It may be possible to put some of these funds to use to defray specific costs when we next have visitors from Triel. It was agreed to keep the 2006 membership fee at £5 for individuals, families or organisations.

Any members who have not yet paid their membership subscriptions please note that your £5 is now due.

The committee propose to invite a party from Triel in May 2006 and plans and suggestions for this trip were discussed

Once the main business of the AGM was dealt with, those present proceeded to consume a surprisingly large amount of French bread, cheese and wine with the evening ending on a happy and convivial note.

STOP PRESS...dates for the Triel visit in 2006!

The committee have agreed to invite a group from Triel to come to Leatherhead from Friday 28 April to Monday 1 May 2006. This weekend includes a Bank Holiday Monday for both the French and the British, which will enable us to spend more time with our guests who will not return until the Monday afternoon.

We have already begun to plan a programme of events for this weekend and have invited the Chairman of Mole Valley Council, Neil Maltby, to participate in some (or all!) of our activities. As far as we know, the Mayor of Triel, Jean-Pierre Houlemare, will be joining the group coming over.

Please put this date in your diaries and join in with as much of the weekend as you can. We hope to organise a reception by the Chairman of the Council on the Saturday morning, a Barn Dance on the Saturday evening and, for those who wish to go, there will be a church service at the Parish Church in Leatherhead on the Sunday morning. A full programme of events will be circulated in due course and, as ever, we rely on your generous offers of hospitality to accommodate our guests. If you are able to host one or more of our visitors, please contact Paula Hancock on 01372 277070 or friends_of_triel@hotmail.com

Joining the Friends of Triel

There is great enthusiasm in Triel to link up with local organisations over here - representatives from French churches, choral societies, football clubs, schools and a host of other organisations in Triel are keen to foster links with similar organisations in the Leatherhead area. The twinning committee would be delighted to hear from any local groups who would like to join the 'Friends of Triel'.

On a more personal level, the welcome and hospitality encountered by the various groups who have visited Triel over the years is always warm and generous. The committee are keen to expand the membership of the 'Friends of Triel' and would welcome any individuals or families who would like to join as new members. If you are interested in joining or finding out more, please contact Suer Brader on 01372 275862 or email friends_of_triel@hotmail.com

About Triel

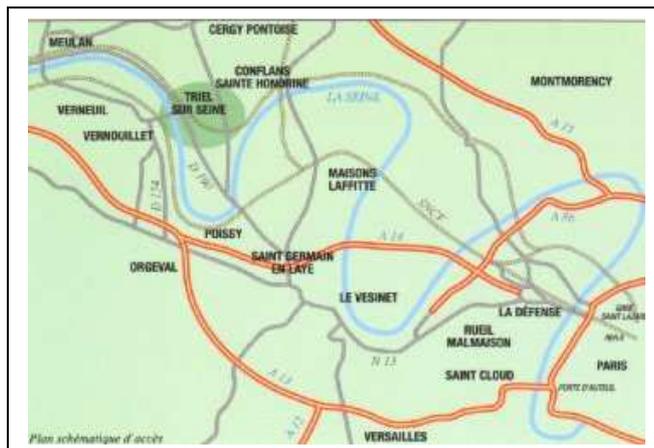
Triel-sur-Seine is a small town of 11000 inhabitants situated approximately 30 kilometres north-west of Paris on the banks of the River Seine.



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/> ■

Friends of Triel

Annual Membership Application

(£5 for Family or Organisation membership)

Name

Please tick the boxes below to indicate your interests:

Address

Host a French Visitor

Telephone

Take part in an exchange visits

Email

Help organise an outing

Signed

Please enclose a cheque for £5 made payable to "Leatherhead & District Twinning Association".

Send to: Sue Brader, 29 Agates Lane, Ashted, Surrey KT21 2ND

