



Friends of Triel

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Newsletter of the Leatherhead & District Twinning Association

Summer 2023

We've Got There

After 6 years 16 of us finally made it back to Triel-sur-Seine. We ranged in age from 9 to over 80, but each one of us was given a warm welcome and enjoyed generous hospitality. The AET looked after us from the minute we stepped outside the Gard du Nord station. It was a very special visit and I will therefore give you a blow by blow account of each day, with lots of pictures so you don't get bored with my narrative. Also in this newsletter is a Put in Your Diary Event – our summer garden party – as well as our usual features including a summer recipe and our treasurers report

Elaine

Thursday 8th June

We had a smooth outward journey on Eurostar and arriving at Gard du Nord, Paris at 14.47 precisely. Nicole Jusserand, the President of the AET (L'Amitié Européenne Triel sur Seine) was there to welcome us with 2 minibuses and a car and we were whisked away to Triel to meet our hosts (apart from a little incident with a handbag left on a pavement!)



Everyone enjoyed that first evening – it was a balmy evening and it was special meeting up with old friends and meeting new ones.

Friday 9th June

This was our day out. The town coach took us first to visit the Château de la Roche Guyon. The château's origins date back to the Middle Ages. It is magnificently sited against the chalk cliffs that border the river at this point. We were given a tour of the chateau in English or French. It is packed full of history from the early days of the French kingdoms to the final HQ of Rommel. It was here he was wounded and on return to Berlin for convalescence committed suicide to avoid the shame of being tried for involvement in Hitler's assassination. Some of our younger members scaled the heights to reach the "Donjon" – an ascent up steep uneven steps.



Some of the less energetic ones on the terrace of the older part of the chateau. Fantastic views.



After a magnificent picnic on the banks of the Seine we were driven to Monet's garden in nearby Giverny. Despite the crowds there were tranquil areas, overlooking the ponds where the lilies were starting to open up.



In the evening our hosts arranged gatherings in a few homes. David and I were invited along with our hostess, Liliane and her friend to a barbecue on board the longboat belonging to Gilles Gaillard. A very special evening watching the sun go down over the town and the river, drinking some delicious wine and eating enough to put on several kilos! Charlotte and Daniel

enjoyed canoeing on the Seine, the wash from the fast boats was particularly exciting!

Saturday 10th June

This was our Big Day – a formal reception in the morning at the Maison Senet in the town and in the evening, we were guests of the town at the opening of a new restaurant “La Sequoia”. Cedric Aoun, the mayor of Triel, addressed us on behalf of the town and Nicole



on behalf of AET. Bridget Kendrick, Deputy Leader of Mole Valley District Council, replied to the Mayor and Juliana Evans replied on behalf of our Association, both in fluent French. There was unanimity that this was a

special visit after a 6 year absence due to the Brexit complications and the pandemic. We were bowled over by the generosity, of the town who had brought together a team to create a stunning bronze plaque on which is



engraved the insignia of Leather-head and Triel, the bridges and the silhouettes of both towns. In response Bridget presented a glass vase with an engraving to commemorate the coronation of King Charles III, on behalf of MVDC. From AET we received a fascinating book about Monet's garden **which is available for members to borrow**. In return we gave the AET a book about the gardens of the National Trust.

Between the speeches we were entertained by the music of a small jazz group from the Music School. After the formal proceedings we were treated to a tasty buffet and there was a lovely buzz of conversation as our two associations mingled.



That afternoon many went to St Germain en Laye. Bernadeta writes: “It was wonderful to be back in a much changed St Germain after 20 years. I have wonderful memories of working/living there for 5 years. We wandered in amazement around the Church of St. Germain, visited the tomb of the exiled King James II (1687-1701) cousin of King Louis XIV.



Of course, we finished with some shopping and some cooling ice-cream”.

A more active option - Fran, Charlotte and Daniel went cycling in the woods of Versailles Park!

Our final get together at La Sequoia – it was the restaurant's opening night. It is part of an area being developed into a cultural centre in

the town. We were dined and wined to repletion and some even managed to dance on its tiny dance floor. The climax of a wonderful time together.



Sunday 11th June

For those of us who did not strike out across Paris the best bit was definitely the meal at La Bohème in Montmartre. Otherwise we had a few disasters – such as a group tumble on the escalator in Gard du Nord and



a trial of patience for the funicular to ascend to Montmartre. Top disaster is awarded to Eurostar who managed to deliver us 3 1/2hrs late to St Pancras. However, even these setbacks could not spoil such a brilliant few days.

Thank you to Françoise in Triel who has sent us her narrative of our visit in photos, so read on and you will find many more pictures.

And once again a big thank you to our hosts and the town of Triel. Next year will be the 20th anniversary of the twinning and we will be welcoming the Triellois to Leatherhead. We can't wait to meet up again.

Elaine

Notes from the Treasurer

I'm pleased to report that our finances are in a healthy position, with most expenses being met by our subscriptions. If you have yet to pay a £10 subscription for 2023 then please do so ASAP. In addition we have received a number of donations.



Full details at our AGM in November.

Our French hosts were extremely generous to us on our recent visit with gifts and paying for a number of expenses that we were expecting to pay. Next year we must do our best to reciprocate, so I expect we will need to dip into our reserves. The return visit of the Triellois will be sometime in May or June 2024. We will let you know as soon as the date is finalised. There will be a lot of planning to do and we will value the support of

every member, not least with offers of hospitality for 1 or 2 guests.

I look forward to seeing you at our Garden Party on Saturday 2nd September.

Subscriptions can be paid as follows – by bank transfer
Leatherhead & District Twinning Association

Sort code: 30-92-70

Account number: 01983584.

Or cheque to David Crutchley at 17 Fife Way, Bookham, KT23 3PH. Telephone 01372 452845.

David

Summer Garden Party

Saturday 2nd September from 2.30 to 5ish



This year Navin and Beverley have invited us to their beautiful garden which looks out towards the Surrey hills. Put the date in your diary. Last year we roasted, this year who knows? Whatever the weather it will be great to be together. Be prepared to bring contributions to a bring and share tea, as well as garden games, music, umbrellas. Bridget Carr will send out an email nearer the event.

Our Summer Recipe

Tomates provençales



Serve this warm or at room temperature with a slice of toasted sourdough bread spread with goat's cheese. Salt is the key as it unlocks the flavour of the tomatoes.

You will need for 4 people:

10 medium tomatoes

3 crushed garlic cloves

3 big pinches of sea salt flakes

2 pinches of freshy ground black pepper

20 basil leaves

1-2 tablespoons of breadcrumbs

3-4 tablespoons of olive oil

Preheat the oven to 220 deg C (less with a fan oven).

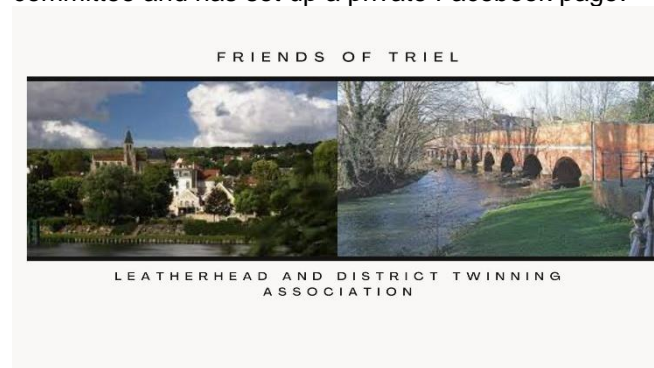
Slice the tomatoes in half widthways. Place the

halves, cut-side up, on a baking pan. Distribute the garlic between the tomatoes, tucking them in so that they are not on the surface.

Sprinkle with plenty of salt and black pepper, followed by the basil leaves and the breadcrumbs. Finish with a generous drizzle of olive oil, then bake for 30-35 minutes until the tomatoes are oozing and beautiful.

Our new Facebook page

Juliana has become our “marketing” expert on the committee and has set up a private Facebook page.



She and I are administrators which means that if you have access to Facebook you need to request to join the group. It also means that you can be a member of our private group with access to news, photos and requests without being plagued by the rest of the Facebook world. Do join us. We have members who are from Triel and it is a great way to keep in contact with the French side of the twinning as well as our members in the Association.

Welcome to Bridget Kendrick

We are very pleased to welcome Bridget back onto the committee as our Council representative. As the new Deputy Leader of Mole Valley District Council she is in the best place to keep our twinning alive and thriving. She gave an excellent speech at our recent exchange visit and you can watch the video on her Facebook page.

It is great to have you back on board Bridget with your enthusiasm for all things French.

Other News from Triel

From 16th -18th July the AET visited Seligenstadt a. Main, their twin town in Germany, where they celebrated the Fête des Cuillères. This event happens every 4 years and is a colourful re-enactment of the history of the town ending in a spectacular burning of boats.

While in Seligenstadt they also celebrated the 15th anniversary of their twinning with Brookfield in the USA. Thank you Nicole for sending us some photos of these events.

15th anniversary of the Seligenstadt-Brookfield twinning



The 3 mayors : Cédric Aoun (Triel), Dr. Daniell Bastian (Seligenstadt), Steve Ponto (Brookfield) and Nicole Jusserand

Fête de la Cuillère (Geleitsfest)



Reception at the Town Hall for the 3 candidates for the Spoon Competition



The Drinking from the Spoon Competition – it's a VERY LARGE Spoon!

Final of the Geleitsfest (Spoon Festival)



19th anniversary of the Leatherhead/Triel
And the presentation of gifts twinning
Visit to Triel from June 9 to 11, 2023



Official welcome by Mr. Cédric Aoun,
Mayor of Triel and the presentation of
gifts



Evening at the new
restaurant "Le
Sequoia" on the banks
of the Seine

