Friends of Triel

Newsletter of the Leatherhead & District Twinning Association Issue 9 – Oct 2008

2008 Our Biggest Exchange Visit

The exchange visit in May between the French town of Triel-sur-Seine and Leatherhead & District was our biggest and busiest ever when a group of 55 French visitors came to Leatherhead by coach for a long weekend. Triel is a small town on the banks of the River Seine 35 km NW of Paris which has been twinned with Leatherhead for 4 years.

Our visitors were hosted by English families in the district, and the French party enjoyed the hospitality of Leatherhead residents and were given, as always, a very warm and generous welcome.

On Friday, the group headed for London walking along the South Bank in the morning, taking a Lunch Cruise on the Thames and then enjoying a fascinating guided tour of the Houses of Parliament in the afternoon. Friday was rounded off with a visit to an Art Exhibition by Leatherhead Art Group and an organ recital, both at the Parish Church of St Mary and St Nicholas in Leatherhead.

On Saturday morning Councillor Jean Pearson, then Chairman of Mole Valley Council, attended a formal Civic Reception at the Leatherhead Register Office and took great pleasure in welcoming the Deputy Mayor of Triel, M. Patrick Chataignier. Both Cllr Jean Pearson and the Deputy Mayor expressed their wish that links between the two communities are strengthened and extended by further exchanges between local organisations and schools.

After a trip to Wimbledon, which included a tour of the museum, No.1 Court and Henman Hill, the group tucked into an enormous Wimbledon cream tea in the sunshine. The twinning visit was rounded off on Saturday evening with a Gala Dinner at which over 100 hosts and guests danced the night away to a 16-piece Big Band lead by one of our members, Dennis Wickham.

On a sunny Sunday morning we waved our visitors a fond farewell. We have received many emails of thanks from our visitors and the committee would like to thank all our members who helped make this weekend such a success.

Looking forward, the proposed dates for our visit to Triel will be from **Friday May 22nd 2009 to Monday May 25h 2009** (Bank Holiday in UK). We are hoping that fixing the dates so early we will result in a good turn out and we enable us to secure a better choice of crossings for the coach.

Porkers on the rampage in Ashtead!

Reports of a drove of piggies snorting their way along a race track in Ashtead on 23 August have not in fact been exaggerated! The Friends of Triel summer picnic in Paula's garden included pig racing along a purpose built track, with bottles of wine as prizes for the lucky winners.

The riveting action in the Porkers Stadium involved 6 very noisy piggies straining every rasher in an attempt to wiggle their way to victory.

In race 1, 'Crispy Crackling' crossed the line closely followed by 'Streaky Bacon', egged on by Olympic scale cheering from the assembled crowds. Victories followed for 'Babe' and then, in the Trotters only race, 'Rodney', who stormed home by several lengths. Despite appeals for a Stewards Enquiry following possible interference with a porker in race 4, 'Patsy' romped home to a resounding victory. Racing reached fever pitch by the final race when 'Cumberland Sausage' narrowly defeated 'Bowyers' by a short snout.

Much fun was had by all the spectators who also enjoyed a delicious cheese and wine picnic in the sunshine, with French and British flags fluttering in the breeze. Many thanks to Bernard, our Treasurer, who was a superb race adjudicator and trained all the competitors to peak porker performance prior to the event!

The Twinning Committee, the 'Friends of Triel', would be delighted to hear from anyone who is interested in joining the organisation or finding out more about the activities of the group. Please phone Paula Hancock on 01372 277070 for further information or come and join us at our next event …

Autumn Market

After our success at the Autumn Market last year we will be having a stall at Parish Church Hall on Saturday 18 October 2008 from 10.30 am to 3.00 pm. Once again we will be holding a raffle with prizes of wine and cheeses with all proceeds going to the Church. Our objective is to raise awareness of the Twinning and to enlist new members.

We look forward to seeing you there and if you would like to help on the day please contact us.

Friends of Triel AGM

You are all cordially invited to the Friends AGM / Cheese and Wine which will be held on Thursday 13 November 2008 at 8pm in the Reeves room at Leatherhead Parish Church Hall.

The agenda will be

1. Welcome
2. Minutes of last AGM
3. Matters Arising
4. Chairman's report
5. Treasurer's report
6. Election of Officers
7. Any other business – May visit to Triel

The committee hope as many members and friends as possible will join us for cheese and wine (all French of course!) after the meeting. We would also be very interested to hear from anyone who would like to join the committee.

Art Exhibition in Triel

There will be an art exhibition in Triel on March 14 - 15 2009 where it is hoped that artists from Leatherhead and district will exhibit their work. If you would like to take part or would like more information please contact Paula Hancock on 01372 277070

STOP PRESS!!! Friends of Triel web site www.friendsoftriel.com

We are delighted to announce that we now have our own web site: www.friendsoftriel.com, which has copies of our newsletters, contacts and photos from our visits.

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'.

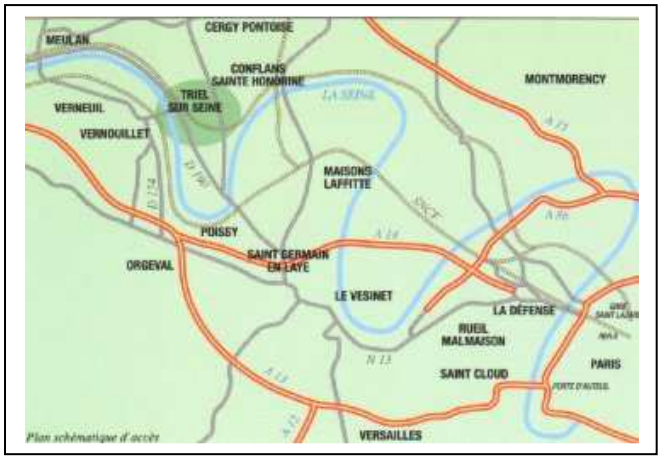
On a more personal level, the welcome and hospitality encountered by the various groups who have visited Triel over the years is always warm and generous. The committee are keen to expand the membership of the 'Friends of Triel' and would welcome any individuals or families who would like to join as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

Friends of Triel (Leatherhead and District Twinning Association)

Annual Membership Application 2009

(£5 for Family or Organisation membership)

Name

Address

Telephone

Email

Signed

Please tick the boxes below to indicate your interests:

- ☐ Host a French Visitor
- ☐ Take part in an exchange visits
- ☐ Help organise an outing

Please enclose a cheque for £5 made payable to "Leatherhead and District Twinning Association" and send to Sue Brader, Membership Secretary, 29 Agates Lane, Ashtead, Surrey KT21 2ND