2009 Triel Honours British Airmen

As part of the celebrations of the 5th Anniversary of the twinning between Leatherhead and Triel-sur-Seine, a moving ceremony took place in the cemetery in Triel to commemorate the loss of six British air crew during WW2.

Hosted by French families, 44 local residents from the Leatherhead area joined together with their French hosts to remember the loss of a Wellington bomber of 156 Squadron, which was shot down on the banks of the Seine near Triel in the early hours of 30 May 1942, killing all six crew.

There is a permanent monument to these British airmen in the French cemetery, and inscribed next to their names are the names of the seven soldiers from Triel who died in WW2. Wreaths were laid by representatives of the two Twinning Associations.

In a moving tribute to all British servicemen who fought to liberate France, the Mayor of Triel, M Joel Mancel, paid homage in particular to the sacrifice made by these six air crew, the youngest of whom, Flight Lieutenant Wilfred Maitland, was only 22 years old at the time.

Councillor Tim Hall, Chairman of Mole Valley District Council, said in his speech that the twinning was a demonstration of a shared wish to foster understanding between Britain and France and expressed his wish that links between the two communities be strengthened and extended by further exchanges between local organisations and schools.

The programme for the weekend included wine tasting, a Gala dinner dance, a day in Paris with a river trip and evening meal in Montmartre, and a stop in Le Touquet on the return journey.

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.

Art Exhibition in Triel

In March 2009, Leatherhead’s twin town, Triel-sur-Seine, hosted a special exhibition by British artists, who were invited to show their work as part of the celebrations for the 5th anniversary of the twinning.

Five local artists transported over 100 artworks to Triel, representing a range of work in different styles by 15 different artists from Leatherhead and district. The paintings were pastels, oils, watercolour and acrylic. There were also exhibits of photographic work by two talented local photographers, James Geary and Sue Stanley, and canalware painted by Jodie Coe.
The centrepiece of the exhibition was a varied and stunning display of ironwork from The Fire and Iron Gallery in Leatherhead, designed by Lucy Quinnell.

The artists were given a very warm welcome in Triel, with a reception in the gallery on the Saturday afternoon hosted by the Mayor, who was impressed by the quality of the artwork in the exhibition and expressed his delight in welcoming the group to the town.

Triel-sur-Seine pupils visit Oakfield Junior School
On Tuesday 30 June 2009, 60 pupils from Triel-sur-Seine, visited their Year 6 penfriends at Oakfield Junior School in Fetcham.

They came with their head teacher, Mme Dominique Le Flahec, and 5 members of the English teaching staff from “Les Hublins”, a primary school in Triel, at the invitation of Mrs Anne Obitz who teaches French at Oakfield Junior School.

For the past 3 years, language teachers at both schools have encouraged pupils to exchange letters and emails with each other to enthuse them in the classroom and improve their foreign language skills.

This visit was the second by the youngsters from Triel and, since the link was set up, many friendships have developed.

The whole day was both fun and educational for all those involved, mixing adults and pupils from both sides of the Channel. Anne Obitz, who teaches French at Oakfield, felt that community links and exchanges offer young people and adults the opportunity to become more aware of other cultures and can help them to be more open-minded in their attitudes.

Talk to Fetcham U3A
Paula gave a short presentation on the history of our ‘Twinning Journey’ at the Fetcham U3A meeting on July 14. She was helped by David Crutchley who talked about the history of Twinning in general and Anna Brereton who covered the geography and history of Triel. Technical support was ably supplied by Geoff Roles. Outside help at this event was greatly appreciated by the committee.

The sun smiles on the Friend’s summer picnic!
At the end of August, 43 members and friends gathered for a summer social in Leatherhead. Bucking the August trend, we were blessed with wonderful summer sunshine for our picnic and hats were very much the order of the day for everyone. The food was brought along by our members and we all tucked into a delicious banquet in the delightful surroundings of Navin and Beverley’s enchanting garden.

There was a PC slideshow of photos from the recent trip to Triel for members to enjoy and many happy memories from May were relived.
Our thanks go to Navin and Beverley for their generous hospitality.

**Autumn Market**

We will be having a ‘Red/White and Blue’ stall at Parish Church Hall on Saturday 17 October 2009 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 12 November 2009 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.

Members should note that their annual subscription of £5 will be due for payment in November 2009 at the AGM.

**STOP PRESS!!!**

Looking forward, the proposed dates for the next visit when we welcome our friends from Triel to Leatherhead will be from **Thursday May 13th 2010 to Sunday May 16th 2010**. We are hoping that fixing the dates so early we will result in a good turnout and enable us to secure a better choice of crossings for the coach.
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!

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

Friends of Triel (Leatherhead and District Twinning Association)

Annual Membership Application

(£5 for Family or Organisation membership)

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