



Friends of Triel

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Newsletter of the Leatherhead & District Twinning Association

February 2022

New Year Update

A belated Happy New Year from all of us on the Triel Committee. We are all hoping that this is the year when we start to live with Covid without shuttling backwards and forwards in and out of lockdowns. Although we are not arranging a trip to Triel this year, we want to get together again, to get to know each other and to introduce new members. The aim of this short newsletter is to update you about changes in the committee and to give you some ideas of what we are planning for the year ahead.

Elaine

Au Revoir à Paula as our Chairperson

We want to express our gratitude to Paula for leading us so ably since the Twinning with Triel-sur-Seine was formalised in 2004. Well before that she was visiting Triel and was leading the informal friendship which had developed between our two towns, into a deeper relationship. Today we have the Leatherhead and District Twinning Association as the formal body of The Friends of Triel and we can look back on many successful ties with L'Amitié d'Européene de Triel - visits, art shows, cycle trips to name a few. That is in no small part due to Paula's hard work, communicating with our French friends, leading trips, representing us at formal and informal meetings in French and with warmth and humour. Thank you Paula. We are very grateful that, despite other pressures in your life, you will continue to be part of the committee and at the centre of our twinning.

Bienvenue à Kate as our new Chairperson

A big welcome to Kate Jhugroo, who has stepped into Paula's shoes. She will lead us into the next year as a twinning organisation, rebuilding our links after the challenges of the pandemic. Kate has served on the committee for nearly 2 years and, as a fluent French speaker, it is great to welcome her to this role. But let Kate speak for herself.

Hello everyone,

I am looking forward to being the chairperson of the Friends of Triel Twinning Association.



I have a long association with France and the French language and culture. My mother was born in Belgium in 1928 and her family were fluent French speakers. Unfortunately, they moved back to England shortly after she was born and did not teach her to speak French. She was very sad about this but was delighted when I took an interest in French.

My own love of France and French began at school. We had a lovely French woman as our teacher (Madame Cozens). She always dressed beautifully and had impeccable manners. I found her very interesting and I loved the way she expressed herself. I can remember her saying 'non, non, non, non, non, non, non, non' very emphatically when we got something wrong. (I used to count the 'non's). I later realized that French is a great language for debate and I understood why they have two words for yes- 'oui' and 'si' which is used when disagreeing and stating a point emphatically.

At 18 I was an au pair in France on a little farm in Haute-Savoie for the summer. It was here that I started to appreciate French cheese.



I particularly enjoyed "de la Tomme" which is a typical Alpine semi-soft cheese with a delicate milk and buttery aroma. The

family I lived with used to laugh at me because I would eat the very strong cheese that they thought an English person would not like.

At 19 I returned to France to au pair in Versailles for the summer. I studied French and Spanish at university and spent four months in Paris. This was a great experience. I didn't have much money but had a great time walking round Paris and getting to know some of the famous sights. I loved Notre Dame cathedral.

Over the years we have visited different parts of France on family holidays and I particularly like the French Riviera.

When, in 2015 I heard about the Leatherhead Twinning Association I was very excited to have the chance to visit Triel and get to know the lovely people there. I went to visit for the first time in 2015 and have enjoyed being a member of the society and of the committee.

We have not been able to carry on our exchange visits with the Triellois because of the pandemic and it is a shame that we are not able to visit them again this year. However, I hope that this will change next year and in the meantime I look forward to seeing you all at some of the events we are hosting this year in our area.

Best Wishes
Kate

A New Member of the Committee

We on the committee are very pleased to welcome Simon Moss as our Mole Valley Council representative. He shares some of his story with you and I think you will agree that it is good to have a true Francophile in our Council, supporting our endeavours.

Simon shares his story:-

Shortly after the annual council elections each May, councillors meet in their respective political groups to discuss appointments to both committees and outside bodies. When I was offered the opportunity, as newly elected member for Leatherhead South, to join the Friends of Triel in May of last year I was keen to put myself forward. Bridget Lewis-Carr joined me for a coffee in the summer and was kind enough to explain the history of the twinning and how the group works, including the regular visits both from us over to France and indeed our friends joining us in Leatherhead.

The reason I jumped at the opportunity to become the Mole Valley representative on the Friends of Triel was as a result of my French heritage. My father's family are French, originally from Auteuil in Paris, or "Le Seizième Arrondissement" which is in the centre-west part of the City and across the river from La Tour Eiffel. My grandmother was a carpenter's daughter who, at the age of 22 when World War Two broke out, fled Paris to the unoccupied south of the country where she was reported to local Nazis as a Jew. She was whisked

away to Auschwitz where she spent the rest of the war and upon being liberated, married my grandfather who was a doctor in the Royal Navy. They started a family in south London in 1946 and were always keen for us to spend as much time across the channel with our French family as possible, buying a holiday home in the northern town of Le Touquet where we visited each school holidays through our childhood. French was always spoken at home although at times this was difficult as mum didn't speak French! As a young adult I spent more than 2 years living in France as an Alpine "seasonaire" teaching children to ski, and on the Côte d'Azur working on yachts and practising my French.

In recent times and with work & family commitments it has become more difficult to spend as much time in France as we would like but I had the pleasure in translating a friend's wedding on behalf of the Mayor in the Mayenne department at which I was best man. My family have a home in Pas de Calais which we hope the children will enjoy as much as we did growing up and feel able to immerse themselves in the French language & culture.

I personally find the current political distrust between the countries unsavoury, unnecessary and hope that once the French Presidential election is completed in April we will have a renewed sense of neighbourly goodwill.

I am delighted to have joined the Friends of Triel committee and look forward to playing a full part in both domestic social events and indeed trips, whether this be hosting or indeed traveling to Triel.



A street in Le Touquet where we have enjoyed delicious meals on our return trips from Triel

Social Events for 2022

You will have received an email from Paula sent out after the AGM. She explained the decision taken at that meeting about not arranging a trip to Triel until 2023. The Committee are therefore arranging a social programme for the year ahead. This will be an opportunity to meet each other again, invite interested

friends and lay the basis for a convivial exchange next year.

Our draft programme is as follows:

Friday February 25th at 7.30 Quiz Night with plenty of wine and cheese. The venue is the Reeves Room at the Leatherhead Parish Church Hall.. Watch our for an email for that event, which we will also zoom. It would be good to form a few tables, so do ask friends to join this event.

Sunday April 24th A relaxed walk to enjoy spring on Bookham Common followed by a Bring and Share tea at the home of David and Elaine.

July we are planning an event connected with the Quatorze Juillet. Watch this space for further announcements. We could have a garden party – offers of a venue would be great. All Ideas are welcome.

September we are thinking of a visit to Chichester to explore the city and enjoy the French market.

November will be our AGM followed by wine and cheese.

All these events need your support, so please put the dates in you diary and respond as soon as possible when we send out the invitation.

Notes from the Treasurer



I hope you have seen my treasurer's report given at the AGM.

This is a reminder to renew membership and subscriptions. Thus far only a minority of members have renewed for 2022. Obviously if we are to run events this year we need a good membership base. Subscription is £10 per person with under 18s going free. You can pay by cheque to the Leatherhead and District Twinning Association, which you send to me at 17 Fife Way, Bookham, KT23 3PH. Alternatively make a bank transfer to Bank Code: 30-92-70, account number: 01983584.

I am also ready to repay deposits you may have made for a trip to Triel (or you can hold over for another year if you wish).

Any queries please ring me on **01372 452845** or email elaine.crutchley1@gmail.com

David

Fun with “des expressions courantes”



“On a fait chou blanc” = We drew a blank not
“We made white cabbage”



“J’ai fait une boulette” is not about making a meatball, but means “I’ve made a blunder”.



“Appuie sur le champignon” does not mean you should press down mushrooms (Like grapes), but simply “Step on it”, when you are driving!



If you’ve been swindled (maybe this can include being scammed?) you can say “Je suis chocolat”!

A request from the Editor

I hope you have enjoyed reading this newsletter. Please contribute to our next newsletter by sending me stories about holidays, jobs, travels in France. I also welcome recipes and even a quiz to challenge “the little grey cells”. Please forward to me at

elaine.crutchley1@gmail.com.

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Brian Baker will post them for you. Email him on brianbaker@btconnect.com