



Friends of Triel

www.friendsoftriel.com

Newsletter of the Leatherhead & District Twinning Association

November 2022

Roundup of 2022

Despite not getting to France as a twinning group we have had a good range of activities to meet up with each other throughout the year. It's good to look back on what we have done together, especially at this time of the year when we put the clocks back and start to hunker down for the winter. It also means that our AGM is not far away. We hope to see as many of you as possible on **November 15th**. Details are given below. See you there.

Elaine

Picking our brains

The first event of 2022, in February, was a Quiz Night in the Reeves Room. David Crutchley got the little grey cells working and about 6 tables of 4 or 5 competed for a magnificent prize of a boîte de bonbons. 6 rounds covering topics such as « Nourriture et boissons», Le sport, Bonne chance ». It was a great evening and there were some good laughs and plenty of refreshments.

Spring Walk on Bookham Common

Before the drought set in, on a slightly mizzly Sunday afternoon an intrepid group of friends were seen departing the Tunnel Car Park at Bookham Common armed with a questionnaire to help discover some surprising facts about this interesting and diverse habitat, which is a site of special scientific interest. Charlotte Pyatt, the Crutchley's granddaughter also got us to collect some of the unfurling leaves and identify the trees. She also added the final tricky question – what colour will your tongue become if you eat stinging nettles? The choice was green, purple or black and the answer is Black!



Bookham Common is renowned for its purple emperor butterflies. We were a bit too early to see these!

After walking we returned to David and Elaine's home for cups of tea and cakes contributed by members.

July Garden Party

On a glorious summer afternoon we gathered in Gill Northcott's delightful garden. We were grateful for Gill's capacious gazebo and the trees which offered welcome shade. Her newly restored garden pond was also a cooling sight which drew young and old. Prosecco bubbled, we chatted but the heat did deter even the competitive amongst us - no-one fancied a game of garden croquet or Molky. A Big Thank You to Gill for her hospitality and to all who contributed tasty sandwiches and cakes.



Left: John and Harry exploring the pond. Below: Kathy never let us down with her amazing array of shades. Le tricolore colours to celebrate the approaching Quatorze Juillet.



Wisley Flower Festival

What a feast for the eyes. A swirling mass of colour, intriguing plants and exciting displays. I could fill the rest of this newsletter with pictures. Paula is definitely the photojournalist on the team.



This is a picture of all of us gathered around the dahlia swing. Unfortunately most of the group are hidden by the display, but it was the scene of an embarrassing moment for me. The seat looked so inviting that I

just had to sit on it, not realising that it was a swing. Oops! I found myself deposited on the ground! Only my pride was injured.

We wandered around at our own pace, visiting the various stalls, succumbing to purchasing various bulbs, plants and seeds to adorn our gardens in 2023. Maybe we should do a garden tour next year to see what has happened to all our purchases! We finished the afternoon with tea



and scones in the restaurant, feeling that all that walking



and buying justified a delicious scone overflowing with



cream and jam!

Fun with “des expressions courantes”

I included some of these from the magazine “France” in the February newsletter and here are some more. It is interesting to note that all these expressions have their basis in food. We are obsessed by the weather, the French by food.

Two expressions about common cabbage or “Chou”

You ask a friend « How did your interview go? She replies « Je suis dans le chou ». She isn't swimming in cabbages – the interview wasn't a great success!

If I say: « Je pédale dans la choucroute », I am not cycling in a vat of sauerkraut, rather I am going round in circles.



I'm typing this on Halloween and pumpkins (les citrouilles) are everywhere. If you hear me say « J'ai la tête comme une citrouille », I have so much on my mind it feels as if my head is going to explode – a frequent experience for me.

Finally when someone is starting to get on your nerves you might say « Il commence vraiment à me courir sur le haricot ». You wouldn't be running around on a load of spilt beans!

Notes from the Treasurer



In the past year we have had just 33 members, so our income has not quite matched our expenditure in the five events that we arranged throughout the year. The excess of expenditure over income was just £93. We now have £2716 available to spend.

In addition I still hold £750 of deposits for a visit to Triel on behalf of 11 people.. Please let me know if you would like a repayment. Full accounts will be given at the AGM. I suggest that we keep the subscription at the same rate of £10 per person and free to under 18s. Subs for 2023 can be given to me at the AGM or by bank transfer to the Leatherhead and District Twinning Association:–

Sort code 30-92-70, Account number 01983584.

To contact me ring 01372 452845 or email me at elaine.crutchley1@gmail.com

David



AGM followed by wine and cheese

Our AGM this year will be held in the **Reeve Room of the Leatherhead Parish Hall on Tuesday 15th November at 7.30pm.** Come and join us for a short meeting followed by a delicious spread of cheeses and wine and great conversation .

We want to hear your views about our trip to Triel next year. What did you think of the social events we held this year? Have you any suggestions for our social calendar in 2023? If you know anyone who is interested in coming to France or joining the Association please invite them to join us. Even if you can't be with us drop an email to me at elaine.crutchley1@gmail.com and we will bring it to our next committee.

A New Member of the Committee

In the last newsletter Simon Moss, the Mole Valley council rep on our committee introduced himself, giving us a pen portrait of why he loves France and was so willing to take on the task of representing the twinning on the district council. Unfortunately his photo arrived just after we had emailed the newsletter out to you all. Do come and meet Simon at the AGM along with the rest of the gang that you know well.



A Winter Warmer Recipe

One of the things I enjoy about France is their delight in cooking and eating rabbit. For some reason many British people have an aversion to eating rabbit. My mother was one of them, put off by the epidemic of myxomatosis in the 1950's. On my first French holiday I discovered how delicious it was. Ron Fowler, the game merchant and fishmonger in Bookham usually has some wild rabbit, if you cannot find it in the supermarket.

Lapin à la moutarde



Ingredients:

- 1.5kg rabbit cut into pieces by your butcher,
- Salt and freshly ground black pepper
- Grainy mustard for coating the rabbit
- 2 large shallots, finely chopped
- 125ml white wine
- 150ml crème fraîche
- Butter for the roasting tin

Preheat the oven to 225 deg C or gas mark 8. Brush a roasting tin with softened butter. Season the rabbit pieces with salt and pepper, then coat them generously with mustard. Place the rabbit in the tin and roast for 35 minutes. Add the chopped shallots to the tin, stirring to coat with the juices and roast for another 5 minutes.

Remove the dish from the oven. Add the white wine and roast for another 10 minutes. Add the cream, shaking to mix the ingredients and return to the oven for five minutes. Taste and adjust seasoning.

Serve the rabbit very hot with fresh pasta, rice or small potatoes that have been boiled or steamed.

Bon appetit

A request from the Editor

I hope you have enjoyed reading this newsletter. Last time I put out a request for members to contribute by sending me stories about holidays, jobs, travels in France. I am afraid you have had to put up with just me again. If you feel you cannot write then give me a ring and we can chat and I will include it in our next newsletter. I also welcome recipes and even a quiz to challenge "the little grey cells".

Elaine

Email elaine.crutchley1@gmail.com

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Don't forget our website. We would like photos, articles, and anything of interest to be posted there along with our newsletters. Brian Baker will post them for you. Email him on brianbaker@btconnect.com