

Twinned with Chantilly, France

## Spring Newsletter 2013 (no 46)

### Chairman's Welcome

#### Busy times for committee members

It has been a while since the last newsletter but rest assured your committee has been keeping busy over the past few months. With Spring now here it seems a long time ago, but an intrepid band of Twinners once again ventured to a cold Chantilly to represent the Borough at their Christmas market. They were as usual well looked after and their presence was much appreciated as tangible evidence of twinning in action.

The group met up with old friends from fellow Chantilly twin towns of Uberlingen and Watermael and also had a chance to discuss matters relating to twinning at a high level with people from Chantilly. Our Christmas market team donated all profits from the market to Town-Twinning funds, so I am sure you will join me in thanking them for their hard work and generosity.

You can read more about the market in this newsletter, along with news of various soirées françaises and members' dinners that have taken place recently. There has also been a 'raid' by Epsom Rotary on colleagues in Chantilly, involving a number of twinning members, while your committee also took part in this year's Herald of Spring festival at Bourne Hall, a chance to promote Twinning and the merits of our twin town in France as a place to visit.

Inside these pages you will also find news of some of the events coming up and others at the planning stage. We hope to stage some fund-raisers, perhaps a quiz night, to replenish our coffers, so do keep an eye out for details and support if you can. There is also a possibility that your committee, together with the Mayor and Chief Executive, will be invited to Chantilly to attend the Prix d'Epsom in September. This is exciting news and we will keep you informed.

Our AGM will take place on Thursday June 13th at The Town Hall. I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible there. We are always on the look out for new blood on the committee. It is not that onerous so if you feel you have some time to spare please contact either myself or one of the other committee members.

I am afraid I have to end on a sad note. One of our members, former Councillor Gill Heym, sadly passed away earlier this year after a battle with cancer. Gill was passionate about College ward, which she represented on the Council, and was a supporter of twinning. Our condolences go to friends and family who we know will miss her dearly.

Clive Woodbridge, Chair

## Members' Dinners



Members enjoying a pleasant evening together at the Chalk Lane Hotel on 20<sup>th</sup> November 2012

The Twinning Association hold dinners for our members every two months to keep the membership in touch with news from Chantilly and to meet with each other. We hold these dinners in a variety of local restaurants. Our Christmas dinner was held at the Chalk Lane Hotel, where we were served with an authentic French meal accompanied by suitable French music. Recently members enjoyed a pleasant meal at the friendly Il Ponte Italian restaurant in Derby Square.

Our next meal will be on 11<sup>th</sup> April. If you have a favourite restaurant which you would like us to visit please let a committee member know and we will try it!

Anne Richardson, Membership Secretary

## Chantilly Christmas Market 8-9 December 2012

The annual Christmas Market in Chantilly was held this year the weekend of 8 and 9 December 2012. A party of 11 Twinning Association members went to represent Epsom, arriving on Friday 7<sup>th</sup> December and returning the following Monday.

On Friday evening, in the pouring rain, we assembled our stand. Again we were situated in an alcove of the marquee alongside our twinning colleagues from Watermael, Belgium and Uberlingen, Germany. It was lovely to see them again. Over the years we have become friends, which of course is the spirit of twinning. After a meal in the hotel on Friday evening we returned, in better weather to the Market for a busy day on Saturday. Among our visitors were M. Eric Woerth, Mayor of Chantilly, Claude Charpentier, Deputy Mayor and Chair of Jumelage, and the Hungarian Ambassador, with his charming wife. Our Chantilly twinning friends also helped us, particularly Henri Hurlin, Philippe Fontanes and Peter Brandt. Various musical ensembles entertained us, and the ladies of Chantilly Inner Wheel provided refreshments throughout the weekend in a nearby school.

On Saturday evening M. Charpentier hosted a Reception for all Twinning partners and supporters from Chantilly. An occasion where the French excel. The buffet was magnificent, the wine flowed, and we were able to renew acquaintances and also make new friends. Sincere thanks to our hosts for a truly enjoyable evening. Sunday was equally busy on the stall with perhaps family groups more numerous. It is amazing how many English people have settled in Chantilly, but of course the horse-racing connection is obvious. I could happily live in Chantilly; we are always made so very welcome!



Returning on Monday, travelling by train Trevor and I took the opportunity to visit Jacqueline, a French friend who lives in Melun, south of Paris. I met Jacqueline 20 years ago through the sailing club to which I belong in Shepperton, which is twinned with Melun. This again shows the benefit of twinning.

Alighting in Paris from the RER (Paris suburban rail network) at the Gare de Lyon we caught a bus along the left bank of the River Seine to the Place de la Concorde. Although only 5 o'clock it was dark and the famous monuments of Paris were floodlit: Notre Dame, the Louvre, the Musée d'Orsay, the Bibliotheque National and the Assemblée Nationale were beautiful. However the Christmas illuminations in the Champs Elysées were breath-taking.

Our thanks to all who made the visit so enjoyable and successful; to Anne and Clive who organised the stall, to the many kind people who provided typical English fare for us to sell, and to our hosts from Chantilly who made us so welcome.

Peter Hardy, Committee member

### **French Exchange, Chantilly, December 2012**

On Friday 14 December, a group of 17 Epsom College 5th Form and L6th students boarded the Eurostar bound for Epsom's twin town, Chantilly, to take part in a French exchange.

On arrival, we were met at the Lycée Jean Rostand by our French exchange partners. After settling in at our host houses, many students had the chance to go into Paris on the Sunday, where we visited some iconic Parisian sites and experienced the Christmas market along the Champs Elysées.

The next day was our first exposure to daily life in a French school. Throughout the week, we typically had several lessons in the morning where we shadowed our partners around school. It was fascinating to experience both some familiar subjects taught in French, but also some subjects not taught at Epsom such as Italian. In the afternoons we had the opportunity to take part in some educational visits with the Epsom group. These trips included a tour around the famous Hippodrome in Chantilly, a wander through the mediaeval market town Senlis, and a visit to the Château de Chantilly (with plenty of time for some café breaks!).

I would like to thank all the French host families again for their kindness and hospitality, and of course Mr Ellison and Mrs Wooley for everything they did to ensure that we had such a beneficial and engaging experience. I know that everyone who took part is looking forward to welcoming the French partners back to Epsom in March.

Cllr Judith Glover, Committee member

## Les Soirées Françaises



Our French conversation evenings are proving to be very popular. We have many members who enjoy practising their French in sympathetic surroundings. We are a mix of abilities and will be happy to hear of others who would like to join us. Our latest meetings have included discussions of a great variety of topics including the French elections and la First Girlfriend, mobile phones and their effect on the art of conversation, and the French way of life, as well as solving puzzles and quizzes. Our next Soirée française will be held at Margaret's house at 18 The Ridings, off Downs Road, Epsom KT18 5JJ on Monday 11th March at 7.30 pm. There will as usual be a small charge of £3 to cover the cost of wine and nibbles.

We'll choose a theme to discuss and encourage you all to practice speaking French. If you wish to bring with you an article from a French newspaper or magazine, please do so. If you have any other ideas for subjects of conversation please let us know. Or just bring yourself and join in!

If you intend to come, it would help your host to know numbers, so please either send an email to [margaret@epsomtwinning.com](mailto:margaret@epsomtwinning.com), or telephone her on 01372 209704.

**We would be grateful if other members could offer to host one of these evenings.** Please let us know if you would like to offer to lead a discussion, or would like to borrow a copy of La Vie Outre-Manche and CD to practice listening and reading French between meetings.

Anne Richardson, Membership Secretary

## Rotary Raid to Chantilly - 27-28 February

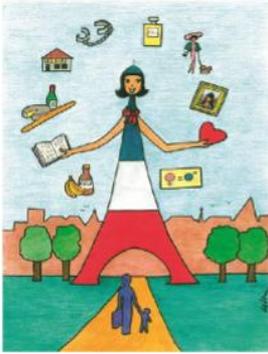


On Wednesday 27 February, 10 members of Epsom Rotary Club, some with their partners, attended a meeting of their contact Rotary Club in Chantilly, to celebrate the 108th birthday of Rotary International. Led by President Tony Axelrod, they were welcomed by Chantilly's President, Mme Corry Neau and members of the committee and enjoyed a convivial dinner. The clubs agreed to work on a joint project in the coming year, and also finalised arrangements for Epsom members and partners to attend the 40th birthday celebrations of Chantilly Rotary Club in Deauville in April.

Epsom look forward to welcoming Chantilly in the autumn, when a schools' French speaking competition is planned.

Richard Deavin

## Women's World Day of Prayer - 1<sup>st</sup> March



This Year the service for Women's World Day of Prayer was devised by the French and hosted in Epsom by St Martin's Parish Church. St Martin's had asked twinning to provide a French flavour and also for assistance with the singing, some of which was in French. While Diana liaised with the Catholic and Anglican churches in Chantilly, Janee lined up a group of about 10 from Sponsalia Chamber Choir to assist with the music.

On the day, after a few hitches all went well. The church was decorated with our bunting and flags. We set up our display boards and there was also a board brought from St Peter's Anglican Church, Chantilly. This reflected the day's theme - "I was a stranger and you welcomed me" - with a series of pieces on life in France written by some of the UK expat ladies who live in the Chantilly area.

Revd Simon Talbott welcomed the congregation and, having just returned from Chantilly, was able to pass on the greetings of the churches there. The service was led by St Martin's Curate Revd Lynn Alsop and the address was given by Revd Carol Bourne, a former Curate. The anthem, specially written for the day, was sung by Sponsalia. For our "multiple" contribution we were thanked by the organising committee and St Martin's clergy.

Richard Deavin

## Herald of Spring Festival 2- 3 March



Many thanks to everyone who came to help us at Bourne Hall this weekend. To Brian Angus for putting up the display and to Clive R for the photo gallery, and to all who manned the stall over the weekend. We had a good team of volunteers! Even though there were fewer visitors to the fair, we managed to get 52 people take part in the Quiz, had 12 expressions of interest in travelling to Chantilly, and 5 new members of the Twinning Association. The winners of the Quiz draw were: Champagne - Phillip James: Wine - M Willes.

Anne Richardson, Membership Secretary

## News from Chantilly

1613-2013

L'année Le Nôtre à Chantilly



The Ministry for Culture has put dates in the diary this year to celebrate nationally the 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the birth of Andre Le Notre (1613 - 1700). Le Notre designed gardens for the famous Louis of Bourbon, Prince of Conde in the 17<sup>th</sup> Century at Chantilly. These gardens are ranked with Versailles, Fontainebleau, Vaux-le-Vicomte and the Tuileries. From March, for the whole year, there will be professional actors involved in free activities. There will be accompanied visits to find the lost gardens of Chantilly and walks to show the laying out of the forest, following in the footsteps of Le Notre. Wednesday afternoon workshops for the 7-12 and 4-6 year olds will also take part in the celebrations. On 1<sup>st</sup> June there is an exceptional Le Notre day when the Chantilly Estate, the Pavillon de Manse (click on: [Pavillon de Manse](#)) and the Prince's Vegetable and Fruit Garden are open.

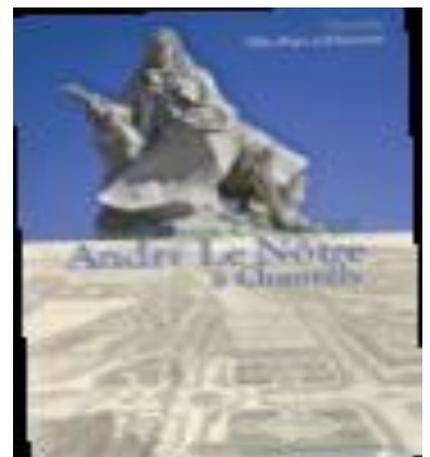


These amazing places are coming together for an extraordinary opportunity to discover, in the company of conservationists and owners, the amazing richness of the legacy left by this celebrated gardener. Reservation for tickets for the day, including entrance, meals and guided tours, will be available from mid-March at the Office de Tourisme. Another highlight is the Firework Festival on 23rd June in the Chateau Park. For more information click on: [Chantilly Magazine](#)

For those of you who might be interested in any of these activities there is a complete schedule from April through to September due to be published in the next edition of the town's magazine.

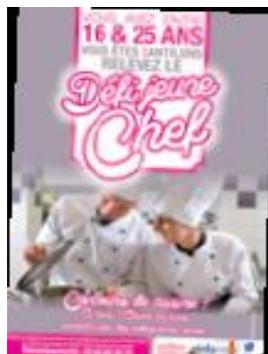
### Qui était André Le Nôtre ?

He was the son and grandson of gardeners to the King at the Tuileries Gardens in Paris. He was literally born in the gardens. He quickly learnt the skills of gardening and built on them with learning in agronomy, hydrology, mathematics, painting and architecture. As the gardener to Louis XIV he designed the gardens of Versailles and became the King's friend, as he himself was passionate about gardens. He designed many gardens in France, including Vaux-le-Vicomte. To learn more about Le Notre there is a brochure available from 1<sup>st</sup> April at the Town Hall, the Tourist Office, the Media Centre or downloadable at [www.ville-chantilly.fr](http://www.ville-chantilly.fr)



## Défi Jeunes Cantiliens 2013 : c'est reparti

Each year since 2009, Chantilly has launched a challenge for its young residents. The first challenge was to climb a 4000m summit with the Gendarmerie Squad of the Briancon Mountain Region. Next came a sea rescue with the Lorient Military 24F Flotilla. In 2012 a Triathlon took place at the Chateau.



This year for 12 youngsters, aged from 16 to 25 the Challenge is Young MasterChef. A dinner for 20 guests needs to be prepared. There will be 3 teams of 4 youngsters taking part in September at the Training Institute Manor at Gouvieux. The judges will consist of professional chefs, councillors and the youth team from the town hall.

**Census information:** The latest population census figures are available for the town. On 1<sup>st</sup> January 2013 there were 11,132 inhabitants, down 49 from the 11,181 figure in January 2009.

## Que faire en cas d'urgence médicale la nuit et le week-end à Chantilly

Doctor Francois Zanaska, Town Councillor responsible for Health, reports that since November 2012 G.Ps and Emergency Doctors no longer carry out home visits at night or at the weekend. From 6.30pm weekdays and 1.00pm on Saturdays and from 8am to 8pm on Sundays there are on call centres and outside of these hours there is A&E at the Creil or Senlis Hospitals. It is possible to avoid long waits in A&E by contacting the Duty Doctor at Chantilly's Private Hospital, where there is an on call duty doctor 24 hours a day.

## SNCF : la mobilisation continue

Since the December 2011 Review and thanks to the intervention of Eric Woerth (Mayor of Chantilly) with the Regional Council and with the management of SNCF, numerous improvements have been brought in to meet the expectations of travellers at Chantilly station. However much still needs to be done in terms of punctuality, comfort and consistency. Eric Woerth is working with his parliamentary colleagues to put pressure on SNCF. As a result there are now 4 more trains running daily to Paris weekdays and at weekends.

## Chantilly Gare



<b>Calendar of Future Events</b>	
2013	
Monday 11 <sup>th</sup> March	Soirée française at 18 The Ridings
Thursday 14 <sup>th</sup> March	Return Chantilly school visit to Epsom College
Thursday 11 <sup>th</sup> April	Members' dinner at - venue to be advised
Wednesday 24 April	Investec Spring Race Meeting
May	Soirée française at - venue to be advised
Friday 31 May	Ladies Day at Epsom Racecourse
Saturday 1 June	Derby Day on Epsom Downs
Thursday 13 <sup>th</sup> June	Twinning AGM at Epsom Town Hall
June	Members' dinner at - venue to be advised
Sunday 23 June	Firework Festival in the Chantilly Chateau Park
4, 11, 18, and 25 July	Evening racing on Epsom Downs
	Fundraising Quiznight
	Summer coach trip to Chantilly
Monday 26 August	Bank Holiday Family Race Day on the Downs
Sunday 22 September	Rotary Borough Fun Day <a href="#">at Hook Road</a>
Monday 23 September	Prix d' Epsom at Chantilly Hippodrome
Sunday 29 September	Racing Season Finale at Epsom

### **Committee for 2012/13**

Cllr Clive Woodbridge - Chairman	0208 3932853
Mr Brian Vandervilt - Treasurer	0208 3958996
Mrs Margaret Nightingale - Secretary/ Newsletter Editor	01372 209704
Mrs Anne Richardson - Membership Secretary	01372 723698
Mrs Diana Deavin - Vice-Chair/Liaison Officer	01372 727382
Mrs Betty Emery	01372 725027
Mr Brian Angus	0208 3931749
Mr Bob Ellison - Publicity Officer	01372 821000
Mrs Alison Chatterton	01372 811099
Mr Cyril Frazer	0208 3933628
Cllr Judith Glover	0208 3307686
Mr Peter Hardy	01372 721148
Mrs Susan Serrano	01372727588
Mr Ron Thorley	01372 727592

### **Representatives of Local Groups supporting Twinning**

Mr Terry Maggs - Epsom Rotary  
 Mr Colin Peel - Epsom Rotary  
 Mrs Jill Preiss - Epsom Choral Society  
 Mr Frank Warren - Epsom Model Railway Club  
 Ms Jane Foxon - Sponsalia Chamber Choir