

# SUR LE PONT

News from Trowbridge French Twinning Association Jan 2023

**TFTA Annual General Meeting**  
**7 pm on Thursday 26 January at**  
**The Old Bear, Staverton**



**TFTA is your association** and the AGM is the time to vote for who will run it for the coming year. We will tell you what we've been doing, how the money has been spent and also talk about future plans. You will also be able to meet our ex-officio President, Councillor Graham Hill, Mayor of Trowbridge; and our Trowbridge Town Council representative, Councillor Stephen Cooper.

Following the brief AGM, we will share traditional **French Galettes des Rois** (Three Kings cakes) and drinks will be available from the bar. Then Terry and Eileen Brown will give us a presentation **Through the seasons in French Gardens** which promises to really brighten up our dull January.

**Please do come along if you possibly can. We are trying hard to get TFTA really going again after a long period of comparative inactivity and we need your support.**

**There's no charge for this meeting but you can pay your 2023 subscription if you have not done so already. This is expected to be approved by meeting at £6 per person.**

**French Connections night**  
**7.30 pm on Friday 24 February at**  
**Southwick Village Hall**

**French Connections is a pot pourri of short presentations by members on topics to do with France and French culture.** Always one of our most popular events, the 2023 evening will include:

- Rallying with Morris Minors in France – Helen & Pete Cosslett
- Fontevraud – a favourite place of our TTC rep Stephen Cooper
- The remarkable story of a nun's bravery in WW2 – Claire Yardley
- Charenton-le-Pont in art – Liz Summerson

£5 per person to include nibbles and drinks. Friends and prospective members are welcome. Please email to say you're coming – it enables us to get the catering right.



Use our email address: [trowbridgefrenchtwinning@gmail.com](mailto:trowbridgefrenchtwinning@gmail.com) for any replies and enquiries.

## 26 to 29 May 2023

### Visitors from Charenton-le-Pont

For the first time since 2018 – thanks firstly to 'no deal' Brexit fears and then to Covid - TFTA will be welcoming a visiting group from Charenton. Eight of us paved the way by to Charenton in June 2022 and now we will be hosting 9 (possibly 11) people for a return trip. All those coming on this occasion have in fact previously been to Trowbridge and will be staying in local homes.

Our programme for the weekend will include events to which members of TFTA will be VERY welcome, so that you can join in and meet the Charenton visitors, even if you are not hosting. It's all at the planning stage but ideas we are looking at include Afternoon Tea at Parade House, a coach trip to Chepstow Castle and the Wye Valley, and a formal dinner at a local inn.

We would hope that from 2024 onwards, visits will include larger numbers of participants. Getting to know people in their own homes and on their own territory, allows a very different view of another culture from mere tourism, and long-term friendships are often forged. We are particularly lucky in that our twin town has all the facilities of Paris and the Ile de France on its doorstep, while our Charenton friends enjoy being in our 'little market town' and exploring all the delights that Wiltshire has to offer, as well as Bath and beyond.

As mentioned in the previous **Sur le Pont** it is also hoped that our Mayor and President, Councillor Graham Hill, will be receiving a small group from Charenton Mairie (Town Hall) earlier in May, to show them some of the current developments taking place in Trowbridge.

## Geoff Richards 1927 – 2022

We are sad to announce the death of our long-standing member, Committee Member and former Treasurer, Geoff Richards just before Christmas. Geoff was a great supporter of TFTA and with his wife Daphne attended many of our events. He was always ready with an anecdote and a laugh and he spoke very good French, too. Liz Summerson and Teresa Powell went to his funeral on 17 January to represent TFTA. Daphne now lives at Goodson Lodge, Trowbridge.

## Thirty years of French Twinning

It's thirty years since Trowbridge started looking for a French twin town. Our March social event will tell the story of how we came to a partnership with Charenton-le-Pont and will look back at all we've done along the way. If you have any photos or other items from past visits that can help illustrate this history, please contact Liz. Details of the date and venue of the event to follow.

## Gammon and Lentils

We have been asked for the recipe for the main course served at our November Auvergne-themed dinner.

1. Soak a piece of smoked gammon overnight, then cut it into cubes.
2. Peel and chop two onions and some garlic cloves, and cut 2 or 3 carrots into rounds
3. Put everything into a slow cooker (or a casserole dish) together with mixed herbs and 400 gms of green lentils and 330 ml of dryish cider or half a bottle of white wine.
4. Cook for 5-6 hours (slow cooker) or 3 hours (casserole in oven) adding a little water during the cooking if it's getting too dry.
5. Serve with crusty bread.

**Bon appétit !**