



SUR LE PONT



News from Trowbridge French Twinning Association March 2023

Bonjour !

We're excited to tell you about our continuing social programme: it still seems a novelty to be able to offer monthly events after you-know-what. Also, our programme for the Charenton visitors in May has been finalised, including the events to which all members are invited. See the separate sheet for booking details.

Cinema Français : Faces Places



We're hiring the mini-cinema at Parade House, Fore Street, Trowbridge for a TFTA film show on **Thursday 30 March – doors will open 6.30 pm and the film starts at 7.15 pm. Seats cost £10 and must be**

booked with TFTA and paid for in advance.

Book with full payment by 25 March and book early to avoid disappointment - the luxury cinema has only 24 lovely leather seats. There's a bar selling tea, coffee, soft drinks and alcohol, so do come along to socialise beforehand.

Faces Places 2017, (*Visages Villages* in French) is by the renowned director Agnès Varda. 'Breezily charming and poignantly powerful ... it's a unique portrait of life in rural France' says review-site *Rotten Tomatoes*. **English subtitles**, as always.

Pay online to TFTA account 66091624, sort code 60-21-36; once paid, please send email to address below. Or by cheque/cash to TFTA Treasurer, 40 Marsh Rd, Hilperton Marsh, Trowbridge BA14 7PR.

Coffee Morning with a French twist

A date for your calendar:

On **Tuesday 25 April** we're holding a **Coffee Morning at Christina's home**, 16 Avenue Road, Trowbridge BA14 0AQ. **Come along any time from 10.30 to 12 noon. £4** - park on Avenue Road or adjacent streets, or in the Bradford Road car park.



The French twist? We'll be serving coffee or tea with langues de chat biscuits and madeleines, the little sponge cakes made famous by the author Marcel Proust for their ability to invoke forgotten childhood memories!



Do come along to enjoy the French treats and to chat with other members. Friends and prospective members will be very welcome. We'll try to accommodate special dietary needs, if notified on booking.

Use our email address: trowbridgefrenchtwinning@gmail.com for any replies and enquiries.

Twinning Weekend

Friday 26 to Monday 29 May

We are very much looking forward to eleven people from Charenton-le-Pont visiting us. It's hard to believe it will be the first time since 2018 that we've hosted visitors from our twin town.

We have taken care to make the programme a bit special, given this long gap. We hope it's fun for our French friends and, at the same time, enjoyable for you, our members – whether or not you are hosting guests. In particular, we hope you will want to come on the very British **coach trip** and to the very traditional **Dinner**, which have been organised not just to entertain our guests, but to serve as our May social events for you. The coach trip is subsidised and we hope appears great value at £10 (plus optional entrance to Chepstow Castle), while the Dinner is at cost price, with wine for everyone purchased from TFTA funds. There's also a delightful **Cream Tea** at Parade House to start the visit off – admittedly a luxury event, but it's good to treat yourself once in a while.

All the details are given on a separate sheet, including prices and booking information. Please note there are quite early deadlines for some activities. You can print the form if you wish but, as long as your requirements are clear, an email reply will be just as good.

We require full payment at the time of booking, or 50% of the price as a non-returnable deposit* with the remainder paid by 15 May. As usual, you can pay online or by cheque or cash – see details on page one under the Film Show item.

**non-returnable unless a replacement attendee can be found.*

March – le mois de mars

In like a lion, out like a lamb – a well-known English saying, meaning that if March starts off with windy or bad weather, it will finish nice and mild.

The French have proverbs for March, too. Here are a few:

Quand mars fait avril, avril fait mars.

When March behaves like April, April will behave like March. In other words, you'll pay for Spring having arrived too early.

En mars, quand il fait beau, prends ton manteau.

When the weather's fine in March, take your coat. Don't trust it!

En mars, quand le merle a sifflé, l'hiver s'en est allé.

In March, once the blackbird has whistled, the winter has gone.

Fleur marsière ne tient guère.

A March flower hardly lasts.

Quand les grenouilles chantent en mars, elles se taisent en avril.

When the frogs sing in March, they shut up in April.

Mars is correctly spelt with a lower-case 'm' in French : *le quatre mars* = the fourth of March.

