

2017 TRIP TO LÈVES



bright eyed and bushy tailed for the 7am departure



Lèves 2017 was the first time I've organised our travel to France and not without some apprehension. Would it run smoothly, will everyone have a good weekend? I'm pleased to say the weekend went extremely well, with a lovely sense of camaraderie on the coach and excitement, especially for the first time twidders. Great having the children with us, the Nailsworth choir and our new members visiting Lèves for the first time which made the weekend really special. The first sight of the spires of the cathedral coming from Dreux marked our arrival and our welcome in Lèves was as warm as it has ever been!

Rachael Locke



BOULES MATCH ON 23 JULY,

3 PM at the KGV playing fields in Nailsworth - no experience necessary. Bring your own chair/picnic rug and a mug for your tea.

Charge £1 to cover cost of cream tea.

Please email Rachael if you can make it:
rachaellocke68@gmail.com



SOIRÉE VIN ET FROMAGE ON 9 SEPTEMBER

more info to follow.



Rachael and Judith manned the twinning stand at the new style Nailsworth Town Meeting at the Town Hall on 24 April.



It was been a long-standing joke in our family since our first trip to France with the children in 1985 that wherever you see a circus in France, there will be llamas! The circus in Lèves did not disappoint us - there they were tethered on the green space in the centre of Lèves together with some long-horned cattle! Unfortunately a retirement home is soon to be built on this green space.



It really was an excellent meal this year at the Espace Soutine, but we had already eaten and drunk so much over the weekend to fully appreciate it. Lunchtime on the Saturday we were chez Pineau, Saturday evening chez Védie and Sunday lunchtime chez Chemin! We never got to the boules match!

This first photo was taken during our guided walking tour of Chartres, our group being led by Monique. The church is St. Pierre which had some wonderful stained glass. The second photo is the same church but taken from the other side during our Son et Lumière walk on the Saturday evening. The third photo is of a rather crude wooden carving pointed out to us by Monique during the tour! **Judith & Les**



Great hospitality as always; sadness at leaving as always. **Tony Anhoury**



Whilst enjoying a leisurely lunch with Jean Jaques and Annie Cholin, we heard about the plaque on the wall of their home commemorating 6 airmen who died on a test flight in 1930. Their plane crashed into the garden of the then farm, amazingly avoiding the house, as shown in this photo Jean Jaques had from the internet. It now has beautiful forget-me-nots growing beneath it and can be seen from the road.



Keith and Lorraine with Linda were staying with the Cholins, and we were able to join them in celebrating Keith's 85th birthday on the Saturday. He was still enjoying celebrating at L'Espace Soutine on Sunday, what amazing stamina!

After the weekend, Colin and I went with Guy and Anne-Marie to visit Le Berry region in central France, where their daughter and family live, and Guy comes from. Amongst many enjoyable things, we visited this snail farm and saw how these tiny snails grow to become large and edible (for some of us at least) in just 2 months! We enjoyed our extended trip very much, thanks to our long term Twinning friends. It was great too to see new people enjoying their first Lèves experience. **Sue and Colin**



Our fast and furious trip to Lèves was a delight from start to finish. The actual journeys were long but not tedious, the mayoral welcome warm and friendly despite the late arrival, the hospitality of our hosts first-rate, the activities interesting and fun: a good time was had by all. The weather? Well, it was cold but it didn't rain ALL the time!

Why does this sound like a perfect experience? The journey: Dave, our driver, was experienced, reassuring and had quite a gift of the gab! He told us (tongue in cheek – who knows?) that the addition of the Nailsworth Community Choir had made all the difference and made his trip a real pleasure (obviously previous trips had left a lot to be desired). The children (Harriet and Lachlan) and their exemplary behaviour came in for amazed praise – but as I was sitting at the back, I know that the long journeys in the coach went by painlessly mainly due to the ministrations of Aunt Vicky and Dad Steve and first and foremost to Lilia Kayani, who entertained them from start to finish with activities, quizzes and general bonhomie and fun. She is a talented entertainer with

boundless energy and obviously a love of children and a knowledge of how to keep them interested.

As for the welcome, the hospitality, the activities, I think everyone agrees that the Lévois were “formidables”, the food delicious and plentiful, Chartres a wonderful place to visit, the choir a joy both to watch, listen to and join in with, and the final banquet with entertainment a fantastic “point culminant” to our stay. Many thanks to Rachael, Penelope (now pronounced Pénélop(e)) and everyone involved in organising and participating in our trip.

Isobel Hié.



Michel Pineau, my hosts Roger & Jannick Moreau, Kate, Hayley and Nanette



Thanks so much for a wonderful trip to Lèves. Our hosts were so generous and we ate, drank and slept very well! Many thanks to the teams in Lèves and Nailsworth. **Kate Raw**



I am completely overwhelmed by the amazing experience I have just had on my trip to Lèves. My hosts went way beyond the call of duty to welcome me with superb cuisine, wine, hospitality and laughter. Chartres is exquisite with so much to take in that I have vowed to go back. The choir sang magnificently. I am so proud! Well done the Nailsworth Community Choir!! **Penelope Wildgoose**



This was my first experience of the twinning and boy have I been missing out. Absolutely fantastic hospitality, organisation and a lovely warm welcome from all. The Chartres Cathedral night lumières was a highlight for me. Thanks, I will definitely remain a member and look forward to hosting next year.

Claire Oaten

Had a fantastic time. My hosts Orinda and Robert were so hospitable and arranged for me to visit a local stained glass artist and a glass exhibition, then the windows in the cathedral à Chartres. I was completely 'glassed out'; all very inspirational. During my visit *un événement très important: nous étions bloqués dans l'ascenseur du parking avec deux japonaises. L'ascenseur s'arrête entre deux étages! l'ascenseur était prévu pour 4 personnes; on était 5 !! C'était effrayant. Mais . . .* all was well when an engineer came to our rescue. We used the stairs the rest of the weekend. It was great that so many French people joined us in the singing workshop with Penelope; such fun. **Davina**



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I've been going to Lèves with my mum for 7 years now, since I was 9. It's lovely now that I'm older to feel like each time I'm returning to a place that I know and love and visiting people who have become good friends. **Lilia**

I couldn't have had a better first trip to France. Our hosts were so unbelievably kind and welcoming that you felt at home as soon as you stepped through the door. The twinning between Nailsworth

Chartres Son et Lumière



and Lèves is a great opportunity and couldn't be organised and handled better. Thank you so much for that great experience. Mercy buckets! **Marlis Skamletz** (the German girl with the green hair)



This was my first trip to Lèves and I enjoyed it immensely. Janine was a fantastic host and couldn't do enough for me. She showed me around Chartres and we had a treat trip out on Sunday too (before the storm). As well as meeting new people from Lèves, it was a great opportunity to meet people from Nailsworth and get to know them better too. It was a wonderful weekend and I am so glad I responded to the message on the Nailsworth chat page, inviting people to take part. I'm looking forward to the return visit next May already! **Rachel Smith**



Harriet and Lachlan had so much fun playing at Happyland and the pool was the best they have ever been to!! Couldn't have asked for a better host family. They looked after us so well and we will miss them. **Vicky, Steve, Harriet and Lachlan Mould**

Thanks so much for all your input which made everything very straightforward for those of us who had not been to Lèves before. I enjoyed the experience and felt very welcome by my host Josette and all the other people I met over the weekend. Seeing the cathedral in Chartres with its recently cleaned stonework was a fantastic extra treat! I was also taken by my host to the impressive chateau at **Chateaudun**, and I would recommend it to anyone who has not visited it. **Nanette**

A really good weekend in Lèves. We enjoyed our first coach trip and all the entertainment. Our thanks to everyone, Annie and Jean Jacques, the choir and of course the organisers. **Lorraine & Keith**



Having entered into this trip with no preconceived ideas or expectation of what it was going to be like, I have been so impressed and pleased to have taken part. Our hosts were so kind and thoughtful and bent over backwards to meet our every need. I loved meeting up with their friends Jannik and Monique and becoming part of their friendship group. Sharing tours and meals together really enhanced the experience. I don't speak French but with a big group, of whom some spoke both languages, it made it really easy to get by. I think, having an optional schedule is a really good idea so you dip in and out of activities as you choose. As part of the choir, I loved meeting so many enthusiastic French friends and was so pleased they seemed to enjoy it so much. I would love to join in a French choir workshop if they come and do it in Nailsworth. Had a fantastic, fun time. Thank you. **Hayley Walters**

We discovered that singing together was a wonderful way of creating an instant rapport with all our hosts. It wasn't the final musical performance that was important, it was the collective engagement needed to get there. We really enjoyed the process! **John Bethell**

singing workshop warm up



Penelope, Nanette, Hayley and Marlis on the ferry



listening to the choir



Michel, Jean Jacques and Claude received a gift from Rhino Rugby via Anthony (Locke). They are mini 2017 Lion's Tour balls.



Host Hervé Pelletier, although born and bred in Chartres, had been to engineering college in Blois. Ron had been to the Loire before but jumped at the chance to spend the weekend there with a Frenchman who really knew the area: so off they went. Well, that is after Hervé and Marie's donkeys (Pedro and Martin) had been taken to their field.

Destination **Chambord** was about 100k away and about 75k of this was crossing the Beauce: ninety minutes



of prairie-farmed wheat and rape-seed, all as stripey as a footballer's maillot. And, of course, f-l-a-t.

Chambord is the chateaux with the outrageously ornate roof and the double-helix staircase. Ron had been there before but had forgotten quite how mind-blowing the roof actually is. Hervé is an enthusiast for classic cars and was delighted to find a collection of them within the park's 30k perimeter wall. He was even more delighted to encounter further flocks of them all around the Loire.

Next was **Blois** and a beer and a walk around the old town, it being too late to visit the chateau. After overnighing in Blois they set off for **Amboise** but couldn't pass **Chaumont** proudly overlooking the river.

Amboise was incredibly busy with the holiday weekend crowds but they were early enough at **Chateau de Clos Luce** to look around in comfort. It was here that Leonardo da Vinci spent the last three years of his life as the guest of François 1. As well as the gorgeous brick building,

there were dozens of large models recently made from Leonardo's drawings. Ron had never realised that Leonardo had ever set foot outside Italy - so quelle surprise!

After an early lunch the Twins were into Amboise chateau itself. Wonderful building (of course), great grounds and views and a wonderful collection of furniture including some chairs displaying woodworkers' early demonstrations of perspective. By mid afternoon the rain that had been threatening came bucketing down about fifteen minutes after Hervé and Ron started their return journey.

A perfect finish to the weekend was the singing and dining in good company.

Poor Hervé had a dreadful cold throughout and must have relished that final aurevoir to Ron on Monday morning so he could crawl home and sleep for the rest of the day or maybe even the week.

Thanks for all your efforts Rachael.
Ron Birch

