

A message from the chair . . .

I'd like to thank the many Twinning members for their support during this difficult year. It was lovely to get photos and articles for our various bulletins and to receive a "return" one from Lèves with lots of news about how things have been for them. I know that many of you keep in touch with your friends in Lèves – by e-mail, cards and letters and even Zoom or Skype. Some of you were even able to visit them during the temporary lifting of lockdown. It's wonderful to know that strong friendships have been formed over the years, some quite recently. Thanks also to all those of you who could join us for the quiz in May and the Zoom conversation session in November, both of which were well attended and enjoyed by the Nailsworthians and Lévois alike. It seems like a long time ago now, but we had a socially distanced boules match and were hoping to organise another one when Lockdown 3 scuppered the plan. It's lovely to get feedback from members about everything the Committee does, including on facebook and Carolé's hard work designing and producing the newsletters.

The next five newsletters will be a "retrospective" of the 25 years of the Nailsworth-Lèves twinning adventure. We hope you enjoy going back over time or for newer members, discovering this exciting journey that has led to where we are now. We are going to set up an email group so that members can send their own photos and texts to complement the retrospective with their own reminiscences of meetings, trips, adventures etc. We hope that as many people as possible will join in and I can't wait to read your contributions and see your photos.



As you know, some green-fingered members of the Committee (and their spouses) take care of Lèves Corner garden and expenses are incurred in spring, summer and autumn. Other expenses this year have been related to the sending of cards to those of our members in Lèves suffering from serious illness. We also have to maintain a healthy balance sheet at a time when we cannot apply for a council grant yet will have bills to pay when our Lèves friends come to stay. If we contain the virus, this will probably be May 2022. But before that, and as soon as we are able to, we plan to organise some festivities to celebrate our release from lockdown.

So, a reminder that subs for 2021 are due! They remain unchanged at £8 per member and can be paid by cheque to me (The Nailsworth & District Twinning Association, 23 The Old George, Tabrams Pitch, Nailsworth, GL6 0BA) or BACS (sort code: 309428 Acc. 58825360; ref your name).



The date for the next **AGM will be via Zoom on 5th March at 7pm**. You will get all the necessary documents and details nearer the time. We would welcome some new members on the Committee so please come and join us if you'd like to.

Your comments, feedback and suggestions are always welcome.

Isobel



www.nailsworthtowncouncil.gov.uk

Le Bulletin



www.leves.fr

Nailsworth & District Twinning Association



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RETROSPECTIVE PART 1 : 1990 - 1999

In 1990, Allan Beale was told about a small French town looking for an English twin and wondered if NW would be interested. This was La Grande Paroisse near Fontainebleau. Allan pulled together an initial committee (comprising Mary (wife of NW school head Bruce Hall) Frances (wife of mayor John Cross) William Beeston, Clive Barlow (treasurer), Valerie Cowls, Carole de Lacroix (secretary), Elisabeth Targett, Judith Haines, Pat Linsdell) to look into this and reciprocal visits were arranged. La Grande Paroisse was however not much more than a few houses on either side of a main road with none of Nailsworth's infrastructure, so was not felt to be a good match, but everyone was very enthused now by the idea of twinning with a French town so we kept looking.

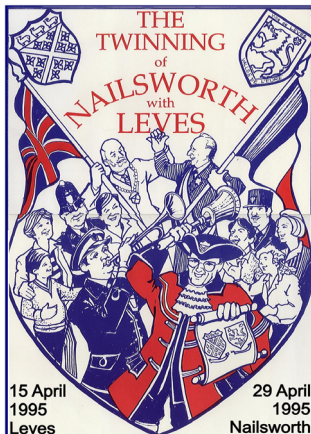
Finally through the intermediary of the Government International Bureau in London (a sort of dating agency for twin towns!) we were introduced to Lèves. Visits were exchanged and everyone felt this was a good match.

A Town Meeting took place in February, attended by many residents, 60 of whom promptly joined the newly



formed Nailsworth & District Twinning Association. And the rest is history!

Frances, Pat, Judith, William, Clive, Allan, Carole, Elisabeth, Valerie



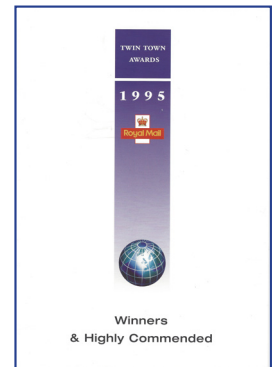
the twinning poster was designed by local artist Terry Thomas.

The same year we entered the Royal Mail Twin Town Awards under the 'best new link' category and were Highly Commended, collecting our award at a reception at Claridges in London.

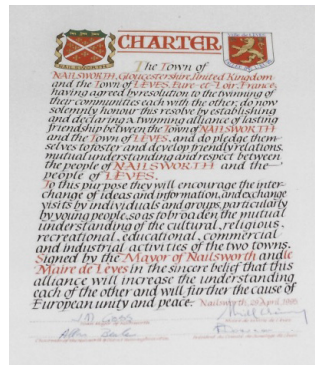
The Charter, the Royal Mail Award certificate and other bits of twinning memorabilia are displayed in the twinning showcase in the Mortimer Room.



First gift from Lèves from the famous Gabriel Loir glassworks in their town. (see it in the side window of the Civic Centre, Old Market)



1995 - signing the twinning charters, first in Lèves on 15 April and two weeks later in NW on 29th.



the Charter was designed and handwritten by Vic Jellings in Wootton



Tony, Allan, Mayors Michel Castaing & John Cross, Françoise Donneau



Lèves Mayor Michel Castaing was so impressed with John's mayorial chain when they met for the signing in Lèves that he immediately commissioned something similar for himself when he got home, in time for the return visit to Nailsworth two weeks later! (French mayors traditionally wear a tricolour sash around the waist.)

Keith's shop is now Blushes Hairdressers

Winner of the Window Display competition



Allan Beale & Françoise Donneau were the first twinning chairpersons

39 Nailsworth shops & businesses took part; the competition was judged by a panel of Lèves ladies, all called Françoise. Obviously a very popular name for a certain generation!

Michel Castaing reviews the local rag



1995 - First school visit from Lèves Primary



1996 - inauguration of the new road signs



1996 - Anglo-French football at Shortwood



1996 - l'Amicale Laique bring their hilarious sket



ches to Nailsworth

1997 - Town Crier Tony announces our arrival in Lèves



Tony is also honorary town crier of Lèves

1997 - A visit to the amazing Picassiette house



They came across the Channel, *fa - la - la*
All our friends from Nailsworth, *fa - la - la*
Sailing or swimming, *no - no - no*
Taking « (Le) Shuttle » ! *fa - la - la*.

Nous sommes enfin réunis, *fa - la - la*
Chantons, buvons, mon ami, *fa - la - la*
A l'Angleterre, *oui - oui - oui*
Lèves ton verre ! *fa - la - la*.

Que pendant ce week-end, *fa - la - la*
Les esprits se déchainent, *fa - la - la*
Et se comprennent, *oui - oui - oui*
Welcome to Lèves ! *fa - la - la*.

le Cluster choral group wrote a welcome song for the visit in 1997.

1998 - dinner dance in Nailsworth with entertainment



from the Pussyfoot Clog Dancers



1998's visit to NW was at Easter



1998 Allan Beale, Barry Cowls, John Cross attend Remembrance Ceremonies in Lèves



1999 - A warm welcome on arrival in Lèves



1999 - inauguration of Place de Nailsworth in Lèves



1999 - 16 Oct, quiz evening compared by Les & Campbell



1999 - Lèves standard joins Nailsworth's Remembrance Day



parade

1999 - Remembrance lunch at Mad Hatters (now Wild Garlic)

