

As we approach the end of 2023, let's look back over the year's activities that many Twinners took part in. Thank you so much for your continuing support as without you, this wonderful, worthwhile association wouldn't exist, and that would be a great loss to Nailsworth, Lèves and ourselves personally. I'd also encourage you wherever possible to promote the Nailsworth and District Twinning Association, as we can never have enough members! I think Sharon's article in the Nailsworth News in July was a superb piece lauding the pleasures and advantages of twinning between two towns, separated by language and miles, but connected by humanity and conviviality, generosity and broad-mindedness, and all these accessible to all the citizens of the towns and their districts regardless of condition or situation. My sincere and ever-grateful thanks to the Committee members: Julian Dennis, Judith Haines, Keith Mansell, Sue Smith and Elisabeth Targett, not forgetting our honorary member, Carole de Lacroix, who kindly designs the beautiful bulletins all year round. If you would like to come onto the Committee, please know that you would be welcomed with open arms!

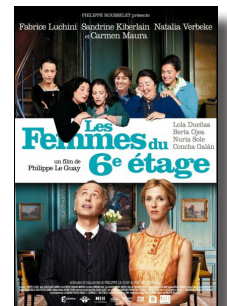
Here's wishing you all a Joyeux Noël, santé et bonheur en 2024 et des retrouvailles lors de nos différentes activités de mars à novembre. Isobel

March - AGM and Film. A well-attended meeting which saw members mingling, enjoying tasty nibbles and glasses of wine and conversation. A short speech by Chair Isobel Hié, voting etc. were followed by the film *Les Femmes du 6ème étage* with English subtitles, which was greatly enjoyed by all.

April - pre Lèves trip tea party for Twinners and Nailsworth Silver Band members.

April - Town Meeting in the town square. Thankfully rain and wind-free this year with some interesting contacts with passers-by. We were pleased to add two new members to our association later on in the year.

May - visit to Lèves - extensively covered in the June issue of the Bulletin.

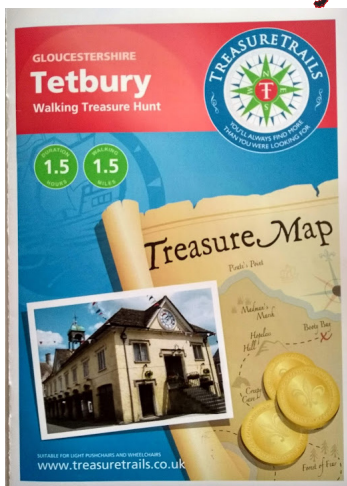


June, July, August, September - pétanque. pétanque and more pétanque. Lots of fun despite the sometimes inclement weather. We were joined by non-members for this activity which was open to everyone (as are most of our activities) and it was great to meet some new faces. Whiteshill joined us for the traditional match and party in August and we had some enthusiastic spectators as well.



September - Tim's quiz. Many thanks to Tim for braving health issues to put together and run this amazing quiz. Thanks also to the catering team for organising a wide selection of drinks and nibbles to stimulate (or otherwise) the brain cells. Several teams did well on history, literature and films but less well on football, cricket and golf. This was a fundraising event and thankfully did raise some much-needed funds.

October - Tetbury Treasure Trail. “Le soleil était au rendez-vous” for this exciting and amusing treasure trail through Tetbury, organised by Judith and Sue, and followed by lunch at the Snooty Fox. This choice was just as well as one of the clues (which foxed us) referred to this superb old inn, but unfortunately the “snooty” innkeeper couldn’t help us either.



Lessons to be learned when doing a treasure trail with serious competitors (there was to be a prize for the winners!): if near a competing team, do not be fooled by what they are looking at – they’ve probably found the answer to the clue but want to lead you astray. Do not listen to any “advice” they may impart and do not take up any of their suggestions. If you see a team in trouble but you know you are on the right track, stride forth in haste, hopefully leaving them behind.

Over our meal we had fun and not too much contestation going over the answers to the quiz and de coding and agreed that it was a hugely fun activity for young and old. These Treasure Trails exist for lots of towns and cities. Visit www.treasuretrails.co.uk



November - Remembrance Day in Lèves. Sharon and I had a special time in Lèves and everything went very smoothly. It was a great honour to represent the town of Nailsworth at this important annual ceremony and emphasise the strong links between our two towns, indeed between our two countries, having fought side by side through two world wars.

The weather on the 11th was sunny and quite warm so that really helped, as last year it had been cold and blustery. Eventually, we shall be alternating once again (COVID disrupted the process) so the Lèves contingent can come to Nailsworth.

As is customary, there was a lot of inclusion for Sharon and me both by Joël Houvet, councillor, and Rémi Martial, the mayor, not forgetting François Dauvillier, head of the association of veterans of the North African wars. As is customary, it was this association that invited us to lunch in the Espace Soutine after the ceremony.

Before this, there was a service in the church for those that wished to attend, followed by a march behind “the band” to the cemetery, for the laying of wreaths and naming of those that had fallen during the various wars and combats, including names of non-military personnel. We laid a different wreath this year, ordered from the Royal British Legion in Nailsworth, a “bleu-blanc-rouge” to symbolise our strong ties. We wore our poppies, as well as the blue cornflower (the French equivalent) sticker badges we’d been given.



Besides playing the UK national anthem at the cemetery, the ‘choir’ also sang it at the reception (as well as the Marseillaise, of course) after the official ceremony at the school, Rémi Martial made quite a long





speech to the children saying that in the long-distant past the English and French had fought each other but are now good friends.

The reception we had from everyone in Lèves from the mayor down, couldn't have been more welcoming and showed real appreciation and pleasure that we had taken the time to be part of their Remembrance. It was actually quite moving because it seemed so genuine.

Something which also caught our notice and we found quite moving, was that so many of the flag groupings around the town had two French flags with

a Union Jack in the middle. There were lots of Union Jacks. I'm not sure we'd put so many French flags up here in the UK! We now look forward to seeing our friends once again in May 2024.

Vive le jumelage! Keith



20th Anniversary Rowan tree

Photographed in November, the Rowan tree is doing well and was even sporting some berries. Meanwhile, the whole area has been tidied and renamed Jubilee Garden.

Lèves Corner. After discussion with the town clerk, Katherine Kearns, and the difficulties regarding redesign of the garden and its upkeep, NTC has agreed to pay for the purchase of plants according to a design submitted by a young garden architect who will take charge of the work. The Committee has agreed that the association pay a very reasonable fee for this work to be carried out in spring.



JUST A BRIEF REMINDER



SUBS FOR 2024 ARE NOW DUE : £10 per person or £20 per family.

Please send a cheque (payable to Nailsworth & District Twinning Association) to Isobel, address on last page. Or you can pay online to

sort code: 30-94-28 Acc: 58825360

ref your name and please email Isobel to let her know.

New members always very welcome, so don't forget to mention the Twinning Association to your friends and neighbours.

**LOOKING
AHEAD TO
2024...**



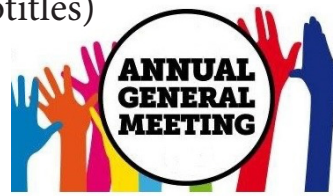
**MONDAY 19 FEBRUARY
COMMITTEE MEETING**
time & place TBC



Suggestions for future events and activities welcome: a quiz, another treasure trail, tea party, pétanque and especially ideas for fundraisers ??

FRIDAY 1ST MARCH

AGM with refreshments and a French film
(with subtitles)



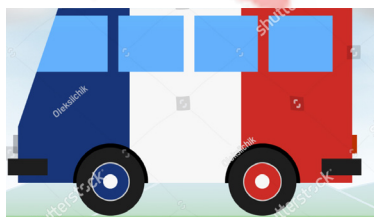
NAILSWORTH TOWN MEETING
date in April TBC

THURSDAY 9TH TO SUNDAY 12TH MAY

it's Lèves' turn to visit Nailsworth in 2024; they will arrive on the Thursday, probably early evening, and leave again on the Sunday morning.

Plans are already afoot and we're looking into a possible vineyard visit and a long table meal.

Please reserve the weekend and let Isobel know if you will be able to host any of the visitors.



Judith, Sue and Isobel have cleaned and reorganised the **TWINNING DISPLAY CABINET IN THE MORTIMER ROOM**.

The 2023 gifts of the beautiful glass plaque and boules trophy have joined other artefacts there.

