



Summer Newsletter



The Big Event took place between the 25th and the 28th May 2017 – our friends from Marly-le-Roi came to visit. They fortunately brought a spell of fine sunny weather. They weren't quite so lucky with their voyage as they were held up at Calais for some considerable time and caught a crossing an hour and a half later than planned. This put them behind schedule and so it had to be a whistle stop tour around Standen, the NT property near East Grinstead, which was a pity as the NT has apparently done great things with the gardens there. Then on the way to us they got caught up in the M25 traffic with long delays (an accident), while we waited at Court Garden to receive them.

Anyway they eventually arrived at about 7pm – not too bad considering the number of difficulties they had to overcome. Thankfully they did make it as Peter and Wendy Aldiss, the new proprietors of the Court Garden rooms, were also there to welcome us and our guests along with Jocelyn Towns our Mayor. We are grateful to the Town Council for their sponsorship, covering the cost of this reception. It is a wonderful place to use with its glorious views across the lawn to the Thames below. I must admit I had problems recalling my French (despite all Wilma's efforts), but Jocelyn didn't do too badly. It had been a long day for our French visitors so they must have been 'pretty shattered' by the time they returned to their host's dwellings and got to bed.





Next day was another early start as we had a 2 hour trip to Chipping Campden. Another glorious day and a wonderful ride in the Cotswolds once we had got beyond Oxford – we took the pretty route and then as we entered the village there were cries of “Oo la la !” as we passed the ‘chocolate box’ cottages and their beautiful gardens.

We arrived at Chipping Campden in good time. The biggest problem was manoeuvring the large coach as a small market town like Campden wasn’t designed to cater for large vehicles. Everyone seemed to enjoy their visit to this picturesque and historic town and in particular they were taken with the beautiful old Market Hall and fascinated with the silver smith works at the old Silk Mill. There was time to do the guided tour, but not a lot of additional time for window shopping – people would have liked to stay longer. Many thanks go to Vin Kelly and his team of Chipping Campden guides for giving us a great informative tour. I think they may have been a bit apprehensive when we told them that we had 40 French people coming to visit but they coped admirably.



Then, on to Broughton Castle near Banbury, where we were due to have lunch.



It was splendid sitting in the idyllic setting of Broughton having our ‘Ploughman’s Lunches’. For our following, very interesting, tour we split the group into two – good English speakers and not so good. The 2 guides were excellent and gave us a wonderful tour. The highlight

was probably when we went onto the roof and admired the castle, moat and it's countryside from on high – magnificent bucolic views –quintessentially English.



The ride home was fairly straight forward down the M40, except I developed a nose bleed (sitting in the full glare of the sun at the front of the coach), so I arrived with a blood splattered shirt – people must have wondered!



In the evening hosts and guests got together for a number of informal parties. Lyn Rimmer and several other hosts took their guests to the Marlow Donkey for an evening meal. We would have joined them but we were kindly invited to Margaret and Ian Pike's place for dinner. Other groups shared meals 'chez les anglais'.

On Saturday guests were taken to such places as Greys Court and Hughenden Manor before the customary soiree at Great Marlow School with its excellent facilities (despite the continued building work outside). Many donned Stetsons, neckerchiefs and cowboy boots to join in the theme of 'The Wild West'. There were even a couple of Red Indians –oops, Native Americans! For starters we kicked-off with some 'Western' music before tucking into Carole Thurston and her team's culinary delights washed down with not so American wine.



The Bodgers Wood Band then struck up and with the excellent calling from Madeleine, everyone was soon up and joining in the sets for a selection of reels, circles and square dances – of course with the usual hilarity and laughter when people ‘got it wrong ‘ or bumped into each other! It was an exhausting evening and the ‘Hoe Down’ was enjoyed by all!



Thanks to all those who helped out on the evening including some of our French visitors which made setting-up and clearing away relatively painless.



Sunday was the day of departure, assembling at the Industrial estate by the Marlow Donkey for an early departure of 11.30am. Despite this we did manage to have a breakfast gathering for the Marly-le-Roi organisers - Dominique, Marie-Anne and (Patrick if he could have made it), at our place, as they are always kind enough to host us for meals when we go to Marly-le-Roi. But despite their early departure, they again had a nightmare of a trip home, being delayed at Folkestone for several hours. They eventually arrived home well after 11pm – exhausted! *All in all, everyone had an enjoyable weekend! Vive le Jumelage!*

[MTTA Petanque Club Report](#)

It has been a very eventful year for the Club so far. We were given a month's notice that our home venue, The Kings Head, Little Marlow, was to close on April 1st. We knew the Marlow Sports Club were keen for us to join them there and so we have built a new Piste in record time and that is now in full action.



Most of our members have joined us there and we hope to have a very happy and successful time. Both our two teams continue to play in the Thames Valley league with varying amounts of success. MTTA did head the league initially but have now slipped to mid table, probably a truer reflection of our capabilities. Our Cygnets team is playing well but are not getting the success they deserve. We encourage MMTTA members to support us at Marlow. We play league matches on Tuesday nights at 7.30pm and the club bar IS open and you are very welcome to join us there. Please make the effort, it will be appreciated by all our Club members, who are, remember, part of the great Twinning Family in Marlow. – Roger Smith

Summer Social – Friday 28th July, 2pm – 5pm



So now to our Summer Social which is being held at St Katharine's, Parmoor on **Friday afternoon 28th July, between 2pm -5pm**. St



Katharine's is an archetypal grand mansion displaying the fabric and decor of the early C20th of D'Oyly Carte and Sir Stafford Cripps, (though its origins go back well before then). As you would expect, it's a very big rambling house with large rooms which overlook expansive lawns. It even has a walled garden. Following its heyday in the 1930's it has been used for a number of film sets including the 'Night Manager' and it is being geared up for more public events and accommodation. So I think it will prove to be a great location in which to hold our Summer Social.

The House Manager will ensure that we are well looked after, keeping us topped up with glasses of Pimms (or something softer if you so wish), serving us a selection of typically English sandwiches with our typically English afternoon tea (or coffee), as well as cream scones and a selection of large and small delicious cakes. We will make sure it looks festive for the occasion and set up the screen for the usual showing of videos and photos kindly provided by Jacques and Dominique Aupépin, Jean-François & Maryse Fogelgesang, and of course our own photographs of the French visit.



St Katharine's is located in the wonderful Chilterns countryside near the village of Frieth. It is about 5 miles outside the town of Marlow, which may give some people problems in getting there. If transport is a problem then please get in touch with me (**John Smith, tel: 01628 484156 / email: smith_spinfield@btinternet.com**) and I will find suitable transport. Also if anyone has a disabled badge (and would like to provide the registration number of their car) the house will reserve parking places immediately outside the front door for them. Again please let me know if this is the case.

A booking form is included with this Newsletter for anyone who would like to take part in the festivities.

The Cradle of Impressionism along the Seine



These artists are nowadays world renowned and we are used to their works fetching huge sums of money at Auction. Yet when they were starting out it was quite a different matter! Their escapades and attempts to gain recognition are quite a story.



The Flood at Port Marly by Sisley

Carole Petipher is a guide /lecturer in France and NADFAS speaker, who has spent the last 15 years on a boat exploring the early haunts of the Impressionists along the Seine. Her lively lecture on the 20th October at Liston Hall, 8pm- 9pm will take us to a tiny section of the river around Marly le Roi which has been termed the Cradle of Impressionism.

Tickets will be on sale (£5.00 / ticket which includes refreshments after the talk) to MMTTA members from 1st July – contact Peter Bailey (01628 476610 – email: pbailey810@tiscali.co.uk) or Alison Rae (01628 482520 – email: alison@arr22.plus.com). A booking form with contact details is included with this Newsletter. Tickets will be made available outside the MMTTA from the middle of August. So please secure your ticket early.

Other Future Events



Saturday 16th September. We plan to join the fun, though we need some ideas on how to best publicise ourselves.



Bourne End (Bucks) Twinning Association (aka BEBTA) invite you to join us for “Tales of Town Twinning”, a light-hearted talk by John Dixon from his rich experience, followed by questions, drinks & canapes, **on Saturday 14th October 2017.** Up to 10 tickets available for MMTA– put it in your diaries! We look forward to welcoming you. **Contact David Langford, 01628 520065 or 17 Goddington Road, Bourne End, SL8 5TT. Book by Friday 23rd September.**



Sunday 12th November will be Remembrance Sunday where we will take part in the annual service and wreath laying. Over the past few years several of our Marly-le-Roi friends have come to join us.



Christmas Party

Saturday 2nd December, we will hold our Christmas Party. Details in the Autumn Newsletter.