

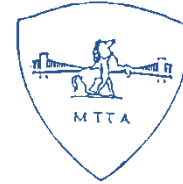
Marly-le-Roi



MMTTA

**MARLOW/MARLY-LE-ROI TOWN
TWINNING ASSOCIATION**

www.marlowtowntwinning.co.uk



Bulletin Summer 2019

Marlychoix Visit 1st – 5th May



Our friends from Marly-le-Roi arrived round about 3pm on Wednesday. There was a little bit of confusion about the meeting, but both sides managed to sort themselves out ok, with some visitors being picked-up immediately and some having a stroll around the town first.

To celebrate their arrival and our yearly get-together we held a reception at the Rowing Club. Suzanne had organised the event, paid for by our Town Council. The venue is a great place to hold a reception with its splendid views across the Thames, though on this occasion spoilt a little by the dull rainy evening. Also provided was a drink or two of bubbly. Sarah from Feast Catering provided

some delicious canapés, which went down very well. Jocelyn Towns and her partner David came along to represent the Council, and both she and Suzanne gave a warm welcome to our Marlychoix guests. It was a most convivial evening catching up with guests not seen since last May.



On Thursday we went to the old medieval village of Lacock, probably the most filmed site in England particularly for period dramas etc.



Since 1944 this has been maintained by the National Trust along with the Abbey which was converted to a manor house in the Tudor period. Also on site is a museum which shows the works of the photographic pioneer Fox-Talbot who owned the estate in the 19 century. Lacock is situated in rural Wiltshire so it was a bit of a long drive exacerbated by hold-ups on the M4 due to 'smart motorway' improvements. Although the weather was a little dull it was enjoyable admiring

all the picturesque properties. People did their own thing, and went off in little groups to explore the surroundings. Tricia and I with our guest Elizabeth firstly explored the Abbey which seemed to be the first port of call for most of the people. It was an interesting building and although now converted into a manor house the basic components of the Abbey are still in evidence, the cloisters and its chapels, the kitchens, hallways and stairways – it was certainly a spread-out rambling sort of place (not cosy), a place where one wouldn't be surprised to come across a Tudor ghost or two.



For lunch we met at the Red Lion pub where we had a two course meal along with a glass or two. I must say that the fish and chips were excellent and some of us enjoyed the local brew of ale. It was all very sociable with plenty of mixing between the tourists.





Later we explored the village. The place was a mix of quaint traditional stone cottages, hostleries and bijou shops. It also contained an old workhouse, a medieval tithe barn, an old lock-up and the village church which seemed to be strange mix of architectural styles. It's a pity that we couldn't witness the place with people walking around in olde-worlde costumes which would really have brought the place to life. So our French visitors gained something of the feel of old England and enjoyed the day. We took the scenic route back via Marlborough to see one of the iconic 'White Horses'.

In the evening we met up in groups. We took our guest to Baroosh where, with about 20 others we had a pleasant evening of chat and food. It's a good job that so many French speak our native tongue.

Friday was the trip to London. The journey started well until we got to the Marylebone flyover and then it was slow progress to our destination in Kingsway before alighting for Covent Garden. It was then a difficult operation for Suzanne and Patrick to try and get a parking ticket for the coach, but they did eventually succeed. Most of us trooped off to Covent Garden to browse the market stalls – some selling unusual quality curios and artefacts and some selling the more traditional touristy wares. We took lunch at the Royal Opera House, which was just around the corner. Luckily, following lunch we were able to join a tour of the Opera House which gave us a good overview and history of the place including the public galleries and the behind the scenes areas. On returning to the coach we found that some people had visited other places including the National Gallery and Buckingham Palace. There obviously were some very fit people amongst us. Next stop was the Houses of Parliament, where we had a group photo before entering Westminster Hall. It was also good to meet up with Stephanie Thieyne (Marly Deputy Mayor) and her husband Vincent who had come specially to do the Westminster tour.



I must say that the Houses of Parliament is one of the most extraordinary places I have ever visited. It is like being in a time warp through the ages of English government. One could easily imagine the ministers of the sovereign / people going about their business in Tudor, Stuart, Georgian or Victorian times. It was a little harder to imagine the modern day parliamentarians doing their business in such a setting. I admit I loved the place with all its corridors, halls, lobbies, chambers etc and such wonderful art and decoration. Our Marlychoix friends also seemed very impressed with the antiquity and grandeur of the building. Patrick did a great job of translating the lessons of the guide into French as we went through the rooms, even the quirky tales which the guide was keen to include.



At the end we were late for the coach, and because of the limited parking situation the driver had to drive around the Westminster road system three times, before he could pick us up. I think the driver deserved a medal, having to deal with the horrendous traffic, and the difficulties of parking in a city in which he was not familiar. But we did have an interesting return journey home going through the streets of Pentonville and beyond, ending up on the North Circular near Wembley Stadium. Anyway we got back to Marlow even if we were 45 minutes later than expected.

Then home for dinner. Again I think most people teamed up for a group dinner.



Thankfully for us Angela Magee was on hand to finish off the preparation and cooking of our meal before we arrived home. We had 12 people around our table and it provided a nice relaxing end to the day.

Saturday was the opportunity for the Marlow hosts to take their guests to places of their choosing. One of the suggested tours was the 'Barnaby' tour as the French know it or 'Midsummer Murders' tour as we know it. This was a tour around our local Chiltern villages of Fingest, Freith, Medmenham, etc. which have been used as scenes in the long running



TV series. These villages and countryside must be some of the most quintessential beautiful places in England.

After a very leisurely day of chatting about things done since last time we had seen our guest, Tricia took Elizabeth into Marlow to do some window shopping and visit Burgers.

Mr Burger had put out a welcome sign for the Marly-le-Roi visit, which was very much appreciated. I hope many of you saw it and had the opportunity to thank him for it.

In the evening we had the Soiree. The theme was 'The Regatta' for which committee members had worked hard to decorate the hall and set-up.



People dressed up, ladies in their smart frocks and gentlemen in their blazers and boaters, some people in boating attire which I think the French thought was more appropriate. Naomi Riches (Paralympic gold rowing champion) opened proceedings and gave a great speech about her endeavours to become a champion.

Carole Thurston provided her usual high standard of tasty cuisine which everyone enjoyed.

As a change from our normal entertainment and music we had the InterKooler Rock Band. Though not everyone's choice they were a very good set of musicians. The French particularly enjoyed them, and joined in straightaway. We saw some great dancing from the French, the Aupepin girls including mum Isabele and friend Lucille came up with some very inventive moves which I think we all enjoyed watching. The English were a little slower to join in, but come the second half the dance floor was full with everyone having great fun. During the interlude



the Marlychoix gave us a rendition of a French song which was accompanied on flute and clarinet by Frederic and Chloe Aupepin.



A big thank you goes to Suzanne and all of the committee for organising such a varied and enjoyable visit, and *a big thank you* to all our hosts. Your efforts and hospitality are much appreciated and I do hope you all enjoyed the visit.

Summer Social – Saturday 20th July, 2.30pm – 5pm



Our Summer Social this year is being held at Harleyford Golf Club on *Saturday afternoon 20th July, between 2.30pm -5pm.*



Harleyford Golf Club is located about 2 miles outside Marlow on the Henley Road. It was part of the country estate of Harleyford Manor set in beautiful countryside alongside the Thames and overlooking the lush green lawns of the golf club.

The catering staff will ensure that we are well looked after, serving us a selection of finger sandwiches, scones with clotted cream and jam, home-made mini cakes and tea and coffee. Other drinks, including Pimms can be purchased from the bar.

It will look festive for the occasion and we will set up the screen for the usual showing of videos and photos of the Marly-le-Roi visit taken by the French and ourselves. Therefore anyone with photographs, that they wish to show on the video, then please send to myself John Smith email: smith_spinfield@btinternet.com by the beginning of July.



The price will be £12.00 per person. A separate booking form is included with this Newsletter for those who wish to come, which is to be returned to Jill Smith by Friday 12th July.

Members have enjoyed this event in the past and we have had good attendances. It is a great event to catch up with twinning friends in a relaxed, peaceful surrounding and to re-live the moments of the visit.

Harlyford as stated is just outside Marlow so 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. There is parking available, adjacent to the Club House, and for those a little less mobile they can be dropped off nearer to the restaurant entrance.

Alison Rae (BEM)

We must congratulate our own Alison Rae on recently receiving the British Empire Medal (BEM) for her dauntless service to the Marlow Opportunity Playgroup. This is just one of the many Marlow organisations she is involved with giving so much of her time and effort. Anyway I came across a great article published on the MyMarlow web site by Paul Merchant (May 22, 2019). I have included a summary of the article here for your information, but please go to the web site for the full text

Marlow Opportunity Playgroup volunteer receives royal recognition

Alison was presented with her British Empire Medal at a special ceremony hosted by HM Lord Lieutenant of Buckinghamshire, Sir Henry Aubrey-Fletcher, at Missenden Abbey on Thursday 16 May.

The British Empire Medal is awarded for civil or military service worthy of recognition by the Crown and was first created in 1922. Alison Rae has been a volunteer and supporter at the Marlow Opportunity Playgroup for 37 years.



The Leader of Marlow Opportunity Playgroup, Jane Gibbons said “Alison is a wonderful, warm and characterful lady. She has a real fondness for the charity and holds it very dear to her heart, having seen it grow and flourish over time. She has directly helped hundreds of children and their families over many years. Alison loves all children, but the children who attend the playgroup are particularly special to her. She has become very attached to many of the children and loves to hear of their progress”.

Speaking after the ceremony, **Sir Henry Aubrey-Fletcher said: “The British Empire Medal is only awarded to the most exemplary candidates**, who have tirelessly devoted their lives to helping others in their local communities in a variety of different ways. The one

thing they have in common is their dedication and commitment. On behalf of HM The Queen, I heartily applaud each and every one of them – well done!”

Future Events



Summer Social – Saturday 20th July 2019. See above for the information.



Marlow Carnival – Saturday 21st September 2019. Ideas on how we can make our stall more attractive to the punters will be welcomed. We will also need some volunteers to help on the stall.



Remembrance Sunday - Sunday 10th November 2019 will be 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.



Autumn Talk – By Carole Petipher on Monet’s Garden at Giverny - *Friday 15th November 2019.* Carol gave a splendid talk on the Impressionists along the Seine, 2 years ago, so we look forward to another fascinating lecture. Details of the talk will be in the next Newsletter.



Christmas Party

Christmas Party – Saturday 14th December 2019.