

WHITCHURCH & GORING HEATH
TWINNING ASSOCIATION



Friday 4th May to Monday 7th May 2018

It's the 40th Anniversary of our Twinning Association and our French friends from La Bouille are putting on a delightful visit to Giverny, the home and garden of the great expressionist painter Claude Monet.



We all get together on the Saturday evening for dinner and entertainment. Sunday is our day out on the coach to Giverny. You will visit the studios where this celebrated painter did his work and you can wander round the extensive and beautiful gardens that inspired the great man to paint the lily pond and other favourite works of art. Our coach returns us to Whitchurch by about 10:00pm on the Monday evening.

The cost per person is £200 and children and teenagers go for free! So why not join us on this great adventure.

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Monet's Garden

We would love you and your family to join us on this special occasion. You will enjoy the "Entente Cordiale" of the villagers, wonderful hospitality, food and wine and you don't have to speak a word of French!

Our Luxury Coach leaves Whitchurch at about 8:30am on the Friday morning and arrives in La Bouille around 6:00pm when you will be welcomed by your hosts who will look after you that evening and the following day until we meet at a reception at the Hotel de Ville for a champagne reception with the Mayor.

CAFÉ DU THÉ



Sunday 25th March
Old Rectory Stables 3-5pm

Please join us for free tea and cakes and find out more about this year's trip to La Bouille



THE FIRST 40 YEARS



Just over 40 years ago, the late Sheridan Thynne of Whitchurch was staying in the Hotel St. Pierre in the small gastronomic resort of La Bouille by the banks of the Seine. The hotel manager asked him about Whitchurch and suggested that the two villages might be suited to each other as twin villages.

The local mayors of both villages approved of the idea. Then small delegations were sent to explore their potential 'twins' and twinning charters were duly signed in 1978 (some years before either Goring or Pangbourne followed the example). The twinning was greatly supported by residents of Whitchurch Hill leading to the association being joined by the parish of Goring Heath in 1985.

The association rather than a formal 'civic' association is firmly based on personal relations between residents. In one of the initial groups was M. Roland Cousin (who died in 2017), accompanied in 1978 by his 17 year old daughter, Martine, who has served as the President of the La Bouille committee for over twenty-five years.

Relaxed groups of us go to La Bouille in alternate years, staying with local families and enjoying at leisure hospitality, good food and the picturesque surroundings. Language has been no barrier and several generations have fond memories, including children who are also most welcome whether learning French or not.