



Dear Friends,

Le Soulet d'Ayen, December 2020

This is the tenth annual letter from your Association 'Les Amis de l'Arboretum de La Tuillière'. 2020 was a very memorable year: because of the corona pandemic, there were no special activities. The celebration of the 30th anniversary of the arboretum could not take place and has been postponed to the summer of 2021.

Membership

There are currently 336 members, 157 of whom are 'members for life'. There was one board meeting and one General Assembly meeting, which due to the corona measures was only held in September.



Visitors

There have been 8 weekends 'open days', but actually the entrance gate was continuously open. 47 friends stayed one or more times at La Tuillière, either in one of the houses or with their own camper or tent. In total, we welcomed more than 800 friends and visitors in the arboretum in 2020.

Activities and events

- * Jan Paauw, Martien Elderkamp and Frank van der Meulen have built a new watchtower. Firmer, higher and more beautiful than the previous one.
- * The car park at the entrance to the arboretum has been completely professionally renovated and enlarged by M Géry. The 'friends tree' of Cortensteel (gift 25th anniversary) had to be moved about 15 m for this.
- * During the night of 11 May, the reception pavilion burned down, a huge sea of flames and devastation. Possible cause: environmentally friendly weed control by means of burning, carried out about 6 hours earlier Only the attached shed with its contents was saved. The AXA insurance has helped us greatly so far. At the beginning of January 2021 the rebuilding will probably start.





- * Once again, friends have planted trees for a special occasion: birth, birthday, in memory of.
- * The Ayen choir has rehearsed weekly. Initially in the pavilion, but later in the conservatory of the house.

Activities organized together with the Collectif 'Vivre ensemble durablement' and with the municipality of Ayen

- * Once again, 'birth trees' have been planted in Ayen for the 2019-borns. Each tree has an engraved little sign with the name of the tree, the name of the child plus date of birth.
- * In February, a film about forestry in all its aspects was shown in Ayen: "Le temps des forêts", followed by a discussion. There were 45 spectators.



Animal news

- * The incubator has been running at full speed, but has produced only a small number of chicks. Jérôme P. found a single duck (Indian runner) in his garden which is now fully accepted by his peers (but at first he only wandered around with the chickens) . A friend came to bring a lone goose, which was immediately accepted in the group of geese.
- * Our cat 'Poes' still keeps the mouse stand under control (unfortunately she also catches a bird occasionally).
- * Birds at the end of 2020: 8 geese, 9 Indian runner ducks, 5 Barbary ducks, 2 Carolina ducks, 1 white Mandarin duck, 1 Whistle duck, about 15 regular 'wild' ducks, as well as 7 chickens and 3 roosters. They love to eat, aside from their regular food, stale bread that would otherwise be thrown away by bakers and by a care home.



Other news from the arboretum

- * As far as the climate is concerned, 2020 had a mild, wet winter, an average spring, a hot and dry summer and a rather dry and mild autumn. Traditionally, the sugar maples, the iron trees and some other maples showed their beautiful autumn colours.
- * In November, a special 'forest' of 24 trees and shrubs was planted with money donated by family and friends of Barbara Wennekers after her death.
- * In 2020, around 70 other trees and shrubs have been planted. Despite a severe drought, but thanks to regular watering, we have hardly lost any trees.
- * To expand the pine collection, 18 species have been sown, germinated and planted in pots (some given away as well). Now we hope they will stay alive and withstand our climate.
- * In spring 2019, we moved an approximately 30 year old Magnolia tree in Ayen. It has survived and shows a lot of vigour this year.



Finance

The association has a small budget and is slightly less

well off financially than previous years. It has received several grants: € 200 for the choir festival and € 153 as an annual contribution from the municipality of Ayen. There were also spontaneous donations from visitors (€ 109), additional donations from members (€ 107.50), the sale of plants (€ 182) and a generous donation from a dear friend-member (€ 1000).

The finances from the present offer no guarantee for the future. Donations are always welcome and will become increasingly important in the future for the maintenance and upkeep of the arboretum. Hence the suggestion to remember the Association in your will. For more information: www.Tuilliere.fr

The work

- * Willem Straatman is our support for many sorts of work: the repair of all kinds of things that break down, the maintenance of machines, as well as minor maintenance of the arboretum and 'renovation and new construction projects': painting the eco-house inside and out, constructing a terrace around the eco-house and in front of the Dôme, painting the public shower room.
- * A contractor made a passage through the thick wall from the bedroom to the toilet in the farmhouse.
- * The islet in the big pond has been given a facelift to prevent it from further crumbling, action by Benjamin Trouvé, our gardener who also takes care of all the big work, including pruning high up in the trees.



* As every year, the help of various friends in creating the aforementioned activities and chores should not go unmentioned. The help and assistance during illness of both Koos ('flu?') and Ineke (post-covid misery) was heartwarming. Thank you very much.

Projects in 2021

- * Celebrating "30 years of arboretum" (1990-2020): Sat 24 July 2021 noon/evening mini-music festival and pick-nick, as well as various activities, (to be completed)
- * Photo contest : "the arboretum poses"
- * Open day-weekends: 8x, March to October, last weekend of the month
- * Rebuilding and furnishing the new reception pavilion
- * Participation as a volunteer in the Marché de Pays in Ayen
- * Together with the collectif 'Vivre ensemble durablement':
 1. showing of the film: 'Tout est possible' (the biggest little farm).
 2. maintenance and improvement of the old orchard in Ayen;
 3. planting trees for the 2020-born Ayen children.

**THE ASSOCIATION WISHES
YOU A HAPPY AND
HEALTHY 2021**

