

The Paris match that made Terry's special weekend *perfectement*

IT IS THE CITY of love, the home of fine food, the venue for the Rugby World Cup semi finals 2007 and a place Terry Cogger had never been to until this October when he and his wife Judy and six friends boarded the EuroStar to Paris to celebrate Terry's 50th birthday.

Terry and Judy, who have lived in New House Close for 25 years, spent the weekend with neighbours Maureen Forge, Audrey Allen, Gina Riordan and her mother Pat and Colin and Pamela Firth. The eight friends are all members of the same team at the Hilltop wine and wisdom nights and at the last event a few weeks ago their table won the wooden spoon, a special prize for coming last. 'We usually do quite well,' said Gina, 'but this time, without any effort at all, we won the spoon!'

Gina has lived in the Close near the Coggers for 20 years. 'When my father moved in with me when he was ill Terry couldn't do enough for us,' she says. 'He is a very good neighbour; very supportive of the community and individuals in the community.'

Terry, who runs his own property maintenance business, has made a significant contribution to the upkeep of St Faith's hall over the years, most recently completely refurbishing the kitchen in his spare time.

Dave Sackett, who has got to know Terry over the past few years when they have worked together on maintenance projects at the hall, says: 'Terry was instrumental in the first



Le menu s'il vous plait.... Terry and Judy in Paris



facelift of the hall in 2000 when Hilltop Community Association took over the running of St Faith's. 'He is the backbone of the building work—a real unsung hero.'

The group of eight who went to Paris stayed in a bed and breakfast hotel near the Eiffel Tower on a warm sunny weekend that happened to coincide with the England v France rugby semi-finals. 'This was pure coincidence,' says Gina, 'we're not rugby fans particularly, but it all added to the atmosphere.'

Maureen said: 'We walked for miles around Paris, we climbed two stages of the Eiffel Tower and watched the rugby in a café surrounded by French supporters. They were in very good spirits, even congratulating us when England won! It was great fun.'

Perfect

On the day of Terry's birthday—Sunday 14th October — the group lunched on the Seine. 'To get to the boat we had to join the Paris marathon,' said Gina. 'Our coach driver was waved through the barriers so we could reach the embankment in time to catch our boat while Parisiennes waved and cheered us on the streets. It was so funny. Altogether a perfect weekend.'

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