

CITYLINK

(THE CITY OF CHICHESTER twinned SINCE 1959 with THE CITY OF CHARTRES)

NEWSLETTER OF THE FRIENDS OF CHARTRES Chichester's French Twinning Association

December 2011

[Re-numbered from the Millennium] **ISSUE: 47**

*Joyeux Noël
et
Bonne Année
2012
To all
our Readers*

Christmas Cheese & Wine evening with thanks to our President, Mayor of Chichester - see page.2

From the Chairman . . .

Dear Members, As I write this message, Christmas is fast-approaching and I look forward to seeing many of you at the Cheese and Wine Event to be held in the City's historic Council Chamber on Tuesday 6th December. I am very grateful to our Association President and Chichester Mayor, Cllr Tony French, for allowing us use of this magnificent room.

A special 'Bravo!' to Committee Member Emma Heaver and Keith Dixon, Landlord of 'The Bull', Eastgate for organising such a splendid 'Beaujolais Nouveau' evening on 17th November - I hope this can become an annual event.

Thanks also to Margaret and Ray Brown who, in the Chichester Lions' mini-bus driven by FOC Lions Rep Tony Harrison, travelled down to Chartres on 15th-17th November to collect the 2011 Schools Art Exhibition entries which had been on display at Le Mairie throughout October & part of November. The Lions very kindly made their mini-bus available at no charge for hire.

The arrangements and dates for our 2012 Annual Dinner and the AGM have been made - details are inside - and the Committee is working on the Programme of Events for the coming year.

I felt very privileged to give my recent talk on Chamkat Balankura and Professor Georges Coedès and I am sure some


among the audience will visit the Musée Ennery on Avenue Foch when next in Paris - I certainly shall.

At home, the Oral Historian, Martyn Cox, has provided me, on a memory stick, with many hours of sound-track from the 'Resistance Testimony' filming we carried out together last August in the Massif Central and has asked me to translate it as soon as possible for subtitles. It's just as well my family and I are not travelling to Thailand this winter!

Some of you may be interested to learn that Geneviève Dufresne, who, with husband Gerard have helped me so much with my research on Resistance activities in the Chartres area, has just published a book under the auspices of the Société Archéologique d'Eure-et-Loir. Its title is 'Les Waddington - une Dynastie de Cotonniers en Eure et Loire 1792-1961'. Les Waddington, as the name suggests, were actually English and moved to the Avre valley near Chartres on the eve of the French Revolution bringing with them the very latest in British cotton-making machinery. Any members who would like a copy should contact me and I will place a 'bulk' order.

Finally, on behalf of the Committee and Toom and Nathan, I would like to wish you all 'Joyeux Noël'

**MARTYN BELL
CHAIRMAN**

52 years **1959** **CHICHESTER** Twinning  **2011** **CHARTRES** Jumelage **52** years



A 'VERY SPECIAL' CHEESE & WINE EVENING



For those longer-standing members, the Christmas Cheese and Wine Evening held in the Council Chamber felt as if we were 'home' once again. Undoubtedly this historic building has been witness to many important events through the centuries but there is one in particular which is very significant for our Association. In this room on 28th February 1959 the 'Deed of Jumelage' was signed by the Mayors of Chichester and Chartres, thus drawing our two communities closer. It is therefore the 'home' of our Twinning. We thank our current President & Mayor, Cllr Tony French, for allowing us to be here again - and thanks also to Vice-Chairman, Ray Brown, for suggesting it.

The wine, purchased in France during the transportation of the Schools Art Exhibition, was 'stored' in the Treasurer's home. Julia and I met with staff to organise the room layout; Diana took charge of the Raffle; Julia purchased the food; her husband, Jan, was barman for the night -everything was ready.

A very warm and relaxed atmosphere was evident as people met and chatted, enjoying being in this very special venue. Newer members were interested to see the boards displaying the names of all the Mayors since the 16th century and later in his speech, Martyn drew attention to those who have had a significant role in our Association. After consuming the very good selection of cheeses the Raffle was drawn with Julia being the first prize-



winner. Thanks to those who donated prizes this continued until all had been won and, as previously agreed, all raffle money would go to the Mayor's Charity - 'New Park Community & Arts Association'. Our Chairman presented the Mayor with a cheque (as seen on the front page) amounting to £70. A good end to a superb evening. Thanks once again Mr. Mayor.

MARGARET BROWN

MARGARET BROWN
EDITOR.

PRESIDENT
The Right Worshipful the Mayor of Chichester
Councillor Tony French

VICE PRESIDENT
Diana Taylor

OFFICERS & COMMITTEE MEMBERS

CHAIRMAN Martyn Bell.....839704
VICE-CHAIRMAN Ray Brown.....783776
HON TREASURER John Wilton788833
HON SECRETARY Margaret Brown.....783776

Emma Heaver.....778568 Penelope Johnstone....771881
 Julia Sander.....641488 & 3 VACANCIES

IMMEDIATE PAST CHAIRMAN
Margaret Brown

(Co-opted)
 Tony Harrison (Chichester Lions Club).....785737
 Iain Shepherd (Chichester Chamber of Commerce).....787427
 Alan Thurlow (D.E.E.C.).....533092

CITY COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES
(July 2011 - June 2012)
 Cllr Anne Scicluna.....788619 Cllr Michael Woolley.....789539

Annual Membership Fees
Due on 1st January 2012
 (Renewal slip enclosed)

£10.00 single **£15.00 joint/family**
£20 corporate

For further information please contact:
Membership Secretary - Mr Ray Brown
 'Rock Cottage', 121 Bognor Road, Chichester, PO19 7TH
Tel: (01243) 783776

EDITORIAL

Autumn has been exceptionally busy with *additional* activities not planned for at the beginning of the year: the Schools Art Exhibition in Chartres' Town Hall; a Beaujolais Nouveau Soirée; and a 'very special' Christmas Cheese & Wine evening. All are reported in this edition together with reports of our two Talks and our Musical Evening - plus the Inner Wheel's Quiz.

We have received information from Chartres about their new Photographic Competition entitled 'Nature in the Town' - a flyer is enclosed. The Competition is similar to that of 2 years ago and if you would like to take part then please let me know *asap* to enable me to register your name with Chartres. Like last time please let me have your entry by the date shown on the flyer and we will send a parcel containing all of Chichester's entries to Chartres' Twinning office. The flyer incorporates the 'amended' rules and regulations which Julia has kindly translated.

I take this opportunity to thank all who have contributed to this edition with their articles and photographs and wish you all the very best of health and happiness for the coming year. I look forward to seeing you at our next event, the Annual Dinner, in February.

Programme of Events 2012

- February 7th** Annual Dinner - 6.15 for 6.45pm
(Tuesday) The Goodwood Restaurant,
Chichester College
- March 7th** Annual General Meeting 7.00pm
(Wednesday) St George's Hall, Cleveland Road, Whyke
Following the Business Meeting:
'Vintner Angela Muir talks about
French Wines'
- April 27th - 1st May** (Friday to Tuesday)
ANNUAL EXCHANGE - To Chartres
- May 1st-29th** Schools Art Competition - Exhibition
in Pallant House Gallery. Free entry to
'The Studio' to view the artwork created by
children from the participating schools

The following events are in the process of being organised

June - New Park Film Event; **July** - Bastille Day Petanque Match;
September & October - Illustrated talks on "Pilgrim Routes across
France" & "Arles, Avignon, Aix-en-Provence, European Cities of
Culture" **November** - Celebrating le Beaujolais Nouveau

The Committee of Friends of Chartres
invites you to attend the
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

to be held in
St George's Parish Centre, Cleveland Rd, Whyke
on
Wednesday 7th March 2012
commencing at
7.00pm

(Gentle reminder that only paid up members are able to vote)

Following the business meeting and *refreshments
Vintner Angela Muir
will talk about French wines

* * * * *

*A glass of wine or fruit juice will be served.

The France Show

13 - 15 January 2012 at Earls Court
(Fri 10am - 5pm; Sat 10am - 6pm: Sun 10am - 5pm)
The biggest celebration of French lifestyle

Food & Wine * Largest French Market outside of France
Language & Culture * Property * Travel & Tourism
Pétanque playing area+ Pairs Pétanque Competition on the Sunday
(Register in advance - chance to win a holiday in France)
More information is available on their website
www.thefrancheshow.com
where advanced tickets (£10) can be purchased on line
(saving £3 on the entrance fee)



ANNUAL DINNER

will be held in the

Goodwood Training Restaurant

Chichester College, Westgate Fields

Tuesday 7th February 2012

6.15 pm Cocktail Reception
for 6.45 pm Dinner

Cost: £19.00 pp Members & £20.00 pp Non-members
(Guests and non-members are welcome to join in)

Please complete the return slip on the flyer
indicating your choice of dish for each course
and return to

Membership Secretary, Ray Brown

'Rock Cottage', 121 Bognor Road,
Chichester, PO19 7TH

by **Tuesday 17th January, 2012**

together with your cheque made payable to
'The Friends of Chartres'
(and enclose SAE if you require a receipt)

**IF YOU HAVE ANY SPECIAL
DIETARY REQUIREMENT**

(ie allergies etc) then please
speak with Ray on

Chichester 783776

Exchange to Chartres 2012

Friday 27th April - Tuesday 1st May

Please complete the enclosed form if you wish to take part in
this Exchange visit to Chartres. We will be travelling via
Newhaven - Dieppe, and expect the journey will cost about £90
per head but much of the cost is fixed, so the more who travel,
the cheaper it will work out!

We are sure that those of you who have been involved before
will be looking forward to visiting your friends again. If you have
not twinned before, please consider taking part - it is an excellent
way of finding out more about life in France and making new
and often life-long friends.

If you have any queries about the Exchange, please call **Julia
Sander, the Exchange Organiser**, on 01243 641488, or send
an email to: Julia@sander.plus.com. **Please note** that from
January 12-31, Julia can only be contacted by email but John
Wilton can be contacted during this period - Tel: 01243 788833
or email: johnwilton@yahoo.co.uk

Please return the completed form, together with your deposit
cheque made payable to 'Friends of Chartres' **to our Treasurer:**

John Wilton, 1A York Road, Chichester, PO19 7TJ

To be received by 31st January 2012.

“A DANGEROUS WARTIME JOURNEY THROUGH FRENCH INDO-CHINA”

Our Chairman, Martyn Bell, introduced himself for the fourth in his ‘annual series’ of well researched and fascinating talks related to resistance movements in WWII. His first three talks had been about the French resistance and its links to Chartres and Sussex. This talk was about Thailand and resistance to Germany’s ally, Japan.



A good crowd had gathered at the Basil Shippam Centre for the occasion. Martyn told us that his involvement with the story began when a friend of his wife, Toom, told Martyn the story of her deceased uncle, Chamkat Balankura, and also that his widow, Chalob, who was still alive. Martyn was able to meet Chalob and hear at first hand about her husband’s life.

Chamkat had been educated in England at Bromsgrove School and Balliol College Oxford, where he and Chalob met as students and were married in England (in 1937). They returned to Thailand before the war there started in 1942, when Japan invaded and overran the whole of the Indo-China peninsula. The French colonies, under control of Vichy France, sided with Japan, and this included a military dictatorship in Thailand.



Chalob & Chamkat 1937

Chamkat was opposed to the Japanese and the Thai military dictatorship. He wanted to help set up a government in exile. Prince Damrong (the Regent of Thailand) put him in touch with

Professor Georges Cœdès, an anti-Vichy Frenchman who was an eminent epigraphist and director of L’Ecole Francaise d’Extreme Orient (L’E.F.E.O.) in Ha Noi. Cœdès officially ‘invited’ Chamkat, and a comrade, Lee Phaisan, to visit him in Hanoi. Their plan was to get to Ha Noi and then, somehow, on to Chongquing in China, where the Chinese Nationalists led by Chiang Kai-shek were based, and where there were British and American consulates.



L’E.F.E.O. Hanoi

Martyn then told us the enthralling story of their journey, and of his own recent travels retracing parts of the trip as far as Hanoi. Chalob had accompanied her husband and colleague on the first part of the trip, going as far as the Laos side of the Mekong river, before returning on her own to Bangkok. It was to be the last time she saw her young husband.



After an eventful journey, Chamkat and Lee eventually made it

to Ha Noi where they met Professor Coedes. They tried and failed to secure a suitable passage from Hai Phong by boat to Mong Cai on the Chinese border themselves, but Professor

Cœdès then managed to arrange things for them. He had contacts in the local French police, and arranged the boat trip for them, including a police escort and their ‘handing over’ at the border to Chinese army officers. Luckily these Chinese officers were pro-British and took them to Guilin where the British Army Aid Group were based. The Australian army officer in charge there, Colonel Ride, had also been educated at Balliol, and he arranged for them to be flown to Chongquing in a

Chinese plane in May 1943. There General Chiang Kai-shek agreed to meet them and whilst not overtly hostile, he did not want them setting up a government in exile in UK or USA, and effectively kept them under house arrest in Chongquing. However, they were able to make contact with SOE who sent a Thai SOE officer, Prince Svasti, to see them. He was able to establish secret contact back to the ‘free Thai’ resistance.

Some 2 months later Chamkat became very ill, was taken to the Canadian Mission Hospital, and died there of ‘cancer’. Some

think he had been poisoned by the Chinese.



Professor Cœdès returned to France in 1947 and continued his distinguished academic career. He died in 1967.

Our Vice Chairman, Ray Brown, thanked Martyn for what had been yet another fascinating and well researched talk.

JOHN WILTON

WALKING THE STEVENSON TRAIL

On 14th September Julia Sander took us in words and pictures along the trail which she and Jan had followed earlier in the year, in the footsteps of R L Stevenson's *Travels with a Donkey* in Autumn 1878. The Cévennes are a mountain range rather than an area, starting in the Auvergne and traversing one of the least populated areas of France.



The trail is not all in the Cévennes, but includes agricultural land, forested areas, and some high peaks. A short video clip let us hear the wind whistling across the mountain path at one of the highest points. While RLS slept

rough or in very basic accommodation, now some 6,000 walkers annually follow the Stevenson trail and facilities are more modern.

Julia gave us first some background on this Scottish writer, who travelled widely, but eventually moved to the South Seas for health reasons, and died in Samoa aged 44. His output – in only 14 years – covered not only this ‘new’ genre of travel writing but adventure stories, essays, poetry, and, in *Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde*, one of the first descriptions of psychosis, predating the rather more scientific writings of Freud.

Julia interspersed her narrative with quotations from Stevenson's journal; he described the locals' view of him: 'A traveller of my sort was a thing hitherto unheard of in that district... I was looked on with contempt...' and his possible invention of the sleeping bag? His equipment was a bit less standard, including a revolver, a spirit lamp ... railway rug ... tins of bologna sausage, and he bought his donkey, which he named Modestine, to carry all this.

While RLS followed drovers' roads and had to ask the way, the 'Stevenson route' is now well marked and easy to follow. The modern walker does not have to contend with a donkey with a mind of its own - small wonder that he was glad to hand her to another owner at the end of his journey, although he admitted to developing a kind of affection for Modestine.

In more modern times the region of the Cévennes experienced a rural depopulation, and Julia showed us briefly some of the causes of the area's decline - diseases of silk worms, sweet-chestnut, and vines, which were all formerly major sources of income, and with young people moving away in search of work. As well as the magnificent scenery, picturesque towns, village houses, her pictures showed us also reminders of the occasionally turbulent history of the area, when in the early 18th century a group of protestants, known as Camisards, rebelled against the Crown. Stevenson had a particular interest in these people, seeing a parallel with the Covenanters in his native Scotland.



Julia and Jan did not walk the entire trail, but a good proportion of it, and came back with enthusiasm, and pictures, enough to make us assume they will wish to do more, and perhaps inspire some of the audience to investigate this and similar trails.

PENELOPE JOHNSTONE

IVOR NOVELLO -

Citylink - December 2011

“Man of the Theatre”

On the 5th October nearly 50 members and guests attended an evening with David Nason at the piano held in the Chapel of the Ascension at the University of Chichester. The evening entitled “Ivor Novello - Man of the Theatre” has been performed by



David both nationally and locally including in 2008, as my Mayor's Chaplain, in aid of my Mayoral Charity.

Holding the event in the Chapel was ideal as we had

access to one of the very many well-tuned pianos that the University possesses, enabling David to fully express his skill on the keyboard.



We were told that David Ivor Davies was born in Cardiff in 1893 and his mother, Clara Novello Davies, was the inspiration for his stage name. He first became well known as a result of the song ‘Keep the Home Fires Burning’, which he composed during World War I. After the war he became a very popular film and stage artist appearing in many successful films, some of which were produced in Hollywood. However, the stage was his first love, with many of his own musical shows performed in the West End, the best known of these being ‘The Dancing Years’ (1939).

We all enjoyed singing along with David to favourites such as ‘Rose of England’ and ‘We'll gather Lilacs’. Apparently, Lilacs should be present on the piano but understandably these were not available in October. Thus a Lilac scent had been sprayed around the room - to get the pianist in the right mood. During WW II, Novello was sentenced to 8 weeks in prison for misuse of petrol coupons. This broke his spirit and although he continued to write and perform until his death from a coronary thrombosis in 1951, he was never the same man after his prison release.

Our thanks go to the Vice Chancellor, Prof. Behag, and Head of Music, Ben Hall, for allowing us to use the University's Chapel. Also thanks to Andy Carpenter, who not only organised the room and signage etc, but also attended to hand out the glasses of wine/fruit juice. It was also pleasing that music students from the University accepted our offer to attend the evening and that their

attending was noted as a contribution to their degree studies.



Thank you once again David for a very enjoyable evening. If we arrange a similar event in the future we will have to hold it in the Spring when Lilacs can be gathered from an English lane.

RAY BROWN

CHICHESTER LIONS CLUB

Visit to Chartres' Fête de la Lumière September 2011

We never cease to be impressed each year by the spectacular climax to the Fête de la Lumière. It just goes from strength to strength each time we visit.

This was our fourth year in a row and without question it was the best display yet. The finalé of music and fireworks held in the square was excellent, with the most fantastic atmosphere of international friendship.

Although it was difficult this year to organise an "Official Meeting" with the Chartres' Vallée de l'Eur Lions Club, with whom we are twinned, we were able to meet with a few of their Lions for a pleasant evening at the Grand Monarch Hôtel, catching up on each others activities throughout the year.

Always one of the highlights of our visit is the grand reception held at the Collegiale Saint-André. Upon arrival at our hotel an envelope from Adjoint au Maire, Patrick Geroudet, was handed to me at Reception with our invitations to the event. Thank you Margaret for your work in arranging this delivery.

It was a very wet evening and we all arrived at the venue just a little bedraggled after our descent from the Cathedral. But that was soon forgotten once we entered the wonderful building with its medieval charm and a great atmosphere buzzing around.



L-r: Joan Tidy; Tony Harrison; Chichester Lions' President, Vince Foote; Adjoint au Maire, Patrick Geroudet; Sue Boucher; Janet Harrison; Brenda Foote and Pauline Winterton

During the evening we were able to spend some time with our good friend to Chichester Lions, Patrick Geroudet. It was good to see him again and, of course, we congratulated him on yet another fantastic show. He told us that next year will be even more spectacular than ever with more displays being organised.

Already we are talking about arranging our 2012 visit, who knows, we may even enthuse enough people and arrange a coach.

VINCE FOOTE
President
Chichester Lions Club

SCHOOLS

Citylink - December 2011

ARTS EXHIBITION 2011 - AND - Exhibition in Chartres' Town Hall - October 2011



The Exhibition of all the entrants to this year's competition has been on display in the Foyer of Chartres' Town Hall for seven weeks, from September through October and into November.

When Patrick Geroudet came to Pallant House Gallery to help present the Competition Awards, he was so impressed with the children's work he said he would like it displayed in Chartres. That was in May and we waited for confirmation and to hear the dates of

when this would be but heard nothing until late August. By that time all the exhibits were back in their respective schools, who were on holiday, and the dates were to be from late September !

It took quite a lot of organising, especially trying to fit this into our normal working lives, however, 'the team' of Martyn, Ray



and I, sprang into action. Having collected the entries from all the schools we travelled out with a fully-laden hired van on 27th September and returned on 29th having achieved our goal. Full credit must be given to Chartres' team, especially Martine Remy, Jean-Paul Hernandez and Jacques Massot whose 'hanging skills' were superb, plus Yves Bastide & Marie-Thérèse, of course.

Patrick organised a Private Viewing and Reception for Mme Bonnin's pupils who worked on the project, plus the Inspector of Schools and a Conseiller Pedagogique, which was reported in Chartres' newspaper. Approx 1,000 people go through the Foyer each day and many schools visited this exhibition, including some Maternelles, so Chichester received lots of publicity and promotion.



**PALLANT
HOUSE
GALLERY**

LAUNCHING 2012's COMPETITION



Just 7 weeks after our first visit to deliver the exhibition we were back again, this time to collect all the exhibits. As Martyn was not available at that time, Ray arranged to hire the Chichester Lions' Mini-bus, which Tony Harrison agreed to drive.

Travelling overnight with LD Lines Ferry from Portsmouth to Le Havre on 15th November we arrived in Chartres around 11.30am next day. Together with Claire and her helpers the exhibits were carefully dismantled and placed into the mini-bus. Although, as always, Patrick was extremely busy, he found time to meet us and gave me a copy of this year's Fulbert prize-winning book - but that's an article for next time.



Within 24 hours we were on the road again and back in Chichester we off-loaded the contents of the mini-bus into Martyn's garage, as previously agreed, for him to take back to the schools.



At their Business Meeting, Chichester Lions agreed to Sponsor this project by not charging us for the hire of the vehicle. We extend a very grateful thanks for this gesture. Thanks also go to our French colleagues and friends for help and support with this project. You all have helped to make many children extremely proud and happy, in addition to strengthening our Twinning.



The Launch of the 2012 Schools Art Competition took place with a Reception in Pallant House Gallery on 15th October. Both the Mayor and Deputy Mayor attended together with Mike Hall, Chairman of West Sussex County Council's Local Committee and Vince Foote, President of Chichester Lions Club, and his wife.

Marc Steene, who is currently Acting Director of Pallant House Gallery (during Stefan Van Raay's sabbatical) and is also Head of Learning, opened the evening by welcoming everyone. Margaret Brown then thanked the Sponsors for their support and explained the background to the Competition which started during the 50th Anniversary year of our Twinning with Chartres.

More details of this 3rd competition were then revealed by Marc. The theme is 'Textiles' based on the Piper Tapestry which was woven in France and can be seen in Chichester Cathedral. Piper portrays the 4 Evangelists together with the 4 Elements and the subjects for this year's designs are the four elements of air, earth, fire and water - to be inspired by local traditions and landscapes. West Dean's Creative Director, Philip Sanderson, then gave a very interesting presentation about their Tapestry Studio.

All eight schools who attended the Launch signed up on the night together with two others who had sent apologies. They were not able to attend because of a clash with their Parents' evenings.

Once again we have invited the schools in Chartres to take part where Claire Crézé and Mme Bonnin are promoting this year's competition and we wait to receive their Registration Forms. This time the entrants are to promote their own local traditions - it will be at the end of the competition when we will learn about each other's traditions (part of the essence of Twinning). An interesting development from last year's competition is that some of those schools have formed new email links. Undoubtedly part of their correspondence will cover the Schools Art Competition.

MARGARET BROWN



FRENCH Language Circle

The purpose of the Circle is to read and speak French, therefore helping members to become more fluent and confident in the language. We meet at 2.30pm in members' homes, where the hostess provides tea and biscuits around 4.00pm. We then relax our conversation somewhat and either continue in French to those nearest to us, or else chat back in our native tongue. People go home between 4.30 and 5.00pm.

LE PETIT CERCLE FRANÇAIS 2012 (Afternoon meetings)

J'espère que tout va bien pour tout le monde, et que vous aurez un Joyeux Noël chez quelques membres de vos familles.



J'espère aussi que la nouvelle année vous donnera de bonne santé et des bonnes vacances. Pour continuer notre Petit Cercle, les dates sont arrangées pour la nouvelle année comme suivante:

JANUARY (Thursday)

12th WENDY & PAUL DEVONSHIRE
Lane end, Sidlesham.....641457

FEBRUARY (Thursday)

9th JOYCE MITTON
38 St Leodegar's Way, Hunston.....779558

MARCH (Thursday)

8th DAPHNE BOWLING
"Sandpipers", Mill Lane, Sidlesham.....641660

APRIL (Thursday)

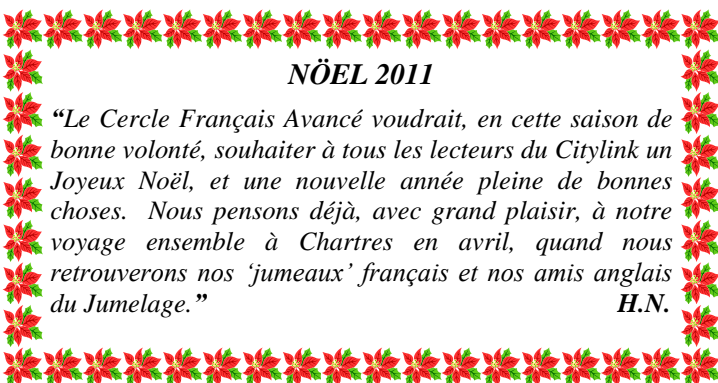
12th DIANE CURRIE
3 Wyberton House, Chestnut Ave, Chichester,789663

AND A VERY HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ONE AND ALL

It would be so good, and a wonderful morale boost, if we could get more members to join us on these afternoons for easy French conversation.

DAPHNE BOWLING : (01243) 641660

LE CERCLE FRANÇAIS AVANCÉ ('Twilight' meetings)



NÖEL 2011

"Le Cercle Français Avancé voudrait, en cette saison de bonne volonté, souhaiter à tous les lecteurs du Citylink un Joyeux Noël, et une nouvelle année pleine de bonnes choses. Nous pensons déjà, avec grand plaisir, à notre voyage ensemble à Chartres en avril, quand nous retrouverons nos 'jumeaux' français et nos amis anglais du Jumelage."

H.N.

The group comprises a maximum of ten (a comfortable number) capable of facilitating a conversation in French and speaking with authority on very varied subjects. When numbers exceed 10, fresh groups will be formed. For up-to-date information please contact either:

JULIA SANDER (01243) 641488 or
HENRIETTA NAPIER (01243) 528238

CELEBRATING LE BEAUJOLAIS NOUVEAU

Citylink - December 2011



"Le Beaujolais Nouveau est arrivé" soirée turned out to be a very sociable event. The 2011 vintage was certainly very palatable and, in keeping with the French spirit, a selection of French cheeses were provided. Many thanks to Véronique and Julia for the cheeses and also

to Keith Dixon of The Bull Inn for providing a venue for this enjoyable occasion. Looking forward to sharing a glass of Beaujolais Nouveau with you all next year. **E.H.**

MORNING CIRCLE

Our recent meetings have taken place on Wednesday mornings over café et croissants at Amelie's in town. It is a very informal laid-back French conversation group chatting about topical issues and culture. Please contact me for further details - merci.

EMMA HEAVER : (01243) 778568

INNER WHEEL QUIZ

The Friends of Chartres' team of John Wilton, Tony Harrison and the two Sanders proved to be quick off the mark at the Inner Wheel Quiz evening held in November at Lavant Memorial Hall. With 20 other teams, including a redoubtable ladies team from Arundel who 'always win', the Friends of Chartres made a quick assessment of team strengths, Tony - sport, Julia - literature and John - geography & history, but there were no science questions for our science boffin, Jan, but he was a strong contender in the General Knowledge section.

Teams answered a total of 90 questions. Some were relatively straightforward memory tests others definitely bowled us a googly. Things became heated as the evening went on with a vociferous dispute about the title of Oscar Wilde's only novel. To pacify the competitors, quizmasters Sue and Eddie Saunders resorted to texting their daughter to check the answer. (I checked again when at home!)

A delicious supper gave us a second wind and we got high scores in the last 4 rounds, including that on TV and Film where we had expected to struggle. We approached the final round on History and Geography with trepidation, having decided to use our joker at this point. This would double any points scored. Had we made the right choice? Yes! Our score of 8 was doubled to 16, bringing us to a very respectable total of 71 - 3rd place and only 5 points behind the winners - the Arundel ladies ! It would have been good to win, but it doesn't do to take these things too seriously, does it? **JULIA SANDER**

'Association des Amis des Jumelages de Chartres'

Photography Competition : "Robert Laillet prize"

on the theme "Nature in the Town"

Open to amateur photographers in Chartres and its twin towns
of Chichester, Ravenna, Speyer, Bethlehem, Evora, Léon, and Sakurai

If you wish to enter contact our Secretary: mbrown121@fsmail.net
by 26th February 2012 so she can register Chichester's entrants

See flyer for further information and rules

- 8 -