



CITYLINK

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

NEWSLETTER OF THE FRIENDS OF CHARTRES

Chichester's French Twinning Association

www.friendsofchartres.org.uk

September 2016

[Re-numbered from the Millenium] ISSUE: 66

SCHOOLS ART CHALLENGE 2016

PRESENTATIONS IN CHARTRES & 'PRIVATE VIEW' IN CHICHESTER

(See pages 6 & 7)



FROM THE CHAIRMAN . . .

Since our last edition of Citylink we have held a successful Garden Party at the home of Ralph and Clare Apel. Following the dreadful event which took place in Nice on Bastille Day, we held a one minute silence and condolences were sent to our counterparts in Chartres. On top of providing the venue, Clare and Ralph also booked a sunny afternoon,, which proved to be the start of two months of fine summer weather which I hope that you have all enjoyed.

On our return from a flight delayed visit to see our family in Montreal a meeting was held with Steve McDade, Head of Fine Arts at the University of Chichester to discuss the 2016-17 Friends of Chartres Schools Art Challenge. The start of a new University year is always extremely busy for Steve and I would like to thank him for finding time for our meeting and enthusiastically supporting our project.

Thanks to a great deal of pre-meeting research work carried out by Lin Chaplin we were able to agree an art theme and title which I am excited about and which I am sure will be of interest and well supported by the schools in both Chichester and Chartres.

The Launch will be held at the University on the 3rd November at which it is hoped to set the foundations for links between the schools and University students. This is

something that we had hoped to achieve in our first year of working with the University, but were unable to do so. We learned a lot whilst working together in that first year and I look forward to a successful second venture. I see this as being very important for the future of our twinning in that it brings together our association and community links with young people and their parents.

For a number of reasons we were unable to transport the 2015-16 schools' artwork across to Chartres in mid-September as planned, however, this has now been arranged to take place between 6th and 9th October. Patrick Geroudet will once again host Margaret and myself and we look forward to visiting local schools to promote the challenge and our twinning.

Sub-committee meetings are currently being held to look at future events and publicity and I would like to thank those involved in these tasks.

I look forward to meeting many of you at a 'full-house' for David Nason's illustrated talk on "19th Century Opera in Paris" on the 11th October at the University's Mitre Theatre and please make sure to book early for our limited number Social Evening in the Council Chamber on the 28th November.

Thanks to the University of Chichester and Chichester City Council for agreeing to the use of these two venues.

RAY BROWN
CHAIRMAN

CHICHESTER

Twinning

57 YEARS
1959 - 2016

CHARTRES

Jumelage

Wine & Sausage Tasting Evening
 Wednesday 12 October - 7.00pm

In Association with Vintage Vintners & O'Hagan's Sausages

The Mayor will be hosting a fun filled event in the Assembly Room North Street, Chichester

In support of the Mayor's Charities
 The Bell Tower Dropin and Chichester Boys Club

Tickets £20 each
 cash or cheque please payable to: "The Mayor's Charity"
 available from Chichester City Council
 01243 788502



PRESIDENT
 The Right Worshipful the Mayor of Chichester
 Councillor Peter Budge

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 Paul Devonshire.....641457 Jim Payne.....372900

Co-opted)
 Rob Campling (Photographer).....532910
 (Chi Lions)...532893 (Chi Cathedral/DEEC).....784244

CITY COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES
 (July 2016 to June 2017)
 Cllr Clare Apel...783738 Cllr Anne Scicluna.....789065

GARDEN PARTY



There was an abundance, and a great selection, of teatime treats as members were extremely generous with the food they brought to share at our Garden Party on Saturday 16th July. Clare & Ralph Apel had kindly offered their garden as the venue for this event and their new nine-weeks-old puppy 'Honey' was certainly a great attraction for all those present.



Our event was held as close as practically possible to 'Bastille Day' (14th July) which is a joyous celebration in remembrance of the storming of the Bastille. It was therefore with great sadness that we had learned of the dreadful event which took place in Nice just two days earlier as people were celebrating France's National holiday for their liberation.



We were fortunate with the weather as the sun shone brightly which lifted people's spirits. The afternoon progressed along conventional lines of a typical English Garden Party, with plenty of cups of tea distributed to help wash down the delicious food. People's cups were 'topped up' and lots of conversations took place (I'm not sure whether these were in French or English!) - making for a lovely atmosphere during the whole afternoon.

As advertised there was a small Raffle and a game - or two - of Pétanque took place and, as can be seen, I managed to capture several 'snaps' on camera, including Ray presenting Clare with a bouquet to say 'thank you' to her and Ralph for allowing us to enjoy their garden and also each others company during this lovely afternoon.

MARGARET BROWN



FRIENDS OF CHARTRES

Programme of Events - 2016-17

- OCTOBER 11th** '19th Century Opera in Paris'
(Tuesday) ILLUSTRATED LECTURE by David Nason (see r.h. column)
7.30pm Mitre Theatre, College Lane, University of Chichester
- NOVEMBER 3rd** LAUNCH - 'Schools Art Challenge'
(Thursday) **6.00pm** in the University's 'artOne' Foyer Gallery
[for SCHOOLS & Invited Guests]
- NOVEMBER 28th** FESTIVE CHEESE & WINE
(Monday) **7.30pm** - The Council Chamber, North Street, (See details below)

DIARY DATES FOR 2017

- FEBRUARY 16th** ANNUAL DINNER
(Tuesday) Newly refurbished Restaurant at Chichester College, Westgate Fields
Details tba)
- MARCH 9th** ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
(Thursday) **7.00pm** - St George's Millennium Centre,

APRIL 28th (Friday) - to **MAY 2nd** (Tuesday)

THE ANNUAL EXCHANGE

A separate programme is being organised for when
THE FRENCH COME TO CHICHESTER

- JUNE** SCHOOLS ART CHALLENGE
(Friday 16th) Private View
- Saturday 17th) Awards Ceremony

[The Committee are in the process of completing our 2017 Programme with further events being organised]

"19th CENTURY OPERA IN PARIS"

An illustrated lecture by
Canon David Nason



at **The Mitre Theatre,**
University of Chichester

ON **Tuesday 11th October 2016**
7.30pm

Members £8.50 : Non-Members £9.50
(including refreshments)



Paris was the undoubted centre of European opera in the 19th Century. This lecture will explore the development of opera in Paris during that period; the operas performed; the composers who wrote them and the magnificent

theatres in which they were presented. There will be musical highlights from Bizet's 'Carmen', 'Orpheus in the Underworld' by Offenbach and Gounod's 'Faust' amongst others.

CANON DAVID NASON has recently retired from the role of Priest Vicar in Chichester Cathedral and that of Senior Master in the Prebendal school. These are posts that he held for 25 years. For over 10 years he also worked as a 'music host' for Saga Holidays at the opera in Verona, lecturing to the guests and indulging in a personal passion for grand opera. David still has an active ministry as chaplain to the Festival Theatre and Regional Chaplain for the Air Cadet Organisation. In retirement he finds himself busier than ever taking Sunday services in churches around Chichester and fulfilling speaking engagements on opera and musical theatre.

Please return your completed form to John Wilton
BY MONDAY 3rd OCTOBER

FRIENDS OF CHARTRES

Festive Cheese & Wine Soirée

Monday November 28th 2016
at 7.30pm

By kind permission of

THE MAYOR OF CHICHESTER
Cllr Peter Budge

this event will be held in

The Council Chamber, North Street

Numbers are limited

so do book early to ensure your place

Members £8.50 - Non Members £9.50

Please complete the enclosed flyer and return with your cheque payable to 'Friends of Chartres' to:

John Wilton, Hon. Treasurer,
1A York Road, Chichester, PO19 7TJ
(Tel: 01243 788 833)

By Saturday 19th November 2016
and enclose SAE if you require a receipt

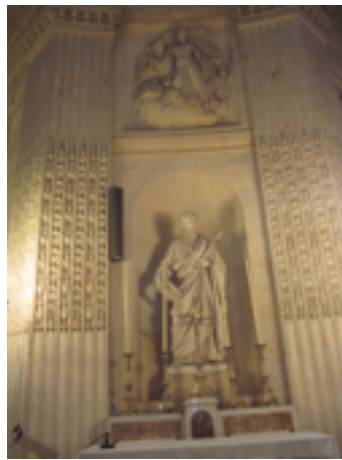
ABBAYE ROYALE DE DREUX

The place is somewhat bizarre. It is a city for the dead, its citizens being members of the Bourbon-Orleans family, the last royal family of France. At the time of the French revolution, the graves of those family members buried nearby had been desecrated and the bodies heaped in a communal grave. It was on the site of this that the present building was raised after the Battle of Waterloo and the restoration of the monarchy. Family members were subsequently gathered in death in this very imposing building.



There are notable stained glass windows made at the Sevres works with a particularly notable blue, the 'recipe' for which has been lost. Particularly interesting are the tombs of Ferdinand-Philippe d'Orleans and his wife Helen of Mecklenburg-Schwerin.

Because of the political turmoil of the times at the end of the nineteenth century, many had ended their days in exile in England and, being Roman Catholic, they had been buried in the St Charles Borromeo Chapel in Weybridge, Surrey, now the World Mission Korean Presbyterian Church. Church buildings, like other properties, change hands. Those buried there were exhumed and transported to Dreux for reburial. In all, there are over seventy family members buried in the chapel, though in some cases it is just their hearts, nearly all with a statue.



Since she was a Protestant she was not entitled to be buried within the building itself. However, this was circumvented by her monument being technically outside the building but beside her husband. A hole in the wall was constructed whereby they could be close in death as in life, their statues lying side by side. It is a very interesting collection of funereal sculpture, the like of which we do not have in this country.

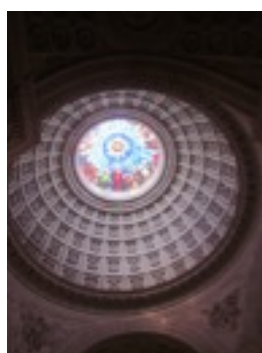


As well as being commemorative, such sculpture is in part propaganda, conveying a message of what values should be respected. There is thus the 'virtuous wife' with Louis-Philippe and his wife Marie-Amelie kneeling in prayer beside him. It's a long way from Tracey Emin's bed.

Built originally in the classical style, it was later enlarged and altered into the neo-Gothic style that we see today. It is built to a high specification, with the best

sculptors and artists of the day. The Howard family chapel at Arundel is small beer by comparison to this building.

PAUL DEVONSHIRE



EXCHANGE 2016

As well as participating in the organised events, one of the joys of the exchange when we go to Chartres is being able to join in other events with your hosts, and sometimes their families as well.

On the Saturday it was my hostess Marie France's birthday, which I was not aware of until after arriving in Chartres. As is often the case as you get older, she said she would have preferred to ignore it, but her family had arranged a family party at the house in Chartres of their daughter Roxanne's family on the Saturday evening. Thus I missed the karaoke evening which I had been looking forward to, though I'm not sure everyone was!

I had not met two of Marc and Marie France's children, Audrey and Anthony, for many years and they were both coming by TGV from different locations in the south east of France, Audrey with her three year old daughter Tess. Neither had I met one of Marie France's sisters Marie Andre for many years, and her older sister Ginette I had never met before. Roxanne and her husband Stephan had three sons, Hypolite (17) Gabriel (c.14) and Gaspard (c.11) whom I had last seen about eight years ago. I was looking forward to seeing them all.

Anthony was to stay with Marc and Marie France, so I saw him first. He had lived in Montreal for a few years and now had a French-Canadian partner, Severine, who was not coming. He spoke pretty good English (as does his mother) but I did try and use my not so good French. He was about to change jobs and move I think to Montpellier.

We all set off for Roxanne's house early evening. It was a perfect warm and sunny evening and the party started in the garden where I met Roxanne's family and Audrey with Tess, who needless to say was the centre of attention. Gaspard was very good at playing with his little cousin and the garden gave them plenty of space to run around in. Marie Andre, her partner Thimotey and Ginette turned up somewhat later and then the party got going in earnest with champagne and delicious canapés. Most of the conversation was naturally in French, some of which I could follow but much I missed. Some of the family had not seen each other for a long time so there was much to catch up on.

One unexpected pleasure for me was that Hypolite spoke very good English and was keen to practise, so I spent much of the evening talking to him. We talked about the UK EU referendum, politics in general, motor sport and



tennis, as well as many other things. To my surprise I found I had much in common with him, although we were two generations apart as well as from different countries. This was especially the case when it came to politics - I had much more in common with Hypolite than I do with most people I know in Chichester! He has not yet visited the UK and hopes to do so soon. I said he would be more than welcome to stay with us in Chichester.

As it started to get dark, we moved inside to continue the party with more food and drink, including a birthday cake. A group photo was taken (with some difficulty) on the stairs, after which some people started to leave, including us. It had been a most enjoyable evening and a great privilege to be able to be part of their celebrations of my hostess' birthday.



JOHN WILTON

CHILDREN'S EXCHANGE TO CHARTRES - 1961

Dear Margaret,

I think that is has probably only taken two years but at last I am enclosing a copy of the photograph which appeared in the Chartres Echo Republican at Easter time in 1961 showing us arriving in Chartres. I am the bright eyed young man in the front row on the right!

We had endured what is still the worst channel crossing I can remember. We travelled by coach to Newhaven, as I recall, then boarded the SNCF ferry to Dieppe. The British and French railways shared the channel routes at that time. We took the train to Paris and then went on by coach to Chartres, so were pretty exhausted when we arrived.



Mayors Reception in Hôtel Montescôt May 2014
Celebrating 55 years of our Twinning

They took us to the [then] brand new Hôtel de Ville (which has now been knocked down to make way for some huge new building) and we were met by our hosts. I only had to walk round the corner as the Gautier family with whom I was staying had an official house as part of the new municipal complex.

I hope that the twinning will survive the strains of Brexit. It is never easy trying to arrange cross-channel events but at least communication should be easier now with e-mail and instant phone contact rather than having to wait 40 minutes for a line to England which was what happened in 1961.

Best wishes, **MICHAEL BEVIS**

EDITOR'S NOTE: On receiving Michael's phone call the day after the surprise referendum result, I was able to remind him of his promise to send me this (B & W) photo. It was when we met in the Chartres' Mairie and at that time he was one of the Harbour Rotary Club's 'Cycle Chartres' participants, however, it was his mother who had first told me about her two sons' involvement in the early days of our Twinning. Thank you Michael for your contribution and perhaps you will share more memories from these 'early days'.

PRIVATE VIEW OF SCHOOLS ART CHALLENGE EXHIBITION - Friday 17th June 2016

Collage of photographs taken by Rob Campling



SCHOOLS ART CHALLENGE 2016

AWARDS IN CHARTRES . . . and 'PRIVATE VIEW' IN 'artOne' FOYER GALLERY

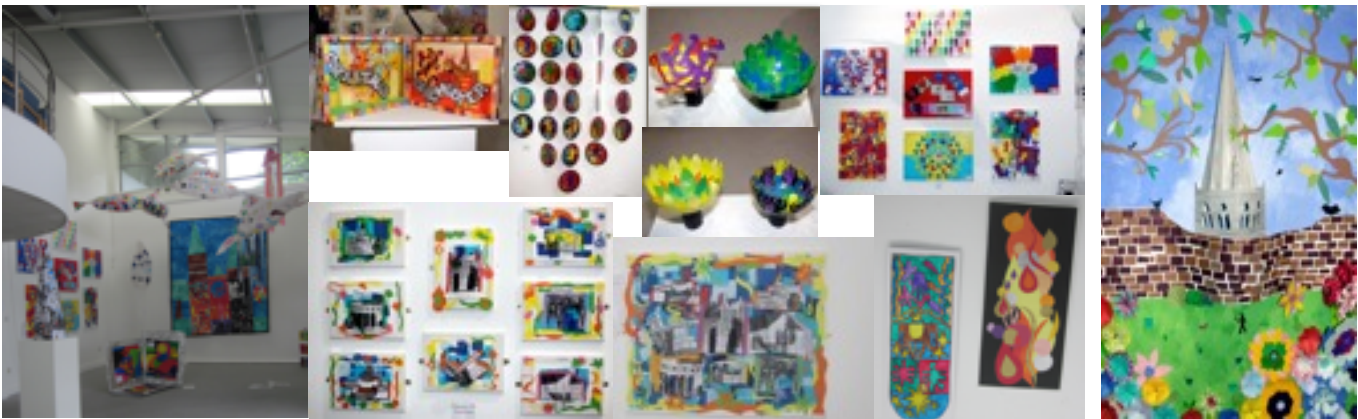


Large photograph above : back row (r-l) Claire Crézé, Patrick Geroudet and Valerie Bonnin, Directrice, of l'école de **GRAND JARDIN** with teacher Régine Dedouge (centre back) and his Class of pupils who produced the artwork. Their entry was declared to be **'The Winner'** from the French schools.

Front page photo shows pupils of l'école de **RECHÈVRES'** who took part in this year's 'Challenge'. The small photos (left) show this school's three separate entries and the groups of pupils which had produced each of these. Not shown in the photos are the teachers who guided them (Mme Martin, Mme Lourit, Mr Alonso, Mme Bouclou, Mme Recherieux, Mme Vautier and the Directrice, Louise Vallerie). The Judges awarded a **'Highly Commended Certificate'** to the group entry of 3 large artworks (shown in the top small photograph.)



Congratulations go to everyone, in both cities, who was involved in this year's project. We also thank the teachers of the following schools in Chichester who submitted their pupils' completed artworks: Bosham Primary School - Alison Mowbray, Chichester High School for Girls - Phil Riley, Fishbourne Primary School - Chrissie Sharp, Lavant C of E Primary - Chris Williams, The March C of E Primary - Carol Lee, Medmerry Primary School - Shauna Savill, Oakwood Preparatory School - Ruth Quinn, The Prebendal School - Jennie McGovern, St Richards RC Primary School - Heather Muir and West Dean C of E Primary - Lindsey Fairburn.



FRENCH Conversation Groups

LE PETIT CERCLE (Morning meetings)

Group meets monthly for lively, informed conversation in French. Le Petit Cercle du mardi usually meets on the first Tuesday of the month, and Le Petit Cercle du jeudi meets on the second Thursday of the month. Sessions are held in members' houses. The Venues for October to December are shown below. For further information contact **Julia Sander on (01243) 527435**

Petit Cercle du mardi: from 10.30 am to Midday
OCTOBER No meeting

NOVEMBER 1st (Tuesday)
SANDY BARNETT
23, Highland Road,
Chichester PO19 5QT Tel: 01243 527278

DECEMBER 6th (Tuesday)
JULIA SANDER
19, Jubilee Road, Chichester PO19 7XB Tel: 01243 527435

Petit Cercle du jeudi: from 10.30 am to Midday
OCTOBER No meeting

NOVEMBER 10th (Thursday)
DAPHNE BOWLING 'Sandpipers',
Mill Lane, Sidlesham, PO20 7LX Tel: 01243 641660

DECEMBER 8th (Thursday)
PAUL EVERETT
24, Robins Close, Selsey, PO20 0QX.....Tel: 01243 608513



For lovers of French cinema

We would like to draw your attention to the excellent programme of French films to be shown at the New Park cinema this Autumn. Full details are in the cinema brochure. As you will see, there's something for every taste. We'd love to hear if anyone manages to get to them all!

October

- Summertime (a love story about two feminists and the difficulties of 'coming out')
- Cosmos (listed as a French film but with a Polish director - a loopy, absurdist comedy)
- Aloys (modern 'film noir' with Swiss director)
- Courted (courtroom drama)
- The Blue Room (a brain-teasing thriller)

November

- Les Cowboys (a modern twist on a 1950's western)



Friends of Chartres Cine Club Autumn 2016

Our Autumn season of films, shown in the Picture Palace at the New Park Centre, now continues with 'La Famille Belier' on 6th November.

These are Private showings in this 13 seater mini-cinema and we share costs which are £7.50 per head. All films have sub-titles. Please book early to be sure of a seat.

Sunday November 6th : 17.00 -

'La Famille Béllier'

A very recent comedy drama about the Béllier family. Sixteen year old Paula is an interpreter for her deaf parents and brother, especially in the running of the family farm. One day, a music teacher discovers Paula's gift for singing and encourages her to participate in a prestigious singing contest. However, this decision means leaving the family and taking her first steps towards adulthood.

Contact Julia Sander for further information and to book a place: julia@sander.plus.com Tel: (01243) 527 435

EDITORIAL

Thanks to all who have contributed to this edition, which I hope you find interesting. As they say 'a picture speaks a thousand words' then Rob's visual report of the Private View totals 10,000 words on just half a page of A4 paper !

This issue of Citylink is the first Project I've prepared on my new Apple Mac. It's been a steep learning curve (so very different to my old WindowsXP) but got there in the end - and now looking forward to my next 'project' on it !

I was really pleased to receive the letter and photo from Michael Bevis and wonder what has happened to the other 'faces' shown. Wouldn't it be lovely to hear from them? John Wilton's article, like that of Annie Weber in the last edition, sums up the essence of our Twinning and thanks go to Paul for his report on our trip to Dreux accompanied by my photos (I just knew they would come in handy !)

So, once again, I now call on you to let me know if you have anything which you think will be of interest to our members. Please contact me directly either by phone (01243) 783776 or by email: mbrown121@fsmail.net The deadline for me to receive copy for the next edition is 21st October - however, I would still welcome your news, features and/or crosswords (with the answers please) for future editions beyond that date.

MARGARET BROWN
EDITOR

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