



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

MARCH 2017

[Re-numbered from the Millenium] **ISSUE: 68**

From the New Chairman . . .

I am honoured to have been elected Chairman of the Friends of Chartres, and would like to thank the members of the Association for entrusting me with this role. I am confident that you will support me in this new role, just as you have in my role as Exchange Organiser.

Firstly I would like to thank Ray Brown on behalf of the whole association for his sterling work over the past three years. Under his chairmanship, membership has grown and a lively programme of events has been put on. Ray has attended numerous meetings on our behalf and has taken every opportunity to promote the Friends of Chartres. Not least among Ray's achievements as Chairman is his championing of the Schools' Art Challenge, which has involved hundreds of children in Chichester and Chartres in our twinning.

As a member of the post-war generation, twinning is particularly close to my heart. The friendships twinings have created between ourselves and our counterparts in Europe have contributed to the longest period of peace our continent has ever known. It is my firm belief that these friendships will become even more important in the post-Brexit days.

On a personal note, I am excited to become Chairman at a time when our association must prepare to meet new challenges. In the current climate of ever-increasing nationalism, we need more than ever to open our minds to our neighbours and learn about and understand their cultures. This, of course, is what twinning is all about.

We are looking forward to a busy few months. Our guests from Chartres arrive at the end of April, and I am pleased to report that there are 38 participants from Chichester this year and a similar number coming from Chartres. A programme is included with this copy of Citylink, and all the events are open both to hosts and their guests, and to non-hosts. In addition to the exchange, we look forward to the Schools' Art Challenge in June and an afternoon picnic at the Fishbourne Centre in July



Prior to the Annual General Meeting we circulated a questionnaire to members to open a discussion about the role of our association in changing times and how we may best serve our members. We would like to thank all those of you who responded. There has not been time to process the information fully yet, but it is clear that there are some very interesting suggestions.

We will use the comments in the questionnaire and the points raised at the AGM to help us set the direction over the next two or three years. What has emerged so far is the importance of expanding our membership base, in particular to include families and younger people in order to ensure the future of the association. If you have any thoughts on how this could be done, we would love to hear from you.

We look forward to future exciting years.

VIVE LE JUMELAGE!

**JULIA SANDER
CHAIRMAN**

CHICHESTER
Twinning

58 YEARS
1959 - 2017

CHARTRES
Jumelage

56th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING



l-r: Retiring Chairman, Ray Brown, President, Mayor of Chichester Cllr Peter Budge, New Chairman, Julia Sander

The Association’s 56th Annual General Meeting held at St George’s Centenary Centre on Thursday 9th March 2017 was attended by the Mayor, Cllr Peter Budge and, as President the Mayor opened the meeting by welcoming the 28 members who were in attendance. Following his introduction and, having signed the Minutes of the last AGM, he then handed over to the Chairman for his report.

It had been explained that, having served as Chairman for three consecutive years, Ray would be retiring from this role, as per our constitution which now allows him to continue to serve as the Immediate Past Chairman. Ray then gave a very full report of all the activities which had taken place during the past year. We had also worked with the Friends of Ravenna and the Friends of Valletta to provide a ‘Three Cities’ event during the Festival of Chichester. He thanked all the committee members for their support over the last three years and explained how we have continued to encompass the community within our activities during this time.

The transition from our working with Pallant House Gallery to now working with the Fine Art Department at the University for our Schools Art Challenge had been very successful. The new, larger venue for the Awards Ceremony had enabled more school children and their families to attend this. Similarly the Private View, held in the larger Foyer Gallery in the Fine Arts Department had enabled attendees to vote for the new “People’s Choice Award” and it was also hoped more University students would be involved with the project. He thanked Marc Steene (PHG) and Steve McDade (Uni) for their continued support for this project, now in its 8th year and finally thanked the local firms and Associations for their continued sponsorship and help.



PRESIDENT
The Right Worshipful the Mayor of Chichester
Councillor Peter Budge

OFFICERS & COMMITTEE MEMBERS

CHAIRMAN Julia Sander.....527435
VICE-CHAIRMAN Anne Scicluna789065
HON. SECRETARY Margaret Brown.....783776
HON. TREASURER John Wilton.....788833

IMMEDIATE PAST CHAIRMAN

Ray Brown783776

Martyn Bell 539806 Paul Everett.....603513
Anne-Louise Briggs..784346 David Nason.....573716
Paul Devonshire.....641457 Jim Payne.....372900

Co-opted

Vince Foote (*Chi Lions Club*).....532620
Julia Schofield (*Cathedral/DEEC*).....784244

**CITY COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES
(July 2016 to June 2017)**

Cllr Clare Apel....783738 Cllr Anne Scicluna.....789065

John Wilton presented his Treasurer’s Report referring to the accounts which had been approved by the Examiner of Account and previously been sent to all members. The accounts were unanimously agreed to be adopted by all present. John was congratulated and a vote of thanks was also recorded for Michael Merritt, ‘Examiner’ of accounts who was reappointed to continue in this role.

The Mayor then conducted the elections to the Executive and the following members had agreed to serve. Having been proposed and seconded the following were elected by those members present:

Officers: Chairman, Julia Sander, Vice-Chairman, Anne Scicluna; Honorary Secretary, Margaret Brown, Honorary Treasurer, John Wilton; and

Committee Members: Martyn Bell, Anne-Louise Briggs, Paul Devonshire, Paul Everett, David Nason and Jim Payne.

As no matters had been received for Any Other Business, the Mayor handed over to the new Chairman who gave more details of the forthcoming Exchange, explaining that non-hosts would also be welcome at various events.

Julia thanked the Mayor for supporting us throughout his two years in office and for joining us in our Exchanges during this time. Then, prior to closing the meeting, she thanked Ray for what he had done during his three years as Chairman and presented him with a ‘thank you’ gift.

As you will see from the photos, he was truly delighted with the Tankard which was engraved to record his time as Chairman of our Association.

Refreshments were then served ‘bistro-style’ enabling lively discussions to take place based on the Questionnaire which had previously been sent with the AGM papers - the results of which will be reported later.

**MARGARET BROWN
HONORARY SECRETARY**

EXCHANGE PROGRAMME

In Chichester - 28th April - 2nd May 2017

APRIL

Friday 28th - French arrive at Waitrose Car Park
22.30 (time tbc)

Saturday 29th - [Joint Committee Meeting]

11.00-12.00 Mayor's Reception for
Hosts and their Guest

The following events (**) are open to non-hosts

13.00 **Bring & Share lunch in Fishbourne Centre
followed by activities including skittles :
Drinks will need to be purchased from the bar

17.30 **Evensong in Chichester Cathedral
[This is part of the church choirs festival.]

Evening with hosts

Sunday 30th **All day visit to Winchester by Coach
9.30 Depart from Oaklands Way Layby -
Travel by French coach or hosts' cars. Includes
Guided tour of Great Hall and historic city plus
Free Time in Winchester

(**) Non-hosts travel by coach (is subject to numbers)
or by your own car

16.00 Depart for Chichester

19.00 for 19.30 **Dinner at the Brookfield Hotel,
Emsworth

MAY

Monday 1st Free day with hosts

Tuesday 2nd French depart from Northgate
06.30 [time tbc] Car Park

Please complete and return the enclosed booking form
with your cheque payable to 'Friends of Chartres' to

Julia Sander

FRIENDS OF CHARTRES Programme of Events - 2017

April 28th - May 2nd 'THE ANNUAL EXCHANGE'
Friday- Tuesday (see details in left-hand column)

'SCHOOLS ART CHALLENGE'

June 16th PRIVATE VIEW
*(Friday) 6.00-7.30pm 'artOne' Gallery,
University of Chichester, College Lane*

June 17th AWARDS CEREMONY (for Schools)
(Saturday) 11.00am in the University's Chapel

FESTIVAL OF CHICHESTER EVENT

Working with Friends of Ravenna & Friends of Valletta

June 26th 7.30pm Assembly Room, North Street
*(Monday) Patricia Routledge 'in conversation' with
Paul Rogerson (See 'advert' below left)*

PLEASE NOTE THESE 'DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES'
more details to be published in the next edition.

July 15th AFTERNOON PICNIC
(Saturday) at the Fishbourne Centre - (details tba)

September 1st COOKERY EVENT
(Friday) at the Newell Centre

October 12th 'DEGENERATE ART' an Illustrated
(Thursday) Talk by Martyn Bell at the University

November 23rd FESTIVE SOIRÉE to be held at
(Thursday) The Bishops Palace

Friends of Chartres Members

**** SPECIAL INVITATION ****

Friday 16th June

PRIVATE VIEW

(voting for 'People's Choice' award)

*** * ***

Friends of Chartres - University of Chichester

'SCHOOLS ART CHALLENGE'

EXHIBITION

of the children's artwork entries

to be held in the

Department of Fine Arts' Foyer Gallery
'artOne' building - College Lane, Chichester
(Friday 16th June 2017)

6.00pm - 7.30pm

NO CHARGE

BUT NUMBERS ARE REQUIRED IN
ADVANCE FOR CATERING PURPOSES

Please contact : Margaret Brown

Tel: (01243) 783776

FESTIVAL OF CHICHESTER EVENT
Working with Friends of Ravenna & Friends of Valletta

The Assembly Room, North Street

26th June - 7.30pm

PATRICIA ROUTLEDGE

'In Conversation' with Paul Rogerson

**"TREADING THE BOARDS - 60 years
on the Wicked Stage"**

£10.00 p.p

Please book through John Wilton, Treasurer:

Tel: 788833 or email: johnwilton@yahoo.co.uk

[Flyer will be emailed in due course]

CHICHESTER  CITY COUNCIL

Dear Margaret

Thank you so much for the warm hospitality shown to Philippa and me at the Friends of Chartres Annual Dinner held at Chichester College last Thursday evening. I thoroughly enjoyed the evening, the great company and excellent menu. Please would you convey this message to the Friends of Chartres members.

I very much look forward to being part of future events until my year in Office ends on 10 May and also to welcoming our exchange visitors and their hosts on 29 April this year (venue hopefully the Council House but to be confirmed next week).

With very best wishes.

Yours sincerely



Councillor Peter Budge
The Mayor of Chichester



ANNUAL DINNER

On the 16th February forty one members and guests, which included our Honoured Guests The Mayor and Mayoress of Chichester, Cllr Peter Budge and his wife Pippa, attended our Annual Dinner held in the new 'Restaurant and Bar 64' at Chichester College.

These new facilities are the result of a total refurbishment of the Catering Department and replace the now out-dated 'Goodwood Restaurant' and the original kitchens. However, the new name is a reflection of when the College was first built - ie 1964.

Held in the bar section of the restaurant, we were greeted with a Sherry Reception, enabling guests and members to be re-acquainted. We were also able to order our wine selections before being directed to the new restaurant area. Here the students had set the tables and the name places as shown on the seating plan, ensuring the correct cutlery was in place for each person's choice of dishes.

Having been ushered to our tables, and following a few words of welcome from Ray and an appropriate French Blessing by Cannon David Nason, the students on 'waiting' duties began to serve the delicious meal.

We were once again spoilt for choice as can be seen from the three-course menu (shown right) and it was interesting to note the most popular dishes chosen for each course. For the starter is was *Betterave Rôti*, whilst the main course was *Filet de Sole Florentine* (which just pipped *Escolope de pork cordon bleu* by 3 servings) and *Poire Condé* for dessert. All the dishes were delightful to the eye and delicious to the taste and our congratulations go to those students who had prepared these in the kitchen under the guidance of the lecturing staff.

The atmosphere throughout the evening was relaxed and convivial with a good sense of camaraderie. The Mayor thanked us for inviting him and Pippa for his second Annual Dinner with us at the College. He then entertained all those present with a story about a "3-legged chicken"!

The evening concluded with Ray presenting our gratuities, which go to the students' end of term well-earned trip.

MARGARET BROWN



Organiser, Ray Brown, formally congratulated and thanked Claire Wildine and her students and presented them with our 'gratuities'.

MENU

Starter

Soupe aux brocolis

(Broccoli soup with garlic croutons) **V**

Betterave Rôti

(Beetroot roasted in olive oil and balsamic served on a celeriac puree and apple fritters, finished with rocket and parmesan salad) **V, WD**

Carpaccio de thon

(Herbed tuna Carpaccio served on a citrus salad) **F**

Main Course

Filet de Sole Florentine, pommes duchesse

(Lemon Sole placed on a bed of spinach coated in a cheese sauce) **FD**

Escolope de porc cordon bleu pommes fondant

(Pan-fried slice of pork filled with ham and cheese and served with a nut brown butter) **WE**

Kouilibiac de Riz aux champignons baronne de juniac

(Wild rice, egg and mushrooms served with a creamy leak sauce) **VWED**

Légumes du jour

Fresh vegetables of the day

Dessert

Poire Condé

(Fresh pears poached in red wine with an apricot glaze on a creamy rice mousse) **D**

Profiteroles aux Chocolat

Choux buns with hot chocolate sauce **WED**

Assortiment de glaces

(Vanilla, raspberry, and lemon curd served with wafers) **EDW**

Café et chocolats

Allergens

N=Nuts **W**=Wheat/Gluten **D**=Dairy **E**=Eggs **F**=Fish/Molluscs/
Crustaceans **S**=Soya **SE**=Sesame **C**=Celery **M**=Mustard **SU**=Sulphites
L=Lupin

CHANGES ON THE COMMITTEE



Penelope Johnstone joined the Executive Committee in 2008 and has diligently taken the notes for the Minutes ever since, but has now decided to 'retire'!

When we learned she would be in Jerusalem at the time of the AGM, Ray managed to 'hand-deliver' a card and book token to her and she was pleasantly surprised.

Thank you Penelope, we hope you enjoyed your holiday in Jerusalem and we look forward to seeing you at our future events.

At the AGM the vacancy left on on the committee by Penelope's 'retirement' was taken up by Paul Everett (right) whom we now 'welcome on board'.

MAB (Hon. Secretary)



VISIT TO MARTINIQUE

Fort de France, the capital of Martinique, came as something of a surprise. After disembarking from the fast catamaran which had brought us from the neighbouring St Lucia, as EU passport holders we were whisked through immigration, whilst St Lucians were subjected to thorough checks. Martinique is, after all, a department of metropolitan France. This was clear from the smart taxi which took us to our hotel along smooth city streets - quite a surprise after our stay in laid-back St Lucia.

Martinique and its sister island, Guadeloupe, are both DOM (Départements Outre-Mer). The legal, administrative and education systems are the same as in any mainland French department, and while the UK is still part of the EU, their citizens have the right to work here. Not that many would make that choice. The people to whom we spoke declared themselves proud to be French.

Walking round Fort de France, we found several public buildings which would have looked at home in any French city. The sumptuous public library bore a frieze with the



names of France's greatest writers: Hugo, Lamartine, Boileau, Balzac. There is even a short promenade resembling the famous Promenade des Anglais in Nice. There are fine examples of colonial architecture all over the city. The covered market, however, was a blaze of colour only found in the Caribbean - stalls with exotic fruits, flowers and vegetables literally tumbling over one another.

Our visit coincided with the French half-term break in February; thousands of French citizens had sensibly left the French winter behind and escaped to the sun. As we drove to the south of the island we were caught in tailbacks as bad as any we see on or own



A27. This gave us plenty of time to observe the scenery, which on the outskirts of Fort de France consisted entirely of 'grandes surfaces' like Carrefour, M.Bricolage and E.LeClerc.



We decided therefore to shun the beaches in favour of mountainous inland routes. We drove north to St Pierre, the original capital of Martinique, which was destroyed by a volcanic eruption in 1902. The only survivor of the disaster was the prisoner, Auguste Cyparis, who was saved by the thick walls of his prison cell. For him, crime definitely did pay!

Like St Lucia and the other Windward Islands, Martinique is stunningly beautiful with its combination of rocky coastline, sandy beaches, mountains and lush rainforest scenery.



The highlight for us was our visit to the extraordinary Garden de Balata. Set high in the mountains, the designer, Jean-Philippe Thoze, has used a steep ravine to create a series of mini-gardens which include over 300 varieties of palm trees and more than 3,000 tropical plants from around the world.

Martinique is strikingly different from the former British Islands, which are countries in their own right, each with its own government and independent economy.

Farming in Martinique is large-scale with two main crops, bananas and sugar, which are exported to France in exchange for French goods. The supermarkets contain groceries imported from France, with just one counter for local produce. It is only in the markets that you see local fruit and vegetables. France and the UK may be neighbours, but they usually manage to come up with different solutions. Vive la différence !

And, by the way, everyone in Martinique speaks perfect French !

JULIA SANDER

A 'MID-JUMELAGE' TRIP TO CHARTRES

Exactly a year after we last visited Chartres for the funeral of Henri Poujade-Rey, we were back again to visit Françoise. We have been in touch frequently over the months via the wonderful world of email. How did we manage when we had to trip off to the Post Office for the stamp to Europe?

We spent a very happy five days with her - reminiscing over past visits and laughing about our own Franglais language. Chartres Cathedral is looking completely different inside with a major cleaning programme well under way. The amount of light in there now is quite amazing, and we visited on a dull January day. We also crossed off one thing on our joint bucket list which was a trip to the Musée d'Orsay in Paris. Eddie's knee just about stood up to the several hours spent wandering around the exhibits before catching the train back to Chartres.

On the day before our return we went to the Maison du Saumon, theoretically to help put up the children's art display from both the Chartres and Chichester schools. Needless to say, by the time we got there the French Committee and helpers had all but finished, but it was lovely to see some of them and renew acquaintances.



*above L - r: Sue, Françoise & Eddie
below: Sue & Claire Crézé at the Exhibition*

So we thoroughly enjoyed ourselves on our trip. Yes it was sad without Henri, but it reinforced the friendship we have with Françoise and we are looking forward to seeing her again at the end of April for the Jumelage.

SUE & EDDIE SAUNDERS

Association des Amis des Jumelages de Chartres
 « Friends of Chartres » de Chichester
avec le soutien de la Ville de Chartres

ŒUVRES DES ÉLÈVES D'ÉCOLES DE CHICHESTER ET CHARTRES
 pendant l'année scolaire 2015/2016 sur le thème
 « *Gouaches découpées dans l'esprit de Matisse* »

Maison du Saumon – Office de Tourisme de Chartres Métropole
4 au 14 février 2017
 Lundi à Samedi : 10h00 – 18h00 – Dimanche : 10h00 – 17h00








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.

Petit Cercle du mardi: from 10.30 am to Mid-day

APRIL 4th (TUESDAY) *Julia Sander*

19, Jubilee Road, ChichesterTel: (01243) 527435
[Venues for the May, June and July Circle will be decided at the above meeting.]

MAY 9th (TUESDAY) *Venue to be confirmed.*

JUNE 6th (TUESDAY) " " "

JULY 4th (TUESDAY) " " "

Petit Cercle du jeudi: from 10.30 am to Mid-day

APRIL 6th (THURSDAY) *Daphne Bowling*

'Sandpipers', Mill Lane, Sidlesham.....(01243) 641660

MAY 11th (THURSDAY) *Paul Everett*

24 Robins Close, Selsey,.....(01243) 603513

JUNE 8th (THURSDAY) *Jacqueline Combes*

6 Winchester Drive, Chichester.....(01243) 783136

JULY 13th (THURSDAY) *Julia Sander*

19, Jubilee Road, Chichester.....(01243) 527435

Contact **Julia on (01243) 527435** to arrange transport to the meetings in Sidlesham and Selsey



ALL ABOUT WINE !



Friends of Chartres' wine-buffs had the opportunity to show off their expertise at a DIY wine-tasting evening in January. Members were invited to bring a favourite bottle of French wine, to offer tasters and to tell us a little about the wine. We were treated to a feast of good wines and interesting, often humorous stories about how each presenter had discovered the wines. In the process, a surprising amount of knowledge about wines was revealed.

Participants entered their comments on score sheets as the evening went on. Ten different wines were tasted, and at the end of the evening, the most popular wines were announced. Favourite among the white wines was the Chablis presented by Peter Barnett which was praised for its 'pleasant, dry, delicate flavour'. The popular choice among the reds was the Vaqueyras offered by Paul Everett, which was described as 'mellow, full-bodied with oodles of flavour'.

This was a convivial gathering which brightened up a cold January evening, and deserves to be repeated in the future for those who were unable to attend this time.

JULIA SANDER

"SPREADING THE WORD"

about Chartres & our long-standing 'Twinning'



The Chairman had received a request from the Chichester Conservative Association to speak to their members about the Friends of Chartres and our long-standing twinning. This took place on 1st February at the Friends Meeting House, in Priory Road.

With a slide-show of photographs, past copies of our Citylink newsletter, leaflets and several 'souvenirs' from Chartres and assisted by 'yours truly', Ray presented a History of our Twinning - starting with a photograph showing the signing of the 'Deed of Jumelage' on 28th February 1959 by the Mayors of the two communities.

Some people in the audience had been involved in past Exchanges and were able to add their anecdotes

MARGARET BROWN.

EDITORIAL

There's been a lot to report, as you will see from the contents of this edition, with the 'In House' Wine Tasting, our Annual Dinner and the AGM - and we hope you enjoy reading the interesting article from Julia recounting her visit to the French island of Martinique.

We also have a lot to look forward to with the visit to the Courtauld Gallery in London and our Annual Exchange - this year coming to us. So I look forward to receiving your articles/reports/anecdotes etc about these events.

Also if you have anything else which you think will be of interest to our members then do please contact me directly either by email: magbrown121@gmail.com or by telephone (01243) 783776 and the deadline for my receiving copy for the next edition is 18th May.

I look forward to hearing from you - and seeing you at our future events.

MARGARET BROWN

PLEASE NOTE MY NEW EMAIL ADDRESS IS

magbrown121@gmail.com