

CITYLINK

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

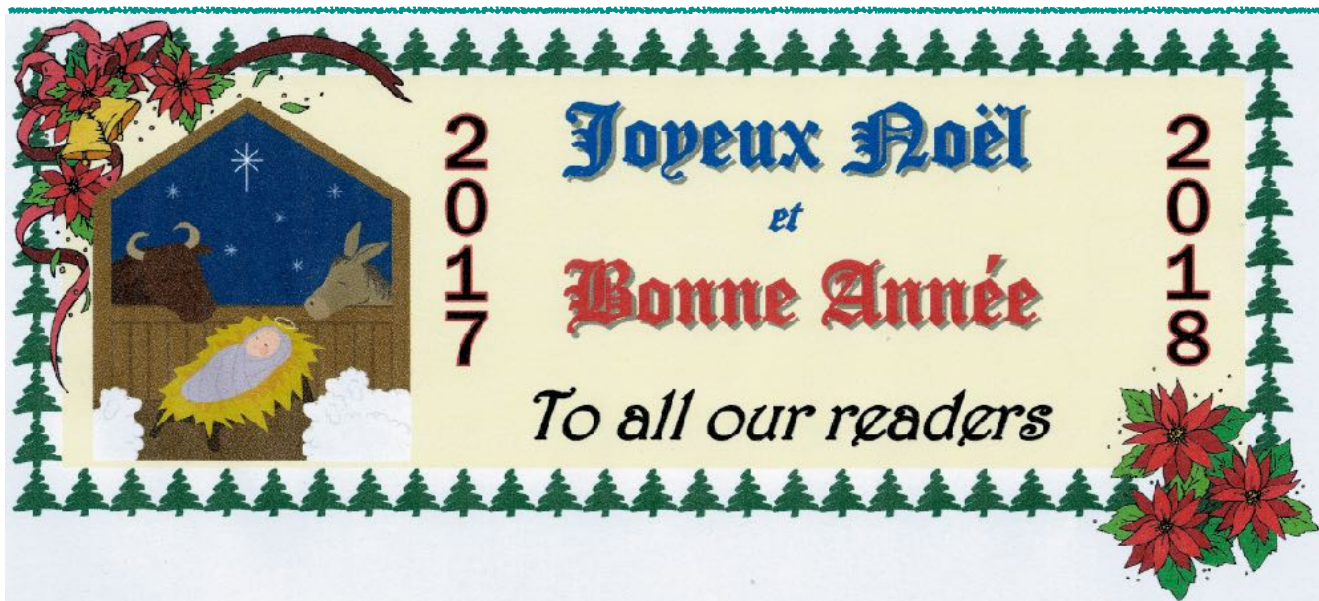
NEWSLETTER OF THE FRIENDS OF CHARTRES

Chichester's French Twinning Association

www.friendsofchartres.org.uk

December 2017

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FROM THE CHAIRMAN . . .

2017 has been a busy year for the association with a series of events, both cultural and social, an action-packed visit from our friends in Chartres, and another very successful Schools Art Challenge. Indeed, next year's challenge is already underway with 9 schools attending the launch at Chichester University and several more expressing interest.

Since I last wrote to you, we had the opportunity to hear a talk with the intriguing title 'Degenerate Art' given by Martyn Bell in the superbly equipped new academic building at Chichester University. Like all Martyn's talks, this was carefully researched and produced fascinating insights into what has happened to the so-called 'degenerate' artworks confiscated by Hitler. A full report appears in this edition of Citylink.

Cine Club has started up again and we showed 'Cézanne et Moi', a delightful film about the lives of Paul Cézanne and Emile Zola in the Studio at New Park. Following that, we held our members' coffee morning at St Martin's Tea Rooms for coffee and chat around a log fire. This new venture provided an opportunity for those who do not attend one of our three French conversation circles to meet and chat informally. We plan to meet two or three times a year.

The festive season is now upon us, and as I write, we are preparing for our annual wine and cheese soirée, to be held this year in the historic Sherbourne Room, formerly known as the Tudor Room, at the Bishop's Palace.

We have a busy programme during the first few months of 2018. The questionnaire circulated to members before the AGM last year indicated that you would like the Association to provide more talks and opportunities to meet. We have a talk on Morocco and a lecture recital on French music coming up, as well as our Annual Dinner, always a popular event. These will be followed by our annual exchange with Chartres at the end of April, and this time, it's our turn to visit them. If you haven't participated in the exchange before, you'd be very welcome to join us. It's a wonderful way of making new friends and experiencing French culture.

In the background, work has continued on our new website and the proposed Junior Twinning Club, so all in all, it's been a busy time.

I send you my good wishes for Christmas and the New Year, and hope to see you at our events next year.

Vive le jumelage!

JULIA SANDER

CHICHESTER
Twinning

58 YEARS
1959 - 2017

CHARTRES
Jumelage

FRIENDS OF CHARTRES

'Lyautey to Saint Laurent'

The Impact of the French Protectorate on Morocco

An illustrated talk by

Margaret Devitt

Monday 5th February - 7.30pm

The Studio,
New Park Centre,

New Park Road, Chichester, PO19 7XY

Those who have enjoyed a visit to this fascinating country will know how useful a knowledge of French is during the visit, especially if you speak little or no Arabic. Many countries including England have tried to forge links with this land of mystery and exoticism, but for the French it was to become a matter of national pride and colonial ambition.

Come to hear tales of the desert, the palaces, of Beau Jeste and of Casablanca and harems. Listen to the songs of the Berbers and French dance music of the 1920s. Wonder at the beauty of Almohad tile work, the camel trappings and native costume and jewellery. Discuss the pros and cons of European influence in the Maghreb, and share your appreciation of this beautiful country.

Brought up in Sidlesham, Margaret Devitt studied French History at London University. She is a founder member of the Friends of Chartres, and on retiring to Chichester a few years ago, was delighted to find the Association still going strong. Margaret visits Morocco annually, and supports a school for Berber girls.

Members £8.50 Non-Members £9.50

To reserve places for this event, kindly complete the relevant section of the booking form provided and return it together with your cheque made out to the Friends of Chartres to:

JOHN WILTON (Treasurer)
1A York Road, Chichester, PO19 7IJ

PRESIDENT

The Right Worshipful the Mayor of Chichester
Councillor Peter Evans

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VICE-CHAIRMAN	Anne Scicluna.....	789065
HON. SECRETARY	Margaret Brown.....	783776
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Paul Devonshire.....	641457	Jim Payne.....	372900

(Co-opted)

Vince Foote (Chi Lions Club)	532620
Julie Schofield (Cathedral/DEEC).....	784224

CITY COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES

(July 2017 to June 2018)

Cllr Clare Apel....	783738	Cllr Anne Scicluna....	789065
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ANNUAL EXCHANGE 2018 GOES TO CHARTRES

Thursday 26th to Monday 30th April 2018

After the enjoyable visit of our friends from Chartres in May this year, it's our turn to travel to Chartres in 2018.

If you wish to take part, please complete and return the application letter included with this edition of Citylink. We will be travelling by coach via the Portsmouth – Caen ferry, and expect the journey will cost about £100 per head. As there is a fixed cost for the trip, 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, do 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 are a first-timer, please bear in mind that the exchange is a reciprocal arrangement. Anyone who receives hospitality in Chartres, therefore, must be prepared to host when the group from Chartres comes to Chichester in 2019.

If you have any queries about the Exchange, please call

Julia Sander (Exchange Organiser)

on (01243) 527435, or send an email to:
julia@sander.plus.com.

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

Julia Sander (Exchange Organiser)

19, Jubilee Road, Chichester PO19 7XB.

If your visit to existing partners has not been confirmed by the date below, please send your application form to us so that we know that you wish to take part.

Applications to be received by
Friday, 26th January, 2018

'DEGENERATE ART' - An illustrated talk by Martyn Bell - on Thursday 12th October



Knowing absolutely nothing about art, although I can recognise an impressionist painting, I had no idea what to expect from Martyn's talk. However, by the end of an hour listening to Martyn's engaging presentation I came away knowing all sorts of interesting facts.

Martyn's interest in "Degenerate Art" came through his research into the life of French Resistance Leader, Jean Moulin. Jean Moulin was an artist and an art dealer, which enabled him to carry out his resistance work with a plausible cover for his travels through Vichy France.

In the mid 1930s Hitler, himself an artist, felt threatened by the rise of the modernist art movement – "Degenerate Art". The Nazi view was that "being German means being clear." He mistakenly thought all modern artists were Bolsheviks, Communists and Jews and ordered the confiscation of many thousands of works of art. This was organised by Adolf Zeigler, Hitler's favourite artist. The art works were taken from State Art Galleries and Museums but many were on loan from private collectors.

Martyn explained how the works were displayed in the newly opened Hofgarden Arcades in Munich. He showed fascinating photographs of Hitler and Goebbels and their entourage visiting the exhibition. He also told us how not all Nazis felt the same about modern art as Hitler – indeed

Goebbels was a fan of impressionism and expressionism but strategically hid his views from the Fuhrer. Goering too was an admirer of the art form.

Following the exhibition much of the art was then destroyed and there were attempts to sell some abroad. The trail of Van Gogh's Self Portrait was demonstrated with a photograph of it being auctioned in Lucerne. Being offered the chance to buy these works caused ethical dilemmas to galleries such as the New York Museum of Modern Art as the proceeds would be used to fund German armaments.

A key player in the rescue of some of the work was Peggy Guggenheim and Martyn amused the audience with the story of her time living in South Harting when she conducted a clandestine affair with a London art dealer.

The final note of the talk was that the Confiscation Law which was drafted by Karl Haberstock in 1938 on Hitler's behalf is still in force. The recovery of the art work is an ongoing quest for many families who had loaned their paintings on the promise of payment.

As ever all this information was delivered in Martyn's warm and entertaining style and the twenty or so members who attended were then able to chat over a glass of wine.

ROSIE SPEAR



'DID YOU KNOW? . . .

I was recently given an English Newspaper printed in France for English residents. Connexion established in 2002. See:

www.connexionfrance.com

Lots of information about filling in tax forms etc and information about more general items of domestic life in France.

For elderly English residents, Power of Attorney (IPA) If made in England should be accepted in France but, if made in France then you need a Mandate de Protection (MPF) If property in both countries then it is advised to have both.

O.K. so we are still active and wish to improve or extend our property.

Building work permission, a 'premise de construire' should be displayed on the site for two months and one day. Neighbours have this time to raise a complaint. Complaints must then be made within 2 weeks of this period. Only the Mayor can withdraw the permit if it is illegal. Once approved only Prefects can file an appeal within 2 months of approval.

When watching TV programmes about buying and renovating old houses in France it all looks so easy?

Social housing in France. Ministers are trying to get the percentage of social housing increased to 25% but, many communes have not managed the current 20%. Sounds familiar.

But how about renting your parking space? Providing the income is below 15,000 Euros you only pay tax on 70%.

If you are not planning to buy or rent a property in France but only drive through the country 'BEWARE' ! Speed camera fines are now to be collected in England. Currently France collects 920 million Euros each year and one in five motorists caught are foreign - most being Belgian

The above information is from the September 2017 issue.

JIM PAYNE



COFFEE MORNING

The first Friends of Chartres' Coffee Morning was held at St Martin's Teas Rooms on 31st October and was attended by 16 members.

The general feeling was that it was a good idea which could be repeated but not too frequently.

A spring time meeting, possibly in the café in Priory Park was suggested.



JULIA SANDER



FESTIVE SOIRÉE

held in the *Bishop's Palace*

Our Chairman, Julia Sander, extended a warm welcome to everyone, including Mayor & Mayoress, Peter & Margaret Evans, attending our Christmas Wine and Cheese evening which was held in the 'Sherbourne Room'. Anne Scicluna explained the reason for its previous name 'Tudor Room' giving details about its unique ceiling. The refreshments, comprising a really good selection of French cheeses organised by Anne-Louise Briggs, were thoroughly enjoyed together with French wine - a perfect match. The Mayor's comment: "The Soirée was excellent, very relaxed and a finer venue would be difficult to find." sums it all up.

A big 'Thank You' to all who made it such an enjoyable evening as captured in these photos - (using my 'problematic' camera !)

MARGARET BROWN





**RETRIEVING
THE 2017 SCHOOLS ART EXHIBITION**
from
Maison du Saumon, Chartres
Wednesday 4th - Friday 6th October 2017

Situated in the centre of Chartres, the Maison du Saumon (above) hosted this year's Schools Art Challenge Exhibition in the autumn and it was given plenty of publicity as the scanned article from 'Votre Ville' (right) shows. This free magazine is delivered to every household in Chartres and its surrounding area and Rob Campling was given due recognition for using his photos.

Once again the Chichester Lions Club showed their support of this project by letting us use their van to transport the children's artworks to and from Chartres. As usual (Lion) Ray Brown drove whilst I ensured all 'admin' was 'in place'. This time Rob Campling joined us and used a new 'app' on his phone to navigate us through the French countryside.

After picking up Rob we left Chichester at 6.30 am and I think we were all really pleased to reach the home of Jean-Claude & Marie-Claire Grouteau at around 7.30pm. It was good to know that we would all be accommodated there for these 2 nights and Marie-Claire had prepared a delicious meal which we all enjoyed. We appreciated their hospitality and, although it had been a long day our tiredness seemed to disappear as the conversations and laughter continued well into the night !

The next day, with Jean-Claude's help, we were able to follow the protocol/security required to take a vehicle into the historic city centre. Clare Crézé had arranged for the Exhibition to be dismantled on the day we travelled to Chartres and we were therefore able to collect the artworks with relative ease. We carefully put them into the van, working out the order in which they would be delivered to the schools. Fortunately, we were able to keep them in the van over the weekend and use the van to deliver them back to the schools on the Monday.

Clare Crézé was able to meet the three of us later that day and we gave her details and paperwork for the 2018 'Challenge'. After translating, she then distributes these to their schools and we were all very pleased to hear of a new school that, when visiting the Exhibition in Maison du Saumon, had shown an interest in taking part this year. So we now wait to see if they are able to do so.



Having agreed to go out for a meal as a 'thank you' to our hosts, Rob asked Jean-Claude to choose the restaurant and so our table was booked. 'Tire Bouchon' near the Cathedral serves Lyonnais menus and is obviously a popular choice with locals as it was quite full when we arrived there. Good food, good wine, good company, another really good last evening. Then as the evening drew to a close a gentleman approached and in perfect English asked me "Are you from Chichester?" and then "Are you Mrs Brown? Being taken aback I was lost for words. Such a 'Chance Encounter' who could this total stranger possibly be?

MARGARET BROWN

'SCHOOLS ART CHALLENGE 2018' - 'Launched' on 1st November

Working with the University of Chichester - Fine Art Department

'A Tale of Twinned Cities': Chapter 8: 'Garden(s)'



Steve McDade



Ray Brown

Once again the Foyer Gallery at the University of Chichester is where the new 'Schools Art Challenge' was launched on 1st November. It is anticipated that thirteen local schools will take part, nine of which were present - and with some late arrivals due to school meetings. We have also learned that a new school in Chartres has also shown interest in taking part.



As our Chairman, Julia, was unable to attend Ray Brown, Immediate Past Chairman and Project 'initiator', welcomed everyone including the Mayor & Mayoress of Chichester, Peter & Margaret Evans. Our sponsors and special guests included the Chichester Lions Club whose van is used to transport the Exhibitions to Chartres.



Steve McDade (Fine Arts Department) then explained this year's chosen theme - 'Garden(s)' - with examples of artwork sources shown on his Powerpoint Presentation. Artworks by University students using a variety of media were also exhibited in the Foyer. Having enjoyed the presentation teachers chatted with each other, exchanging ideas and exploring the variety of media used. This year the choice is theirs. Steve had also explained he would be encouraging more of his students to go into schools.

Ray thanked Steve and Liz Colley plus other University staff for their involvement in preparing the project and for enabling the successful Launch of this year's School Art Challenge. Thanks were also given to Jim Payne for looking after refreshments and Rob Campling for taking photos during the evening. We now look forward to seeing the schools' completed entries and the Awards Ceremony to be held in the University Chapel on 16th June to which we hope that Chartres Deputy Mayor, Patrick Geroudet, will be able to attend.



Following the presentation I explained that Julia was proposing to start a Junior Twinning Club beginning in the new year and then distributed her leaflets which gave more information.

MARGARET BROWN



FRENCH Conversation Groups
LE PETIT CERCLE (Morning meetings)

Groups meet 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 and the dates for January to April are shown below whilst the venues will be decided at the first meetings in January.

Petit Cercle du mardi: from 10.30 am to Mid-day
Tuesday JANUARY 9th
Julia Sander, 19, Jubilee Road, Chichester.....(01243) 52743

Venues for subsequent meetings will be decided at this time.
Tuesdays: FEBRUARY 6th : MARCH 6th : APRIL 10th
[April meeting is one week later because of Easter]

Petit Cercle du jeudi: from 10.30 am to Mid-day
Thursday JANUARY 11th
Julia Sander, 19, Jubilee Road, Chichester.....(01243) 527435

Venues for subsequent meetings will be decided at this time.
Thursdays : FEBRUARY 8th : MARCH 8th : APRIL 12th

For further details contact Julia Sander

julia@sander.plus.com

Tel: 01243 527435



**Friends of Chartres Cine Club
2018**

In October we showed the lovely film *Cézanne et Moi* in the Studio at New Park cinema. Everyone agreed this is a good venue, so in future the Cine Club films will be shown here.

Tickets are £5.00. All films have sub-titles.

Sunday 28th January - 5.00pm
The Studio - New Park Centre
'Lucie Aubrac'



A change to the film advertised in the September edition of Citylink, we will be showing this film of a true story about two members of the French resistance. Lucie's absolute devotion to her husband Raymond leads her to risk everything to get him freed. Billed as one of the most remarkable love stories ever told, the film was directed by Claude Berri, famous for directing the Jean de Florette series, and it has actor Daniel Auteuil in one of the leading roles. Not to be missed!

Contact Julia Sander

for further information and to book a place:

julia@sander.plus.com

Tel: 01243 527435



**What makes French
MusicFrench?**



March 20th (Tuesday) - 6.00pm

The Chapel, University of Chichester



Susan Yarnall, Vocal Tutor at the University, will give an illustrated lecture on what makes French music French, with some insights into the cultural and musical characteristics of mélodie and chanson linked to the work of artists and poets.

The evening will feature students from the B.Mus Vocal Performance Degree who will present a selection of songs and choral music by Fauré, Debussy, Ravel and Poulenc as well as other French composers. The singers will be accompanied by Head of Vocal Studies, Susan Legg on the piano.

Beside her work as Vocal Tutor, Susan Yarnall maintains a singing career, performing in recitals around the UK. Her love of poetry is reflected in her recital programmes, which include art songs by English, American and French composers.

Members £8.50 Non- Members £9.50

To reserve places for this event, kindly complete the relevant section of the booking form provided and return it together with your cheque made out to the Friends of Chartres to:

JOHN WILTON, (Treasurer)
1A York Road, Chichester, PO19 7IJ

EDITORIAL

Thank you to all who have contributed to this edition of Citylink by either sending in your 'copy' or by giving me the information to report.

Do please remember to renew your membership and a Full Programme will then be returned with your new Membership Card when you enclose a stamped addressed envelope - and we also look forward to seeing you at the many events which are being organised.

If you have anything you think will be of interest to our members, perhaps a recipe, a crossword or a wordsearch (with the answers please), then do please contact me directly either by email at :

magbrown121@gmail.com

or by telephone at: (01243) 783776

or for using the 'old fashioned' Royal Mail my address is shown below.

Deadline for receiving copy for the next edition is
28th February 2018.

My sincere best wishes and *'Season s Greetings'* to you all our readers

MARGARET BROWN
EDITOR