



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

June 2019

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FROM THE CHAIRMAN . . .

Our 60th anniversary celebrations continued in fine style when our guests from Chartres visited us over the Easter period. Their visit coincided with the Easter heatwave when Chichester basked in unseasonal Mediterranean temperatures.

The weekend was tinged with sadness as only four days before our guests arrived, we heard the terrible news that Notre Dame was on fire. The near-destruction of this magnificent cathedral - a true emblem of France - sent shock waves through the entire world. The closeness of our two nations is exemplified in the fact that this loss was felt perhaps as deeply here in England as in France.

It was against this background that we embarked on a weekend of varied activities with our French friends, full reports of which are included in this edition of Citylink. Due to problems with the tide, the French coach did not arrive until 1.00 am, so the first day started with a lie-in and a chance for the first day for 'old' partners to catch up, and 'new' friends to get to know one another in readiness for the magnificent dinner at West Dean House.

There was then a full day of events in Chichester followed by a trip to Portsmouth and the Mary Rose on the last day. As we gathered early on the Monday morning to say our au revoir to our friends, there was a general feeling that the exchange had been a great success, perhaps the best ever.

With 50 members of the Amis de Chichester staying with host families and a further 50 members of the Orchestre des Harmonies de Chartres accommodated in a Chichester hotel, we had a full house - hard work for your committee, but very rewarding. Inevitably there were a few moments of behind the scenes panic, but these are, as they say, par for the course. I would like to say a particular thank you to our Treasurer, John



Wilton who managed the very complex budget for this weekend and managed to keep us solvent!

Our celebrations have continued with the Private View of the 10th Schools Art Challenge on June 21st. Work from Chartres schools was delivered to us on the French coach and the subject this year, Carnival of the Animals, produced some really interesting work. Then on June 22nd, the Chichester Singers were joined by members of Le Grand Coeur de Chartres to perform a concert of Anglo-French music in the cathedral.

Our mini-exchange to Chartres will be Thursday 12th to Sunday 15th September and we will travel either by car or Eurostar. Please contact me if you wish to join in.

It is safe to say that after 60 years of twinning the friendship between our two cities is as strong as ever. This knowledge will sustain us in the uncertain months ahead. As the Maire de Chartres, Jean-Pierre Gorges, reminded us during his visit in March, it is the friendship and co-operation between nations fostered by twinning that is the real Europe - not Brussels.

Vive le jumelage!

**JULIA SANDER
CHAIRMAN**

CHICHESTER

Twinning

**60 YEARS
1959 - 2019**

CHARTRES

Jumelage

THE CITY OF CHICHESTER *twinned since 1959 with* **THE CITY OF CHARTRES**

**'THE EXCHANGE DINNER'
AT WEST DEAN
Friday 19th April**



Our friends from Chartres have for several years wanted us to take them to Highclere Castle, the setting for the Downton Abbey series which has been so popular in France. This has never been possible due to the restricted opening hours at Highclere, however, we were able to provide them with a Downton Abbey experience by dining in the private rooms at West Dean House.

The dinner, the focal point of the 2019 exchange, was indeed an evening to remember. The Friends have been putting money aside for several years to put on a very special event to mark 60 years of twinning - and it was everything we had hoped for.

Being greeted with a glass of Prosecco in the magnificent library on arrival set the tone for the evening. The private rooms where we dined are an eclectic mix of antique furniture and surrealist art collected by the last owner of the house, Edward James. They provided a superb background for our celebration.

It is always challenging to put on a special dinner for French guests, who are used to high culinary standards. However, every dish provided was of the highest standard, as was the service. The main course of Funtington pork was particularly appreciated.

After the dinner The Mayor, Cllr Martyn Bell told guests a little about the history of the house and Edward James' links to famous surrealists like Salvador Dali and René Magritte.



- PRESIDENT**
The Right Worshipful the Mayor of Chichester
Councillor Richard Plowman
- OFFICERS & COMMITTEE**
- | | | | |
|--------------------|---------------------|-------------------|--------------|
| CHAIRMAN | Julia Sander..... | 527435 | |
| VICE-CHAIRMAN | Anne Scicluna..... | 789065 | |
| HON. SECRETARY | Margaret Brown..... | 783776 | |
| HON. TREASURER | John Wilton..... | 788833 | |
| Anne-L.Briggs..... | 784346 | David Nason | 573716 |
| Ray Brown..... | 783776 | Jim Payne | 372900 |
| Paul Everett | 603513 | Rosie Speer.. | 07875 840430 |
- (Co-opted)**
- | | | | |
|--------------------|--------|---------------------|-----------------|
| Michael Bevis | 781016 | Kiran Katikaneni... | 07809 668640 |
|--------------------|--------|---------------------|-----------------|
- CITY COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES**
(July 2019 to June 2020)
- | | | | |
|------------------------|--------|-------------------------|--------|
| Cllr Polly Gaskin | 788502 | Cllr Anne Scicluna..... | 789065 |
|------------------------|--------|-------------------------|--------|

**An Evening with Chartres Artist
Danielle Beyssac-Kicinski**

As part of our programme celebrating 60 years of twinning, Rob Campling, a member of the Friends, helped to organise an exhibition of the work of Danielle Beyssac-Kicinski at the Oxmarket Gallery. Danielle and her husband Philippe travelled to Chichester for the weekend of April 6-7 to set up the exhibition and to attend the Private View on April 8.



Danielle took up painting after retiring from the position of Librarian at the Bibliothèque Pour Tous de Chartres. Since then, painting has become more than just a hobby; she says that for her it is a way of life. Her paintings filled the Foyer of the Oxmarket with a burst of colour, reflecting peaceful seaside scenes and the vast skies of Brittany, where she grew up.

In Danielle's own words: "Painting opens the door to freedom and dreams; it takes us on a journey without leaving the place where we are. The skies in my paintings are often vast, laden with clouds or limpid. Painting them brings me peace; they represent life beyond life."

It was a pleasure meeting Danielle and talking to her about her painting; indeed, I loved her painting of trees at Saint Pol so much that I bought it. It is now hanging in our family room and looks entirely at home there.

Danielle's work was exhibited in the Oxmarket until April 21st and the paintings which remained unsold were returned to Chartres on the exchange coach.

FRIENDS OF CHARTRES

GARDEN PARTY

Anne Scicluna will host a garden party for the Friends of Chartres at her home:

40, Adelaide Road, Chichester, PO19 7NF

It will be an opportunity to meet and socialise in Anne's garden on a summer's afternoon. Let's hope that the weather will be set fair.

Please bring a contribution for a picnic tea, and picnic chairs.

Tea and coffee will be provided.

You should be able to find parking in Adelaide Road or in the streets nearby.

Kindly let Anne know of your intention to attend so that cups and other items can be provided. Tel: 01243 789065,

e-mail: anne@annescic.plus.com

FRIENDS OF CHARTRES

Programme of Events - 2019

CELEBRATING 60 YEARS OF TWINNING

FUTURE EVENTS

July 1st
(Monday)

THREE CITIES EVENT
7.30pm The Assembly Room
KATE MOSS in conversation
with PHILLIP ROBINSON

July 7th
(Sunday)

FRIENDS OF CHARTRES
GARDEN PARTY
3.00 - 5.00 pm at 40 Adelaide Rd,
Chichester, PO19 7NF

September 12th - 15th
(Thursday to Sunday)

MINI-EXCHANGE
TO CHARTRES -
to see the fabulous city illuminations

November 28th
(Thursday)

CHRISTMAS SOCIAL
7.30 - 9.30 pm
Sherbourne Room in the
Bishop's Palace

IL FUT UN TEMP

THERE WAS A TIME

Exchange visitors and hosts were treated to a specially written French farce on Easter Saturday at the Bring and Share Supper held in The Fishbourne Centre.

The play had been written to commemorate the 60th Anniversary of the twinning by local playwright, Greg Mosse. It was directed by professional bilingual Theatre Director, Paula Tinker and the parts were played by members of the Friends of Chartres with special guests.

The action takes place in the office of the Director of the Law Faculty of a Parisian University. Two students are determined to stage a protest but are foiled in their attempts by the formidable Celestine, who is the Director's Personal Assistant. The Director herself is more interested in playing golf than dealing with the students' demands and is easily charmed by young Alfonse, whose mother is Lady Captain at the Championship Course at Fontainebleau. After some hilarious altercations Celestine calls order and informs them that she has seen it all before . . In 1968 she was herself a student at the Sorbonne. She solves the situation by ordering sensible student, Berthe, to "occupy" the Director's office and finish her dissertation. Alfonse is com-



manded to take the Director for a round of golf at Fontainebleau. This means Celestine can go for her planned weekend by the sea after all. Celestine was played by new member Mandy Lunt, whose command of French impressed the audience so much that they thought she was French. Berthe was played by longstanding member, Emma Raynsford, and her straight delivery of the comedy had the audience chuckling throughout. Alfonse was played by Mathieu Sardet, an amateur French actor who lives in Worthing. His debonair charm won the heart of the faculty director, who was expertly played by professional actor Lisa McNaught. Lisa rose to the challenge of acting in French magnificently, having last spoken French at GCSE!

Of course none of this would have been possible without Paula Tinker's professional direction: her gentle coaxing and imaginative suggestions brought the best out in all of the actors. We are indebted to her for the hours she put into this project.

The actors and director were presented with bottles of Crémant de Loire and the guest actors, author and director were also awarded one year's complimentary membership of the Friends of Chartres. We look forward very much to seeing them at some of the events planned for the rest of the year.

ROSIE SPEER



'THE EXCHANGE' CAME TO CHICHESTER: 18th - 21st APRIL

Held in the City's Council Chamber on Saturday 20th April, the annual meeting of Chichester & Chartres twinning associations was followed by the Martletts Sword & Morris Men who drew the crowds as they danced in the streets and then processed from the Cross to the Council House. The Martletts have had a strong association with Chartres for all the 60 years of the twinning. Dancers from Chartres visited Chichester on many occasions as part of the Spring Folk Festival that used to held at the end of May every year and the Martletts and their youth group in turn received warm hospitality in Chartres on their return visits. Many lasting friendships were formed and still exist today.



Mayor of Chichester's 'Welcome' - with the Deputy Mayor of Chartres + Julia Sander & Yvonne Chretien

The Mayor, Cllr. Martyn Bell, joined by the Deputy Mayor of Chartres, Patrick Geroudet, led this procession up North Street to the Council House where he then held a Reception in The

Old Courtroom to welcome our French guests and their hosts. After lunch the 'Orchêtre D'Harmonie de Chartres' entertained us with a splendid performance held in the Chapel at the University of Chichester. (Please read Paul Devonshire's article shown below.)



ORCHÈSTRE D'HARMONIE DE CHARTRES

They made it, despite some alarms and excursions on their way! 38 musicians and their conductor, René Castelain rewarded us with a delightful concert at the university's chapel on a lovely sunny Easter Saturday. This was an ensemble of the blowy orchestral instruments (oboes, clarinets, trumpets, trombones etc.) as well as percussion of L'Orchestre d'Harmonie de Chartres. This ensemble is the result of a fusion in 1956 of two older ensembles, L'Harmonie Chartraine et le Cercle musical Saint Ferdinand.

They delivered a programme of ten contrasting pieces each informatively and charmingly introduced by a member of the orchestra. Composers do not write for such an ensemble of instruments and therefore we heard arrangements from well-known pieces composed for a string quartet, a choir and organ, a symphony orchestra and others. We went from Russia's Tchaikovsky to Argentina's Piazzolla, from the reflective *Cantique de Jean Racine* of the young Fauré to the foot-tapping *Lord of the Dance*, which was also our encore. Given the effort that had been made to come, they perhaps deserved a larger venue than the university chapel, though with the students on vacation it was pleasantly quiet and the parking was easy. It was certainly a worthy part of this year's programme for us and our partners from Chartres, and we give them a big 'Thank you'.



PAUL DEVONSHIRE

MAYOR'S RECEPTION, ORGANISED EVENTS & FREE TIME

FUN & FROLICS AT FISHBOURNE

After the first evening spent in the elegant surroundings of West Dean, the second evening of this year's exchange provided a welcome contrast which allowed participants to let their hair down at a social evening held at the Fishbourne Centre. After a welcome drink, the long-awaited French farce written for the Friends' 60th anniversary by Greg Mosse was performed by English actors speaking in French. A separate report is provided.

We then tucked into a delicious Bring and Share Supper provided by the Friends. Many thanks to Anne-Louise Briggs for organising food for over 100 guests - no mean achievement. Paying a supplement to the Fishbourne Centre for doing the washing-up was a popular decision.

A tempting selection of desserts were provided for us to eat after the entertainment put on by the Amis de Chichester - so tempting that some of the audience could not resist helping themselves before the entertainment started.

Our French friends, led by the inimitable François Rémy always put on a good entertainment. This year they excelled themselves with a revue featuring the French ... as we British see them.

First a gang of Frenchmen wearing berets and striped T-shirts danced to accordion music while clutching baguettes and saucisson. The only missing element was the onions. They returned to the stage dressed as gilets jaunes brandishing notices with bilingual slogans like Je suis en grève / I'm on strike. Then it was the turn of the ladies, who performed the Cancan for us. For the Finale, François and his wife Martine appeared as Cancan dancers and performed a comic dance which showed a lot of their lace trimmed bloomers - and ending with Martine - who is a trained dancer - doing the splits. Bravo tout le monde!



VISIT TO THE MARY ROSE : SUNDAY 21st APRIL

On the last day of the exchange, we had a day out in Portsmouth and took our guests to the Mary Rose Museum. More than 30 years after it was raised from the seabed, and nearly 500 years since it sank in the waters outside Portsmouth, a purpose-built museum building housing Henry VIII's flagship, the Mary Rose, opened in 2013. In 2016, the final stages of preservation of the ancient hull were completed and visitors were for the first time able to gaze at this remarkable ship without being separated from it by a glass wall.

The first impression one has is the immense size of the ship. Even though only one part of its hull has been saved, it is easy to see how this great warship must have struck fear into enemy ships. As you walk past the middle deck, the sound of creaking timbers and the gently listing floor give the impression that you really are aboard.

On the top floor there was a collection of cannon balls and weapons of all sorts including life-size replicas of longbows, where visitors can try their strength. We have all been taught that it was the strength of the English archers that helped them defeat the French at Agincourt; however, on this visit, our French guests beat us hands-down.



Our guests were interested to learn that the Mary Rose sank while preparing for a sea battle with the French. Towards the beginning of his reign, Henry had been a close friend of the French King, François Premier, and the two kings had showed off their wealth at the Field of the Cloth of Gold. However, at the end of Henry's reign, France and England were no longer friends. They were at war and the French had landed on the Isle of Wight.

The one question asked by every visitor is what made this powerful ship sink so quickly. Many theories are expounded: a gust of wind hit the sails when the ship was turning; it was overloaded with extra guns and soldiers. It seems unlikely we will ever know the answer for certain

JULIA SANDER

SCHOOLS ART CHALLENGE PRIVATE VIEW - Friday 21st June



The 'Official' photographer
Rob Campling



Deputy Vice Chancellor, Catherine Harpert



Deputy Mayor & Deputy Mayoress
John & Cherry Hughes



‘SCHOOLS ART CHALLENGE 2019’ CARNIVAL OF THE ANIMALS

PRESENTATION OF AWARDS - University of Chichester - Saturday 22nd June 2019

Working again with Steve McDade & Liz Colley, Senior Lecturers at the University's Fine Arts Department, this is our Tenth (and Final) Schools Art Challenge. Steve opened the proceedings by welcoming the 160 attendees comprising pupils, parents, teachers, sponsors and invited guests, to the University's Chapel - which was an absolutely ideal venue for this prestigious event.

Eleven local and 2 French schools successfully completed this year's 'Challenge' which involved a total of 360 pupils from our two communities.

The English schools were: Bishop Luffa, Chichester Free School, Fishbourne Primary, Jessie Younghusband, Kingsham Primary, Lavant Primary, The March School, Petworth Primary, Slindon College, South Bersted Primary and West Dean Primary. The two French schools were: l'école de Grand Jardin and l'école de Rechèvres (whose artworks were brought across with our 'Annual Exchange').

Each school received a framed certificate, presented in alphabetical order by Steve McDade and Ray Brown (who had initiated the 'Challenge' in 2009) and, because this was the 10th Anniversary of the 'Challenge' Ray also gave each school a box of chocolates for the teacher as a 'thank you'.

Chartres Deputy Mayor Patrick Geroudet, and Claire Crézè, (President Chartres Twinning Association) joined our President, The Mayor of Chichester, Richard Plowman, to present the Awards. They also had souvenir mugs to present to each school to celebrate the 60th anniversary of the Twinning between our two cities.

The results of the Judging Panel (Steve, Liz and retired Headteacher, Lin Chaplin) started with the French schools. L'école de Rechèvres was declared the Winner and Patrick & Claire would take the French Winners Trophy and three books to this school, and a framed certificate Grand Jardin.



CHICHESTER WINNER - Kingsham Primary School were presented with the Mosaic Trophy (to be held for one year) & certificate & books to keep.- + also PRIVATE VIEW AWARD

Winner of the 'Private View Award' was decided by guests who attended the previous evening's event by casting their vote in the ballot box. This certificate & book went to Kingsham



The Coup de Coeur Stained Glass Trophy (to be held for one year) plus a Certificate and books to keep were presented to The Chichester Free School.

Ray Brown then thanked Steve & Liz, staff & students at the University for their input over the last 4 years and for preparing such a magnificent exhibition of the children's artworks. Thanks were also given to the teachers. Due to other school commitments two schools were unable to attend and their certificates would be delivered to them.

Patrick & the Mayor made brief speeches and Julia Sander (Chairman) explained how the Association is planning to start a Junior Twinning Club in the autumn. She then invited everyone to view the Exhibition in 'artOne' building where refreshments were being served.

MARGARET BROWN



CHARTRES WINNER - l'école de Rechèvres



Jessie Younghusband pupils (left) were presented with the Collaborative Award Certificate and a book and

the pupils from the March School (right) a book and a new Certificate entitled 'Joyful Theatricality'.



FRENCH CONVERSATION GROUPS

Groups meet monthly for lively, informed conversation in French. We welcome new members, whatever your level of French.

PETIT CERCLE du mardi:

10.30 am to Noon

Le Petit Cercle du Mardi meets in *The Coffee Bar at the Festival Theatre* on the first Tuesday of the month.

All are welcome to join us.
No advance notice needed.

Dates as follows:

Tuesday July 2

No meeting in August

Tuesday September 3

PETIT CERCLE du jeudi:

10.30 am to Noon

We meet in members' homes on the second Thursday of the month.

Please phone host in advance if you plan to come.

Thursday June 13

Jacqueline Combes

6, Winchester Drive, Chichester PO19 5DE

Tel: 01243 783136

Thursday July 11

Paul Everett: 24, Robins Close, Selsey PO20 0QX

Tel: 01243 603513

Thursday September 12

Julia Sander

19, Jubilee Road, Chichester PO19 7XB

Tel: 01243 527435

Further dates will be announced in the September edition.

CHICHESTER SINGERS & THE GRAND CHOIR DU CONSERVATOIRE DE CHARTRES

Chichester Singers and The Grand Choir Du Conservatoire de Chartres combined for a 60th Anniversary Concert.

Sixteen singers from the Grand Coeur Du Conservatoire de Chartres came to Chichester on 20th June to be hosted by members of the Chichester Singers. On 22nd June, at 7.30pm they performed together in the Cathedral in a special concert to celebrate sixty years of twinning between the two cities.

The programme of music included English and French pieces. Of particular note were two pieces by contemporary composers. These were 'Crucifixus' by Jonathan Little, Professor of Music at Chichester University and 'From Darkness to Light' by Chichester Singers' conductor, Jonathan Willcocks. There were also the old favourites such as Fauré's 'Cantate de Jean Racine', Franck's 'Paris Angelicus', Vierne's 'Messe Solonelle' and Rutter's 'Gloria'. The choirs were accompanied by Southern Pro Music Brass.

The evening was a magical mix of music in the setting of our beautiful cathedral.

Deputy Mayor of Chartres, Patrick Geroudet, and President of Des Ami des Jumelages de Chartres, Claire Crézé, travelled to Chichester for the Concert and for the Schools Art Challenge Exhibition and Awards Ceremony and joined the newly elected Mayor of Chichester, Cllr Richard Plowman, for both these events.

ROSIE SPEER

EDITORIAL

It certainly has been a busy time throughout the Spring and into the Summer.

Once again my thanks go to all who have contributed towards this edition of Citylink which we hope you will find interesting.

Please do contact me if you have something you think will be of interest to our readers.

My contact details are shown below.

Copy for next edition should reach me by
20th August

MARGARET BROWN, EDITOR

FRIENDS OF CHARTRES STALL

AT

CHICHESTER'S FRENCH MARKET



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