



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 2019

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FRIENDS OF CHARTRES

COFFEE MORNING - 24th September 2019

MORE DETAILS on PAGE 3

FROM THE CHAIRMAN . . .

The three landmark events which marked our 60th anniversary year - the visit of M Gorges, Maire de Chartres and his City Councillors in March, the exchange from Chartres over Easter and the School Art Challenge and Chichester Singers' concert in June - are now behind us. Now it's business as usual and your committee is already working on an interesting future programme.

Before we took our summer break, we had two events, both of which are reported in this edition of Citylink: the annual Three Cities event featuring local author Kate Mosse in conversation with Philip Robinson, and our annual summer garden party. Then our mini-exchange to Chartres took place from September 12 to 15, (also reported in this edition) with five members joining the exchange for the first time.

Our Autumn programme includes a members' coffee morning, a cine-club showing of L'Ecole Buissonnière (The School of Life) and our ever-popular Christmas Social in the Sherbourne Room at the Bishop's Palace. The 60th anniversary of our twinning will be celebrated in Chartres in November with a special photographic exhibition of work from the two cities. Rob Campling, our photographer extraordinaire, and Richard Plowman, Mayor of Chichester have been invited to attend the opening ceremony.

As a former teacher of Modern Languages, I am saddened to see the decline in the teaching of languages in our schools. Around 40% of students give up learning languages altogether at the age of 14, and there is no space in the busy primary school curriculum

for children to learn to speak a foreign language. Group exchanges, like the one between Chichester and Chartres, which have flourished for many years, have become well-nigh impossible due to the number of regulations which must be negotiated and the need for host families to have DBS clearance. We are fortunate indeed that our Adult Exchange, which is not subject to these restrictions, continues to flourish.

The Schools Art Challenge, on which Ray and Margaret Brown have worked so hard for the past 10 years, has been a great way of opening children's eyes to another culture, where children like themselves work on similar projects. After 10 years, this project has now finished, but we plan to substitute a writing competition, which we will pilot in schools during the next couple of terms. There is a short article about it in this edition. We hope that closer contact with schools will enable us to launch a Junior Twinning Club, where children can learn about French culture and language in a fun way - perhaps encouraging them to be enthusiastic about learning languages later on.

Our exchange to Chartres takes place from Thursday April 30 to Monday May 4, so keep these dates free if you wish to participate. More details and an application form will be provided in our December edition. New participants are very welcome.

I hope to see you at some of our Autumn events.

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

"THREE CITIES" EVENT
Kate Mosse in Conversation with
Philip Robinson



A full-house was present in the Assembly Room on 21st July to hear our local author, Kate Mosse, talk about the cities which have inspired her work. This event was timely as Kate had recently been awarded a city medal for services to literature by the Mayor of Carcassonne - the city she describes as her adopted home and 'the place I am most grateful to return to in real life and imagination'.

Philip Robinson, Kate's interviewer, plunged straight in by asking her if she was Alice Tanner, the protagonist of her Languedoc trilogy. Kate denied this, explaining that inventing characters gives her the chance to step into other people's shoes. However, as an author, she is a keen observer of people, and there may sometimes be recognisable traits of people she knows in her characters.

When asked if a visit to Chartres had inspired her first book, 'Labyrinth', Kate spoke of her first visit to the city as a member of the Sussex Youth Orchestra. Aged 11 years at the time, this was Kate's first visit to France and her first time away from home on her own. It was the beginning of a lifelong love affair with the country. Playing with the orchestra in Chartres cathedral was an overwhelming experience and one which first made her realise the importance of places to her.

All Kate's stories are inspired by places she has visited - indeed, she feels that places are the most important characters in her books. Of all the places which have inspired her work, Carcassonne is perhaps the most significant. 'I am a novelist because I went to Carcassonne', she claimed. She believes that her characters would not exist were it not for the places where they live their lives. To get a sense of place, Kate stands quietly, shuts her eyes and listens to 'the whispering of the landscape'.

Asked about the extent to which she works out the plots of her books in advance, Kate replied that she knows the end point, but not the details of how she will get there. When writing 'Labyrinth', her first book, she had not planned to write a trilogy. However, with her latest series, a four-book series spanning three centuries of Huguenot history, she has worked out an overall plan. The first in the series,

PRESIDENT	
The Right Worshipful the Mayor of Chichester	
Councillor Richard Plowman	
OFFICERS & COMMITTEE	
CHAIRMAN	Julia Sander.....527435
VICE-CHAIRMAN	Anne Scicluna.....789065
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Ray Brown.....783776	Jim Payne372900
Paul Everett603513	Rosie Speer..07875 840430
(Co-opted)	
Michael Bevis781016	Kiran Katikaneni.....07809 668640
CITY COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES	
[July 2019 to June 2020]	
Clr Polly Gaskin...788502	Clr Anne Scicluna...789065

'The Burning Chambers', appeared last year. Unlike the Languedoc trilogy, which takes place entirely in France, this new series has a wider canvas, moving from Franschoek in South Africa, to Amsterdam and Italy as well as France.

Before embarking on a new historical novel. Kate undertakes detailed research. However, when she starts writing, she lets the characters take on a life of their own. She often feels they are speaking to her directly and has learned to trust what they say.

Alongside her long novels with their complex plots, Kate enjoys writing shorter works such as 'The Taxidermist' Daughter' and short stories like 'Winter Ghosts'. As she is able to hold the whole story in her head, short stories provide welcome relief from writing books of several hundred pages. She never works on more than one book or story at a time.

'Labyrinth' has already been filmed for television, with the great actor, John Hurt, in one of the main roles. Although her new four-part series is due to be filmed for television as an 18-part series, Kate will not write the screenplay herself. She does not love cinema or television in the way she does theatre, and feels that she would have to reduce the text too much.

When asked about possible future projects, Kate hinted that she fancied writing a detective story set in Chichester based on a Miss Marple type character. With three more volumes of her four-part series to complete, she has a busy schedule ahead of her.

The evening gave us a fascinating glimpse into how an author conceives her works, and our thanks go to Kate and Philip for giving their time to speak to us. The delicious nibbles and wine from France, Italy and Malta provided by the three associations were a fitting conclusion to a highly successful event.

JULIA SANDER

FRIENDS OF CHARTRES

GARDEN PARTY - July 7th 2019



For the last few years at our July event members have been active playing boules or croquet. After such a busy year, we decided to revert to our traditional summer garden party, which Anne Scicluna kindly offered to host in her garden. Until a few minutes before the advertised start time, it looked as if the planned garden party would have to move indoors. At the last minute however, the skies cleared, so we decided to brave the damp conditions and sit outside. Being British, we are not afraid of a few drops of rain in any case. In the event, the rain held off just long enough for us enjoy our tea al fresco.

It was a delightfully relaxed affair with lots of conversation and catching up to do. Afternoon tea, provided by members, had everything the very best English afternoon tea should include from cucumber sandwiches to Victoria sponge, scones and strawberry jam - a veritable feast. Many thanks to Anne for hosting us and welcoming us so warmly.



FRIENDS OF CHARTRES

Programme of Events - 2019

CELEBRATING 60 YEARS OF TWINNING

FUTURE EVENTS

September 24th **COFFEE MORNING**
(Tuesday) 11.00 am in the Coffee Bar at the Festival Theatre.

Join us for a friendly cuppa and chat
New members particularly welcome.
(just turn up !)

October 27th (tbc) Friends of Chartres **CINE CLUB**
Sunday) 5.00pm New Park Centre Studio
"L'École Buissonnière"

October 29th **COFFEE MORNING**
(Tuesday) 11.00 am at 47, Priors Acre,
Boxgrove, PO18 0ER

[Request for 'helpers' - see 'Advert' on back page]

November 28th **CHRISTMAS SOCIAL**
(Thursday) 7.30 - 9.30 pm The Sherbourne
Room in the Bishop's Palace.

FRIENDS OF CHARTRES



Christmas Social

Thursday 28th November

at 7.30 pm

*The Sherbourne Room in the Bishop's Palace,
Canon Lane, Chichester*

**NUMBERS ARE LIMITED - so book early
to ensure your place**

Members £12.00 : Non-Members £14.00

If you would like to attend please either pay by BACS or complete and return the relevant section of the reply slip together with your cheque made payable to 'Friends of Chartres' to:

John Wilton

(Treasurer, Friends of Chartres)

1A York Road, Chichester, PO19 7TJ

The Committee is working on next year's events and the **FULL 2020 PROGRAMME** will be in the next edition.

CONFIRMED DATES - for your diary:

**ANNUAL EXCHANGE
TO CHARTRES**

April 30th to May 4th 2020

CHICHESTER SINGERS & THE GRAND CHOEUR DU CONSERVATOIRE DE CHARTRES

('Background' to the their joining forces for the Anniversary Concert)



Around two years ago I asked Jonathan Willcocks if he would consider putting on a special concert for the 60th Anniversary of the twinning of Chichester with Chartres. I suggested a programme of French and English music and proposed the idea of inviting some members of a Chartres choir to join us. He agreed but charged me with finding a choir of a suitable calibre, and with filling the Cathedral with members of the Friends of Chartres.

So began the negotiations between Julia Sander and Claire Crézé to find a suitable choir. Some time later I was told that the appropriate choir had been found and that there were singers willing to join us provided they could stay with members of the Chichester Singers. Eleven singers came forward to offer accommodation and we were able to accommodate sixteen singers in our ranks for the concert.

A major obstacle to this venture was ensuring that the French singers had the same scores as us for the many different pieces we were to perform. Thanks to the efforts of Richard Barnes, our accompanist and music publisher, the French contingent were provided with the correct music, annotated by Jonathan Willcocks, by January. It was now up to them to do "les repetitions" - a huge challenge, especially as one of the contemporary pieces was in old English and 12 voice parts.

Many emails went backwards and forwards, expertly translated by Annie Barnes, and finally at around 6.30pm on 20th June several cars pulled into Northgate Car Park and out stepped our delightful fellow singers. We met the next morning in the Novium Museum to be shown some items of

particular interest and Julia Sander took two groups on a mini tour of Chichester.

At 4pm on the Friday the moment of truth arrived ... a special rehearsal for the French singers plus hosts with the maestro himself. Would the singers be up to his exacting standards? A resounding "yes"! He was pleased with them and they were bowled over by him. Two further rehearsals in the Cathedral and Jonathan was satisfied that we were ready.

How fitting it was that the Deputy Mayor of Chartres and the Mayor of Chichester were present for this memorable concert. Jose Pound had made a special buttonhole of red white and blue flowers for Jonathan Willcocks ... made even more special by the cornflower which is Chichester's flower emblem.

After the concert the Friends of Chichester held a reception for the singers. This was an opportunity to thank Jonathan for the concert and he was presented with a specially commissioned piece of glass art from Chartres.

The following day we were sad to say goodbye to our new friends. However, many bonds have been forged and some new members have been recruited to Friends of Chartres. There are promises of a return match and some singers are already planning to join the mini exchange in September.

ROSIE SPEER

AN EXHIBITION OF PHOTOGRAPHS OF CHICHESTER TO BE HELD IN CHARTRES THIS NOVEMBER

Last year I was asked by EPA Chartres International to organise a photography exhibition illustrating Chichester to the people of Chartres. EPA Chartres International is the umbrella organisation that looks after all of Chartres' international friendships and twinnings. The exhibition would follow on those that have already taken place for Chartres' other twinned cities - Sakurai (Japan), Speyer and Ravenna.

What was really interesting about this request was that it was not for a typical photo exhibition. Rather it would be a genuinely public exhibition taking place in the open air along one of Chartres' main avenues - the Boulevard Chasles. This Boulevard runs from the Place des Epards to the Place St Michel past the Theatre de Chartres, and at present is showing an exhibition about Chartres and UNESCO. The viewers wouldn't have to visit any building - they could see the photographs as they went about their normal daily life. Furthermore, the brief was that they would like to avoid the well-known portrayals of Chichester beauty spots.

Tempting though it was to go it alone, I decided that it would be a better exhibition if it was not limited to one person's viewpoint. I concluded that the 20 photographs required would be a far better collection if they reflected different viewpoints and styles. What also couldn't be ignored was the clear need for a high technical standard. These photographs were going to be blown up to over a metre square! Richard Crossley and Richard Ryder, both Chichester residents, joined me to set about the task.



We were all experienced photographers who had exhibited in Chichester Camera Club exhibitions. Over the year, each of us produced 20 or more pictures that we felt had something to say about Chichester, its people and its environment. A number of sessions of positive criticisms of each other's work resulted in each of us submitting half a dozen photographs to EPA Chartres. These have been accepted and the exhibition opens on Saturday 9th November. I don't know how long the exhibition will remain open but regretfully it opens too late for those visiting on the September "mini-exchange" and will certainly have closed by next year's main exchange visit.

ROB CAMPLING

SAD NEWS FROM CHARTRES

We (Paul and Wendy Devonshire) have hosted a delightful couple, Monique and J el Jauneau since 2008. Despite Monique speaking no English and J el attempting only a few words and our French being of the reading and writing variety, we have formed a close bond with them.

Three years ago, Monique and we celebrated our 70th birthdays on Monique's birthday during the French Exchange trip. They held a party where we met their children who lived miles away in the south and on the birthday cake were all our names, an honour indeed.

Last year, for those of you who came to France for the jumelage, J el was one of the Barber shop singers at the bring and share supper.

In January this year, Monique developed a tumour behind the eye, she was operated on



and received treatment and we all expected to welcome them to this year's French Exchange celebrations in Chichester.

Sadly she deteriorated over the months and died on 1st July.

We shall miss them very much.

PAUL & WENDY DEVONSHIRE

SCHOOLS ART CHALLENGE - 2019

(The Final presentations - and some reflections from the last 10 years)



The two schools which were not able to attend the Awards Ceremony due to other school commitments taking place that day, received their Certificates (and 'goodies') the following week. West Dean Primary School invited us to make the presentation at their School Assembly and, because Slindon College was already 'en vacance' their Head of Art, Jo Middleton, was able to receive these when she collected her pupils' artworks.

*West Dean Primary School
& Slindon College*



It seems incredible that this project has been able to celebrate its 10th anniversary - and the same time as our French Twinning's 60th anniversary. There is a saying "from little acorns mighty oak trees do grow" - and that is exactly what has happened here.

Twelve years ago, during Ray's second Mayoralty, he invited Chartres Mayor, Jean-Pierre Gorges, to help him switch on the Christmas Lights. This was a reciprocal invitation to his accepting the visit to see Chartres Fête de la Lumière, which was truly surreal. Whilst there he learned about 'Picassiette' and Patrick Geroudet also explained about the photo exhibition created by Gilles Ganachaud.

When Jean-Pierre arrived in Chichester his car was laden with a large box containing . . . the Picassiette Photo Exhibition!

An initial selection of photos placed in the library & accompanied by our display boards advertising the Friends of Chartres brought in new members, whilst the photographs drew attention to the 'naive art' created by Raymonde Isadore which interested Marc Steene, who had recently been appointed to Pallant House Gallery.

In 2009 as part of the 50th Twinning Anniversary celebrations Gilles' Exhibition was formally displayed in PHG and local schools were invited to take part in an art competition based on 'Mosaics'. The response was fantastic and this became the start of our Annual Art Challenge - the first 6 years of which we worked closely with Marc Steene and Pallant House Gallery was the venue for each Launch, Private View, Public Viewing, Awards presentations and Workshops.

Just when it seemed that PHG's understandable decision to 'step down' would result in this coming to an end up stepped the University of Chichester and Steve McDade, Head of Fine Art Department. With his colleagues & degree students he then ensured the artistic backing and base for the project would continue for another four years.

Thanks also go to Lin Chaplin, retired Headteacher of Lancastrian Infants School, who has assisted

with choosing the theme for each year and has also been involved with the judging - and the prizes.

During these 10 years more than 2,000 pupils from nearly all the local Primary and 1st Year Secondary schools have participated. Additionally, with the help of Claire Crézé, between two and four Chartres schools have also entered annually involving another 700 or so children.

In addition to money being allocated from the Friends of Chartres, grants have been applied for and successfully received from both Chichester City Council and West Sussex County Council. Sponsorship monies have also been received from local businesses and have provided the additional funding required to continue.

Thanks also go to Chichester Lions Club who, over the years, have provided their transport free of any hire charge, which has enabled us to take the full Exhibitions to Chartres, with us paying for the fuel and ferry tickets. Collecting and then returning the artworks to all our local schools has personally been *OUR* greatest 'challenge'. The double journey to Chartres each year has totalled around 6,000 miles which, apart from a couple of years, Ray was driver whilst I navigated - and then we both assisted Claire Crézé and her helpers to install the Exhibitions in Chartres.

The Challenge has certainly opened the eyes of children both sides of the Channel to our twinning and will hopefully in the future result in some becoming members.

We are very disappointed at not being able to take this years work across to Chartres. This is due to Ray's health issues, which continue to prevail, and we are extremely grateful to Michael and Valerie Bevis for returning the French schools' works.

Having celebrated our 10th Anniversary Challenge, (coinciding with the 60th Anniversary of our twinning), reluctantly it is a fitting time to finish '*at the top*' and it is hoped that the school links, in a different format, will continue in the future.

MARGARET BROWN



**MINI-EXCHANGE TO CHARTRES :
SEPTEMBER 12th - 15th**

We've had three separate celebrations in Chichester this year for the 60th anniversary of our twinning with Chartres. The year would not have been complete, however, without a visit to Chartres to celebrate there with our

friends. Rather than travel by coach, the 11 members participating travelled independently either by car and boat, or by Eurostar. Miraculously we all arrived within 15 minutes of each other at the Hotel Ibis, where a group of Amis de Chichester were waiting to greet us.

It was only a two-day visit, but we managed to pack in a good programme of visits, free time socialising and eating. Although it was mid-September, with temperatures in the upper 20's it felt like summer. Our visit started at the cathedral, which is looking magnificent with more and more of its stained glass and sculptures fully restored. The chairs which are normally placed over the famous labyrinth had been removed, thus making it possible to 'walk' the labyrinth - which several members did.



In the afternoon a visit to the Château d'Ante was arranged. The château, which was a gift from Henri II to his mistress, Diane de Poitiers, has been restored and recently opened to the public. It survived the revolution and has had several different wealthy owners since then. It is still used as a family home - a very fine one. There is a superb collection of furniture, tapestries and porcelain. These include a tapestry she worked on herself over a period of 15 years. The chapel, in the form of a Greek orthodox church, was still in use as the parish church until a few years ago. The drive to d'Ante, through the ancient royal hunting forest is very lovely - a great choice for a visit.



The second day we were largely free to do our own thing, but in the morning most of us headed to the covered market, where there was a fantastic array of produce and we met for lunch at "L'Ecume" (a restaurant in the centre of Chartres) and we were delighted that



three members of the Grand Coeur du Conservatoire de Chartres, who sang in the concert in Chichester Cathedral in June, were able to join us.

In the evening after dusk, we gathered in front of the cathedral to see the illuminations. The light show has been extended to show periods of the cathedral's history including the coronation of Henri IV, the only coronation to take place in Chartres. The lighting effects gave the impression that the doors of the cathedral had been flung open giving us a glimpse of the interior.

The more energetic members of the group undertook the whole circuit of illuminations, descending to the Eure and returning to the cathedral - a route which takes over two hours to complete.

It was a brief, but enjoyable, visit with five members joining the trip for the first time. As always, we had a very warm welcome from the Amis de Chichester. It was all over too quickly, but set the appetite for our exchange in April 2020.

JULIA SANDER

FRIENDS OF CHARTRES WRITING CHALLENGE

This year, the Friends of Chartres are launching a writing challenge which will encourage young writers to practise their skills while learning about our twin city. We are piloting the competition in primary schools this year, but plan to extend it to secondary schools once it is up and running. We hope in future to have a category for our members and other residents of Chichester too.

This year's theme centres on our two cities and must include a quest and a diamond - to reflect our 60th anniversary. Children will be invited to contribute either a poem or a short story. We are launching the competition in January with a creative writing workshop for teachers, to be led by local author, Greg Mosse. Participating schools will receive an information pack about Chartres which teachers can use with their children.

Entries must be submitted by the end of the Spring Term. We should be able to take the winning entries with us when we visit Chartres in April, and they will be made available for members to see

CALLING ALL CATERERS !

Can you help us prepare nibbles for our events?

You don't need to be a professional just willing to lend a hand occasionally

COFFEE MORNING

TUESDAY 29th OCTOBER - 11.00am

at her home: **47 Priors Acre, Boxgrove, Chichester, PO18 0ER**

to discuss catering

*Please call Anne-Louise on
Tel: (01243) 784346*



Friends of Chartres Cine Club

**October 27th 2019 : 17.00
(5pm)**

The Studio, New Park

It's been some time since we had a cine club showing. The past year has been so busy with 60th anniversary events. However, Cine Club is back and we hope you will take the opportunity to enjoy some great French films.

L'Ecole Buissonnière

This is a delightful film, set in the inter-war years, with some stunning photography of forest scenes and wildlife. The central character, a small boy called Paul, has been brought up in an orphanage in Paris, but has been adopted by a couple living in rural Sologne. There, Paul makes a friend of Totoche, an elusive poacher, who introduces Paul to the mysteries of the forest

Tickets are £5.00.

All films have English sub-titles.

Book a place by returning the booking slip included with this issue of Citylink

Further information from Julia:

julia@sander.plus.com or Tel: (01243) 527435

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

Meets in ***The Coffee Bar at the Festival Theatre*** on the ***first Tuesday*** of the month. All welcome to join us just turn up!

Tuesday October 1st

Tuesday November 5th

Tuesday December 3rd

PETIT CERCLE du jeudi:

10.30 am to Noon

Meets in members' homes on the second Thursday of the month.

Please phone host in advance.

Thursday October 17th (Exceptionally 3rd Thursday of the month)

Thursday November 14th

Thursday December 12th

For venue details, contact Julia Sander:

19, Jubilee Road, Chichester PO19 7XB
Tel: 01243 527435 email: julia@sander.plus.com

EDITORIAL

Thanks go to those who have contributed towards this edition of Citylink which we hope you will find interesting.

Please do contact me directly if you 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 October 2019

I look forward to hearing from you.

magbrown121@gmail.com