

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 2020

[Re-numbered from the Millenium] ISSUE: 80

FROM THE CHAIRMAN . . .

After a year of events commemorating the sixtieth anniversary of our twinning with Chartres, in 2020 we're back to business as usual. There have been a number of enjoyable events in the three months since I wrote my last Chairman's letter. These are reported in this edition of Citylink.

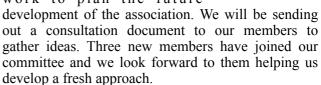
A number of interesting events are planned for the next few months including a talk from David Bridges, a National Trust guide at Uppark, on the interesting history of the house and its links with France, followed by an Away Day to the house itself to include a garden tour. Our annual exchange takes place at the end of April and 26 members of our Association plus 5 members of the Chichester Lions Club will travel to Chartres for a four-day visit.

The re-launch of our Advanced Conversation Circle in January generated a lot of interest, and the group now meets monthly at the Rainbow Inn. There are a number of fluent speakers in the group, but we also welcome members who want to improve their skills by listening in. Our Tuesday and Thursday groups are also well attended. Details are on the back page of this edition of Citylink.

An exciting new development is a potential friendship link between Chichester and the city of Speyer in Germany. This is in its infancy, but the Mayor and Deputy Mayor are to visit Speyer in April and a launch evening of the Friends of Speyer is planned, which will take place in the summer.

Many groups like ours report that their membership is declining as younger people find other interests to

Your committee is actively seeking ways of increasing our membership and to this end a strategy group will work to plan the future



You will probably have noted that we now send out regular email updates to inform members of our activities. Details are also available on our website. We are also looking into the possibility of communicating via social media such as Facebook and Twitter as these have become the principal means of communication for younger people.

Since I last wrote to you, the United Kingdom has left the European Union. This is a momentous event, which will, no doubt, have far-reaching consequences. However, as we are in the implementation period at the moment, nothing much seems to have changed - except the colour of our passports! Undoubtedly big changes are coming; thus, friendship links such as the ones our city has with Chartres, Ravenna, and Valetta, and the new one we are forging with Speyer, will be very important. We must ensure that they are carried forward into the future.

JULIA SANDER **CHAIRMAN**

Vive le Jumelage!

CHICHESTER

Twinning

CHARTRES

Jumelage

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

FRIENDS OF CHARTRES AGM 12th March 2020



The Association's 59th AGM was held on 12th March at St George's Parish Centre and the Mayor of Chichester, Cllr Richard Plowman, chaired the meeting. After welcoming the 35 members present he congratulated the Association on reaching the 60th Anniversary and gave his special thanks to the committee for organising the celebrations throughout the year. He then referred to our Schools Art Challenge and the Awards Ceremony at the University which was one of his first engagements after becoming Mayor. The Minutes of the last AGM had been sent to all members. The secretary drew attention to two small amendments (58th AGM & apologies were received from Paul & Dee Everrett) for which she apologised and blamed her recent accident (resulting in a fractured knee and concussion) as an excuse! As there were no Matters Arising it was agreed that The Mayor sign the amended Minutes as a true record.

Copies of the Chairmans Report which included details of the previous year's activities had been emailed to members. Julia briefly covered her 3rd year as Chairman and drew attention to the importance of getting new and younger members involved, explaining how this would be approached and she thanked the committee for all their hard work during the last year. Mention was also made to the Coronavirus and how this might affect our activities and especially the forthcoming Exchange.

The Treasurer reported the 'Examined' accounts which had been circulated to all members explaining how the 60th Anniversary Celebrations (funded by our savings and various grants) did mean that our funds had been depleted. He also explained after 11 years as Treasurer he was hoping to stand down at the next AGM and asked members to come forward to take on this role and work alongside him until then. The accounts were then proposed by Pamela Kemp, seconded by Anne-Louise Briggs and unanimously agreed to be adopted.

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
Michael Bevis 781016	David Nason	573716
Anne-L.Briggs784346	Paul Everrett	603513
Ray Brown783776	Rosie Speer0	787 840430
(Co-opted)		
Annie Barnes 377	Ellen Ha	ig 037027
Kiran Katikaneni07810216189		

CITY COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES

Cllr Anne Scicluna...789065 Cllr Polly Gaskin...788502 (July 2019 to June 2020)

The Mayor thanked the Treasurer for his report and then conducted the elections to the Executive Committee.

Officers:

Chairman - Julia Sander Vice-Chairman - Anne Scicluna Hon. Sec. - Margaret Brown Hon. Treasurer - John Wilton Proposed by Anne-Louise Briggs and seconded by David Tregear, the above were unanimously agreed '*en bloc*'

Margaret explained that, like John, she was also considering standing down but had decided to continue with Rosie Speer agreeing to 'shadow' her for this coming 'transition year'.

Committee Members:

Anne-Louise Briggs, Michael Bevis, Ray Brown, Paul Everrett, David Nason, Rosie Speer

Proposed by Rob Campling, seconded by Clare Apel, the above were unanimously agreed 'en bloc'.

Examiner of Accounts

As Michael Merritt was willing to continue in this role this was proposed by John Wilton, Seconded by Paul Everrett and unanimously agreed by all.

<u>Any Other Business</u> - Jim Payne drew attention to using the internet, which was good, but he asked for members to also be kept in touch by using paper links.

The meeting closed at 7.35pm and, having thanked the Mayor, the Chairman invited all to watch a video from Chartres showing last years' celebrations and this was followed by a Fish & Chip Supper with an absolutely superb Quiz produced by Michael Bevis (but sadly no prizes were given to the winning team!)

MARGARET BROWN HONORARY SECRETARY



Tuesday, June 9th at 7.30 pm

"Uppark, the French Connection"

Talk by David Bridges,

(National Trust Volunteer Guide)

Venue:

The Guide Hall, 29 Whyke Lane, Chichester, PO19 7US

David has researched extensively and found connections to France from the origins of the house in 1690 to the present day.

The current House Steward is French.

Entry £9 to include refreshments (£10 non-members)

David will not charge a fee for his talk but the entry price includes a donation towards the upkeep of Uppark

Parking: There is very limited parking outside the Guide Hall, but parking is available a short distance away in the Market Car Park, for which there will be a charge payable at a parking meter



'Away Day' to Uppark Wednesday June 10th

10.00 Garden Tour

11.00 Welcome coffee

11.30 The house opens to visitors (Self-guided tour)

Followed by optional shared picnic and short guided walk.

Cost: £20

(£8.00 for National Trust members) to include

entry to house, coffee and donation for garden tour

Shared transport. Please let us know on the reply slip if you can offer a place in your car,

FRIENDS OF CHARTRES Programme of Events 2020

April 30th - 4th May ANNUAL EXCHANGE
(Thursday - Monday) Chichester to Visit Chartres

May 21st FRIENDS COFFEE MORNING (Thursday) 11.00 am 'Cloisters' Restaurant

in the Cathedral

in the Cathedral.

June 9th "UPPARK, THE FRENCH

(Tuesday) CONNECTION"

7.30pm The Guide Hall, Whyke Lane.

Talk by David Bridges, who is an "Uppark" Guide.

June 10th AWAY DAY VISIT TO

(Wednesday) UPPARK

To include a Garden Tour and

Visit to the House.

June 29th THREE CITIES EVENT

[Please see details below]

July 19th GIG IN THE GARDEN

(Sunday) Music and afternoon tea at Paul & Wendy Devonshire's home.

September 29th "TRAVELS IN FRANCE WITH

(Tuesday) A SKETCHBOOK"

7.30pm Guide Hall, Whyke

Lane.

Talk by David Grech.

October 22nd FRIENDS COFFEE MORNING

(Thursday) 11.00 am at the Festival Theatre

Coffee Bar

November CHRISTMAS SOCIAL

[Date & Venue to be confirmed]

FESTIVAL OF CHICHESTER EVENT

...............................

Working with Friends of Ravenna & Friends of Valletta

The Assembly Room, North Street, Chichester

Monday, 29th June - 7.30pm

Rear Admiral John Lippiett

Former Royal Naval Officer who became Commandant of the Joint Services Command and Staff College.

'In Conversation'

with

Phil Hewitt

* * * STOP PRESS NEWS * * *
NOW POSTPONED AS A RESULT OF THE
CORONAVIRUS

JULIA'S REPORTS & PHOTOS OF RECENT EVENTS



Schools Writing Challenge

Schools Writing Challenge was launched in January. The Challenge involves writing a short story or poem in which the cities of Chartres and Chichester must feature along with a diamond and a quest. The diamond reflects the 60th anniversary of our twinning with Chartres.

A Creative Writing Workshop for teachers was facilitated by Greg Mosse, who wrote a French play for the Friends of Chartres to commemorate our anniversary year. This was a lively hands-on session where teachers were introduced to ways of creating story plots with their pupils, starting with a simple theme and adding detail as they went along.

Although only a few schools have expressed interest at this stage, we hope that the Challenge will gather more support in future. We have been invited to conduct assemblies featuring our twinning in several schools and will also visit classes participating in the Challenge.

Wine-tasting, Friday 17th January

We held our our first DIY wine tasting session a couple of years ago and decided to do it again as it was such fun. Rather than have an expert presenting wines for us to sample, members themselves became the experts. Participants brought along a bottle of wine and presented it to the group, telling them a little about the wine and how they had discovered it.



We noted our comments on the wines and a simple scoring system was devised to find the wine preferred by most of the participants. On the whole, red wines were favoured, with one exception. This was the Merlot served at Friends of Chartres events, which was included, rather cheekily, as a blind tasting. This was considered drinkable, but lacking depth of flavour. The last wine, presented by Jan Sander - a Montbazillac dessert wine - divided opinions. Some gave it full marks and others a low score, depending on whether or not they liked a sweet wine. The overall winner, a St Emilion Château Claymore 2015 (spot the Scottish connection) was presented by Michael and Valerie Bevis, thus confirming the British love of fine Bordeaux wines.

It was a convivial evening which brightened up a dull January day - and revealed a surprising depth of wine knowledge among our members.

Coffee Morning, 28th January

In January, friends met at the coffee bar at the Festival Theatre, a spacious venue which serves excellent coffee. Friends Coffee Mornings were introduced a couple of years ago to provide an opportunity for members to get together and chat informally. We particularly welcome new members as this gives us a chance to get to know them. There's no need to book to come to coffee mornings in advance, just come along and

join us. Our next coffee morning with be on Tuesday May 21st from 11.00 onwards in the Cloisters Restaurant at the Cathedral. We hope to be able to sit outside in the lovely garden and maybe spot the peregrine falcons, who should be nesting on the spire at that time.



ANNUAL DINNER 2020 - 13th February 2020



We returned to the 64 Restaurant and Bar at Chichester College for our annual dinner this year, which was attended by 46 members. The manager, Nicola Simpson and her team of catering students gave us a warm welcome and looked after us very well. We gathered over a welcome drink of Prosecco, before moving to the dining area. There Grace was said in French by Canon David Nason before the meal was served. Guests had pre-selected dishes from the restaurant's winter menu, which gave a choice of four options for each course. For the main course, Sea Bass with Colcannon potatoes and Braised Shoulder of Lamb with Noisette potatoes were popular. The

most popular dessert was the Rum Baba.

An additional attraction was the raffle to which members had generously donated. The evening concluded with a short speech from the Mayor, Richard Plowman, who recounted some amusing anecdotes of restaurant meals he had experienced. Fortunately for us, this dinner passed without a hitch, and the food was excellent.





Notre visite à Briare, Saint Fargeau, St Saveur-en-Puisaye et Guédelon



Our much needed mini break after the Flower Festival at Apuldram in September was taken with Claire and Alain Crézé in Chartres. We journeyed by train to Chartres and arrived, slightly unkempt, very tired, and in need of supper. Claire had prepared a very tasty dish of Coquilles St Jacques, which she knows I love, followed by fromage and a very naughty, but delicious, Tarte aux Prune. After catching up on family news from both sides of La Manche, Claire told us of the plan for the next few days. We knew we were going to Guédelon but not what was planned en route.

A 'pit-stop' on the motorway the next day was the beginning of the "adventure" as we unfortunately took the wrong exit and found ourselves going back to Chartres! Claire was a brilliant navigator and soon had us heading for our destination which took us through pretty French villages skirting the *Foret d'Orleans* (very beautiful in the sun) and eventually we found ourselves at our first planned stop which was *Briare*, to walk across the *Canal lateral a la Loire*. This steel

aqueduct, which until 2003, was the longest navigable aqueduct in the world. It was designed by Gustave Eiffle, traverses the river Loire on its way to the

Seine and it was inaugurated on 16th September 1896.

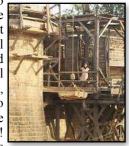
The day was glorious with sunshine, blue skies and big white fluffy clouds, just the day

for a walk over one of France's listed monuments. After lunch we set off for *Saint Fargeau*, a pretty medieval village with a Château built as a hunting lodge in the 10th century, rebuilt after a fire in the 15th and as we see it today a 17th century

Renaissance château. The design is based on a pentagon, using thousands and thousands of red bricks. There is a fantastic toy museum in the roof space which Alain and Graham thoroughly enjoyed. After a most welcome cuppa sitting in the sun we made our way to *St Saveur-en-Puisaye* where we would spend the night. Suffice it to say it will be one of those places that remain in the memory for a long time. Poor Claire was very embar-rassed. Cuisine definitely not *Cordon BLEUE Bleu*, and the kitchen-cum-dining room included a rusty old fridge from the 1950's; my parents had a similar one. Our room was an up-cycled store or workshop with re-cycled, shabby-chic interior. An old counterpane divided the loo from the bed! That's en-suite with avengance!

Up early with photo shots of the pretty garden and off to to **Guédelon** arriving just after opening and spent the next six hours thoroughly engrossed in all it had to offer. What a

fascinating place. Michel Guyot wanted to build from scratch, a medieval castle based on the ground plan of his Château at St Fargeau. It became an archaeological experiment. The craftsmen would build and learn how to do this in the traditional manner from sourcing old manuscripts, books, paintings and plans but first had to learn how to make the tools and overcome 21st century health and safety issues!!! Each time you visit Guédelon it is



different and you will never see again what had gone before, because the next stage is being built. Each stage is a new learning curve. The craftsmen explain how it is being created. Show you how to dress limestone Ashlars or chip away at the hard ironstone; how to create a domed roof out of wood or watch pallets of tiles or mortar being lifted by man-power alone to the working levels above. There are quarrymen, stonecutters, tile makers, shingle makers, iron workers, dyers, painters, woodcarvers, millers and woodsmen. Working animals like horses and donkeys to pull the tumbrils, geese and chickens for eggs, sheep for wool and fruit and vegetables to eat as well as for dyes. The castle has taken twenty two years so far with another five or six to go and then plan to create a village. Whilst this is a tourist attraction on one level paying for the construction and expenses with entrance fees, a café, which

provides really good tasty food, and the proverbial shop, on another level it is a far more serious undertaking, it is 'work in progress', with the public encouraged to get close up and personal with everything, asking questions and giving them an experience of actually being on a



medieval construction site. There's no electricity, no modern tools, everything is hand cut, dug or crafted and it's jolly hard work. On a very practical level it brings prosperity to the area with tourism, gives employment or training to the local population, who in turn are passing on their skills to future generations. As the aftermath of the dreadful fire in Notre Dame sinks in and the planners decide what to do, the craftsmen and



women of Guédelon are already training craftsmen that will be needed to repair and conserve the iconic cathedral in Paris.

We came away buzzing and still are. It's a place we have wanted to visit for some time and we shall have to go back in a couple of years to see what has changed and what is new. We finished our

short break with a trip round Notre Dame de Chartres to see the most recent transformation from dark to light and visited a fantastic Mosaic Exhibition. Claire and Alain took us back to Paris to catch the train. They were going to see Claire's father as it was his birthday and they wished to say "Bon Anniversaire" We had a lovely break and all four of us enjoyed the trip. Vive la Jumelage.

Jose, Claire, Graham & Alain [POUND & CREZÉ]

FRIENDSHIP LINK WITH SPEYER

Our twin city, Chartres, is also twinned with several other cities around the world. These include Bethlehem, Leon in Spain, Evora in Portugal, and Sakurai in Japan.



Its most active twinnings apart from Chichester are with Ravenna and the Rhineland city of Speyer where exchanges take place annually. Chichester, of course, is also twinned with Ravenna and has a friendship link with Valletta in Malta. Up until now we have not had a civic link with a German city, although our cathedral has a link with Bamberg.

News filtered through on the grapevine that the city of Speyer was looking for a new link with an English city. Speyer has been twinned with Spalding in Lincolnshire for some years, but it appears that in Spalding, interest in twinning and contact between the cities has virtually ceased. This has given us an opportunity to complete the circle: Chartres - Chichester - Speyer - Ravenna.

The matter was taken up by Rob Campling, whose French 'twin', Jean-Claude Grouteau, is by a happy chance Chairman of the Chartres Friends of Speyer. A possible friendship link was proposed to the Chichester City Council and was received enthusiastically. An approach was then made to the City Council of Speyer and this too was warmly received.

Our current Mayor, Richard Plowman and the Deputy Mayor, John Hughes, are to travel to Speyer in April and we expect a small delegation to make a return visit later in the year.

Speyer is one of Germany's oldest cities and has a population of around 50,000. It is in the Rhineland Palatinate region, a few miles from the university city of Heidelberg and 60 miles from Frankfurt. Its most famous landmark is its cathedral, which was consecrated in 1062, so is just a few years older than our own cathedral. Speyer is, therefore, eminently suitable to become our 'twin'.

An embryo group, the 'Friends of Speyer', has already formed in Chichester and members are hoping to form links with a similar group in Speyer. An information evening is planned after the Mayor has returned from his visit.

If you are interested in hearing more, contact

Rob Campling

camplingrob@hotmail.com.

OUR LINK UP WITH THE BROWNIES





For some time now we have been keen to attract younger members to the Friends of Chartres and last Thursday Julia Sander and I went along to a meeting of the 6th Chichester Brownies to facilitate them earning their Language Badges. Fifteen Brownies aged between 7 and 10 years old proudly demonstrated to us their knowledge of French colours and numbers, and even 'how to survive in a French café''! Julia taught them how to introduce themselves and to say "ca va?" before I then chatted to them about what it means to have a twin city in France. The Brownies were delightfully excited about the idea and promised to go home and tell their parents/carers about Chartres.

A number game and a wordsearch rounded off the session and Brown Owl told them they had all achieved the badge. Each Brownie took home a picture of Chartres to colour in and the best picture will be awarded a small prize. Brownies each made a Thinking Day card to take to their counterparts in Chartres and we hope that we can set up some pen friendships.

Further ideas were discussed to take our link with the Brownies further - there is scope to reach a lot of Chichester's young people and to develop some family exchanges. One of the mums is even considering joining us

ROSIE SPEER

FRENCH Conversation Groups LE PETIT CERCLE (Morning meetings)

Groups meet monthly for lively, informed conversation in French. New members welcome, 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. No advance notice is required. Dates as follows.

Tuesday, April 7th

Tuesday, May 5th No meeting as we return from

Chartres the previous evening

Tuesday, June 2nd
Tuesday, July 7th

PETIT CERCLE du JEUDI

10.30 am to Noon

We meet in members' homes on **SECOND THURSDAY** of the month.

Please phone or or email host in advance if you plan to come.

Thursday April 9th

Daphne Bowling, Sandpipers, Mill Lane, Sidlesham PO20 7LX (01243) 641660 daphnebowling@yahoo.co.uk

Thursday, May 14th

Jacqueline Combes, 6, Winchester Drive, Chichester PO19 5DE. (01243)783136 Jacqueline.combes@btinternet.com

Thursday, June 11th

Penny Sessa, 15 Armadale Road, Chichester PO19 7NR.....(01243) 696658 pesteer@tin.it

Thursday, July 9th

Julia Sander, 19, Jubilee Road, Chichester, PO19 7XB (01243) 527435 julia@sander.plus.com

** ** ** **

CERCLE AVANCÉ

For details of future meetings contact iulia@sander.plus.com

Tel: (01243) 527435

THE KING'S CAKE (A French Tradition)

January 6th is the Epiphany day, that is to say the day, according to the Gospel of

Matthew, the wise men arrived in the Bethlehem nativity scene to worship the new born baby Jesus, then twelve nights old and give him gifts.

Popular tradition has made it in France and perhaps in other countries, a day where we share a cake called "Galette des rois" in which a "fève" is placed. This "fève" will therefore be found by one of the guests who becomes the king or the queen and must wear a crown at least whilst everyone is toasting to his/her health. Children like this party because the youngest has an important role to play. He must go under the table so as not to see what is going on above and attribute each part to a person when the one who serves asks him "For whom is this?" This often makes it possible to give this child the share in which the "fève" is hidden.

So, as sharing this galette is just a good reason to get together at the beginning of the year with friends or family, it is not only done on the day of Epiphany. Bakers make pancakes throughout the month of January and we are even starting to find them now from 15th December.

In this text I have kept the French terms usually used. The English translations found are many and varied.

Epiphany exists in England and the feast of Epiphany is also called "the 12th night". From 25^{th} December to 6^{th} January there are actually twelve nights.

The "Galette des Rois" is "The 12th Night Cake" or "The King's Cake" and the word "galette" is also sometimes translated as "Pithvivier" since it is a cake usually filled with almond cream, called "frangipane".

A "fève" is a broad bean which was probably originally hidden in the cake and it must be broad enough not to be swallowed. Now we use small figures or animals generally moulded in a plastic material. This word is translated as "charm" in some dictionaries and maybe some people attribute to them a good luck power.

JEAN-CLAUDE GROUTEAU

EDITORIAL: Thanks go to all who have contributed to this edition of Citylink, especially Jean-Claude Grouteau on his first attempt at producing 'copy' and also Jose Pound for her 'holiday' article. We hope you find all the contents interesting and I look forward to receiving more 'inputs'. please. So, if you do 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 at magbrown121@gmail.com

OR by phone or Royal Mail - as shown below.

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