



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 2020

[Re-numbered from the Millenium] **ISSUE: 81**

FROM THE CHAIRMAN . . .

Welcome to our lockdown Citylink - a little shorter than usual as there is no fresh news to report - but we want to stay in touch with you.

I hope you are all safe and well, and looking forward to the new freedoms announced for July 4. Thankfully our Association has not lost any members to COVID and the same is true of our friends in Chartres. How life has changed, however!

The last social gathering I attended was our AGM on March 12. The lure of fish and chips and a quiz ensured a higher turn-out than usual, and once the business side of things was over, we all settled down to enjoy a truly convivial evening. Thanks go to Michael Bevis, for putting together a fun quiz about France with questions ranging from those we could answer to more challenging ones which tested our knowledge to the limits.

Barely a week later, we were under lockdown, and all the Association's activities were brought to a halt, including the exchange. We hope to be able to rearrange David Bridges' talk planned for June on the history of Uppark and its links with France, but are not sure when it will be possible to arrange indoor meetings again. The same applies to our Autumn programme, which was to include a very interesting illustrated talk: France Without a Camera, by David Grech. We will keep you informed and hope that we will be able to resume our programme again before too long.

We have been looking at initiatives which will help us gain new members, particularly younger members but unfortunately events have conspired against us and we

must put our plans on hold for the time being.

Not knowing how long the pandemic would be with us, the committee decided at the beginning of the lockdown to postpone the exchange visit to Chartres until October. Now it seems that restrictions will be in place longer than anticipated. We are keeping our fingers crossed, but will only go ahead if we are certain it will be safe to do so.

Alongside the meetings arranged for members, your committee has been planning how to take the Association forward over the next few years. We have been looking at initiatives which will help us gain new members, particularly younger members. Unfortunately, events have conspired against us and we must put our plans on hold for the time being.

I am particularly disappointed we have not been able to pursue our contacts with the Brownies and local primary schools; however, we hope this is only temporary. Schools will have other priorities in the next months, but once the time seems right, we will open up our contacts again.

One activity we have been able to continue is our conversation circles. (Please see page 3).

Until we meet again, keep well and stay safe. Some day - in our 60 years of twinning with Chartres - this period of lockdown will seem a mere blip!

Vive le Jumelage !

JULIA SANDER



CHICHESTER

Twinning

**61 YEARS
1959 - 2020**

CHARTRES

Jumelage

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

DENNIS NAPIER

Dennis and his wife, Henrietta, have contributed a great deal to our Association and particularly with creating the advanced language circle. It was therefore with great sadness we learned of his death, just before 'lockdown'. They had recently moved away from Chichester to be nearer their family.

These articles capture the enjoyment shared by those who took part in the Treasure Hunt organised by Jim Payne on 8th June 2008 - which coincided with Dennis's birthday.



Citylink - June 2008



Dennis is declared to be the winner

Editor's note

Because we all enjoyed the cake so much it was requested that I publish the recipe for everyone to share.

DENNIS'S BIRTHDAY CAKE RECIPE

INGREDIENTS (for an 8" cake)

10 oz plain flour	2 oz chopped walnuts
1 tsp bicarbonate of soda	3 eggs, size 3, beaten
2 tps baking powder	2 ripe bananas, mashed
6 oz soft, light brown sugar	6 oz grated carrots
6 fl oz soya or sunflower oil	

Frosting:

3 oz butter, softened	3 oz cream cheese
6 oz icing sugar	½ tsp extract of vanilla

To decorate:

Chopped walnuts

Grease and line two 8" sandwich tins. Set oven at gas 4, 160°C. Sift flour with baking powder and bicarb, then mix in sugar, walnuts, eggs, bananas, carrots, and oil. Beat until thoroughly blended, then divide mixture between tins. Bake for 35 to 40 minutes, or until a skewer inserted in the centre comes out clean. Turn out and leave to cool.

Frosting: Beat all ingredients together until light and creamy. Use to sandwich and top the cake, swirling the icing on top. Decorate with walnuts. Unfrosted cake can be frozen for up to three months. Bon appétit!

HENRIETTA NAPIER

TREASURE HUNT

On Sunday 8th June, several cars and their occupants gathered in Northgate Car Park, under 'starters orders', for the treasure hunt which was to terminate in Emsworth.

Various clues were given, commencing at Chichester Canal Basin (no, not at the tea shop!) continuing past two pubs in Westbourne (yes, we did actually PASS them - at least three times coming from



different directions !) and then to the two anchors in Emsworth (no, not the name of a pub but this time actually the anchor sculptures on the roundabout entrance to Emsworth) finishing up at Diana and Jim Payne's house.

I was a passenger in Ray & Margaret Brown's car, along with Anne Scicluna and a possible new member.

Of course, with the prospect of another lady joining our ranks, Ray did not wish to disappoint her and very gallantly decided to take the scenic route for the treasure hunt and ignore some of the directions given, which would, of course, have got us to the venue much sooner. In the event we were the last to arrive!



What a lovely surprise awaited us at Diana and Jim's home. Jim had prepared cream teas for us and Diana had made fruit jelly which she served with cream or ice cream, or both, according to one's taste.



To cap it all, it was Dennis Napier's XXth birthday (no not his twentieth - and although I do know how 'young' he is, I am not telling you!) and Henrietta, his better half, had baked him a birthday cake for us all to share. It just happened that Dennis had also won the treasure hunt, and so what a wonderful birthday it turned out to be for him and one in which we were all able to share !

JOYCE MITTON

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.Briggs.....784346	Paul Everrett.....603513
Ray Brown.....783776	Rosie Speer.. 07875 840430
Annie Barnes..... 377150	Ellen Haig..... 937027
	Kiran Katikaneni ...07810216189

CITY COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES

CLlr Anne Scicluna...789065 CLlr Polly Gaskin...788502

FRENCH-STYLE CELEBRATIONS FOR 'MAY DAY'

It is so good to see that some traditions still continue, but perhaps with a more modern 'twist'. Whilst checking our emails on the 1st May we were so very delighted to receive an e-card from our 'twin' family in Chartres, Jean-Michel & Françoise Provôt,

It was also a reality check as all days seem to be the same whilst in 'lockdown' - and I had been in virtual 'lockdown' since the 1st February which is when I tripped over a kerb in South Street and ended up being taken to A & E by ambulance instead of enjoying a lunch-time meal in the restaurant. (I guess there's a first time for everything!) In France the first day of May is a holiday to celebrate labour day and it carries forward a tradition which goes back to medieval times when sprigs of Muguet (Lily of the Valley) were given as gifts to bring good luck, and legend has it that the custom began on 1st May 1561.

King Charles IX received a sprig of the tiny flower as a token of good luck. The King liked the idea so much that he decided to start a tradition. From that day forward on the first of May, he presented bouquet of Lily of the Valley to each of the ladies in his court - and so began the Fête du Muguet, or May Day.

From then on, this charming tradition continued and today families all around France get up early in the morning and go into the woods to pick the flowers and offer the little bouquets of Muguet (Lily of the Valley) to loved ones and friends to wish them happiness and good luck, according to French tradition.

The first time we learned about this tradition was during a visit in 2007 (Friday 27th April to Monday 1st May) when Chartres celebrated the 50th Anniversary of their Twinning with Ravenna - which was a **very** big occasion. The full and varied programme throughout the weekend catered for the many 'twinners' travelling from Ravenna, Speyer and Chichester and we were very fortunate to be part of a four-way 'International Family'. (Continued on page 4)



FRIENDS OF CHARTRES Programme of Events 2020

July 19th **GIG IN THE GARDEN - NOW CANCELLED** due to the current regulations

We are not sure when it will be possible to arrange 'INDOOR MEETINGS' again and this will affect our Autumn programme.

We will keep you informed

and hope that we will be able to resume our programme again before too long.

September 29th "TRAVELS IN FRANCE WITH A SKETCHBOOK"

7.30pm Guide Hall, Whyke Lane
A Talk by David Grech.

October 22nd (Thursday) **FRIENDS COFFEE MORNING**
11.00 am at the Festival Theatre
Coffee Bar

November **CHRISTMAS SOCIAL**
[Date & Venue to be confirmed]

A MESSAGE FROM CHARTRES

[Received by Julia when our 'Exchange' was cancelled]

Dear Friends, I am thinking of you especially now as you should have been here in Chartres for the next week-end. I hope you are all keeping well and that you do not suffer too much from being obliged to stay at home. If you have a garden at this time of the year it is quite easier. Last week here was sunny and warm. Today clouds and rain are back.

If things do not get worse here in France, we should be able to get some more freedom from Monday 11th of May onwards. But it will take time to go back to normal life again. We have to keep fingers crossed for our exchange at the beginning of October. I have just heard that a trip to Lourdes planned in September has been cancelled and postponed to next year.

Before that, I enclose a picture of a nice castle asking you to find which one it is. If you find the answer, you will be able to visit it! To help you I shall say in French:

- Mon premier est le bébé de la vache,
- Mon second un article,
- Mon troisième un titre de noblesse et mon tout a beautiful castle built in 18th century.



We are all looking forward to seeing you as soon as possible and hope that you will enjoy the visit we have planned for you. Take good care of yourselves.

YVONNE CHRÉTIEN
CHAIRMAN



Thanks to the lovely weather, since the beginning of June we have been able to meet in socially distanced groups at Oaklands Park for lively French conversation. We are often greeted by a friendly Bonjour! from passers-by.

(Continued from page 3)

I knew of at least two other sets of French hosts whose 'family' was extended 3-ways for this Exchange. Firstly Linda & Bryan Rice's hosts, Marie France & Julien Bersannetti, also had their German guests from Speyer staying with them, whilst Jose and Graham Pound's hosts, Alain & Claire Crézé, also hosted their Italian 'twin' from Ravenna - and our hosts, Françoise & Jean-Michel Provôt, just had to go one step further as our 'extended family' included FOUR twin cities, ie Chartres, Chichester, Speyer AND Ravenna! We had heard about Wilfrid & Gudrun and met them for the first time when we arrived in Chartres on the Friday. Giorgia & Angelo (whom we class as our adopted Italian daughter & son) were staying in a hotel and were introduced on the Saturday. An instant success, they were invited to join in with the rest of the 'family'! We transferred to our hosts after our 'official duties' were completed and then relaxed over the evening meal in the truly happy 4-way family atmosphere. It was a special day for our hosts who were celebrating their 23rd Wedding Anniversary (3 years earlier we had celebrated their 20th at Beaulieu amidst pouring rain, during the Exchange to Chichester.) Giorgia brought gifts of Lily of the Valley for the ladies, having learned that this flower is the sign of friendship and is traditionally given on 1st May. Jean-Michel ensured the men received bottles of wine and we all thanked them sincerely for their kindness, friendship and love.



This year (2020) on 1st May they emailed a 'Lily of the Valley' card - and we were able to email back with a short video showing that the Lily of the Valley flowers, which he had planted in our garden ages ago, were still blossoming well.

MARGARET BROWN

FRENCH Conversation Groups

Groups meet monthly for lively, informal conversation in French. We welcome new members, whatever your level of French, at the Petit Cercle meetings.

For the Cercle Avancé, - you need to be reasonably fluent to contribute to the conversation, but we are happy for you to listen in if you wish to improve your French.

POST-LOCKDOWN MEETING

After a two-month break during the lockdown, we were able to arrange open-air, socially distanced meetings in Oaklands Park in June and July. (see photo to the left).

We are not sure what the guidelines for group meetings will be in September, so these dates are PROVISIONAL

We will contact you to inform you of the venues for these meetings once we know where we can hold them.

PETIT CERCLE du MARDI: 10.30 am to Noon

Tuesday, September 1st

Tuesday, October 6th

Tuesday, November 3rd

Tuesday, December 1

PETIT CERCLE du JEUDI 10.30 am to Noon

Thursday, September 10th

Thursday, October 8th

Thursday, November 12th

Thursday, December 10th

CERCLE AVANCÉ 6.00pm - 7.30 pm

Monday, September 7th

Monday, October 12th

Monday, November 9th

Monday, December 7th

EDITORIAL

I hope you have enjoyed reading this 'mini' edition. Although the Corona virus pandemic has disrupted our Spring and Summer Events, it was good to learn that our Association did manage to meet for the Language Circles - in the park - after 'lockdown measures' were relaxed a little.

My thanks go to Julia for supplying these 'future dates' for the Language Circles and you will receive details of the venues at a later date.

If you have something you think would be of interest to our readers then please do let me know, by contacting me (as shown below) with the details.

MARGARET BROWN
EDITOR

EDITOR: Margaret Brown, FRSA, PGCE,

RockCottage', 121 Bognor Road, Chichester, W.Sussex, PO19 7TH

Tel: +44 (0) 1243 783776

E-mail: magbrown121@gmail.com