

## CITYLINK – Platinum Jubilee Issue



### Chairman's Letter

**Anne Scicluna** writes: It is both a pleasure and an honour to become Chairman of Friends of Chartres. I have been a committee member for many years – and vice-chairman for several. However, my connection with the twinning goes back much further. My father was a City Councillor when the first twinning agreement was signed, and took part in the formalities and celebrations. Also my sister and I were involved in the very first children's exchange in 1959, receiving two girls from Chartres – by the names of Françoise and Colette, although I don't remember their surnames.

Over the years we in Chichester have benefitted greatly from the strong friendships that we have made in Chartres – a city which is second home to so many of us. We are extremely fortunate to have twinned with such a beautiful city and to have made such long-lasting friendships.

Having worked with our committee for several years, I am aware of the extremely hard work that all the committee members, without exception, put into this twinning in which they all believe and love. There is room for a couple more committee members. If any member feels that they would like to join and help with this work, please don't be shy, and please come forward, as the committee is not a closed shop. More new faces would be most welcome. If you prefer not to be a full committee member, you could join with a committee member in planning such things as events, language, music, schools or links with other local organisations. New ideas and fresh viewpoints are wanted. We need to continue the twinning for many more years. This means evolving and keeping up-to-date, while remembering our roots.



## Letter from the Présidente of the Amis de Chichester

### Yvonne Chrétien writes:

After being postponed four times, the exchange between our two associations took place from Thursday evening the 28th April to Monday morning 2nd of May 2022. We are very happy to meet after such a long time. Three years!



On Friday, after a meeting of the two committees, we had the reception in the new town hall. We were welcomed by Patrick GEROUDET who is in charge of Chartres International. In the afternoon we had proposed either to visit the Atelier (studio) LOIRE or the Rucher (apiary) BILLARD. I was with the group visiting the

Atelier LOIRE. Our guide was one of the two dirigeants (directors), **Hervé Loire**. The atelier was created by his grandfather, **Gabriel Loire**, who made vitraux (stained glass) for some churches in England (St. Richards church in Market Road-AS), a building in Berlin, Japan, and also other countries. The visit was very interesting and enjoyable.



On Saturday, we had to get up early to travel to *Vaux-le-Vicomte* to visit the beautiful chateau where we spent all day. After a guided visit of the chateau, we had lunch there, and then we were free to walk in the garden à la française. This garden was planned by Le Nôtre for Nicolas Fouquet, marquis de Belle-Île, vicomte de Melun et Vaux (23 February 1615 – 23 March 1680) who was the Superintendent of Finances in France from 1653 until 1661 under King Louis XIV.

Sunday was a free day with the host families. In the evening, we met again for a shared meal. We were very lucky as the sun was shining all the time. On Monday morning we

had to say good bye (au revoir) to our friends, hoping to see them again next year 2023 in Chichester and this September 2022 on Zoom.

**Julia Sanders** writes:

### **Congratulations to Queen Elizabeth II on her Diamond Jubilee!**

The Queen has a great love for France. Having learnt to speak French when still in the nursery, she has made no fewer than five state visits to France during her reign as well as frequent private visits. Since she came to the throne in 1952, she has met every French Head of State. Indeed, with the exception of the Commonwealth, France is the country she has visited more frequently than any other.



The Queen made her first visit to France in 1948, a few months after her marriage to **Prince Philip**, who was also a fluent French speaker, having spent his early years in Paris. During their visit, the young couple were taken on a tour of Paris by night and heard Edith Piaf sing *La Vie en Rose*.

In 1957, four years after her coronation, the Queen made her first state visit to France and was guest of honour at a sumptuous banquet at the Palace of Versailles. Her next state visit took place in 1972. She was received by President **Georges Pompidou**, who almost created a diplomatic incident by gallantly taking her arm to guide her into the Elysée Palace. He should have known better - according to British protocol, it is forbidden to touch the monarch.

In 1984, the Queen attended the ceremony marking the 40th anniversary of the Normandy landings, alongside **François Mitterand** and **Ronald Reagan**. Since then, a ceremony has been held every 10 years and the Queen has attended them all. She is today the only Head of State to have lived through and participated in the Second World War.

The Queen's last official visit to France was in 2014. After attending the 70th anniversary of the D Day landings, she was driven to Paris to visit the Flower Market on the Ile de la Cité. It has been renamed in her honour: *Marché aux Fleurs, Reine Elizabeth II*.

The Queen's passion for horse racing is well-known, and she has made several private visits to stud farms, for which Normandy is famous. No stranger to palaces, she has visited many of the châteaux on the Loire and greatly admires their beauty.



The French have always welcomed Queen Elizabeth with great warmth. Having no monarch themselves, many are fascinated by the British monarchy with its glamour and traditions.

## Obituary: Majella Taylor

**Anne Scicluna** remembers Majella Taylor:



It is with great sadness that we have to report the death of **Majella Taylor**. Majella was a staunch supporter of our twinning for very many years, and took part in numerous exchanges, until her health prevented her. Professionally she was a glass engraver who was in great international demand. She also taught at West Dean College. In Chichester you can see some examples of her work on the windows at the Oxmarket Contemporary. Having lived at Summersdale, Majella and her husband Brian lived for some years at Friary Close, the large Georgian house at the end of Friary Lane, where they kept a bed and breakfast business. Majella used that dear little building on the City Wall as her studio. Sadly, just as they were in the act of moving from there, and preparing a new home, Brian died suddenly, leaving Majella to move into temporary accommodation alone.

Majella was a Liveryman of the Worshipful Company of Painters and Engravers of Glass, and she was an authority on the Gabriel Loire glass windows in St. Richard's Church in Market Road. She knew Gabriel Loire's family in Chartres well. She was always willing to tell people about the windows – and in her more able times, take them on a guided tour. She wrote several books on glass engraving. A gentle personality, but with a great sense of humour, she will be greatly missed, but those of us who knew her have some

lovely memories. Some of our friends in Chartres who knew her will share our sadness and that of her family, to whom we send our sincere condolences.



### **Editorial:**

A while back we asked members to contribute their memories of exchanges over the decades of the Queen's reign. The remainder of this issue is devoted to those memories but we start with a couple of items about the most recent exchange.

A big thank you to all those members and potential members who have contributed. Following the joint committee meeting in Chartres we hope in future to receive contributions to Citylink from members both sides of the Channel to make it a journal of the twinning. Please send articles to [citylink1959@gmail.com](mailto:citylink1959@gmail.com)

### **Exchange Visit to Chartres 28<sup>th</sup> April – 2<sup>nd</sup> of May 2022**



The City of Chichester twinned, since 1959, with the City of Chartres.  
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Finally, after a two-year postponement, a party of Friends of Chartres embarked for France. Some were seasoned exchangers, others were new to the experience. With the added challenges of masks, vaccination certificates and the risk of catching Covid, Organiser Julia had a more complicated task than usual.

By the evening we were being welcomed at the Abbaye St Brice and Amis de Chichester old and new were there to greet us. The next morning, as it was a Friday, some of us took advantage of being able to walk the labyrinth in the Cathedral or visit the lovely shops and twisty streets of beautiful Chartres.

The five Committee members on the trip met with the Commission des Amis de Chichester in the impressive new extension to the Mairie. Two floors underground we were shown rooms that can be joined together to seat 900 people. We were also shown the Salle d'Assemblée which resembled a mini version of the European Parliament. During the meeting we discussed some new initiatives between the music makers of Chichester and Chartres and outlined the possible dates for the Chartrains' visit to us next year.



At midday we were treated to champagne and canapés where we were officially welcomed and **Patrick Geroudet** presented us with a watercolour of the Cathedral.

In the afternoon we all met again in the small town of Lèves to visit the Atelier de Vitrail (Stained Glass Workshop) of the Loire family. We were shown around by the grandson of the founder, who had created the stained-glass windows in St Richard's Church in Chichester. We had a most interesting afternoon learning about the techniques used and viewing some beautiful pieces.

I should add that by now the sun was high in the sky and coats and cardigans were coming off... and that the sun stayed with us for our entire weekend!



The next day we were back at Abbaye St Brice to take our coach, now filled with our French hosts, to the Chateau de Vaux-le-Vicomte, about an hour and a half's drive east. This splendid Chateau inspired Louis XIV to build Versailles and the complicated story of his relationship to the owner was told to us by a charming guide who spoke to us in English. After the tour we were treated to a delicious lunch preceded by aperitifs and accompanied by copious amounts of wine. We were then able to go back into the Chateau to see the rooms we hadn't already visited, and we could wander around the vast formal gardens that were designed by Le Notre.

That evening also saw the launch of the famous illuminations and many of us gathered in front of the cathedral for the breathtaking displays. This coincided with a moonlit half marathon so the city was crammed with people and very lively. Traditionally the Sunday of the exchange visit is spent *en famille* with one's hosts so everybody did something different. In France May 1<sup>st</sup> is a special Bank Holiday celebrated with lily-of-the-valley and every street corner had a stand selling posies.

In the evening our amis welcomed us to a *Bring and Share Supper* in a local community centre. Once again we were treated to aperitifs, delicious food and plentiful wine, with tables decorated with lily-of-the-valley posies which had been made by **Laurence Poussard**. We were given these to bring home and plant in our own gardens. Monday morning saw us return to the coach at Abbaye St Brice to say our farewells. We reflected on how, the last time we said goodbye here, we had no idea how long the separation was to be.

So now we look forward to Exchange 2023 when we will welcome the Chartrains to Chichester. We hope for better times so that we can strengthen and expand our links with our twin city.

Very many thanks are due to **Julia Sander** for organising the exchange.

## Vive le Jumelage!

**Rosie Speer writes:**

**Sunday 1st May 2022**



The City of Chichester twinned, since 1959, with the City of Chartres.  
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On the Sunday of the exchange visit I was invited by my host, **Dominique Gallas**, to take part in a special commemorative ceremony with her choir. This involved my spending some time learning all the words and the complete tune of *La Marseillaise*. At 4pm we arrived at a small hamlet called Chavannes, near Lèves.

At this location in 1942 and 1944 a total of nine local members of the Resistance were executed, and every 1st of May they are remembered formally. On the 15th of March 1942, several known activists were arrested after an incendiary bomb was thrown at the door of the German bookshop on Rue du Bois Merail (Mirail?) in Chartres. In spite of the Préfect of Eure et Loir insisting that the matter be dealt with by the French Police, the German authorities eventually forced their hand. This was after a German soldier was killed at the Molitor metro station in Paris and, in retaliation, 10 prisoners were executed, including the four being held at Chartres. On the 30th of April 1942, they were taken to the firing range at Chavannes. Later, in 1944, a further five members of the Resistance met the same fate.

The moving ceremony was held in bright sunshine and attended by around 100 villagers and dignitaries, with a band and two choirs. Wreaths were laid for each life lost. Afterwards there was some community singing and refreshments.

Having studied how France memorialises war, I was fascinated to be able to witness the ongoing commemorations of an aspect of its history.

## **Now some reflections on exchanges through the decades of Queen Elizabeth's reign:**

**Michael Bevis writes:**

### **Visit to Chartres 1960**

My first visit to Chartres was at Easter in 1960. It was the second of the schoolchildren's exchange visits. The first had taken place in 1959. I did not travel to Chartres that year but hosted Alain Gautier, my 'twin' when the Chartrains came in the summer and I went and stayed with him and his family at their holiday home in Dinard.

The picture is the one which shows the group (you may recognise the bright-eyed young man in the front!) on our arrival at the Hotel de Ville in Chartres which appeared in the following day's edition of *l'Echo Républicain*.

We had travelled by coach from Chichester to Newhaven. We then took the SNCF ferry to Dieppe. It was a service jointly operated by British Railways and SNCF and I can honestly say that it was the roughest crossing I have ever experienced. The ferry docked right in the centre of the old port of Dieppe and it was a short walk across the quay for the train to Paris where a coach was waiting to take us to Chartres.

For me it opened up a whole new and fascinating world and marked the start of a love affair with France.

Editor's note:

In case you wondered...Michael is the bright-eyed young man in the front row.





**Ken Strudwick writes:**

### **Visit to Chartres 1969**

I think it was 1969 when I was asked if I would like to take the place of a fellow scout leader who had been booked for the (I think) 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary visit to Chartres, but had to drop out , so it was a bit last minute for me. My first visit abroad!



At the time I was a Staff Nurse at the Royal West Sussex Hospital, Dixon Wing (Men's Surgical) so I genned up on the French terminology related to my profession and joined the party leaving Newhaven for Dieppe. On arrival in Chartres, I was introduced to my host for the long weekend, Monsieur Tulpan, who lived in the *Rue Du Petit Beauvais* in the shadow of Chartres Cathedral.

I believe I was very fortunate to have been lodged with a typical, traditional text book family as described and discussed in my French lessons at school. I had gained a French *O level* and so was able to communicate (or thought I could) but, although the children of the family were beginning to learn English in their school, the rest of the family spoke French only, so by the end of the visit my French had to improve

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and my head ached with the effort. But I thoroughly enjoyed the visit.

The Tulpan family lived in a large and ancient house, furnished with typical Louis Quinze (18<sup>th</sup> century) French furniture and with a tennis court in their large garden. Monseur Tulpan, the father, was an insurance agent, working in Paris and the undoubted head of the family while his wife was very much the “housewife” but, as described in my French lessons at school, they also had living with them the maiden aunt, who seemed to be the housekeeper. Until a couple of weeks previously, they had also the grandmother living with them. My room in the house had been the grandmother’s and was complete with a wash stand, enamel bowl, and a jug of cold water.

Most of the days of my visit were taken up with meeting the others in and around the town, enjoying coffee shops and souvenir shops, and so on, but in the early evening I enjoyed a typical traditional French multicourse dinner, one course of which was radishes and salt followed by eggs benedict both prior to the main course--seven courses in all.

Having checked upon the appropriate language/ phraseology, I was able to tell them all about my work, in their own language. (*Charge d’un salle chirouigical*)

The highlight of the twinning celebrations was a wonderful late night firework display to which I was taken by the family, followed by a theatre visit with a very strange comedy play, which I didn’t understand and which went on until one in the morning. But I thoroughly enjoyed the experience and was interested that my colleagues had been allocated to, what I would call, *Nouveau French*, who spoke English and enjoyed *fish and chips*.

The nearest I have been to a return visit was when I worked for an air ambulance company. I had to collect a patient from there. I didn’t have much time to look around, as we had to collect a sick holiday maker from the hospital, a very interesting experience.

**Rosie Speer adds:**

### **Visit to Chartres 1969 update**

Thanks to modern communication methods I received Ken’s article by email on my phone just as I was settling down for my first night *chez Dominique*. The next morning I asked **Dominique** if she knew where is *Rue du Petite Beauvais*. She thought she knew vaguely but not exactly but we set off to see if we could find it. On a corner near the Cathedral someone Dominique knew was wheeling a very elderly lady out of a hairdressers. When they stopped to greet each other I whispered to Dominique to ask the lady if she knew the street and if she knew of a M. Tulpan... *mais bien sur* was the reply and she pointed out the exact house where Ken had stayed. She said the Tulpan family are very well known in Chartres and all we had to do was ask at the Cathedral. We didn’t have time for that but I was able to take this photo of the house Ken stayed in... very large with a tantalising high wall that I suspect holds a beautiful garden!

**Chris Unitt writes:**

### **Visit to Chartres 1970**

1970, the year that I was 14, saw the beginning of my lifelong friendship with Michelle. I was a pupil at Chi High for Girls and was given the chance to do an exchange with the Friends of Chartres. I soon knew that I would be exchanging with a girl called Michelle and we wrote (no WhatsApp or email, then) to each other before meeting.

During the Easter holidays, a coach load of us from Chi travelled to Chartres for a two week stay with exchange families. Michelle and I got on very well together and I was made very welcome in Michelle's home by her parents. They worked long hours as they ran a *bar/tabac* and their home was above it.

There were several organised outings for us all. On the day we visited Paris, it snowed while we were on a boat trip along the Seine. I also remember going to a family christening with Michelle's family, and afterwards, there was a huge meal with many courses. In the summer of the same year, the French children came to England and Michelle and I continued to get on well together.

When they were teenagers, Michelle's daughters, Carole and Claire, stayed with my family and our daughter Emma stayed with them. In 2009, we attended Carole's wedding in Brittany. There, I was so happy to meet again Michelle's mother. Although she was almost 90 was full of energy and was just the same as she had been all those years ago. We wrote to each other for several years.

Throughout all the many years since 1970, Michelle and I have continued our friendship with each other, our husbands, our children, and our grandchildren. I live in Chichester and Michelle now lives in Nogent-le-Roi which is not far from Chartres.

**John Wilton writes:**

### **Visit to Chartres 1993**

My wife Claire and I had first took part in the exchange to Chartres in May 1993, having visited Chartres for the very first time the year before as Mayor and Mayoress at the invitation of the Mayor of Chartres, **Georges Lemoines**.

This time would be very different. We would be staying with people we had not met before and whose language we could speak only a little. For reasons I do not remember, we had travelled to Chartres the day after the rest of the group, flying to Paris and catching the train to Chartres, where we were met by our hosts **Marc** and **Marie-France Delaloy**.





Marie-France spoke some English – better than our French, but Marc spoke none. However, we soon realised we had quite a bit in common. Marc was an engineer, I was an architect. They were a similar age to me with children a similar age – late teens/early twenties.



They made us very welcome at their house in Chartres, which was within an easy walk of the city centre.

Marie-France knew **Jeannie Chassane** very well. Jeannie was the main exchange organiser and had been Marie-Frances's English teacher! For our first evening Marc and Marie-France had invited Jeannie and several other exchange participants round for a meal, which was a lovely informal start to the visit. **Anne** and **Rino Scicluna** were staying with Jeannie.

The main day out was a coach trip to *Vaux-le-Vicomte* followed by a boat trip on the Seine. Another visit was to *Picassiette* in Chartres. There was a formal dinner in the Mairie.

We were due to fly back from Paris and our hosts kindly drove us to Paris, giving us a whistle stop tour of some of the main sites before dropping us off at the airport. It had been a lovely visit, the start of a long friendship and the first of many 'exchanges' both here in Chichester and in Chartres.

Editor's note: *Picassiette* is known as the house of a million pieces. *La Maison Picassiette* is an extraordinary mosaic house and considered an example of naive art. A monument worth visiting while you are in Chartres. (A quote from *Visit Chartres* website.)

## Grateful thanks to the Sponsors of the prizes offered at our event

### Flip Out Jumps

Our jump sessions give you access to our amazing arena including Trampolines, Wipeout, Ninja Assault Course, Funhouse and so much more!

Atlas House,  
Glenmore Business Park  
Chichester  
PO19 7BJ  
Tel 01243 256590

### Air Arena

Chichester Gate  
Chichester  
PO19 8EL  
Tel 01243 940530



### Kids Stuff Toys

53 South St  
Chichester  
PO19 1DS  
Tel 01243 788055



## Friends of Chartres Events: June-September 2022

Events can be booked by email to [focevents1959@gmail.com](mailto:focevents1959@gmail.com) or by returning the booking form provided with this edition.

**Monday June 20**

### Three Cities Event

The Assembly Room, North Street,  
Chichester

**7.30 pm**

Hosted by Friends of Chartres, Friends of  
Ravenna and Friends of Valetta



Director and Royal Shakespeare Company  
associate artist **Edward Bennett** in  
conversation with **Philip Robinson** about  
his career and the state of arts in  
education.

Refreshments from France, Italy and  
Malta.

**Tickets: £10**

**Sunday July 17**  
**Garden Party**

Little Oak, West Way, West Broyle  
Chichester PO19 3PW  
Chichester

**3.00-5.00 pm**



Tea will be provided.  
Bring a picnic to share and a folding chair.  
We hope the British weather will be kind!

**Friday, September 16**

### Social Evening with Fish and Chips

The Fishbourne Centre, Blackboy Lane,  
Fishbourne PO18 8BE

**6.00-10.00 pm**



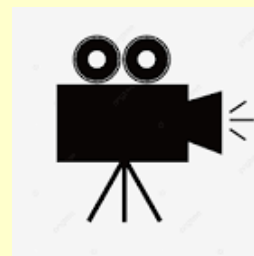
Try your hand at pétanque and test your  
knowledge with our quiz.

**Tickets: £13.50**

**Cine Club Returns**

The Studio, New Park Centre,  
Chichester PO19 7XY

**5.00 pm**



**Sunday, October 16**

*Lost in Paris*

**Sunday, November 13**

*The Extraordinary Adventures of Adèle  
Blanc Sec*

**Tickets £5.00 per film**

(Book from September onwards)

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## Information Page

**President**  
**The Right Worshipful the Mayor of**  
**Chichester**

Councillor John Hughes

### Officers and Committee

**Chairman:** Anne Scicluna 789065

**Vice Chairman:** Michael Bevis 781016

**Secretary:** Rosie Speer

[focsecretary1959@gmail.com](mailto:focsecretary1959@gmail.com)

**Treasurer:** Stephen Northdale 822148

Clare Apel 783738

Julia Sander 527435

Annie Barnes 377150

Anne-Louise Briggs 784346

Paul Everett 603513

Ellen Haigh 937027

David Nason 573716

John Wilton 788833

Contributions to **Citylink**,  
including *Just for Fun* ideas,  
would be very welcome and  
should be sent to

[foccitylink1959@gmail.com](mailto:foccitylink1959@gmail.com).

## Conversation Circles: June - September 2022

Groups meet monthly for lively, informal conversation in French. We welcome new members, whatever your level of French at 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 if you wish to improve your French.

We hope that it will be continue to be possible for us to resume indoor sessions. If not, the conversation groups will meet on Zoom. Login details will be sent out shortly before each meeting.

### Petit Cercle du mardi

#### 10.30 - 12.00 (First Tuesday of month)

Tuesday June 7

Tuesday July 5

#### August Vacances

Tuesday September 6

**Venue:** The Coffee Bar, The Festival Theatre, Oaklands Park, Chichester PO19 6AP

### Cercle Avancé

#### 5.00 - 6.30 pm (2nd Monday of month)

Monday June 13

Monday July 11

#### August Vacances

Monday September 12

**Venue:** The Duke and Rye, West Street, Chichester

### Petit Cercle du jeudi

#### 10.30 - 12.00 (3rd Thursday of month)

Thursday June 16

Thursday July 21

#### August Vacances

Thursday September 15

**Venue:** The Coffee Bar, The Festival Theatre, Oaklands Park, Chichester PO19 6AP

If you would like to attend a conversation circle and have not done so before, call **Julia**

**Sander 01243 527435**

## About the Friends of Chartres

On the 28<sup>th</sup> of February 1959, the mayors of Chichester and Chartres signed the *Deed of Jumelage* in Chichester's historic Council Chamber, thus cementing the friendship between our two cities. Through twinning, we learn about each other's culture, heritage, tradition and customs. To this end, The Friends of Chartres provide an annual programme of French themed events in Chichester.

## Membership Application Form

Name of First Adult:		
Second Adult		
Names and Ages of children under 18:		
Address:		
	Postcode	
Email		
Tel:	Mobile	Landline

Annual Subscriptions: (Renewable January 1<sup>st</sup>)  
Single Person Membership £12  
Joint/family Membership £18  
Corporate Membership £20

I wish to pay my membership subscription by Cheque/BACS  
(Delete as applicable)

Signature ..... Date .....

Please complete and return by email to  
[Focmembership1959@gmail.com](mailto:Focmembership1959@gmail.com) – BACS Details will be sent on receipt of application;  
or return by post enclosing a cheque payable to **Friends of Chartres** to:  
**Paul Everett, 24 Robins Close, Selsey nr Chichester, PO20 0QX**  
Telephone 07850325240

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