



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 2016

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THE ANNUAL EXCHANGE 2016 - WENT TO CHARTRES



FROM THE CHAIRMAN . . .

The last three months have been both hectic and enjoyable with our Exchange visit to Chartres and our Schools Art Challenge, run for the first time with the University of Chichester.

During April, the Bell Inn was once again the venue for our Quiz Evening and I was pleased, with the help of John & Shirley Walton, to be one of the winning team.

Our Exchange visit to Chartres at the end of May started off on the Friday with a visit to a Chocolate Factory and the Palace at Dreux where we were treated to a 'long' lunch-time meal.

Our joint committee meeting was held on the Saturday morning (indoors this year) and an early May Bank holiday date was agreed for next year's Exchange visit to Chichester.

I was impressed with the visit later on Saturday to the new Fire Station in Chartres and it was good to see local children attending fire training courses. At the same time, another group visited the Theatre. That evening we were treated to a meal, prepared by our hosts, and a Karaoke evening lead, in his usual zany way, by François Remy. Up to then my prediction from the last issue of Citylink of "better weather" was running true, but for our free Sunday with our host families it was cold and wet.

The Sunday Cine Club in the New Park Road Picture Palace continues successfully and I really enjoyed my visit to the slightly larger New Park Cinema to watch the French film 'The Sweet Escape', shown as part of the Three Cities, Festival of Chichester programme. Monthly on Monday and Thursday mornings the French Conversation Groups are continuing to be held in members' homes (*more details on page 8*)

We were pleased to invite Patrick Geroudet, Deputy Mayor of Chartres to stay with us and be part of our Schools Art Challenge weekend and to present, with our Mayor, awards to the schools that entered from both Chichester and Chartres (*see page 7*).

During his short stay, we spoke about the referendum being held the following week. Although not anticipating the eventual outcome, Patrick said that we had been friends for a number of years and that we would still, no matter the result, be welcome to stay in his house when the Artwork travels to Chartres in September. Long-standing friendships do not change 'overnight' and despite the referendum result our family and civic links with Chartres, built up over nearly 60 years will remain strong, in fact I think that they will strengthen and grow.

continued overleaf . . .

57 years CHICHESTER Twinning 1959

57 years CHARTRES Jumelage 2015

FROM THE CHAIRMAN *(continued)*

Just before leaving to return to Chartres, Patrick said that he was speaking with his Mayor, Jean-Pierre Gorges, who still fondly remembered his visit to Chichester for the switching on of the Christmas lights in 2007. He recalled the snow which started to fall, exactly at the time predicted and, as a keen angler, the frozen fish that he caught at the Canal Basin. These are the memories that will always remain.

In May, we received news of the death of former Chairman of Friends of Chartres, Tony Ashdown. He died after moving to Dorset in order to be closer to his daughter. Just a couple of weeks ago we lost another very pro-European member, John Rankin, twice former Mayor of Chichester.

When I was first Mayor in 1997, John was Bailiff. At the Mayor Making Ceremony he played down his appointment to what had historically been a very powerful position, by saying that the only qualification required was the ability to walk and to carry a stick at the same time.

Unfortunately I was not so 'well co-ordinated' on the evening of the Art Challenge Private View. When presenting thank you gifts to the Judging Panel I was not able to carry two bottles of wine in hessian wine carriers and, at the same time, present another. I dropped one carrier onto the concrete floor but though I had "got away with it" as it stood upright on the floor. That was until red liquid started to seep out over the floor. Thank you to all those present who came to my aid, removing the soggy bag and quickly clearing away the mess on the floor.

**RAY BROWN
CHAIRMAN**

TONY ASHDOWN

It was with great sadness we learned that just one day after moving to Dorset Tony had a massive stroke from which he did not recover. He and Betty decided to move to Dorset to be nearer



their family and purchased a new apartment in Wareham. They made the move, staying in a hotel until the final 'finishing touches' would then complete their new home. The funeral took place in the Lady St. Mary Church in Wareham on 16th May, however, because of Tony's strong connection with Chichester Cathedral, a Memorial Service was held there on 7th June.

Tony was Chairman of Friends of Chartres from 2005-2008, having been Vice-Chairman during Jim Payne's term of office (2002-2005) and I then became Vice-Chairman to Tony. Both he and Betty were very supportive of our French Twinning and, in addition to regularly taking part in our Annual Exchanges, they also made many additional visits to Chartres at different times of the year. They were also instrumental with the French youngsters' visit to Chichester when we took them to the Witterings where they swam in the sea and we treated them to good old-fashioned English Fish & Chips - in addition to a challenging game of 10-pin bowling at the then 'new' Alley.

Recently Tony had been diagnosed with Parkinsons Disease but he managed to come to events when able and was at our Annual Dinner last year (February 2015). Many condolences received from Chartres have been passed on to Betty and Tony's ashes now rest in 'Paradise' - ie the green area south of the Cathedral enclosed by the Cloisters.

MAB

PRESIDENT

The Right Worshipful the Mayor of Chichester

Councillor Peter Budge

OFFICERS & COMMITTEE MEMBERS

CHAIRMAN	Ray Brown.....	783776
VICE-CHAIRMAN	Julia Sander.....	527435
HON SECRETARY	Margaret Brown.....	783776
HON TREASURER	John Wilton	788833

Martyn Bell...(01903) 530700	Penelope Johnstone...771881
Anne-Louise Briggs...784346	David Nason.....573716
Paul Devonshire.....641457	Jim Payne.....372900

(Co-opted)

Tony Harrison (<i>Chichester Lions Club</i>).....	532893
Julie Schofield (<i>Cathedral/DEEC link</i>).....	784244
Rob Campling (<i>Photographer</i>).....	532910

CITY COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES

(July 2015 - June 2016)

Cllr Clare Apel	783738	Cllr Anne Scicluna.....	789065
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JOHN RANKIN

A service of thanksgiving took place on 1st July in Chichester Cathedral where those gathered were welcomed by The Reverend Canon Tim Schofield, Precentor.



John's daughters Catherine and Fiona recalled fond memories as they paid tribute to their father as did Alan Brown and Michael Woolley

Alan's recollections went way back in time to when they worked together at Bishop Otter College, aka the West Sussex Institute of Higher Education (WSIHE - pronounced WISHEE) - now the University of Chichester. Whilst Michael had only known him since 2004, he paid tribute to John's long-standing service to the community - as a Councillor for the City, District and County, which spanned a total of 35 years. John was twice Mayor of Chichester in 1986-87 and 1991-92 and therefore President of our Association during these times and he was still a fully paid up member of the Friends of Chartres.

In the 1980s he and the late Cllr Colin Tupper worked together with former Mayor of Chartres, Georges Lemoine, on projects including a Sports Tournament and an Art Exhibition - with tales to tell of their consequent 'hitches'.

As we followed the family from the Cathedral through the to the Vicars Hall the sound of bagpipes could be heard. Within the Cloisters a Tartan-clad lone Piper was playing the Skye Boat Song - a really befitting final tribute to John.

MAB

**FRIENDS OF CHARTRES
GARDEN PARTY**

16th JULY - 3.00 pm
(Saturday)



At: 123 Cedar Drive, Chichester [PO19 3EL]
(the home of Clare & Ralph Apel)

NO CHARGE - but please bring

Food to Share for afternoon tea around 4.00pm.

There will be a **PETANQUE MATCH**



and also

a **RAFFLE**

Please phone Clare Apel
(01243) 783738

To let her know you will be attending

**FRIENDS OF CHARTRES
Programme of Events - 2016**

JUNE - JULY FESTIVAL OF CHICHESTER

Three Cities Events: - working with Friends of Ravenna & Valletta

The following films will be shown at New Park Cinema
Tickets **£8.00p.p.** available from the box office at New Park

CONCESSIONS: Tickets for the French film just **£4.00** for members (please show your 'Friends of Chartres' Membership Card at the time of purchase).

June 19th (Sunday) at 3.00pm 'The Sweet Escape' French & sub-titles

July 3rd (Sunday) at 5.30pm 'The Great Beauty' Italian & sub-titles

July 17th (Sunday) at 3.00pm 'Simshar' Maltese film with sub-titles

July 7th (Thursday) 7.30pm - in the Assembly Room, North Street

The Very Reverend Nicholas Fraying, Dean Emeritus of Chichester will speak on:

'A Tale of Three Cities: Twinning and why it matters'
(Tickets £10 to include refreshments)

Extra flyers with detailed information for all the above events has already been emailed to all members

JULY 16th **FRIENDS OF CHARTRES GARDEN PARTY**
(Saturday) **3.00pm** : Hosted by Clare & Ralph Apel

123 Cedar Drive, Chichester

(Details to side - flyer has already been emailed to members)

OCTOBER 11th "19th CENTURY OPERA IN PARIS"
(Tuesday) **ILLUSTRATED TALK** by David Nason

7.30pm Mitre Theatre, College Lane,
University of Chichester

NOVEMBER 28th **FESTIVE SOCIAL EVENING**
(Monday) **7.30pm** The Council Chamber, North Street

QUIZ EVENING - 14th April

Twenty four members formed six teams of four in readiness for the Quiz produced and presented by Michelle Clatworthy, Landlady of The Bell Pub in Broyle Road. The challenging questions were diverse and included a deeper insight into our own local area - do you know where there was a Castle in Chichester?



Following a break for the consumption of food - the basket meals were lovely - our teams continued to answer the questions, amidst much laughter, and finally the time came to announce the winners. By just half a point, it transpired that 'The 'Brownwalts' (Browns and Waltons) had won. Teams led by Tony French and John Wilton drew for second place and the decider question resulted in Tony's team taking second place. The Chairman presented them with (chocolate) medals and a 'Thank you' bouquet was given to the Landlady. It then fell to the Treasurer to present the Winners prizes - bottles of wine - to John & Shirley Walton & Ray and Margaret Brown.



John Wilton, Treasurer, presented prizes to the Winning Team - 'The Brownwalts'

Thanks were given to Clare Apel for organising the event and also to the members who had taken part. Feedback was good so it's highly likely that we'll do it again.



ANNUAL EXCHANGE 2016

(Photos courtesy of Rob Campling & François Remey)



A Visit to Chocolate Land

"This is just like my favourite dream" - the words were uttered with enthusiasm by young William Heaver ! I knew the feeling.

Outside, the sun was shining on the elegant modernist premises of the Michel Cluizel Chocolatrium, founded in 1948. Inside, a group of us were munching chocolate in various stages of preparation, from raw beans (ouch!) to final delicately flavoured consumer products, as our expert guide took us through a history of chocolate making. (You can use a dry bean pod as a castanet!)

Before us was the Cluizel laboratory, where expert chocolatiers were preparing a new, white wafer-thin product. Incidentally, there are connoisseur chocolate tasters who, like their wine cousins, can compare and identify vintages from all times and places. Earlier, we had seen an excellent film on chocolate-making. As a finale, we were offered even more Cluizel tasters. A delightful visit!

[See also William Heaver's article on page 5]

BRYN DAVIES

Exchange Itinerary - To Chartres (26th - 30th May 2016)

Thursday 26th - Leave Chichester very early morning using Woods Coach for Brittany Ferry sailing Portsmouth - Caen.

Arrive Chartres early evening with a 'Welcome Reception' by Des Amis des Jumelages de Chartres and receive programme.

Friday 27th -

Morning - Visit to **Michel Cluizel Chocolate Factory**

Afternoon - Visit to the **Chapel Royal in Dreux** (including lunch in the Chapel's Restaurant)

Saturday 28th - Morning

Joint Twinning Meeting: Committees of 'Friends of Chartres' & 'Des Amis des Jumelages de Chartres' (Chichester Commission)

Mayor's Reception for all hosts and guests in **Hôtel Montescot** (Chartres' Mairie) hosted by Patrick Geroudet

Afternoon Visits to: either (a) **Chartres Fire Station** or (b) **Theatre**

Evening Social event: held in 'Maison Pour Tout de Pont Neuf'
A Supper with Karaoke

Sunday 29th - Free Time with hosts.

Monday 30th - Return to Chichester (via Caen Hypermarket).

CHAPELLE ROYALE

Saint-Louis, Dreux



JOINT TWINNING MEETING - Hôtel Montescot, (Chartres' Mairie) (Photos courtesy of Margaret Brown)



Chairmen Philippe Rabartin & Ray Brown (above centre):
with committee members of 'Friends of Chartres' & 'Des Amis des Jumelages de Chartres' (Chichester Commission)



CIVIC RECEPTION, AFTERNOON VISITS & EVENING SOCIAL EVENT



The customary joint meeting of our two twinning committees was held on the Saturday morning and followed by a Civic Reception in the Hôtel Montescot (Mairie) where the 'official' speeches and gifts were exchanged. Our Mayor, Peter Budge, and City Bailiff, Trevor Tupper, joined in our Exchange as Friends of Chartres members rather than in their 'official' civic roles. As a railway enthusiast Trevor was looking forward to re-visiting Chartres and experiencing their new rail network whilst Peter was just so keen to visit Chartres again - his first visit was for the Fête de la Lumière last September.



Following lunch we were split into two groups for the afternoon visits to either the new State-of-the-Arts Fire Station or the Theatre. Our new junior 'roving reporter', Tom Heaver, has kindly put forward his report on the Fire Station (see page 8) and I'm now waiting for a report on the Theatre visit.

CHOCOLATE FACTORY VISIT

We split into 2 groups, one French and the other English, then with the English group, we watched a film in English all about chocolate from cocoa bean to chocolate bar. After the film we went into part of the chocolate factory and saw chocolates being made. White chocolate was being moulded into flat thin bars and then rolled up to be cut into strips whereas milk chocolate was being poured into moulded casts. I enjoyed tasting the chocolates and liked the one with the soft chocolate filling.



Then we went into the factory shop and were surrounded by lots of chocolate - **FANTASTIC!** I bought a white chocolate bar, which didn't last long!



Visiting the chocolate factory was definitely one of my holiday highlights and I would like to visit the factory again!

WILLIAM HEAVER



The social event that evening was held in the community centre hall, 'Maison Pour Tout de Pont Neuf'. Each host brought food to share, thus the table was laden with a large variety of dishes and, of course, there was a great selection of liquid refreshments including the inevitable French wine(s). The dress code was 'casual' and a very relaxed atmosphere was evident from the start. Having completed our meal we were then 'guided' towards our entertainment for the evening which was OURSELVES. The 'Karaoke' evening had commenced. Groups tried to sing along to the words projected, via Jean-Claude's laptop, onto a large screen. With encouragement (and fancy hats) from François there was much frivolity and laughter and the evening concluded with the exchange of gifts between our two associations. Ray presented English chocolates to 'Des Amis' and Philippe presented French chocolates to 'FoC'. So great minds think alike - just like Siamese twins.

MARGARET BROWN



A SLICE OF FRENCH LIFE

Having joined 'Friends of Chartres' relatively recently, I was eager to join the group who were visiting Chartres this year. As the time of departure drew near, I have to admit to feeling some trepidation as I was going to be staying for three days and four nights with people I'd never met and I couldn't help but wonder if I had done the right thing. I needn't have worried as my host, Edwige, was incredibly warm and welcoming and, as we got to know each other over the next few days discovered that we had quite a lot in common.



awning in front of the barn with people standing around a table full of *amuse bouche*, nibbles of all kind, wine and what the French call chips but we call crisps. It transpired that not one French person could actually pronounce the word "crisps" which amused us all as various guests tried.

The day after we arrived was full of organised events and when we got home, Edwige told me that her best friend, Noelle, and her partner, Didier, who live just across the road, were giving a party and that we were invited. So, on a beautiful warm evening, we walked across the road and knocked on barn like doors which I think must have been at least 3.5m high. The doors were opened to reveal a long table set up in the garden, laden with food and drink and surrounded by family, friends and neighbours all talking and laughing. I think most of us will have seen French films which feature, at some point, a similar scene and I felt as though I had walked into such a film.

I was made so welcome, given champagne, offered food, and sat with Edwige, and a lovely friend, Anne. People changed seats, food came in waves, it got cooler and Noelle lent me a cardigan to wear. She came and sat with us and played with delightful grandchildren everyone talking and laughing - it was quite wonderful.

Unfortunately, I was not able to take full advantage of the food, having just had root canal treatment which was causing me pain and meant I could only eat tiny morsels of food on one side of my mouth. Still, I managed and my champagne glass was continually topped up by Anne, who spoke a little English. She teased me, much to the amusement of everyone there, by lifting a nearby wheel-barrow and telling me that the French have a saying about putting people who had drunk too much into a wheelbarrow to wheel them home.

On the Saturday, after an official reception at the Town Hall, we split into two groups for visits. I opted to visit the Theatre, which was very enjoyable and, in the evening, there was a dinner for everyone and a very amusing Karaoke followed.

Having had two days of glorious weather, we awoke on Sunday morning, following a thunder storm, to torrential rain. It was Mother's Day in France and while Edwige and I were having breakfast her husband appeared with baguettes under his arm and a Mother's Day gift of a beautiful chocolate heart for Edwige and, much to my surprise, he had very kindly bought a gift for me too - chocolates presented in a lovely lacquered box. I was very touched by his thoughtfulness.

We had to abandon our plans to visit Chartres Cathedral because of the weather, but Edwige had told me that Noelle and Didier were having yet another *fête* at lunchtime and we were again invited. It was to celebrate a Birthday as well as Mother's Day and when we arrived at the doors again, there were balloons attached to them, looking very festive despite the rain.

Again, we knocked on the giant doors and this time they opened to reveal the same table but this time, because of the rain, it was set up in what they called a garage but I would call an elongated barn which actually had a BBQ built into one side. There was a large

Anne was there and immediately called out "champagne" when she saw me and that set the tone for the rest of the day. Wonderful food and wonderful company, even though nobody spoke English except Edwige and Anne, who only spoke a little. There were lots of jokes, especially from Didier who is what we would call "a character" - very funny and charming - I was told that he was considered "un clown".

What was really amazing is that both Noelle and Didier are keen bikers and are the proud possessors of two gleaming Harley Davidsons and Hell's Angels type leather gear. I saw these amazing monsters on my first visit and Noelle showed me her leather jacked while telling me about the rallies they go on and how much she loved riding her bike. I told them about Monty Python's "Hell's Grannies" but I don't think Monty Python ever entered the French consciousness and they very possibly didn't quite appreciate that joke.

About 6.00pm, when the party was in full swing, Edwige told me we were going and when I asked where, she said it was a surprise. We drove through pouring rain for about 35 minutes and during the drive, I asked her again and she finally told me we were going to a Château. When we got there - it turned out to be Château de Maintenon, I discovered that she had got tickets for a concert in the Orangery there. I was so touched by her thoughtfulness and generosity. I had told her soon after I arrived that I loved classical music and she made this lovely gesture by taking me to a concert.

When the concert finished at 9.00pm we drove back to the party and found most of the guests had left but Noelle and Didier were still in party mode and Noelle's daughter and son-in-law were still there, as was Anne and Edwige's husband, Ghislain. They were just about to eat dinner, more brochettes of various meats cooked by Ghislain, who had been in charge of the BBQ all day and very delicious it was too, even though I could only manage a morsel or two.

We departed the next morning and wam farewells were said by all. On the coach some of us swapped stories about what we had done, as all of us had had very different experiences. However, of the people I spoke to, I was the only one to have experienced what I think us Brits would think of as the quintessential way of life in France: good food, wine, the family - which includes everybody from new babies to great grandparents - and, of course, friends, eating, talking and laughing all together, often outdoors. In other words I experienced, at first hand, what a lot of us would consider to be the 'French dream' and I will always be grateful to Edwige, Ghislain, Noelle, Didier and Anne for making it real for me, if only for a short time, and for making my short stay in France so wonderful and memorable.

ANNIE WEBER

SCHOOLS ART CHALLENGE AWARDS 2016

Working with the University of Chichester - Fine Art Department & Otter Gallery

'A Tale of Twinned Cities': Chapter 6: 'Paper Cut-Outs (Gouaches/Découpé)'



Working with the University we were able to hold the Awards Ceremony in the Chapel on the Chichester Campus and this larger venue had enabled us to lift our previous restrictions on the numbers of pupils, parents and teachers attending from schools. On 18th June Steve McDade, the Head of Fine Arts, welcomed all attending the prizegiving, including the Mayor of Chichester, Cllr Peter Budge, Deputy Mayor of Chartres, Patrick Geroudet, other City, District and County Councillors and thanked the sponsors and the City Council who had provided a grant.



It was explained that the winning schools receiving Trophies would hold these for just one year, but the endorsed Certificates were theirs 'for keeps'. To compensate for not being able to hold Winners Workshops this year there would be different prizes for pupils, in the form of books and art materials. There were also new categories created by the Judging Panel plus a 'Private View' award.

Ray Brown, our Chairman, explained that a total of 12 schools, 10 local and 2 from Chartres, completed the Challenge by submitting their entries on the previous Monday. Judging had taken place on Tuesday and the artworks then hung in the Foyer Gallery at artOne building in readiness for the Private View on Friday evening. (*The PV report to be in next edition.*) The Judging Panel comprised Pallant House Director, Marc Steene, the University's Steve McDade & Associate Lecturer Liz Colley, and Lin Chaplin (former Headteacher and member of Friends of Chartres).

On behalf of the Judging Panel Lin Chaplin gave feedback to each school as they were called up, in alphabetical order, to receive their framed certificate from Ray & Steve and this was then captured on camera by Rob Campling.

Leading into the results for this year, Steve then took over the announcements starting with the French schools results. The winner was l'école élémentaire de Grand Jardin, however, the Judging Panel also wanted to commend three pieces of work from l'école élémentaire de Rechèvres for which the school would receive a 'Commended' certificate. Our Mayor presented the Winners Trophy, framed certificates and prizes, to Patrick Geroudet who would then present these to the French schools on his return to Chartres.

Steve then announced the prize-winners, in reverse order and the Mayor of Chichester & Deputy Mayor of Chartres jointly presented Tilly Moyler of The Prebendal School with a 'Best Individual Entry' certificate plus a book and art materials. Medmerry Primary School were presented with a duly endorsed 'Collaborative Award' certificate plus a book and art materials. Receiving the 'Private View Award' which was voted by guests at the previous night's Private View was Lavant C of E Primary school and the 'Coup de Coeur' stained glass Trophy went to Bosham Primary School. Finally St Richard's Primary School was announced the 'Winner' and presented with the Mosaic Trophy, plus a book and art materials.

In summing up the Chairman thanked the FoC sub-committee, Marc Steene (PHG), the University staff and especially Steve McDade in agreeing to our new 'Partnership' and also to his staff for their support in enabling us to continue this project - and a big 'thank you' on behalf of the schools. Everyone was then invited to view the Exhibition in the 'artOne' Foyer Gallery - with refreshments courtesy of Friends of Chartres.

MARGARET BROWN



Winners: above St Richard's RC Primary School

Below l-r: 'Collaborative' Award to Medmerry Primary School; 'Coup de Coeur' Award and Trophy to Bosham Primary School; Private View Award to Lavant C of E Primary School; Best Individual Award to Tilly Moyler, The Prebendal School



FRENCH *Conversation Groups*

LE PETIT CERCLE (*Morning meetings*)

Group meets monthly for lively, informal conversation in French. Le Petit Cercle du mardi meets on the first Tuesday of the month, and Le Petit Cercle du jeudi meets on the second Thursday of the month. Sessions are held in members' houses. Both September sessions are to be held at Julia Sander's house (details below). The venues for October to December will be decided at the September meetings. For further information contact **Julia Sander** on (01243) 527435.

Petit Cercle du mardi - from 10.30 am to Midday

Tuesday 6th **SEPTEMBER**
JULIA SANDER
19 Jubilee Road, Chichester, PO19 7XB527435

Tuesday 4th **OCTOBER** Venue to be confirmed

Tuesday 1st **NOVEMBER** Venue to be confirmed

Tuesday 6th **DECEMBER** Venue to be confirmed

Petit Cercle du jeudi - from 10.30 am to Midday

Thursday 8th **SEPTEMBER**
JULIA SANDER
19 Jubilee Road, Chichester, PO19 7XB527435

Thursday 13th **OCTOBER** Venue to be confirmed

Thursday 10th **NOVEMBER** Venue to be confirmed.

Thursday 8th **DECEMBER** Venue to be confirmed

Friends of Chartres Cine Club Autumn 2016



We are showing 2 films in the Picture Palace during the Autumn season. These are private showings in this 13 seater mini-cinema and we share costs which are £7.50 per head. All films have sub-titles. Book early to be sure of a place.

Sunday September 25th : 17.00 - 'Etre et Avoir'

This is a delightful documentary film about a village primary school in the rural area of Puy-de-Dôme. The population of the village is just over 200 and the school has one small class of mixed ages (from four to twelve years). The class teacher shows respect for the children and attends patiently to their different needs as we follow the story through a single year.

Sunday November 6th : 17.00 - 'La Famille Bélier'

A recent comedy drama about the Bélier family. Sixteen-year-old Paula is an indispensable interpreter for her deaf parents and brother, especially in the running of the family farm. One day, a music teacher discovers Paula's gift for singing and encourages her to participate in a prestigious singing contest. However, this decision means leaving her family and taking her first steps towards adulthood.

Contact Julia Sander for further information and to book a place: julia@sander.plus.com. Tel: (01243) 527435

CHARTRES FIRE STATION VISIT



The fire station was opened in October 2015 and is very large. The station commander gave a long introductory talk in excellent English explaining how the fire and rescue service is structured in the Department of Eure and Loire and how the service compares to that of Britain.

There are 200,000 fire fighters in France, of whom 20,000 are professional and 30,000 military fire fighters and the rest are 'volunteers'. The fire fighters provide medics in ambulances as well as being fire fighters. There is a training course for 11 to 16 year olds and I had a go at rolling out a hose..

We were shown around the fire station by another officer who also spoke excellent English. We saw the control room, the sleeping quarters, kitchen and rest room areas. William tried on a fireman's jacket which was very heavy and a couple of the older guests had their photo taken wearing a helmet.



The station has five ambulances and over thirty fire fighting appliances in a large garage. In a truck there will be an officer sitting on the right, also there will be a driver and at least five fire fighters. When there is a big fire a special fire truck with a commander will come to organise and co-ordinate the action. They have special appliances for forest fires and a fan for clearing smoke.

It was a very interesting visit and the modern fire station was very impressive.

TOM HEAVER

EDITORIAL

With our Annual Exchange in addition to our Quiz Evening, and Schools Art Challenge it has been a pretty busy time for Friends of Chartres with a lot to report and I would like to thank those who have contributed to this edition.

Thanks also to John Wilton for his article about a special event which took place with his French hosts. This will go into the next edition together with the report - and photos - of the Schools Art Exhibition and Private View. I don't have a report on the Theatre Visit so would like to hear from those who took part in this please.

If you have anything which you think will be of interest to our members then do please contact me directly either by telephone (01243) 783776 or by email: mbrown121@fsmail.net The deadline for me to receive copy for the next edition is 31st July - but I would also welcome news, features or crosswords (with the answers please) etc. for future editions beyond that date.

**MARGARET BROWN
EDITOR**