



CITYLINK

(THE CITY OF CHICHESTER twinned SINCE 1959 with THE CITY OF CHARTRES)

NEWSLETTER OF THE FRIENDS OF CHARTRES

Chichester's French Twinning Association

September 2011

[Re-numbered from the Millennium] **ISSUE: 46**

OUR FIRST FRENCH FILM EVENT

working with Chichester Cinema at New Park



Mayor of Chichester, Cllr Tony French, with Chairman, Martyn Bell, and Vice-Chairman, Ray Brown, at the 'launch' of this new venture

(Report and more pictures are on page 6.)

From the Chairman . . .

By the time you read this most of you will have returned from your 'summer' holidays. I hope you all had a great time despite the disappointing weather in the UK. Some of you, like me, will have travelled to France. My visit was totally unexpected and unplanned.

You may recall that, with the help and encouragement of members of 'Les Amis de Chichester', in August 2009 I followed "in the footsteps of Jean Moulin" to the South of France. During my journey I went to Chambon-Sur-Lignon, in the eastern Massif Central and visited a former Maquisard' Gabriel Eyraud. Gabriel is the last surviving member of the famous Compagnie Yssingaux

Parachutages - 'Group Y P' - which handled a total of twenty three drops, many organised by Moulin's Bureau des Operations Aeriennes.

In early August, 'out of the blue', the WWII Oral Historian Marty Cox telephoned me from Toulouse to ask if I could arrange for his film-crew to travel to Chambon the next week to interview Gabriel and if (entirely at my own expense !) I could meet the film-crew there and, as I knew Gabriel, personally conduct the interview.

Within days I was in Lyon via Eurostar/TGV and with an Avis rent-a-car, reached Chambon in time for the rendez-vous.

The local Mairie asked us not to interview Gabriel for more than twenty minutes as he "is nearly ninety". However, once the lighting was in place and the camera started rolling, Gabriel kept us all spell-bound with his memories for nearly two hours !

This Autumn we have an Events programme which we hope will provide equal interest and entertainments - more details are inside.

Following our recent Executive meeting an additional event has been added to our programme. By kind permission of our President we will be having Christmas Cheese & Wine in the Council Chamber on Tuesday 6th December, however, as numbers will be limited you will need to apply early. We are also looking to celebrate the arrival of 'le Beaujolais Nouveau' in Chichester on the 17th November, more details soon.

MARTYN BELL
CHAIRMAN

52 years CHICHESTER Twinning 1959

52 years CHARTRES Jumelage 2011

A SALUTORY TAIL - AT THE DOGS



During our very enjoyable exchange trip to the greyhound racing at Hove, I and our French 'twins' Marc and Marie-France Delaloy, were seated at a dining table for six with Robina Richter and her first time guests, Christiane and Remy Motier. We all made our choices from the menu and three people - Robina, Marie-France and I think Remy - went for the rump steak as main course. I had chosen the lamb shank which was good, but when the waiter came along to clear the main course dishes away, Robina told him she wanted to complain that the rump steak had not been good. She said it was dry, tough and overcooked and the three of them had not enjoyed it. Our waiter reported up the line and in due course the head waiter appeared. Robina repeated her complaint and the head waiter apologised and said he would see what could be done.

A bit later he was back and said that in recompense to the three of them, they could choose a complimentary bottle of wine from the wine list. Thinking quickly 'on her feet' Robina, who was looking at the white wine page of the wine list, chose the most expensive bottle on the list, a Chablis at £24! This was duly brought to the table and presented to Robina unopened, as she had specifically requested, so it did not have to be drunk there on the evening - everyone had already had such drinks as they wanted with the meal. Robina offered the bottle to Marie-France who declined, saying Robina should take it home to share with her guests.

I had to leave the table early before the others, to go with the French coach driver to retrieve the coach. I thought no more about it until we were all at the departure rendezvous at 6.00am two days later. Spotting Robina, I asked her if she and her guests had enjoyed the Chablis. She gave a hollow laugh and said that they had never had the chance - at the restaurant she had put the bottle down beside her and completely forgotten to pick it up when they all left! The Chablis never left the restaurant. No doubt the restaurant staff were pleased to retrieve their expensive bottle. I am sure there is a moral there somewhere, but I'm not sure what it is.

JOHN WILTON

Programme of Events 2011

October 5th Ivor Novello - 'Man of the Theatre'
(Wednesday) 'A Evening with David Nason at the piano'
7.30pm in the Chapel of the Ascension,
University of Chichester, College Lane

(For further details please contact Ray Brown on 783776)

November 11th "A Dangerous Wartime Journey
through French Indo-China"
(Friday) Illustrated Talk by Martyn Bell
7.30pm at Shippam Centre, Tozer Way

(Please see enclosed flyer - return slip to Ray Brown)

In February 1943, at the request of the Regent of Thailand, 'Free Thai' members Chamkat Balankura and Lee Phaisan 'broke out' from Japanese Occupied Thailand and reached the Allies in Chinese Nationalist held Chungking on the Yantze.

Martyn will brief us in detail on Chamkat's 1,000mile journey and reveal the vital role of anti-Vichy Frenchman Prof. Choede (Director of L'Ecole Francaise d'Extreme Orient (EFEO) in Hanoi. He has known Chamkat's niece for many years, travelled this heroic journey and later interviewed the widow of Chamkat in Bangkok.

December 6th Christmas Cheese & Wine - 7.00pm
(Tuesday) in the Council Chamber, North Street
by kind permission of our President
(Strictly limited numbers)

(Please see enclosed flyer - return slip to Ray Brown)

- 2012 -

The following are in the process of being organised

February 7th Annual Dinner
(Tuesday) The Goodwood Restaurant,
Chichester College

March 7th Annual General Meeting
(Wednesday) St George's Hall, Cleveland Road
Chichester

April 27th - 1st May ANNUAL EXCHANGE
(Friday to Tuesday) - TO CHARTRES

STOP PRESS & EDITORIAL

We are delighted that this year's Schools Art Exhibition is to be displayed in the Mairie in Chartres for the month of October. We are now retrieving the entries from the schools whilst organising transportation of this Exhibition to Chartres. Watch this space!

Once again thanks go to all who have contributed to this edition of our Newsletter. If you have anything which you think might interest our members, please do contact me (details on back page) and any copy for the next edition should reach me by Friday 16th November please. I look forward to seeing you at our future events.

MARGARET BROWN
EDITOR



SCHOOLS ARTS COMPETITION 2011 :

A Tale of Twin Cities:

Chapter 1 - Stained Glass

Workshops with Glass Artist Chris Brown

Held in The Studio at Pallant House Gallery

Sunday 22nd May

The focus of this year's competition was stained glass, inspired by the beautiful windows at Chartres and Chichester Cathedrals and the subject for the designs included landmarks, icons of culture, environment and architecture of the two cities. Aimed at children from Year 3 to Year 8 (seven to thirteen years old) the entrants were encouraged to use a wide interpretation of the stained glass process - including the use of tissue paper, plastic, acetate, glass paint and more traditional approaches, with English schools depicting images of Chartres and vice versa.

When this year's competition was Launched at a Reception held in Pallant House Gallery last October, representatives from eight local schools attended. Each of these schools 'signed up' to take part and each school was given a Resource Pack filled with information about Chartres. Additionally one school in Chartres applied to enter the competition and received a Resource Pack filled with information about Chichester. At the end of the Competition we were pleased to note that all nine schools had completed their commitment by ensuring Pallant House Gallery received their artworks by the closing date.

The variety and standard of the entries was amazing and the Judges' decision had been so challenging it was decided that an additional award be included for this year. Thus a 'Highly Commended' certificate - plus book token from Pallant House Gallery - was awarded to Bishop Luffa Secondary School. However, Parklands Primary School received the framed Winner's Certificate, to be retained by them, plus the Arts Award Trophy - to be held by them for one year until the next competition.

This trophy (pictured right) was commissioned by Friends of Chartres for our first competition which took place during the celebrations to mark the 50th Anniversary of our Twinning. It was designed and produced by Oliver Budd of Budd Mosaics and reflects the house in Chartres known as 'Picassiette' which was the focus for that competition. The house, contents and garden of this Chartres' landmark was completely covered in mosaics made from broken crockery by its owner, Raymond Isadore, and his life-work is now a national monument. As prizes for the children who took part in our Art Project, Oliver Budd was also commissioned to run mosaic workshops and a total of 16 pupils attended these (4 from each of the 4 schools which had entered).



It was agreed that this year Friends of Chartres should commission a new trophy for the French side of the competition. John Barrett, a local wood turner, fulfilled this task. At this year's Awards Ceremony the carved, wooden Trophy (pictured left) was given to Claire Crézé and Patrick Geroudet for them to present it to Mme Bonnin and her class at l'école Grand Jardin. They hope that more schools from Chartres will enter next year, but they are very determined to do their best to keep this Trophy.

continued.....



Above left: Pupils from Secondary schools, Bishop Luffa and the High School for Girls, together with Primary school pupils from, Kingsham, Jessie Younghusband, Lavant, and Tangmere, Schools. Right: Pupils from the Arts Award Trophy Winner, Parklands Community Primary School.

A total of approximately 275 children from nine schools were involved in this year's competition. Those from the eight local schools (around 250 pupils) also had the opportunity of attending a workshop held in Pallant House Gallery and led by Glass Artist Chris Brown.

Known as 'Glasswoman', local artist, Chris Brown, teaches a variety of courses at Northbrook College, Worthing. These include the Traditional Leaded Light method for stained glass windows and Copper Foiling Workshops, a technique used to make Tiffany style lamps and decorative mirrors. In addition to these classes at Northbrook's Broadwater and Durrington sites, she also provides private workshops for Glass Fusing at her Cottage in Worthing. An example of Chris's work can be seen in the middle of Worthing Pier. Commissioned by Worthing Arts Council and entitled 'Plank Attack' the two panels, designed and produced by Chris, commemorate the sinking of the Ice Prince and the massive quantities of timber that was washed ashore onto the beach in January 2008. This, her first piece of public art to be on permanent display in her home town, was unveiled by Worthing's Mayor.

Chris kindly produced samples of a variety of workshops for us to consider. At this point in time it was not known which of the schools would actually finish the competition and therefore Chris catered for the broad age-range of pupils from 7 to 13 years of age. After careful thought it was agreed to opt for the Fused Glass Workshop which was suitable for all ages.

After the euphoria of the Awards Ceremony (where our Mayor, Michael Woolley, and the Deputy Maire of Chartres, Patrick Geroudet, had made the presentations) came the practicalities of getting the children to the two workshops in The Studio at PHG just one week later. This proved to be a very work-intensive week for some! The teachers chose which pupils would attend these workshops using a variety of methods. As 'The Winner' Parklands School was allocated all 16 places on the first workshop whilst the second workshop comprised pupils from the other local schools, with the exception of The Prebendal School.

Due to other commitments they kindly donated their places to the 'Highly Commended' Bishop Luffa School.

Both workshops followed the same pattern. After Chris Brown's demonstration and explanation of how to create a coaster & then produce a design using the materials provided, the children began to work on their own designs. Because of the nature of the materials being used and the children's ages, Chris needed a high ratio of adult helpers. Pallant House Gallery provided volunteers to help Parklands' teacher, Emma Raynsford, and her parent/classroom assistant in the morning and Bishop Luffa teacher, Vicky Petterson-Turner, in the afternoon. Friends of Chartres 'presence' included Lin Chaplin (am) and Emma Heaver (pm), whilst Ray and I called into both workshops.

Towards the end of each workshop Chris was also able to give a demonstration of the processes involved in making traditional stained glass including glass painting. All the children enjoyed this special day and were proud of the certificates they received recording this achievement. The coasters were left with Chris for firing in her kiln and when ready we then delivered these to the schools, together with Chartres' keyrings left by Claire Crézé for pupils who had not been able to attend the Awards Ceremony.

The Exhibition of all the schools' entries was displayed in The Studio at Pallant House Gallery for the month of May when in excess of 2,500 visitors have been recorded. In addition to the glowing comments from the Director of PHG, Stefan Van Raay who led the judging panel, similar comments were made by teachers, parents and our French visitors. When we invited schools to take part in this year's competition our letter said that we hoped the children would enjoy producing their work whilst also learning about each other's twin City, this Exhibition was testimony that those aims had been achieved.

Whilst congratulations go to all the participants I would like to record our thanks for the financial support received in the form of grants and sponsorship from the councils and the local businesses shown below.

MARGARET BROWN



FRENCH FILM EVENING at Chichester Cinema, New Park



On a wet and windy July evening nearly thirty of us gathered in the 'Jazz Hall' at the back of the New Park Community Centre for a glass of wine and canapés before seeing the French film 'Rien à déclarer' in the Chichester Cinema next door.

The Jazz Hall and its adjoining 'Hall Next Door' are about to be demolished when the long awaited start of the refurbishment and extension of the buildings at New Park Community Centre gets under way at last in August. Thus it is currently a rather drab and run down hall, but by the time we had set out some tables and put out the drinks and canapés, and people started to arrive it felt more welcoming. By the time the Mayor and Mayoress arrived there was a good crowd chatting animatedly and enjoying a glass of French wine and the delicious canapés prepared by our committee member and exchange organiser Julia Sander. There were several non-members present who either came as guests of members or via the cinema's own advertising, which was good as it gave them a chance to learn a bit about us and what we did.



Our Chairman, Martyn Bell, welcomed everyone and a bit later announced it was time to make our way round to the cinema. We all found our seats, and after the adverts and trailers, sat back to enjoy what turned out to be a very funny film. It was one of a season of French films being put on by the Cinema. I chose it because it was a comedy, and because about three years ago I had seen a very funny French film at Chichester Cinema called 'In the sticks' by the same director, Danny Boon, so I hoped this would be as good

The film was set at a small town and customs post on the French/Belgian border in the early 1990's when border formalities were abandoned between the continental countries of the EU. Opposing French and Belgian customs officers were the two main characters, and the relationship between the two nationalities was a bit like that between the English and the Irish, including the jokes. The humour did not get lost in the translation into subtitles, and there was much laughter in the cinema during the film. I was particularly amused by the transformation of a rusting and unreliable Renault 4 dating from the early 1970's (just like one I used to own) that became the transport for the new 'Franco/



Belgian mobile anti-drugs squad' made up of the two officers. After a trip to the garage for new tyres it was transformed into a souped up BMW beating supercar.

By the time the film finished it had stopped raining and we were able to head off home, in the dry, after a very enjoyable evening. Our thanks to Walter Francisco at Chichester Cinema for helping us to put on this event.

JOHN WILTON



CHARTRES' PORTE GUILLAUME

Received its 'new' foundation stone' . . .



*Député-maire de Chartres, Jean-Pierre Gorge, Adjoint, Patrick Geroulet, with Councillors Maria Chedeville and Isabelle Vincent - and at the back left,, Claire and Alain Crézé
Photo taken by Thierry Delaunay of Chartres' L'Echo republic newspaper*

Following the « stone escorts » path...

In the XIIth and XIIIth centuries, the thousands of stones needed to build Our Lady's Cathedral were extracted from the quarries of Berchères, a small village of Beauce, about 12 kilometres south-west of Chartres. Carts pulled by draught horses carried the stones following a path through Gellainville and Le Coudray, then along the River Eure banks and finally climbing to the cathedral. The heaviest stones, some weighing more than 1000 kilos, came by boat on the River Eure. On Saturday June 18th, walkers were invited by Chartres Town Council and the Association "Berch'Pierre" to discover this historical path, the stone escorts' path (le chemin des carriers, in French).

Despite many black clouds and a dreadful weather forecast, more than 100 people were at the meeting point in the beginning of the afternoon. We first visited the old quarries where the stones of the cathedral came from. For a few years the Association



"Berch'Pierre" has been endeavouring to revive this place by opening it to the public. Quarries are open cast and cover a wide space of about 25 hectares. Some veins are still operated nowadays (see the above photos). After that we all left for a 15 kilometre walk, with cheerfulness and good mood.

Leading the group, a cart pulled by a pony was carrying the first stone for the rebuilding of Porte Guillaume in Chartres. Patrick Geroulet was walking with us and several walkers wore very nice medieval costumes, sewn by the Association "La Dame à la Licorne", which helps unemployed people to



Photo by Thierry Delaunay - L'Echo



Citylink - September 2011

get back to work. All along the walk, we had magnificent views to the Cathedral, with those light and special colours of sky you can only see in Beauce, mixing grey, silver and blue.

Arriving near to Gellainville, we had squalls, and very soon, a downpour. We took shelter in the nice church and, as thunderclaps rumbled outside, we enjoyed a hot cup of tea listening to explanations about the recent restoration of the church. The liturgical furniture is modern, but cut into the stone of Berchères. When we left, we were almost dry and the sky was



quieter. Unfortunately very soon another shower fell on us but we went on courageously. The wind finally dried our clothes and we reached our second stop, the statue of the Pilgrim at "Les Trois Ponts". There, we learnt more about the St Jacques of Compostelle pilgrimage then left to achieve our walk to Porte Guillaume.

Our Mayor, Jean-Pierre Gorge, some deputy mayors and town councillors, and many Chartrains welcomed us warmly. Six strong men, among them the Mayor and Patrick, were needed to



*The first stone and the strong men !
Photo by Thierry Delaunay of Chartres; L'Echo newspaper*

lift the stone from the cart and to put it in its place on the wall. The stone of Berchères is very dense, that's the reason why it lasts so well through the centuries. So, the first stone of rebuilding Porte Guillaume, ruined at the end of WWII, is well in place. The rebuilding site will begin very soon.

After the usual speeches, Jean-Pierre Gorge invited everyone to share a drink and to meet again to bring more stones for the site! It was the end of a nice day, very wet but so instructive.

CLAIRE CRÉZÉ

(Chairman, Chichester Commission of Chartres' Twinning)

FRENCH Language Circle

The purpose of the Circle is to read and speak French, therefore helping members to become more fluent and confident in the language. We meet at 2.30pm in members' homes, where the hostess provides tea and biscuits around 4.00pm. We then relax our conversation somewhat and either continue in French to those nearest to us, or else chat back in our native tongue. People go home between 4.30 & 5.00pm.



Enjoying the good weather at the July meeting

AFTERNOON CIRCLE

OCTOBER (Thursday)

13th JOYCE MITTON
38 St Leodegar's Way, Hunston.....779558

NOVEMBER (Thursday)

10th MARGARET BROWN (Exchanged from September's meeting)
'Rock Cottage' 121 Bognor Road, Chichester.....783776

DECEMBER (Thursday)

8th DAPHNE BOWLING
'Sandpipers', Mill Lane, Sidlesham.....641660

Don't forget to phone the relevant hostess to let her know you will be going along which will help her to arrange her 'salon' and to know how many cups and saucers, etc. will be needed. We are always pleased to welcome new members who may feel a little hesitant about joining us, but we really are a small, informal group just wanting to practise the French language and stretch those little grey cells.

DAPHNE BOWLING : (01243 641660

MORNING CIRCLE

A houseboat on the Marina's section of Chichester Canal was the venue for the last meeting before the school holidays and the subject was 'Camping' - most appropriate for that time of year. For details of future meetings please contact:

EMMA HEAVER : (01243) 778568

EVENING CIRCLE ('Twilight hours')

Maximum of ten (a comfortable number) capable of facilitating a conversation in French and speaking with authority on very varied subjects. When numbers exceed 10, fresh groups will be formed. For up-to-date information please contact either: **JULIA SANDER** (01243) 641488 or **HENRIETTA NAPIER** (01243) 528238

CHICHESTER REVISITED -

A TRUE LOVE STORY

"I really need you !" were the opening words of an email to the Town Clerk, which he duly forwarded to Ray and me saying "Doubtless you'll both be able to answer all the questions ! If so, could a reply go direct from the Friends?"

Checking past Citylinks confirmed our answers - but curiosity had been aroused and instinct told me that here was a new story for Citylink. The reply to Marie included a copy of a 10 year old article plus photo. Just one email and a brief phone call (to confirm times) we met later that day at The Cross. Then, over a Fish & Chips supper at LaFish restaurant in the Hornet, we pieced together their story



Josselin thought his fiancée was organising a holiday on the north east coast of France, but she had surprises in store! "I make him a surprise trip to England, to all the places we visited 10 years ago with the twinning visit accompanied by Thomas Desgrouas."



Marie (circled) & Thomas (front row 3rd from left) - photo from August 2001

It was a tightly packed schedule. They had arrived in England on Monday, spent Tuesday in London and were returning to France on Thursday morning so Wednesday was dedicated to Chichester and the surrounding area. Marie had the programme of the Youth Visit which had brought them together and they explained what happened during that week when they were 15 and 16 years old.



Chichester College was where they had lessons in English each morning then various visits and activities took up the afternoons and evenings. The 18th August was a very special day for our couple. An evening Canal walk was replaced with a bowling and pizza party at Portsmouth and it

was here where they exchanged a first kiss. After this they were very careful about holding hands and sitting together as they did not want to draw attention to themselves. At that time Josselin's father was in Chartres but he was with his mother near Limoges. On their return to France Josselin visited his father much more frequently, in fact as often as he possibly could - to see Marie.

Now they are 25 and 26 years old. Marie is a professional pianist and has been working with "Opera de Paris" for the last 4 years. She has travelled widely with the children's choir and performed in front of the French Ambassador in Washington. Josselin is an engineer working for an oil and gas company in Paris. Last year they became engaged (PACS: Pacte civile de solidanté) and have



bought a house very close to Paris. Marie's parents still live in Chartres and now Josselin's mother also lives in Chartres. This trip was one of nostalgia and they achieved the aim of re-visiting all the places from 10 years ago. This included West Wittering beach, even finding the exact spot, as proved in the above photos.



I am so pleased Ray and I were able to meet with them (even though it was for just 3 hours or so) because they are such a lovely couple . . . and so obviously truly in love. (written by Editor on behalf of)

**MARIE HOARAU
JOSSÉLIN HERBERT**