

CITYLINK



Chairman's Letter

Julia Sander writes:

This has been a year like no other, when most of our activities, including our annual exchange, have been suspended. As I write, we are experiencing our second lockdown, with the prospect of a very quiet Christmas. However, with the news that a vaccine is likely to become available next year, the future looks brighter. Perhaps we will get that long-awaited visit to Chartres after all.

We managed to fit in some activities during the Autumn, and held a socially-distanced coffee morning in October, when it was lovely to see members in person and exchange news. Other activities have been conducted on-line, including a quiz set by committee member, **Michael Bevis**, and our regular conversation circles. One benefit of meeting on Zoom is that we have been able to include friends from Chartres in our sessions – which has been very good for our French.

We welcome new members **Marion Port, Cindy Smith** and **Celia O'Shea**, who joined us in August, and have started attending conversation circles.

And now to 2021. At the moment, we are planning only four months ahead. There will be a couple of Zoom talks and a new venture in February - a virtual dinner. You will be able to order French themed dishes from Field and Fork and eat them in your homes. The exchange is still scheduled for April, but we will have to wait and see.

Finally, it's time to renew your **Membership**. A **Membership Renewal Form** is included with this edition. We do hope you will wish to re-join.

Best wishes to all our members for Christmas and New Year. It's been a hard year, but I'm sure that better times lie ahead.

Letter from the Présidente of the Amis de Chichester

Yvonne Chrétien writes:

2020 had a significant impact on the Amis de Chichester. The exchange, planned for April and postponed until October, could not take place.

We were unable to arrange an annual Away Day. In 2018, we went to the former Military College of Thiron-Gardais, the church at Moutiers-au-Perche and the Manoir de Courboyer. In 2019, we went to the Château d'Anet with some of our friends from Chichester.

Our monthly English Conversation Circles led by **Martin Rémy** could not take place because of the pandemic.

On Saturday October 3rd, when we should all have been together, we held a quiz evening, prepared by **Jean-Claude Grouteau**. Unfortunately, only 15 people were able to attend, but it was nevertheless an evening full of warmth and humour, and we all learnt more about Chichester and Great Britain, which were the subject of Jean-Claude's quiz.

I am enthusiastic about meeting on Zoom. I plan to offer the possibility of meeting on Zoom to members who participate in our exchanges.

Editorial

Contributions to **Citylink**, including *Just for Fun* ideas, would be very welcome and should be sent to foccitylink1959@gmail.com.

Members' News

Important Advice

A **Membership Renewal** form has either been included with this issue of **CITYLINK** or a copy will have been sent to you by email. We would be grateful if you could supply all information requested. That will enable us to keep our records up to date and ensure that members receive all communications.

Obituaries:

Anne Scicluna remembers Peter Taylor:

The Friends of Chartres twinning association had arranged a visit to Gale's Brewery at Horndean. This being a very old brewery building, we first went to the house across the road, where we were given some tasters and told about the history of the firm and about the brewery itself- the local landowner employed labourers to work his land, and he also owned the

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brewery. This meant that much of the wages he paid to his men were spent in the local pub, which stood next door to the brewery itself. So, the local landowner got his money back.

We then went across the road to the old brewery and saw how the beer was made. We went through the room with wooden floors and very large vats bubbling away. Our guide then told us to go through that door over there, along a very narrow corridor and down the stairs, where we were to wait for him to catch us up. We had to go single file and it was dark. Peter Taylor was in the lead, and when he reached the bottom of the stairs, he groped in the dark to find the light switch. He certainly found a switch – but it was the fire alarm! Everything then happened at once. We all stood still in shock, and people started rushing about. The pub next door was evacuated and we had to stand outside in the cold until the fire brigade arrived and then the man with the alarm key. Poor Peter was so apologetic – he felt really awful and dreadfully embarrassed. The men from the pub were a little upset that some of them had left their drinks inside and were not allowed to retrieve them until the fire brigade had checked everything for safety.

I don't think Peter ever lived it down....

Cilla Johnson remembers an old friend:

Recently I lost a dear French friend who died aged ninety-nine. We were from different countries, were from different generations and neither of us spoke a word of the other's mother tongue. Not very promising you would think! Yet for different reasons we each wanted to learn the other's language. My new friend had a grandson who had been brought up in England and she was unable to have a conversation with him. I had moved to Paris with my late husband's job and realised that I had been given a once in a lifetime opportunity to learn French. While three of my children were at school and the toddler's routine was still to have a daytime nap Paulette and I snatched our chance. We met once a week at my house while my youngest slept upstairs. We spent the first hour speaking in English – I spoke and Paulette listened and tried to understand. The second half she spoke and I confess that initially I didn't understand a word! We proved, though, that even when verbal communication is a challenge, you can reach out and make a close and precious friend. I shall miss my dear French friend who amazingly managed to understand my rusty French when I phoned her in recent times.

So, let's raise a glass to the international friendships made possible by **The Friends of Chartres!**

Back to Uni!

Rosie Speer writes:

What better way to pass the winter of fluctuating restrictions than to wake up my brain cells, keep myself occupied and meet new people by signing up for the MA in Cultural History at Chichester University! 30 plus years after my first degree I am a full-time student. This course has a module on French Cultural History – of which I confess my prior knowledge was zero. We have started at the end of the Franco Prussian War and so far have covered the siege of Paris, the Dreyfus Affair, the fin de siècle, the international expositions, the poilus and the mystique of the veteran, the interwar gender crisis and the resistance. I shall be writing my essay for the module on the response of the civilian population to the German occupation.

News From Social Media



This photo was posted on our Facebook page by **Dominique Gallas**, the exchange partner of **Jacqui Robinson**.

It is a poster advertising the commemorations of the 35th Anniversary of the twinning in 1984. It was spotted by **Gerard Giraud**, a resident of Montreal, who grew up in Chartres and took part in the exchanges when he was a teenager.

Maybe somebody remembers him?

Friends' Coffee Morning – 22nd October 2020

Despite the COVID-19 restrictions, sixteen members managed to meet in the Café at Chichester Festival Theatre in groups of six and socially distanced.

It was great to see old faces and some of our new members too. For some it was the first outing for some time. The occasion was enjoyed and appreciated by all so as requested we will be holding these more often. If the rules allow there will be another Coffee Morning before Christmas. See the back page for details.



The Benefits of Zoom



Paul Everett writes:

With the advent in March 2020 of the lockdown due to the COVID-19 pandemic there has been a huge increase in the use of video conferencing, perhaps more frequently known as Facetime, Google Meet or Zoom.

Those using these facilities have been able to maintain some sense of normality by keeping in touch whilst seeing on screen the person or people to whom they are speaking, a huge improvement on talking on the telephone and in most cases at no cost.

We at the Friends of Chartres used Zoom in the first instance to hold committee meetings, then we expanded the use and held an online quiz which was well received. A further development was to use Zoom to hold the conversation circle discussions, which was then extended by the Advanced Conversation group inviting members of Les Amis de Chichester in Chartres to join in. The most recent virtual event using this media was for the members of the committees of Chichester and Chartres to meet on-line for an informal chat at 6.00 pm on Thursday 26th November. We titled it *Heure Apéro*. A further date was arranged for **Thursday 17th December**, when all members were invited to join.

Until the members of Friends of Chartres are able to meet in person, further Zoom events are being arranged; look for details in **CITYLINK** or on our website www.friendsofchartres.org.uk. There will also be details on our Facebook and Twitter pages. The committee realise that not every member is familiar with or perhaps not confident in using Zoom. To address this we are offering to support any member who would like instruction.

As stated previously there is no cost, nor is there a need to download software. One can use a desktop computer (either Windows based or Apple /iPad), a laptop, tablet or smart phone.

For further details on how to use Zoom send an email to focevents1959@gmail.com advising of your interest and we will reply.

An exciting Zoom presentation has been planned for **Thursday 21st January 2021**. **Canon David Nason** is giving a talk with slides on *The Opera in Paris in the 19th Century* so if you wish to learn how to receive the talk please contact me.

Soyez prudents

How well do you know Chartres? (Answers on page 8)

1. To which saint is the cathedral at Chartres dedicated?

- a) Michael b) Mary c) Joan of Arc

2. Which general liberated Chartres in 1944?

- a) Leclerc b) Patton c) Eisenhower

3. Who was Fulbert?

- a) a king b) a bishop c) a monk

4. What would you see at the Hippodrome?

- a) car racing b) musical shows c) horse racing

Gascon Gastronomy

Data Manager **Paul Everett** has been learning the art of French cookery for a while and in each edition, he will share a delicious recipe with us.

Paul writes:



In 2014 I ventured into the world of cookery. Having met one of the partners of The Gascony School of Cookery at an exhibition in London, I was drawn to participate. In France I had the most incredible experience.

Having been collected from Toulouse Airport and driven to Gramont, a hilltop hamlet in Tarn et Garonne, I found my room overlooked the Arratz Valley with a view of the Pyrenees to the south west.

The cookery school is run by David and Vikki Chance and Frenchman Bernard Corbiere. The

lessons were held on site in a specially created kitchen and in the kitchen of Le Petit Feuillant, the local Auberge.

Examples of the dishes covered during the week were Ballotine de Poulet, Magret de Canard and Tarte aux Pommes. There was a morning at a local market where we were given money and a shopping list and were tasked with purchasing the ingredients for part of the evening's dinner. One of the other experiences was Armagnac tasting at the Chateau de Cassaigne.

Having enjoyed the week so much I returned for further courses in the three subsequent years. Check out the website www.gasconcook.co.uk



La soupe aux deux poivrons (Two Pepper Soup)

Ingredients: (Serves 4/5)

- 2 each red & yellow pepper deseeded and chopped and **kept separate**
- 200g onions chopped
- 2 cloves garlic crushed and **kept separate**
- 400ml vegetable stock
- 20g fennel/1tsp crushed fennel seeds
- 40ml dry white wine or dry Vermouth
- Salt and pepper

Method

1. Heat 1tbsp oil and sauté the red peppers, half the onion, half the fennel and one clove of garlic for about 5 mins.
2. Add 200ml of vegetable stock and 20ml wine and simmer for a further 15 minutes.
3. Process in blender until smooth and adjust the seasoning. Strain if necessary.
4. Repeat the above process using the yellow peppers.

Presentation: For effect on serving, place a 65/70mm dia. pastry cutter in the centre of a bowl and pour one of the soups into the pastry cutter filling to a level to enable later removal of the cutter, then pour in the second colour soup around the outside of the cutter to the same level on the cutter as the first, then carefully lift the cutter out of the soup.

Local Interest

Ellen Haigh writes about the finding of a warrior from Gaul during building work in North Bersted:

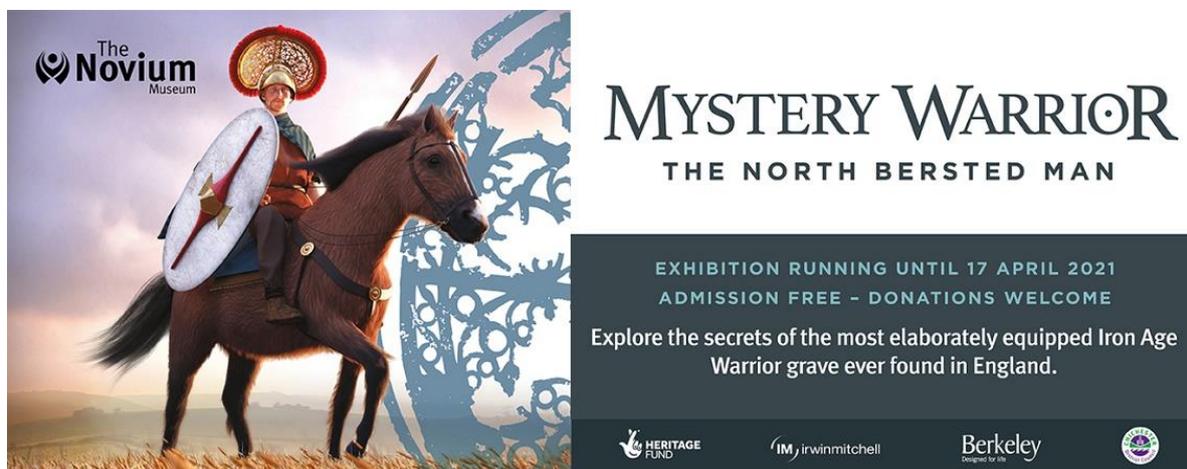
Come and meet the real Asterix the Gaul at the Novium Museum. The Unknown Warrior exhibition tells the story of the discovery and excavation of the grave of a Gaul warrior who came to England over 2,000 years ago to help the native British fight Julius Caesar and his Roman legions. Little is known of this time and the grave is an internationally important find extending our limited knowledge of this period.

In 2008, as part of the archaeological investigation of the new housing development Bersted Park, the grave was discovered along with an extensive Iron Age domestic environment. What makes this grave unique is the fact that normally bodies were cremated. North Bersted Man was buried with grave goods—sword, shield, spearhead, three ceramic jars, and a magnificent helmet with a dual crest.

Our visitor from Gaul was about 45 or older when he died and muscular. Examination of his bones showed he was used to hefting a heavy sword, possibly the one buried with him, and his leg bones indicated he spent a large part of his time riding horses. Bone trace element analysis indicates he was a Gaul from northern France. To be accorded such a rich and elaborate burial indicates he was a person in held in high regard. His warrior helmet is the richest find as it is rare, only three other such helmets having been found in Britain. The bowl-shaped helmet is surmounted with two filigreed crests that interlock and run from ear to ear and then down the back.

There are indications the helmet crests were surmounted by a plume or bristles, maybe even feathers, which have disappeared over the two thousand years in the ground. It was a heavy helmet to wear and there is an indication that he suffered damage to his neck vertebrae. The Novium Museum commissioned a replica of the helmet in fibreglass which is a spectacular object to see when first entering the exhibition.

We do not know his name but with his grave goods and the respect shown in his ceremonial burial, he must have been an important visitor to this part of Britain. He will remain an enigma but his glorious bronze helmet and grave goods are his legacy. Please visit this exhibition if you haven't already and meet the real Asterix. You will need to book a visit at the Novium website. <https://www.thenovium.org/>



The Novium Museum

MYSTERY WARRIOR

THE NORTH BERSTED MAN

EXHIBITION RUNNING UNTIL 17 APRIL 2021
ADMISSION FREE - DONATIONS WELCOME

Explore the secrets of the most elaborately equipped Iron Age Warrior grave ever found in England.

HERITAGE FUND | IM | irwinmitchell | Berkeley
Designed for life

How well do you know Chartres? (Answers to questions on page 5)

1. b The cathedral is known as Notre Dame de Chartres and is dedicated to the Virgin Mary.
2. b Chartres was liberated by General Patton on August 18, 1944. Eisenhower was in overall command of the Allied forces after the Normandy landings. Leclerc liberated Paris on August 25, 1944.
3. b Fulbert was Bishop of Chartres from 1006 to 1028. He played an important role in the church reforms initiated by Pope Gregory VII.
4. c The Hippodrome is a horse-racing track (trotting races). We visited it some years ago to watch the annual Coupe de Chichester.

Memories of the 60th Anniversary

*Due to the pandemic there have been very few events in 2020. However, we have our memories of a wonderful anniversary year in 2019. Here **Pascal Dureuil**, President of the Grand Chœur du Conservatoire de Chartres shares his memories of the joint concert with Chichester Singers:*

Some news from the Grand Chœur du Conservatoire de Chartres:

It has been almost one year and a half since fifteen singers from the Grand Chœur du Conservatoire de Chartres crossed the Channel and travelled to Chichester to participate in the 60th Anniversary of the twinning of Chichester with Chartres. They joined the Chichester Singers for a concert which took place in the Cathedral.



Friendships being made in the sunshine in June 2019

This unforgettable visit to Chichester is still alive in our memories. Many bonds of friendship between guests and hosts were created during these few days and some exchanges continue by phone or internet.

Unfortunately, Covid-19 arrived and banned all travel and meetings. Our concerts during May were cancelled and all musical activities in our Conservatoire were stopped till September. We have adapted our rehearsals following the government instructions. The rehearsals are done in a large room where it is possible to respect social distancing between the singers.

All the French participants of the visit to Chichester look forward impatiently to repeating the experience of singing together in Chichester or in Chartres.

The most important thing is to keep in touch. Why not by singing, as the Chichester Singers did during the lockdown:

We'll meet again

Don't know where, don't know when

But we know we'll sing together again some sunny day

Barry Shears has sent in two poems in French for this issue of CITYLINK.

Mon Dimanche d'Ete

Comme la semaine est douloureuse.
On travaille trop.
Paie trop d'impôts.
Mais le dimanche, quelle vie heureuse!
Quand je démarre ma belle tondeuse.

Toute la semaine est douloureuse.
Il pleut beaucoup,
Fait gris partout.
Mais le dimanche, quelle vie heureuse!
Quand je démarre ma tronconneuse.

Eh! La semaine est si couteuse,
Et c'est tres cher
A Chichester.
Mais le dimanche, quelle vie heureuse!
Pour moi et ma débroussailleuse.

Mes Taupinieres.

Dans mon jardin a Chichester,
J'ai compte deux cents taupinieres.
"Deux cents? Deux cents! Il exagere!"
"Mais si, deux cents! Helas, deux cents."

Elles me sont trop familiares,
Elles ne sont pas saisonnieres.
Ma p'louse est comme un champ de guerre.
Ou sont les poisons forts d'antan?

Les repulsifs ne marchent guere.
Fusees, pieges m'ont coutes cher.
Une catastrophe financiere!
Et j'en ai marre pour etre franc.

Si vous avez des idees,
Gentiment m'envoyez-les.
J' vous en saurais bien gre!

Just for Fun

Requesting feedback for the next CITYLINK, I was asked by FoC members at a recent Petit Cercle to include some English words and their French translations of useful words. Below are some suggested at a recent coffee morning along with a few of my own.

Belt	la ceinture	Helter-skelterle toboggan géant
Lungs	les poumons [m]	tea towel le torchon
Coathanger	le cintre	Zip la fermeture éclair
adverse (adj) [effect] [circumstances, conditions]	négatif défavorable	Pewter, tin l'étain [m]
Shower	la douche	News banner on tv le bandeau déroulant les infos*

*This was the closest translation I could find. Does anyone know a better one? Please email foccitylink1959@gmail.com

And last of all...

free-range chicken

in *France* le poulet élevé en plein air
in *Cameroon* le poulet-bicyclette

Why a chicken-bicycle?

Le poulet-bicyclette is a popular French expression from sub-Saharan Africa. It refers to local, non-frozen and non-imported poultry. Free range and reared outdoors in the wild, these chickens are a hardy, very slow maturing breed of chicken. They are fed with plants leftover from harvesting and household scraps. Sometimes a mobylette replaces the bicyclette.



Coffee Break French: <https://radiolingua.com/coffeebreakfrench/>

Recommended by a member, I looked at this website and, as with many language learning sites, there is the free bit along with a subscription. You need to dig down to get to the free content podcasts. Looks good.

Duolingo: <https://www.duolingo.com/learn>

I can personally recommend Duolingo—cheap (free) and cheerful with a green owl named Duo to help you along. There is a subscription (pay) version which is ad-free. They will send an email every day to encourage you. Other languages are available.

France 24: <https://www.france24.com/fr/france> / <https://www.france24.com/en/>

French and world news in French. There is the English language version too if preferred. I find it a different perspective on world news compared with British and the parochial US news websites.

TV5 Monde: <http://www.tv5monde.com/>

TV5Monde is an internet French language TV network. It covers such regions as TV5 Canada, TV5Monde Europe, TV5Monde Pacifique and TV5Monde Etats-Unis.

I had a very quick look and found films, TV series and films, documentaries, children's programs, and other content. It's worth a look in my opinion.

Arte: <https://www.arte.tv/fr/>

Every programme with a cultural slant has a home on ARTE

About 55% of the programmes are documentaries, 25% feature films and 15% news-related programmes, while 5% feature music and other performing arts. About two thirds of the programmes broadcast on ARTE are previously unreleased.

In addition to broadcasting all its programmes in French and German, ARTE offers an online selection of programmes subtitled in English, Spanish, Polish and Italian.

The above is from their website. ARTE negotiates the international rights to programs, but sometimes the rights are not available in a particular country. So be aware not all content you might like to view will be available in the UK.

Last of all.... Netflix and Prime also include foreign language films and tv series. A couple of suggestions you might like to see is *Call My Agent* on Netflix. Also, Channel 4 (freeview) has some French language TV series in the *Walter Presents* section.

Information Page

President

The Right Worshipful the Mayor of Chichester

Councillor Richard Plowman

Officers and Committee

Chairman: Julia Sander	527435
Vice Chairman: Anne Scicluna	789065
Acting Secretary: Rosie Speer	Focsecretary1959@gmail.com
Treasurer: John Wilton	788833
Clare Apel	783738
Michael Bevis	781016
Annie Barnes	377150
Anne-Louise Briggs	784346
Ray Brown	783776
Paul Everett	603513
Ellen Haigh	937027
David Nason	573716
Kiran Kataneni	07810 216189

Friends of Chartres Programme of Events Spring 2021

Thursday 21st January 7.30pm via Zoom

Opera in Paris in the 19th Century A talk by Canon David Nason

Thursday 4th February 10.30am

Coffee Morning, The Coffee Bar, CFT*

Thursday 18th February 7.30 pm

Virtual Annual Dinner from Field and Fork (details to follow)

Thursday 18th March 7.30pm via Zoom

Annual General Meeting

Thursday 25th March 10.30am

Coffee Morning

The Coffee Bar, CFT*

Tuesday 20th of April 7:30pm via Zoom

Travels with my sketchbook A talk by the artist David Grech

*Chichester Festival Theatre

Conversation Circles: January - April 2021

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 from January onwards it will be possible for us to resume holding socially distanced meetings in COVID secure venues, as we did throughout the summer and early autumn. 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 am to Noon (2nd Tuesday of month)

Tuesday, January 12

Tuesday, February 9

Tuesday, March 9

Tuesday April 13

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

Cercle Avancé

5.30 - 7.00 pm (3rd Monday of month)

Monday January 18

Monday February 15

Monday March 15

Monday April 19

Venue: The Rainbow Inn, St Paul's Road, Chichester PO19 3BW

Petit Cercle du jeudi

10.30 am to Noon (4th Thursday of month)

Thursday, January 28

Thursday, February 25

Thursday, March 25

Thursday April 22

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

Note: We have arranged the meetings so that they are spread more evenly throughout the month.

If you would like to attend a conversation circle and have not done so before, call **Julia Sander 01243 527435**.