

CITYLINK



Chairman's Letter: Michael Bevis writes:

Welcome to this edition of Citylink in which we will be looking back on a successful visit by our friends in Chartres and looking forward to some interesting events which we have planned for the coming months.

We were very pleased to receive 27 visitors from Chartres this time and in the following pages you will be able to read about what went on during their stay.



We were particularly pleased to be renewing our links with the cathedral and one of the highlights of the visit was the special welcome given to us by the Dean of Chichester, **Dr Edward Dowler**, in the cathedral.

The cathedral authorities are keen to strengthen the ties with the cathedral in Chartres and I was very pleased to be able to attend choral evensong on June 16 when **the Bishop of Chartres** was installed as an honorary canon of Chichester Cathedral.

The four twining associations continue to work together, and our next joint event will be Chichester's Gala Day on Saturday June 28. I hope you will come to the event and encourage your family and friends to do so as we want to spread the words about twining as much as possible. It is surprising how many people in Chichester do not know about any of the city's twinings – and just as Chartres has announced that they have another – this time it is Ronda in Spain.

Once again we will be holding our Four Cities event as part of the Festival of Chichester on Monday July 7 at the Assembly Room in North Street, when Dr John Mason will be talking about the European contribution to the exploration of space. As usual there will be food and drink from the four countries on offer so as they say – 'Book now to avoid disappointment.' Tickets are available from our Treasurer, Stephen Northdale.

On Sunday July 20 I shall be hosting our annual Garden Party at my home in West Way. Hopefully the weather will be kind to us again this year and we will have a chance to socialise in a relaxed way over a cup of traditional English tea.

Looking forward to the autumn, we are planning another quiz evening at the Fishbourne Centre in September and more French films selected by Ellen Haigh.

Our monthly Language Circles continue to thrive and whether you are a hesitant beginner or a more advanced student of French, I hope you will come along and exercise your linguistic skills.

Editorial

This edition includes a report of the recent visit of our friends in Chartres as well as an article about the **Promenade des Jumelages** which took place in Chartres on May 31. There is a Just for Fun Trivia Quiz on page 11 and details of our forthcoming events and activities can be found on the final page. Our thanks go to **Didier Rocton**, who provided the photos of the exchange.

As always, we would appreciate your comments on this edition and suggestions for future editions. Please send these to foccitylink1959@gmail.com.

Members' News

After many years as a committee member, **John Wilton** has resigned. John served as Treasurer for many years and participated in the exchange on many occasions. We thank him for his hard work keeping the Association's finances in good order.

We welcome **Martin Foakes** as our new and much-needed **Secretary** and are very pleased that **Martyn Bell** and **Emma Heaver** have agreed to rejoin the committee. We look forward to working with them.

We are sad to report the death of **Dee Everett**, wife of Paul Everett. Dee passed away peacefully on May 12, and the Friends of Chartres Chair, Vice Chair and Treasurer were able to attend her funeral on June 2. Dee frequently attended Friends of Chartres events with Paul and was always a supportive sous-chef at Paul's memorable French dinner parties at the Newell Centre. We send our condolences to Paul and his family.

French Exchange 2025

After a foggy crossing, the sun came out to welcome our French guests when they arrived in Newhaven.



Mayor's Reception, Saturday May 3

The two committees met early on Saturday to conduct essential business i.e. agreeing the dates for the 2026 exchange, when we will be received in Chartres (**April 30 – May 4, 2026**). This was followed by a reception hosted by the Mayor of Chichester, **Sarah Quail**, in the Council Chamber. The reception was also attended by Chichester's Member of Parliament, **Jess Brown-Fuller** and the Dean of Chichester Cathedral, **Dr Edward Dowler**.



Michael Bevis, Chair of Friends of Chartres, **Sarah Quail**, Mayor of Chichester, **Jess Brown-Fuller** MP, and **Patrick Géroudet**, Deputy Mayor of Chartres.



Patrick Géroudet presented a gift from the Mayor of Chartres to **Sarah Quail**. After that, **Michael Bevis**, seen here with **Yvonne Chrétien Vivier**, President of the Amis de Chichester showed the glass bowl presented to his grandparents by Chichester City Council on the occasion of their marriage in 1917 – well deserved as Michael's grandfather served as Mayor four times. The bowl was returned to the Council by Michael's mother for safekeeping.

Afternoon activities

A full programme of activities was laid on for the afternoon with a choice of a Spire Tour at the cathedral for the more adventurous members or a leisurely walk around Chichester's parks and gardens. The walkers met after lunch at the theatre Coffee and learned about the history of the theatre before walking through the Community Orchard and heading for Priory Park. There was a bowls match in full swing and the immaculately kept lawns were much admired. The link between William Blake and the Guildhall was explained and some of our British members burst out in a spontaneous rendering of Jerusalem.



Our walk continued along North Walls to the beautiful Bishop's Palace Garden before stopping briefly in the Community Garden. The two groups were reunited at the cathedral where they were welcomed by the Dean, **Dr Edward Dowler** before attending Choral Evensong.

Evening Social

The day was rounded off with a social evening at the Fishbourne Church Hall, where our French visitors sampled a British speciality: Fish and Chips.



Sunday May 4

A group visit was arranged to **The D Day Story** in Portsmouth, where hosts and their guests toured the museum's exhibits with the help of audio-guides. One of the highlights was a visit to one of the landing craft used in the invasion which has been restored and placed outside the museum. This gave us a glimpse of what it must have been like to cross the channel on that fateful day.



Another highlight was the magnificent Overlord Embroidery which relates the story of D-Day in 38 large panels. (*An article on the embroidery can be found on page 7*). After the visit to the museum, we moved on to Gunwharf Quays to enjoy Sunday lunch at the Old Customs House. The evening was spent *en famille*.

Monday May 5

The day was free for hosts to arrange their own activities. Arundel was a popular destination with its historic castle and churches, and the option for some of a visit to the Wetlands Centre. For those who visited the castle, we caught the end of the Tulip Festival with dazzling displays in the gardens.

In the evening, we held our Gala Dinner at **The Inglenook** in Pagham, a lovely venue which was much enjoyed by all.



The next morning it was time to say goodbye, always a sad occasion, but we look forward to our return visit to Chartres next year.



The Overlord Embroidery

The Overlord Embroidery, created over a six-year period starting in 1968, is one of the highlights of **The D-Day Story** in Southsea. It echoes the Bayeux Tapestry, created 900 years earlier, and depicts the D-Day landing on June 6, 1944 and the subsequent Battle of Normandy. It comprises 34 hand-stitched panels running in total to 83 metres in length – 10 metres longer than the Bayeux Tapestry, which of course is also an embroidery.

The work was commissioned by Lord Dulverton and made by the Royal School of Embroidery from designs made by Sandra Lawrence, a twenty-two year old artist. The paintings she prepared for this work are now displayed in the Pentagon.

The first panels show the early years of the war including war-time production of munitions and the Blitz. The embroidery continues with the entry of the USA into the war and the planning and preparation of the invasion. Most of the work covers the crossing of the Channel and the combat on the beaches in Normandy. It ends with the British infantry advancing as the German troops retreat.



A team of twenty embroiderers from the Royal College of Needlework worked on the embroidery for four years. To transfer the artist's designs to the canvas, they used a technique called *appliqué*. This involves pricking thousands of tiny holes in tracing paper, placing them on a panel and applying a fine powder. This leaves a trail of dots which can be joined with a pencil to reveal the design. Once the design was in place, coloured fabrics including battledress khaki and gold braid were stitched on to the panels. Fine details were added using coloured stitching.

News from Chartres

Chartres fait le tour du monde et célèbre l'Europe lors de la "Promenade des Jumelages"

Chartres, le 31 mai 2025 – Le "Joli Mai de l'Europe" a trouvé son point d'orgue ce samedi matin à Chartres, avec la très attendue "Promenade des Jumelages". Organisée par Chartres International dans le cadre du Relais de la Coopération Décentralisée de Cités Unies France, cette balade a offert aux participants une immersion unique dans l'histoire des liens qui unissent la cité eurélienne au reste du monde.



Point de Départ



Place de Chichester

Dès 9h15, un groupe de participants enthousiaste s'est rassemblé devant la Conciergerie, sur l'esplanade de la cathédrale. Curieux et passionnés, ils étaient prêts pour cette "Promenade des Jumelages" qui les a conduits à travers les rues et jardins de Chartres, chacun portant le nom d'une ville jumelle. De la rue de Bethléem (Palestine) au paisible Jardin de Sakurai (Japon), en passant par les Places de Chichester (Angleterre), Spire (Allemagne), Évora (Portugal) et Ravenne (Italie), chaque étape a été l'occasion de découvrir les histoires et anecdotes derrière ces partenariats internationaux.

Le parcours s'est achevé symboliquement à l'Hôtel de Ville, salon Montescot, face aux photos de Ronda, notre nouvelle ville jumelle en Andalousie (Espagne). Mais cette journée était doublement festive, puisqu'elle coïncidait également avec le séjour de nos amis de Spire pour leur traditionnel échange de l'Ascension, orchestré par l'association Les Amis des Jumelages de Chartres.

Dans la période troublée que nous traversons, cette célébration des jumelages et de l'amitié internationale a pris un sens tout particulier. Comme l'a souligné Patrick Géroutet, il est essentiel d'être heureux de vivre dans une Union Européenne qui, fidèle aux vœux de ses fondateurs dans les années 1950, maintient avec force les valeurs démocratiques et la paix.

A translation of this article is provided on the next page.

La matinée s'est conclue sur une note chaleureuse. Un bon séjour a été souhaité à nos amis de Spire présents à Chartres, avec l'engagement de les retrouver l'année prochaine dans leur ville. Un vibrant "Vive l'Europe !" est venu ponctuer cette belle manifestation, rappelant que les échanges et les amitiés entre les peuples sont les piliers d'un avenir partagé.



Chartres Tours the World and Celebrates Europe with a "Twinning Walk"

Chartres, May 31, 2025 – The "Beautiful European May" culminated this Saturday morning in Chartres with the keenly anticipated "Twinning Walk." Organized by **Chartres International** as part of the *Relais de la Coopération Décentralisée de Cités Unies France*, this walk offered participants a unique experience of the links connecting this Eure-et-Loir city to the rest of the world.

At 9:15 am, an enthusiastic group of participants gathered in front of the Conciergerie, on the cathedral's esplanade. Eager to learn, they set out on the "Twinning Walk" which led them through Chartres' streets and gardens, each named after a twin city. From **Bethlehem Street** (Palestine) to the peaceful **Sakurai Garden** (Japan), passing by the Squares of **Chichester** (England), **Speyer** (Germany), **Évora** (Portugal), and **Ravenna** (Italy), each stop was an opportunity to discover the stories and anecdotes behind these international partnerships.



The journey concluded symbolically at the **Hôtel de Ville**, in the **Salle Montescot Room**, facing photos of **Ronda**, our new twin city in Andalusia (Spain). The day was doubly festive, as it coincided with the stay of our friends from Speyer for their traditional Ascension Day exchange, organised by the **Les Amis des Jumelages de Chartres** association.

In these troubled times, this celebration of twinning and international friendship took on a particularly significant meaning. As **Patrick Géroudet** stressed, we should be happy to live in a European Union that, true to the wishes of its founders in the 1950s, strongly upholds democratic values and peace.

The morning concluded on a cordial note. A pleasant stay was wished to our friends from Speyer present in Chartres, with a commitment to meet them again next year in their city. A vibrant "Vive l'Europe!" concluded this special event, reminding everyone that exchanges and friendships between peoples are the pillars of a shared future.

Did you know?

Chartres is twinned with 8 cities in 7 different countries. The latest twinning, Ronda, in Andalusia, was established this year. The 8 twin cities all have an impressive history as can be seen below. Chartres has been included for comparison.

Bethlehem Palestine		The Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem was first built in 326. The current building dates back to the 6 th century but was extensively renovated by the Crusaders.
Chartres France		Built and decorated between 1134 and 1260, registered by UNESCO as a World Heritage Site, Chartres Cathedral is considered one of the finest of the Gothic cathedrals.
Chichester UK		Chichester celebrates an important anniversary this year. It is 950 years since the Diocese was created, and work began on building the cathedral.
Evora Portugal		Evora's cathedral was built in the Gothic style in the 13 th century on the foundations of a 12 th century church constructed after the Arab rulers had left the area.
Leon Spain		Leon Cathedral, also built in the Gothic style, was completed in the mid-13 th century and, like Chartres has a fine collection of stained glass.
Ravenna Italy		The Basilica of San Vitale in Ravenna, famous for its exquisite mosaics, was completed in 547 and is an important surviving example of early Byzantine art.
Ronda Spain		Ronda is an ancient city where both Moorish and Roman remains survive. It is situated on two hills divided by a deep ravine crossed by several bridges.
Sakurai Japan		It is in the area around Sakurai that the first Japanese emperors established their capitals and many of the country's oldest shrines and temples, can be found.
Speyer Germany		Speyer Cathedral dates back to 1030 and is a fine example of Romanesque architecture. It was the burial place of the German emperors for almost 300 years.

Answers to quiz, page 11. 1 true 2 false It commemorates those who died in the French Revolution and the Napoleonic wars. 3 true 4 true 5 false It is held in Cannes 6 true 7 false Seven countries have been represented. 8 false It is known as L'Hexagone 9 true 10 false It is Le Rassemblement National 11 true 12 false It was a railway station 13 false The Palace was in Avignon 14 true 15 true



France Trivia Quiz



Here is a little quiz to whet your appetite for the Fishbourne Social Evening on September 7.

True or false?

Answers on the previous page

- 1** The Tour de France is an annual men's cycle race which takes place over 23 days and ends at the Champs-Élysées.
- 2** The Arc de Triomphe, situated in the centre of the Place du Charles de Gaulle commemorates soldiers who died in the two World Wars.
- 3** According to a 2014 report from the International Dairy Federation, France eats more cheese per head than any other country.
- 4** In October 2023, France instituted a mass vaccination of millions of ducks against bird flu to protect the production of foie gras.
- 5** The Palme d'Or is the top prize awarded at the International Film Festival held annually in Nice.
- 6** France passed a law in 2023 requiring parking lots of more than 80 spaces to have canopies of solar panels.
- 7** France is one of seven countries which have been represented at every modern Olympics since its beginning.
- 8** "Le Triangle" is used in French as a synonym for the mainland of France.
- 9** King Henry IV is the only French monarch to have been crowned in Chartres Cathedral.
- 10** The political party led by Marine le Pen is known as *Le Front National*.
- 11** American born civil rights activist Josephine Baker became famous as a supporter of the French Resistance during the Second World War.
- 12** Le Musée d'Orsay, situated on the Left Bank of the Seine, was formerly a royal palace.
- 13** Le Palais des Papes served as the papal residence for part of the 14th century in the city of Lyon.
- 14** Lettered subway tiles spell out the text of the Declaration of the Rights of Man at the metro station at the Place de la Concorde.
- 15** France's longest international border is with Brazil.

Information Page

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

Councillor Sean McHale

Officers and Committee

Chair: Michael Bevis 781016
Vice Chair: Anne Scicluna 789065
Treasurer: Stephen Northdale 822148
Secretary: Martin Foakes 07853 264641

Members

Clare Apel 783738
Martyn Bell 539806
Anne-Louise Briggs 784346
Emma Heaver 930054
David Nason 573716
Julia Sander 527435
Peter Tudge 023 9273 2538

Friends of Chartres **Future Events.**

Saturday June 28: 11.00 – 4.00

Chichester Gala: Priory Park

Monday July 7: 7.30 pm

Four Cities Event: Assembly Room
Talk by Dr John Mason of Chichester
Planetarium: **Europe Blasts Off into**
Space

Sunday July 20: 3.00 – 5.00 pm

Summer Garden Party at the home of
Michael Bevis, West Way

Sunday September 7: 6.00 – 9.00 pm

Social evening at Fishbourne Centre
with Fish and Chips and Quiz

To be confirmed:

Ciné Club: October and November

Christmas Soirée: early December

*Details of events and how to book
will be circulated in advance.*

Exchangeto Chartres 2026

Thursday April 30 – Monday May 4

This year we are due to visit our friends in Chartres Amis de Chichester. Due to the rising cost of coach hire, we are exploring the possibility of crossing to Caen as foot passengers and travelling on to Chartres using a French coach.

For further details about the exchange and conversation circles, contact **Julia Sander:** focevents1969@gmail.com

Conversation Circles

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.

Petit Cercle du mardi

10.30 am to Noon

Tuesday, July 1

August: Vacances

Tuesday, September 2

Tuesday, October 7

Tuesday, November 4

Tuesday, December 2

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

Cercle Avancé

5.30 – 7.00 pm

Monday, July 14

August: Vacances

Monday September 8

Monday October 13

Monday November 10

Monday December 8

Venue: The Chichester Inn, 38, West
Street, Chichester PO19 1RP