



# The St Andrews – Loches Alliance

## December Newsletter 2018

New Year Drinks Party

Friday 18<sup>th</sup> Jan 2019

### Welcome to the first Loches Alliance newsletter from the new President.

We plan to write a newsletter a few times a year and this way keep you up to date with everything that is going on in the St Andrews – Loches Alliance.

This is an exciting new era for the Alliance as, with the arrival of the splendid new signs at the entrances to St

Andrews, the twinning of the two towns is now more firmly than ever on the map. For this and for so much else we have John Matthews to thank – more of his contribution later.



*John with one of the new signs*

### ❖ Exhibition of Photographs of Loches

The new town signs aptly heralded an exhibition of photographs of the town of Loches which was held at the Byre Theatre. The photographs were stunning, bringing the town vividly to life. Alongside the photographs, Susan Forsyth, Avril Taylor and Lindsay Murray, three of the members of the St Andrews Art Club who had visited Loches the previous summer to paint, exhibited some of their work, which complemented the photographs well. In addition one of Lindsay's paintings featured on the front cover of the September issue of *St Andrews in Focus* – great timing! Lindsay has had some prints made of this painting, proceeds from their sale going to Alliance funds. If you would like to purchase one please get in touch with me, they cost £25.00 each.



*La Mairie  
de Loches by Lindsay Murray*

## ❖ La Visite

At the end of September, a group of Lochois visited St Andrews: The Mayor, Marc Angenault and several members of the Conseil municipal, together with a group of members of La Nouvelle Alliance, our sister organisation in Loches. Their visit began with a reception in the Town Hall hosted by the Community Council, attended by all the Lochois and their host families. This was a working visit for the Conseil municipal and meetings were held with St Leonards School, Madras College, The Preservation Trust and the Tourist Information Office. Marc Angenault also met with Callum McLeod, Chairman of the Community Council. The various meetings were very constructive, and it is hoped that they will lead to useful cooperation over the next few months and beyond.

Meanwhile the members who had come to enjoy the hospitality of the St Andrews members had the good fortune to have a tour of St Andrews led by our own Blue Badge Guide Virginia Fowler. They also visited the Fisheries Museum in Anstruther and of course ate fish and chips! The host families were wonderfully hospitable and the French spoke very highly of their weekend. Thank you very much to everyone who received visitors.

The visit ended with a dinner at which John Matthews formally handed over the Chairmanship of the St Andrews-Loches Alliance. On behalf of the many members present I made a presentation to John, to which members had contributed, and thanked him for his tremendous contribution to the success of the Alliance over the many years of his involvement. As guests gathered before the dinner, they were treated to traditional pipe music from the City of St Andrews Pipe Band and after the meal young dancers from the Jenny King School of Dance gave a superb demonstration of Scottish dancing before leading the guests both Scottish and French in some ceilidh dancing. They were kindly supported by the Committee and members of the RSCDS.



*Guests chat at the dinner*



## ❖ Café Cabaret

The St Andrews-Loches Alliance is a registered charity and holds fund raising events throughout the year. One such event took place at the beginning of November; a Café Cabaret, starring Heidi Innes and Paul Chamberlain. The hall of All Saints' Church became a Parisian café for the evening and members and their guests enjoyed chansons from the French music hall tradition, beautifully sung by Heidi and accompanied superbly on the accordion by Paul. A light supper was served during the interval and there was also a raffle. The event was judged to be a huge success and raised just over £800 for our funds, which was brilliant.



*Heidi and Paul*

## ❖ John Matthews

The Alliance wouldn't be where it is today were it not for John. His contribution has been immense. John and Daphne have been members of the Alliance since 1999. John was Treasurer for five years and then took over as President in 2009. In this time the Alliance has grown from strength to strength involving exchanges of many kinds, visits to and from Loches and of course culminating in the signing of the twinning agreement. None of this happens without huge effort and we have to thank John for this. He brought his skills as a businessman together with much charm and diplomacy to make the Alliance **what** it is today. It is thanks to this very charm and diplomacy that I find myself faced now with filling his (metaphorically) big shoes. I will do my best.

### ❖ Drinks party

I hope as many of you as possible will join us on Friday January 18<sup>th</sup> at 6.30pm the St Rule Club for what has now become our annual New Year Drinks Party. Tickets are £10 and include a glass of wine and delicious nibbles. Tickets are available from me at 3 Beley Bridge St Andrews KY16 8LX cheques payable to the St Andrews – Loches Alliance.

All that remains now is for me to wish you all Joyeux Noël et Bonne Année 2019

*Joyce*

**Come and Celebrate the New Year**

**with**

**The St Andrews - Loches Alliance**



**Drinks and Nibbles**

**at**

**The St Rule Club**

**12 The Links**

**Friday 18<sup>th</sup> January 2019**

**6.30 – 8.00pm**

**Tickets £10.00 per person**

**RSVP Joyce Duncan, 3 Beley Bridge, St Andrews KY16 8LX**

**Cheques payable to the St Andrews – Loches Alliance**