



The St Andrews – Loches Alliance

December Newsletter 2019

New Year Drinks Party



Friday 19th January

Looking back on my last newsletter, the photo of members lunching in the sun dappled garden seems hard to believe, yet it is proof that we did have some lovely sunny summer days. The letter also contained a plea for new members, and I am delighted to report that since then we have five new members, making the overall total of new members for 2019 ten, an increase of 22% . Please keep up the good work, spread the St Andrews-Loches Alliance word and encourage friends to join.

Two events in the autumn rounded up what has been a busy year for us. The first was a visit to Loches. Fourteen members took part and I think it is fair to say that we all had a memorable weekend. As usual we received a very warm welcome and the Lochois had laid on an unusual programme. This included a visit to a local chateau whose owner was about to embark on a programme of breathtakingly brave renovation. Although from the outside the chateau appeared elegant and in good repair the interior was depressingly dilapidated. We were very lucky to be allowed to visit at this stage, a visit only permitted on the understanding that no photographs were published. Those who missed out will just have to imagine.....

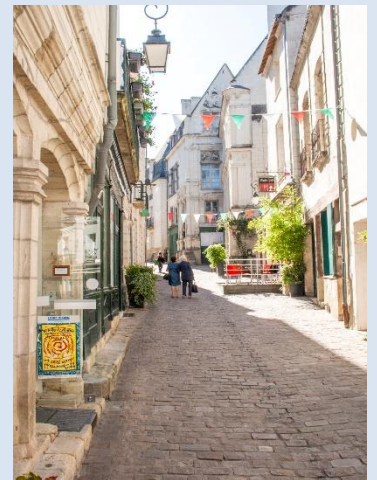
The rest of the weekend was action packed and included a tour of the Logis Royal, a visit to the Musée Lansyer for some and of course no trip to Loches would be complete without admiring the range of products available on the twice weekly market.



Possibly for some, the most memorable aspect of the visit was the chamber music festival 'Sonates d'automne' which we attended on two evenings. The choice of music, mostly 20th century, was challenging and the musicianship superb. Before the concert on our final night we were invited to a 'cocktail dînatoire' at the Hotel de France in the town, where we sampled delicious canapés and sparkling wine – a very fitting start to the evening!

The second event was of course the Quiz Night. Over 75 people attended the event which was held in St Andrews Bowling club. To judge from comments which I continue to receive this was very much enjoyed by everyone. We raised almost £700 which surpassed our expectations and has certainly helped to refill our coffers.

So to next year, what does 2020 have in store for the Alliance? We will begin the year with our now customary Drinks Party at the St Rule Club, all details at the end of this newsletter. If you have not already signed up, I advise you to do so now as this is always a popular occasion.



Among other events planned for the year: The spring lecture (in French) this year given by M. Jean-Marc Murre, the possibility of an exchange, electronic at first, between St Leonards School and the Lycée Thérèse Planiol in Loches. (This was the Lycée Alfred de Vigny, now brought into the 21st century and renamed after a pioneering woman doctor), a return visit to Loches by the golfers, a summer event to mark the fête nationale, a workshop for Primary Schools in collaboration with the Preservation Trust and in the autumn, the return of the Café Cabaret. All dates and details will be circulated in due course.

Finally, I would like to thank all of you for your continuing support and also acknowledge the fabulous committee: John, Frank, Elizabeth, Izzy and Irene. They have all worked very hard in support of our various events which, to put it simply, could not happen without them.

Je vous souhaite tous un très joyeux Noël et une excellente année 2020

Joyce

Photographs : le logis royal and Loches, la grande rue by John Peacock

The St Andrews - Loches Alliance



Drinks and Nibbles

at

**The St Rule Club
12 The Links**

**Friday 17th January 2020
6.30 – 8.00pm**

Tickets £10.00 per person

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