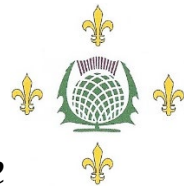


## *The St Andrews-Loches Alliance*



### Spring Newsletter 2023

Dear Members

It seems a while since I updated you on the activities of the Alliance. Although I send information about our social events, there is a lot more going on in the background.

In the spring term we ran a competition for local primary schools. The brief was to design a brochure highlighting the appeal of St Andrews to children of their own age in Loches. The brochure had to contain some text in French. We were delighted by the entries which were judged by the staff of the St Andrews Tourist Office. The winners were then displayed there over the Easter holidays and are hopefully now off to Loches to be displayed in the Tourist Office there.

Our 'Brush up your French' language groups are thoroughly enjoying and benefitting from their session with members Jo Goodburn and Jean-Marc Murre. This is a brilliant opportunity and we can't thank Jo and Jean-Marc enough for giving their time and sharing their expertise.

We showed the film 'Délicieux' to an enthusiastic audience in March. Ice cream and pop corn turned this into a real cinema experience!

Last month we held our AGM in the St Rule Club. It was better attended than ever and we were delighted to welcome Anne-Sylvie Vassenaix-Paxton, who is Présidente of la Nouvelle Alliance in Loches. Anne-Sylvie spoke about the Auld Alliance and the strong bonds which have united Scotland and France since the Middle Ages.

We have applied for 'Loches' to be included in a street name in the new St Andrews West development and await news of that. A small grant has been offered to the French Department at the University. The idea is to give some financial support to a student spending a trimester abroad in the Loches area. As many of you will be aware, we have continued to organise a bar at the Younger Hall for the SCO concerts. We have offered support to the Botanic Gardens for their 'Sentinel Plants' programme, part of which will compare growing conditions in the Loches and St Andrews areas.

Finally and most importantly, we have supported the Madras exchange. A group of 33 pupils plus staff spent a week with their exchange partners in Loches at the beginning of this month. The importance of this exchange must not be underestimated, particularly at a time when the organisation of exchanges has become more and more difficult and the hurdles to

be overcome discouraging to say the least. Apparently only 25% of state schools run exchanges. All credit to Christina McEachen of the French department.

It has been a busy spring! So, what of the months to come? We will be running a 'French Day' at Criagtoun on Sunday June 11<sup>th</sup>. This has attracted children and their parents in the past so we're hoping that this will happen again and also that the sun will shine! Do come along to support us.

Later in June we are welcoming a group of members from Loches. There will be twenty five visitors including M. le Maire and three of his colleagues from the Town Hall. The group is being accommodated by Loches Alliance members and a programme of events is being put together for the weekend.

On September 19<sup>th</sup> we are joining the Franco-Scottish Society for an evening of feedback from the Madras pupils who participated in the exchange. In October we hope to run another film night, this time with an unusual twist and finally on November 4<sup>th</sup> we are holding our annual major fund raising event of the year. More information about all these future events nearer the time.

None of this would have been possible without the hard work and support of our brilliant committee:

Best wishes

Joyce

Joyce Duncan, President

Elizabeth Gray, Treasurer

Irene Constable, Minutes Secretary

Callum McLeod, Community Council representative

Frank Quinault

Izzy Murdoch

Lucy Bradley