



St Andrews – Loches Alliance

Spring newsletter 2020

Dear Members

What strange times we are living in! I hope that you and your families are safe and well and that *le confinement à domicile* not to mention *la distanciation sociale* are not getting you down.

Everything has come to a standstill, not least our Loches Alliance activities, so I thought I would take this opportunity to bring you up to date with our current situation. Before all this happened however we held our annual New Year Drinks Party. The St Rule Club is a very welcoming venue for such events and lots of members came and were able to enjoy the company, the wine and the delicious canapés. To judge from the feedback, everyone had a good time. I was able to introduce our programme for the year to come; little could I have suspected the extent to which it was about to fall apart!

The Franco-Scottish Society kindly invited members to join them for their spring lunch at the 'Themes' training restaurant of Elmwood College. The students are very professional in everything they do, from welcoming their guests to preparing the food and serving it beautifully. The standard of cooking and presentation are very high indeed. Alliance members who attended had a delightful lunch. The FSS have issued an open invitation to us (as we do to them) to attend any of their events. I try to let you know in advance what these are but in any case they are listed on the FSS St Andrews branch website. Something to consider when life gets back to normal.



And so to the rest of the year.

Sadly we had to postpone Jean-Marc Murré's talk at the end of March. This will now be rescheduled , probably to next spring. Also to be rescheduled is the Twin Town Golf Match. A group of golfers was planning to return to Loches at the end of April to defend the trophy they won last year here in St Andrews. Several of the golfers amongst you expressed disappointment that you were not able to participate due to a clash of dates. When this is reorganised for next spring, I will try to give you as much notice of dates as possible and hopefully more of you will be able to take part.

Our AGM which was to have taken place on May 6th is now cancelled for this year. I will send out my report for the year in due course and Frank has the accounts all ready and verified.

Although not yet officially cancelled, it is highly unlikely that the Café français at Craigtoun Park on June 7th will now take place. Craigtoun as you will know is closed until further notice.



The Bastille day lunch which is planned for **Sunday July 5th** however, is still on! This is to be held at Craigfoodie House by kind permission of James and Lindsay Murray and we are desperately hoping that by then life will have returned to normal. What a celebration that will be! **Save the date!**



Working with the Preservation trust, we are in the process of organising an exhibition focussing on the town of Loches, its history and its relevance to St Andrews The exhibition is to be called 'Look at Loches, our twin town.'

We also plan to invite the St Andrews primary schools to the museum and run work shops with them based on the exhibition. Work has already started on this project both here and in Loches but the exhibition, planned for this autumn will now take place in spring 2021.



Finally to the **Café Cabaret**. This will be our main fund raiser this year and we have been very ambitious, inviting Christine Bovill as our guest chanteuse. We are very excited about this, Christine is an established performer who has sung all over Europe. I hope you will all come along and bring some guests. This is **another date to save: November 14th**. Let's hope that by then our current difficult times will be well in the past.

This is a much depleted programme but let's hope that the events which do remain will go ahead and be well supported.

All that remains is for me to wish you all Bon Courage, stay safe and hopefully
à bientôt

Joyce