

St Andrews – Loches Alliance

January Newsletter

Dear Members

Although we are not exactly out of the woods yet, there is enough hope now to enable us to look to the months ahead and to hope that life as we knew it will return. The committee has discussed possible events for 2021 and while sadly nothing can yet be in any way confirmed, I thought I would give you an outline of how we see the year unfolding for the St Andrews-Loches Alliance.

Zoom has made communication easier and more fun. Both here in St Andrews and in Loches we are keen to set up a **forum** of sorts where we will be able to exchange information and news in French and English. Hopefully this will happen sometime this spring. Watch out for more information and an invitation!

Hopefully our **AGM** will take place on Wednesday May 5th, again via Zoom and you will be invited to attend virtually.

Should life be back to normal we hope to run a **Café français** at Craigtoun on the first Sunday in June. Many of you will remember that we did this two years ago, transforming the café there into a French café, serving food with a French twist and organising French language games for the children.

We would love to be able to organise our **Bastille Day lunch** once more but that will depend very much on the situation at the time.

In September, together with the Preservation Trust, we are organising an exhibition '**Look at Loches**'. This is aimed at raising awareness of our town twinning and will have a section specifically for Primary School children who we will invite to participate in workshops. This is planned to run from September 14 – October 10 and we will be looking for members to help out with the workshops. The exhibition will only run if life is back to normal and the schools are happy to send their pupils. It has already been postponed by a year.

Although we do not feel we can reorganise with any confidence the Café Cabaret which was cancelled last year, we are in the early stages of planning with **St Andrews Voices** and may be able to host a French themed concert as part of their festival in October.

There are many question marks remaining but we hope that one way or another we will be able to meet again this year.

There are two visits however which are definitely postponed for 2021:

We are due to host a group from Loches, this will not now happen until 2022. Similarly the golfers will not return to Loches to defend 'The Twin Towns Cup' until 2022.

Subscriptions

Thank you very much to all those of you who have already paid your subscription for 2021. Although we have not been able to provide our usual programme, we do appreciate your continued support. I have attached a letter from Frank, our Treasurer, for those of you who have not yet paid. If your payment overlaps with this letter please accept my apologies.

To finish I am including two messages which have been received by the committee recently:

French language lessons

I have long felt that this is something we should be able to offer and recently we received the following approach which could provide an excellent opportunity. I do not know this lady and would ask you, if you are interested, to contact her directly. I notice the first lesson is free – why not give it a try, now is a good time to brush up your language skills.

Bonjour! My name is Nathalie Brady and I have been a French tutor for over 25 years. I would like to offer French online lessons.

A bit about me:

Born in Loches and having lived there until the age of 21, I now share my time between Loches, and the UK, particularly this year.

As I love languages, I studied English (Master's Degree) at the University of Tours and then moved to study at the University of Southampton to become a French teacher (PGCE). I have enjoyed teaching French as a foreign language for over 25 years in Adult Education and businesses, both in Southampton and in North East Lincolnshire, face to face and more recently online.

As St. Andrews is twinned with Loches, I believe these sessions might be of interest to you.

My standard lesson format for all levels (from Beginner to Advanced), consists of a 20-25 minute weekly conversation via video or voice call and uses a range of resources (exercises, textbooks, news articles ... etc.) aimed at the level of the student. I also provide activities between lessons to complement the call, submitted by email, which are marked, sent back and used as a basis for the conversation call, alongside general conversation. The price for this is £18 per week.

An alternative for more advanced students:

A 15 minute conversation each week: I send a topic / a short article from students to look at ahead of the weekly call, followed by general conversation practice. These sessions cost £10 each.

The first lesson is free, as I like my students to experience a lesson to see if it suits them.

I hope this helps and I look forward to hearing from you.

Cordialement

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Leaving Europe

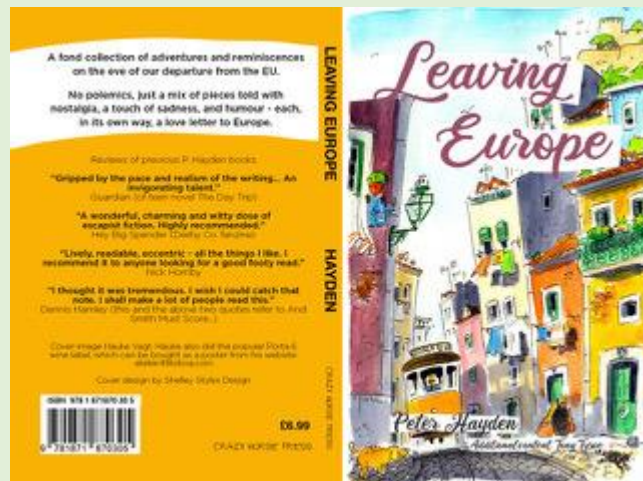
Finally, another unsolicited approach to us which might be of interest, Peter Hayden is the author of several books and this one is currently on sale at Waterstones for £6.99

My book 'Leaving Europe' is a light-hearted series of episodes from Europe on the occasion of our divergence.

The book from me is £5 flat, no p+p: simply email me peterhayden16@gmail.com saying how many and where you want me to send to; I send out with invoice and you only pay on receipt.

"Entertaining escapism in these troubled times. I have recommended it to people in our Twinning Association." (member, Chelmsford Twinning)

"Highly amusing and enjoyable." (member, Wokingham Twinning)



Je vous souhaite tous et toutes une très belle et heureuse année et surtout une bonne santé

Soyez prudents ! prenez bien soin de vous !

Joyce

The St Andrews-Loches Trust (The St Andrews-Loches Alliance) is a charity registered in Scotland.

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