

ST ANDREWS-LOCHES ALLIANCE



NEWSLETTER, NOVEMBER 2017

UPDATE

We were delighted that Anne-Sylvie, the President of our twin association in Loches, the Nouvelle Alliance Loches-St Andrews, was able to squeeze a St Andrews visit into her busy schedule during a business trip to Scotland earlier this month. During a friendly and productive meeting with several members of the committee a number of opportunities for the future were discussed. These included:

Walking/hill walking

There is a keen group in Loches and many enthusiastic walkers in and around St Andrews. There are plenty of good walks in the area around Loches and here the Fife Coastal Path might be a good starter – or even a few days of climbing Monroes. This might need a bit of organisation but a few of the known walkers in St Andrews will be contacted direct to test interest.

Sports

We have not been very successful in recent years. Anne-Sylvie mentioned that archery is very popular in Loches and some of the University archers will be contacted. The annual Silver Arrow contest could be a good focus for an event in St Andrews.

Scottish Country Dancing

There are very enthusiastic groups in both towns. Anne-Sylvie is to check out the RSCDS website and then assess local interest in Loches.

Journee Europeenne 2018

This will take place in Loches during the weekend of 14/15 July. The small party, including St Andrews Rotarians and a few Alliance members, that visited Loches in July of this year, were very impressed by this event which is strongly supported by the EU (Travel expenses are paid). It is an event aimed principally at young people and we will try to interest the schools and the University to send some of our youngsters – dancers, musicians, debaters – there are lots of possibilities.

Exhibitions

Anne-Sylvie should very shortly be confirming her booking of the Byre Theatre for an exhibition of pictures of Loches. If all goes ahead as expected, the Mayor of Loches, Marc Angenault will attend the opening and we hope that the Provost of Fife will also join us. Talks are progressing regarding exchanges of electronic images between the towns' Photographic Clubs with possible exhibitions to follow.

Madras College

After the disappointing failure of the exchange that had been anticipated this year, all seems to be on track for 2018. We stand ready to offer support to this important exchange.

Art Club

Following the successful visit by members of the St Andrews Art Club to Loches this year, there is a good possibility that there will be a further visit in 2018.

EVENTS

Our Autumn event this year was a quiz – and how very successful it was! Once again the St Andrews Bowling Club proved an excellent venue and the evening was a sell out with the room filled to capacity. We were delighted to welcome teams of six per table from Madras College, St Andrews Rotary Club, St Andrews Art Club, the Preservation Trust, the Community Council, St Leonards and the University as well, of course, as many members and friends. All seemed to enjoy the challenge of the (not too difficult) questions and the winners by a small margin were the Rotary Club led by President Gordon Wowk.



President Gordon Wowk and his triumphant team with their prizes

Our thanks are due to all who supported this event, to our extraordinary team of Joyce Duncan, Elizabeth Gray and Izzy Murdoch who did all the work and to the 'electronic' Alistair Duncan who did all the overheads. The evening raised just over £500 which will be used to help finance exchange activities between St Andrews and Loches organisations.

The next event is the New Year Drinks Party. This will be held on Friday 19th January 2018 and as usual we will be at the ST Rule Club. This is always an enjoyable evening and we hope to see as many of you there as possible. Details are attached.

COMMITTEE CHANGES

Two of our longest serving members have intimated their resignations from the committee. Both have been astonishingly active in their support for the Alliance and their departure will be sorely missed.

Bill Sangster, a past Treasurer of the Alliance, is standing down for health reasons but his quiet but steadfast support over some twenty years deserves our warmest thanks.

Virginia Fowler has recently become so busy that she feels that she must retire from the committee (but not the Alliance). She is also a twenty year veteran and a past Chair who presided over the agreeing of the Cultural Partnership a decade ago; without that key step, progression to twinning would have been impossible. On behalf of all members of the Alliance we wish these old friends well for the future.

At this year's AGM I also said that I wished to stand down as President at the 2018 AGM. We need someone a little (or a lot) younger, with more energy and a functioning memory. So, thinking caps on everyone – we need to have three new committee members, and one member of the next committee needs to be prepared to take on the leadership role from next May.

ADMIN

As the year end approaches, please don't forget your subscriptions. For those who pay by Standing Order – thank you, you need take no action. For the others, payment would be appreciated and a Standing Order would be very helpful. The appropriate form can be down loaded from the Alliance website.

SEASONS GREETINGS

Daphne and I will shortly be leaving for a longish holiday in Australia with our grand children. So, rather earlier than usual, may I wish you and your families a very happy Christmas and the strength to cope with a New Year that promises to be at least as unsettled as 2017.

John Matthews

President

COMMITTEE

John Matthews, President
Joyce Duncan, Secretary
Frank Quinault, Treasurer
Elizabeth Gray
Judith Harding
Izzy Murdoch

JFM; 15/11/2017