



St Andrews-Loches Alliance



Summer 2023

Dear Members

It has already been a busy summer for the St Andrews-Loches Alliance but what is coming next...?

Some dates for your diary:

September 19th A joint meeting with the Franco-Scottish Society at 7.30 in the Auditorium of St Leonards School. A presentation from pupils from Madras College who will talk about their exchange visit to Loches last May. This visit was partly funded by the Alliance and the FSS and it should be very interesting to hear about the students' experiences.

October date to be confirmed. We are planning another film evening.

November 4th A quiz night with supper at St Mark's Church Hall. This is our main fund raising activity of the year so, save the date, get together a team of six and sharpen your pencils! More details soon.

As you will be aware I am sure, we have just had an action packed visit from Loches. The sun shone, all preconceived ideas of Scottish weather were dispelled and the visit was a huge success. We welcomed twenty-five visitors from our twin town. Amongst these was the Mayor, Marc Angenault, and two members of his Cabinet, Deputy Mayor Valérie Gervès and Louis Toulet whose brief includes policing. They had a busy schedule, meeting the Rector of Madras, the Headmaster of St Leonards, the Community Police officer, Louise Fraser from BID with whom they discussed potential business partnerships, David Strachan Chair of the

Preservation Trust where they discussed common issues concerning conservation and preservation of heritage sites and Penelope Fraser, Chair of the Community Council. They also visited the new St Andrews West development where there is to be a road named 'Loches Drive' and were shown round by Pat Headon. All hope that from this will come not only new partnerships but also mutual understanding of common issues and ways of dealing with them.

The rest of the group had a less serious programme. They had a guided visit of St Andrews with Virginia Fowler, went putting on the Himalayas, attended a reception at the Town Hall followed by a tour of Holy Trinity and a concert with Callum McLeod and Lucienne Suter and friends. To finish, all enjoyed a traditional fish supper from Cromers. On Saturday we joined a St Andrews Rotary garden party at Craigfoodie House. It was a beautiful hot sunny day and against this spectacular setting, the event was a great success. We were pleased to be able to contribute to the Rotary donation to Médecins sans Frontières, their chosen charity that day. In the evening there was a dinner at the New Club with traditional piping and wonderful Highland dancing by Joelle Millar. Our lochois guests also joined in a new Scottish Country Dance 'St Andrews to Loches' created specially for the occasion. Sunday saw many visiting St Andrews Hidden Gardens and in the evening, to round off the weekend there were pot luck suppers at the homes of three of the St Andrews hosts. All agreed that it had been an excellent weekend which fulfilled all hopes and expectations on both sides and we feel sure that the Lochois left (extremely early on Monday morning) with many happy memories.

We were very grateful to the Royal and Ancient Golf Club and to the St Andrews Common Good Fund who helped to support this visit.

In other news; earlier in the month we held our traditional 'French Day' at Craigtoun Park. The marquee was decorated à la française, chef Graham produced an endless stream of delicious crêpes, there were French games, there was French music and we were able to welcome lots of visitors to our tent.

This summer we are also supporting a Saturday afternoon tennis tournament at the Tennis Club for local players aged 5-16. There is going to be a French theme and in addition they aim at scoring in French and speaking French as much as possible during the match! This is planned for Saturday 9th September. Do come along and spectate!

In addition we are supporting the summer junior golf programme for primary schools with awards to the players with the most sporting attitude.

There are lots of pictures of all our activities on our new Facebook page (St Andrews-Loches Alliance). Please sign up as a friend!

Wishing everyone a wonderful summer

Joyce

