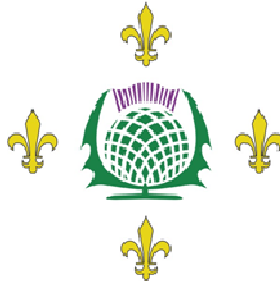


ST ANDREWS—LOCHES ALLIANCE



NEWSLETTER; FEBRUARY 2012

Visit to Loches

Readers of the Citizen or St Andrews in Focus will know that the visit mentioned in the last Newsletter took place and will have gained some idea of its success.

Sadly, only ten members of the Alliance travelled to France. Kyffin Roberts (Chair of the Community Council) and Graham Wynd (Chairman of the Preservation Trust) were struck down by illness and the Provost of Fife had a prior engagement. Two student violinists and a splendidly attired piper from the University OTC were invited to join the party, with the Alliance paying their travel expenses.

The "formal" programme started on Saturday 15th October, with the piper leading the Scots and Lochois to visit the town's five bakers, each of whom had prepared a cake to celebrate the 15th Anniversary. The aim was to judge the visual attractiveness of the cakes - tasting would come later!

This was followed by a civic reception with lots of speeches (almost all in French. Highlights were a message from the Provost (read on her behalf by Bill Sangster) and a message from the Alliance's Life President, Mary Freeborn. Gifts were exchanged - a statuette of Marie Stuart to the town of Loches and a book about the University's treasures to the Nouvelle Alliance. Our French friends presented several gifts, including a magnificent book on Art History and a decanter which was too fragile for transport by Easy jet and awaits collection *chez* Pascal du Brisay.

A working lunch in the Maison Lansyer was followed by a further working session in the Town Hall before all were transported to the chateau de Montpoupon where the party was greeted by the owner, Count Amoury de Louvencourt. Serenaded by an ensemble of eight hunting horns and

our excellent piper, guests were offered a "vin d'honneur" on the lawn and a private tour of the chateau before moving to the adjacent Auberge de Montpoupon for a fine dinner attended by some ninety people.

Those who felt strong enough the next morning went to church or had a stroll in what continued to be fine weather for mid-October.

Later a buffet lunch was provided at the home of Marie-Line Barbanneau (the Nouvelle Alliance Treasurer), before everyone congregated in the Jardin Public for the planting of a commemorative oak tree.

At the end of this little ceremony, Jean-Jacques Descamps (the Mayor of Loches) presented Bill Sangster, a staunch supporter of the Alliance since its earliest days, with the *Medaille de la Ville*.

For the visiting Scots, there followed the highlight of the visit - a party with French and Scottish country dancing attended by over 200 people. Lots of youngsters joined in and both young and old enjoyed an energetic and friendly few hours together, with the visiting party augmented by about 20 pupils from St Leonards who clearly had a great time and were superb ambassadors for their school and the town. The judging of the taste of the Anniversary cakes also took place and it really was not a "fix" that the winner was Pascal du Brisay's neighbour in the rue Quintefol!

A special vote of thanks goes to our three young musicians who played at all the functions - the playing of "Amazing Grace" by our piper after morning service was highly appreciated by everyone in the church, especially when the organist found the right key and played along with him!

Primary School Competition

Thanks almost entirely to Joyce Duncan and Alan Livingstone-Smith (in Loches) the visit to France was followed by a poster competition amongst all the primary schools in our two towns. The focus was on "My Town" or "Ma Ville". By a miracle of hard work and a little luck, the Scottish posters went to Loches where the French pupils judged the winners just in time to get them back for display during the St Andrew's weekend. Thanks are due to Kyffin Roberts for presenting the prizes and to Henry Paul for agreeing that the posters could be added to the Community Council's Art & Photography Exhibition and for contributing half the cost of the prizes. A parallel exercise saw the St Andrews primary pupils judging the French posters and Joyce getting them back to Loches for exhibition there.

Activities this year

The Alliance is about to issue the formal invitation for a visit from Loches this summer. The plan is to use the Preservation Trust's "Hidden Gardens" event on Sunday 24th June as a key attraction, with visits the previous day to perhaps two special gardens (including the Murray's wonderful Craigfoodie in the late afternoon, followed by drinks and supper).

The Committee is also planning a Bastille Day lunch or dinner on Saturday 14th July and looking at the possibility of a quiz night later in the year.

Friends of the Alliance including, importantly, members of the Franco-Scottish Society are warmly invited to join in these events - more news anon.

2013

Next year it will be our turn to visit Loches. Following past successful visits by the University Chapel Choir and Symphony Orchestra, a musical theme is again featuring in our thoughts. If possible, it would also be good to persuade St Andrews swimmers to visit the brand new swimming pool in Loches, especially if younger people could be involved. We are keen to broaden the nature of exchanges and a particular ambition is to return to the early days of the Alliance when there were quite a few sporting exchanges with many youngsters involved. If you have any ideas, please contact any member of the committee.

Subscriptions

Please note that subscriptions for 2012 are now due. It would be appreciated if you would send a cheque for £10 per family/household to:
Syd Littleford, Middlefoodie, Dairsie, KY15 4RT

AGM

The Annual General Meeting of the St Andrews-Loches Alliance
will take place in the Conference Room at the Byre Theatre
at 7.30 pm on Wednesday 28th March 2012

Please try to attend

Committee

Chairman	John Matthews	(472908)
Secretary	Lindsay Murray	(870291)
Treasurer	Syd Littleford	(871515)
Joyce Duncan	Virginia Fowler	
Judith Harding	Fiona Mitchell	
Bill Sangster	Gordon Wouk	

OUTLINE FINANCIAL STATEMENT YEAR-ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2011

INCOME

Membership Subscriptions	£220.00
SCO Bar wine sales	830.61
BBQ contributions	460.00
Fife Council grant*	450.00
Community Council grant**	110.00
TOTAL	2070.61

EXPENDITURE

Wine etc purchases for Bar	471.64
Travelling expenses*	956.80
Primary Schools competition prizes	210.00
TOTAL	1783.34

SURPLUS

287.27

* Travel expenses for three student musicians (one piper and two violinists) were paid by the Alliance. Fife Council made a substantial grant towards these costs.

** In a poster competition, first and second prizes were awarded to pupils at each of St Andrews' primary schools and a small gift was also presented in recognition of the schools' enthusiastic participation.

**The St Andrews-Loches Alliance is a charity registered in Scotland
Charity Number 027567**