

## ST ANDREWS-LOCHES ALLIANCE



### Newsletter June 2015

As you know, the last few months have been quite active although it seems to take an awfully long time to get things done.



*Logis Royale from the Jardin Publique*

*Photo courtesy Sam Taylor*

### TWINNING

The latest attempt to secure approval for the twinning of St Andrews with Loches started last October with the visit of Anne-Sylvie Vassenaix-Paxton, Marc Angenault (the mayor of Loches) and some of his colleagues.

The key event during that visit was a meeting with the Provost of Fife (Jim Leishman) to which I had invited Howard Greenwell, the Chair of our Community Council. The Provost made clear the support of Fife Council for twinning but emphasised that the decision to twin or not was for the local community.

As a direct outcome of this meeting, Dominique Robertson (from Fife Council) and I were invited to make a presentation to the Community Council at its meeting on 5<sup>th</sup> January. The presentation went very well and, as a consequence, Howard Greenwell launched a consultation through the pages of 'St Andrews in Focus' and the Citizen. All the responses to this consultation were positive and, at its meeting on 27<sup>th</sup> April, the Community Council voted in favour of twinning.

Now comes the bureaucratic bit! I met with Howard and Dominique on 6<sup>th</sup> May, just before they departed on holiday. I have drafted a Twinning Agreement along lines suggested by Dominique and we are due to discuss it on 10<sup>th</sup> June. When we have an agreed text, we shall have to share it with our friends in Loches prior to a probable signing date during the St Andrew's weekend here in St Andrews. A parallel signing in Loches is tentatively planned for Easter 2016. As soon as the details and timings are known, we will let you know.

All of those who have contributed to this result, and there are many, deserve our warmest thanks.

## **SOCIAL EVENTS**

Thank you to those who turned up to School 2 for the talk by Pierre-Alain Coffinier. It was a very relaxed affair and reasonably well attended.

There will doubtless be a lot of festivity when the signing of the Twinning Agreement takes place. One reason that the St Andrews Weekend is seen as the most likely date is, of course, that we can plug into our community's celebrations rather than trying to organise and fund our own – although we aim to ensure that there are special occasions for Alliance members.

## **Not Quite Bastille Day lunch**

Enclosed with this Newsletter is an invitation to lunch chez Alistair & Joyce Duncan at Beley Bridge on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> July. Places are rather limited, so please let us know if you would like to join us – it will be strictly first come, first served.

## **Quiz Night**

It is quite a long way off, but please put "Alliance Quiz Night" into your diary for the evening of Friday 30<sup>th</sup> October in the New Golf Club. Nearer that date we will give you a nudge to suggest that you put together teams and think about inviting along some folks who might join the Alliance. We need young blood to take

the Alliance forward and to widen our contacts among the local community!

### **MONEY MATTERS**

Not only do we need more members (and young members too), we need members to pay their very modest (£10pp) subscriptions. If you have paid, thank you; if payment might have slipped your memory, you can check with Bill Sangster to whom any money due can be paid in cash or by cheque. I think we might encourage direct debit payments from the end of this year.



*The Alliance piper at chateau Montpoupon*

*Photo courtesy Sam Taylor*

### **Committee:**

Joyce Duncan	Secretary	John Matthew	Chairman
Virginia Fowler	Izzy Murdoch	Elizabeth Gray	
Bill Sangster	Treasurer		