

# ST ANDREWS-LOCHES ALLIANCE



## Newsletter; March 2014

### Annual General Meeting

Just a quick reminder that this year's AGM will be held at 7.30 pm on Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> March in the Scores Hotel. The Annual Report for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2013 will be presented to the meeting after which wine and nibbles will be served. Please try to attend; all suggestions as to how we might develop the Alliance will be welcome either during the formal meeting or afterwards.

### Annual Report

The Annual Report should be finalised in the next few days and will be circulated by email. Efforts will be made to get a copy to members who have no email facility.

### Recent & future activities

The visit to Loches in October 2013 was splendidly organised by our friends in Loches and all those who travelled from St Andrews had a marvellous time. Appropriate messages of thanks were sent to Pascal du Brisay and his colleagues. The party in the St Rule Club on 10<sup>th</sup> January this year was a great success – with delicious refreshments provided in the Club's charming drawing room. Thanks go to all who organised and helped with this event.

In the past month or so there was a slight hiatus in our activities as we absorbed the news of Pascal's resignation as President of the *Nouvelle Alliance*. He felt that for many years he had been able to make a particularly strong contribution to the *Alliance* in Loches as a *maire adjoint* but that this would no longer be possible since he would not be part of the new *Conseil Municipal*. We lament his demission of office but know that he will remain an active supporter of the *Alliance*. The municipal elections take place on 30<sup>th</sup> March and, irrespective of which group wins, we have been given assurances that support for the *Alliance* will continue. Anne-Sylvie Vassenaix, a founder member of the *Nouvelle Alliance* has been elected interim Preident and is expected to be confirmed in this role at its AGM on 25<sup>th</sup> April.

- The Lochois are due to visit St Andrews later in the year and we have suggested to them that the weekend of 6<sup>th</sup>/7<sup>th</sup> September might be a suitable time. They have been given the opportunity to suggest another date that might be more convenient for them – more news in due course. We are testing whether photography might be an interesting focus for the visit.
- A Quiz Night is tentatively scheduled for 24<sup>th</sup> October and efforts will be made to secure a somewhat more spacious venue than the one we used for last year's very popular event.
- We are approaching the French Consul General in Edinburgh to ask whether he could give a talk on "The Current Political Scene in France" or, failing that, on a subject of his choice. The option of another speaker will also be explored with him and our hope is that we will be able to stimulate interest and participation from amongst the local school and university communities. More anon.

- The unavoidable bureaucracy is in progress to allow the placement at Cambo of a horticulture student from the *Lycee Horticole, Ste Jeanne d'Arc*, at Verneuil near Loches; the enthusiasm of Peter and Catherine Erskine is much appreciated.
- We have been asked whether we might be able to organise a visit to Loches by a local choir to take part in the centenary celebrations of the Red Cross in Loches. So far, this is not looking easy, partly because of the date – 7<sup>th</sup> December – but we will keep on trying.

## Subscriptions

Subscriptions for 2014 are now due and the Annual reminder form accompanies this Newsletter. It would be much appreciated if you would send a cheque for the appropriate amount to our Treasurer, Bill Sangster. Please also encourage anyone you know who might be interested in joining the Alliance to do so.

## St Andrews-Loche Alliance Committee

Chairman	John Matthews
Secretary	Joyce Duncan
Treasurer	Bill Sangster
Events Secretary	Lindsay Murray
	Virginia Fowler
	Judith Harding
	Mary Freeborn (Life President)

Note: Gordon Wowk has resigned from the committee because of other pressures on his time.