



ST ANDREWS-LOCHES ALLIANCE

Alliance update

12th December 2014

Dear Member

When I last wrote to you on 30th September, it was to let you know that the visit from Loches this year would be by a small party led jointly by the new Mayor, Marc Angenault and the President of our sister organisation in Loches, Anne-Sylvie Vassenaix-Paxton. As expected, the visit turned out to be very 'business-oriented' with the Mayor focussing sharply on the possibility of a formal twinning arrangement.

A very constructive meeting was held with the Provost of Fife and a number of his colleagues during which it was clear that Fife Council was fully supportive of the notion of twinning. Howard Greenwell, the Chair of the Community Council, was present at the meeting and undertook to arrange for the twinning situation to be reviewed at an early meeting of the Council. A number of you attended the reception in MUSA (the Museum of the University of St Andrews) and the farewell dinner in the Scores Hotel. Altogether, it was good to work with the new team in the Loches Town Hall and get to know them all better.

I have been invited to make a short presentation to the Community Council at 7 pm on Monday 5th January and will be accompanied by Dominique Robertson, a good friend of the Alliance and responsible, within Fife Council, for all twinning in the Kingdom. We should not expect too much from this meeting, but it is good to have the opportunity to discuss the pros and cons of twinning since it is several years since the Community Council last considered the situation.

You may recall that we had hoped to have a talk by the French Consul in November. Sadly we could not find a suitable venue and the talk had to be postponed. (In passing, many of you will be aware that there are few affordable venues in St Andrews)

For the New Year, things are looking bright.

On Friday 16th January there will be a **Drinks Party** at the St Rule Club. We had a get together there last January which seemed to be enjoyed by all; the format will be the same, the cost £10 a head and an invitation is attached to this email. I hope to see you there and please bring along any friend you think might be interested in the Alliance.

Our **AGM** will be on Wednesday 25th March at either the Scores Hotel or the Byre Theatre. Either I or our Secretary Joyce Duncan will send an email specifying the venue and timing. Please try to be there. We are on the lookout for new committee members – please consider offering your services; the task is not too burdensome and tea or coffee and posh biscuits are served at each meeting. Also, please let me know if you are (still) prepared to help out at the bars we run at SCO concerts. Again, the concerts are not too frequent and the task easy, but the income is very important to the Alliance.

As far as the **talk by the French Consul** is concerned, we are urgently trying to pin down a date and venue for Monsieur Coffinier to come to St Andrews. The topic will still be 'France Today' and it is hoped that the talk will take place during the week commencing 19th April. We hope that the talk will attract not only Alliance members but also our friends from the Franco-Scottish Society, university staff and students, senior pupils from our secondary schools and interested members of the general public.

During that same week we expect to receive a one day visit by a group of some 40 young French students from a college in Loches which specializes in vocational training. They want to learn about Scottish administration and how it varies from administration in England, the consequences of the independence referendum and the role of Scotland in Europe. We will be seeking the involvement of both Fife Council and the Community Council in this visit.

April is going to be a busy month, since about 40 pupils from College Georges Besse will be visiting Madras between 18th and 25th April (with the return visit by Madras pupils in late September).

We will also run a **Quiz Night** later in the year – probably on Friday 12th June – but the venue and confirmed time and date will be advised in plenty of time to get teams together.

In the meantime, from me and all members of the Committee please accept Very Best Wishes for a Joyous Christmas and a New Year full of Health and Happiness.

[John Matthews](#)