

ST ANDREWS-LOCHES ALLIANCE



NEWSLETTER, JANUARY 2016

TWINNING

St Andrews is now twinned with Loches and all who took part in the festivities made last year's St Andrews weekend a very special and happy one.



*Anne-Sylvie Vassenaix-Paxton, Marc Angenault, Jim Leishman, Howard Greenwell & John Matthews at the signing of the Twinning Agreement
(Photo courtesy of Bill Sangster)*

The business of twinning is not yet finished however, since a parallel ceremony is scheduled to take place in Loches during the Easter weekend this year. Our friends in Loches chose the Easter weekend so that the twinning could form a central part of the "*Foire de Pacques*", a major annual event in the town. Scotland will be the key feature in this year's festivities, so the saltire flag will surely be even more in evidence than is normal for our visits to Loches.

Easter is early this year and travel may present us with some problems of both availability and prices so it is important to fix the numbers who will be travelling to Loches. A form is enclosed with this newsletter and intending travellers are asked to complete and return it as soon as possible and in any event no later than the closing date of Wednesday 20th January. Note that the Nouvelle Alliance is recommending that we travel to Loches on Thursday 24th March and leave on Tuesday 29th March so as to enjoy the long weekend to the full and avoid the worst of the travel problems.

Once the number of travellers is known we will try to make block bookings, most probably by air to Paris, Charles de Gaulle, and then by TGV to Tours, where a coach will be provided to take everyone the final 40 kilometers. If the TGV is fully booked we may have to take a coach all the way from Paris to Loches, which sounds a little trying, but at least the coach could be organised to ensure that there was no hanging around in the airport.

Loches is always a wonderful place to visit and, for the twinning, it looks as though the Lochois will be pulling out all the stops and that, coupled with the usual warm hospitality, should make the Easter-tide visit memorable.



Some of those who attended the signing of the Twinning Agreement in the Hunter Aisle of Holy Trinity Church: Francoise Borat, Frank Riddell, Malcolm Scott (back to camers), Frank Quinault, Wendy Quinault, Catherine Prot, Clemence Prot, Annick Dubrisay, Alexandra Freeborn & Marie-Line Foucher. (Photo courtesy of Marysia Denyer)

Do, please, try to join in this historic visit to Loches – return of your completed form before the deadline would be hugely helpful.

DRINKS RECEPTION

We had hoped to have our Winter Reception in January, but we just ran out of time after the (exhausting) efforts surrounding the twinning. A Drinks Reception has now been organized for Friday 5th February in the St Rule Club from 6.30 to 8.00 pm. We are asking members to pay a ticket

price of £5 each for this event. Please let Joyce Duncan know if you can attend. We are also inviting members of key town organisations to join us in a renewed effort to be as inclusive as possible within our community.



The Chairman & Committee of the St Andrews-
Loches Alliance
Invite

All Members of the Alliance

To join them for drinks

On Friday 5th February 2016 at 6.30 pm

At the St Rule Club, 12 The Links

RSVP by 31st January

Tickets £5 per person

Joyce Duncan, Secretary
joyce.duncan@btinternet.com

AGM

The 2016 Annual General Meeting of the Alliance will be held in the Scores Hotel on Thursday 28th April at 7.00 pm. All members are urged to be present if at all possible.

SCO CONCERTS

The first concert in 2016 will take place on Wednesday 3rd February. Bill Sangster and I will be on duty, but we need a third person to make the bar work well. If you can help on 3rd February or at any of the later concerts, please let Bill know. (illsangster@hotmail.co.uk)

MEMBERSHIP & SUBSCRIPTIONS

If you have not yet paid your subscriptions for this year, please send a cheque for £10 per person to Bill Sangster or, better still, **complete a standing order** for the same amount annually and send it to your bank. Subscriptions have been held unchanged for several years but the income is important to the Alliance, so please don't let this gentle reminder rest in your 'pending tray'.

MONEY MATTERS

The Alliance has never been rich in cash terms. The twinning in November last year was quite costly but, thanks to support from Fife Council (via the Community Council) and a couple of generous donations from members, we are solvent to the tune of around £2,800. We are seeking support for the Easter visit to Loches and are hopeful of securing a little in spite of the current difficult funding situation.

THE FUTURE

In the past our relations with the Royal Burgh of St Andrews Community Council have been armslength at best. The level of cooperation achieved in the run up to the twinning was very encouraging and must continue if the twinning is to be meaningful and productive. Our efforts must seek to build bridges with the Community Council and with all parts of our town – the University, schools, the Merchants' Association, Rotary and others – and then to help them to establish and maintain links with their opposite numbers in Loches. Quite a challenge for all of us.

John Matthews

Chairman

HAPPY NEW YEAR

COMMITTEE

John Matthews, Chairman

Joyce Duncan, Secretary

Bill Sangster, Treasurer

Judith Harding

Virginia Fowler

Izzy Murdoch

Elizabeth Gray