

## **ST ANDREWS-LOCHES ALLIANCE**



## **NEWSLETTER, November 2015**

### **TWINNING**

Yes, it's a fact. St Andrews and Loches are to twin. A large party of old and new friends from Loches is due in St Andrews for the signing ceremony which will take place in Holy Trinity Church after the beating of retreat on Friday 28<sup>th</sup> November.

A number of founding members of the Nouvelle Alliance will be present, including Pascal Dubrisay, Jean-Jacques Descamps and Anne-Sylvie Vassenaix-Paxton (the current President of the Nouvelle Alliance). At the heart of the delegation from Loches will be the Mayor, Marc Angenault and two of his colleagues (Valerie Gerves and Bertrand Luquel). It is encouraging that there are many new names amongst our French visitors.

### **FUNDRAISING**

Playing our part in hosting the visit will just about empty our coffers. It is therefore important that we

continue to raise money and to persuade more people to join us – and pay our modest subscription.

The wine bar at SCO concerts has been an important source of income for us and will continue to be so, in spite of a rather poor result from the October concert. Please remember that your help

would be welcome once or twice a year – and warmest thanks to those who have already manned the bar over the past 12 months.

On 30<sup>th</sup> October the Alliance held a quiz night in The New Golf Club. Numbers were slow to be confirmed and, of course, the New Club had had a serious fire just to make things more tricky for the inspired team who organised this event – Joyce Duncan, Izzy Murdoch and Elizabeth Gray (with a bit of help from Lindsay Murray). A crowd of sixty or so had a super evening, with very nice refreshments provided by the New Club and questions which were, perhaps, a bit more testing than the norm. Marvellous raffle prizes were provided by several local shops who have been thanked for their generosity.

## **TWINNING VISIT**

37 visitors are expected to arrive on Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> November. The “official” delegation is three-strong: Marc Angenault, Maire de Loches, Valerie Gerves, 1<sup>ere</sup>

Adjointe and Bertrand Luquel 6<sup>eme</sup> Adjoint . They have chosen to make their own transport arrangements and to stay at The Scores Hotel. The “quasi-official” delegation comprises Jean-Jacques & Mylene Descamps and Patrick & Marie-Christine Foloppe. They are also making their own transport arrangements and will stay at Rusacks Hotel. Catherine Prot (former President of the Nouvelle Alliance) and her daughter will hopefully arrive with the “quasi-official” delegation and they hope to stay with Frank & Wendy Quinault.

Of the remaining 26 members of the party, only 3 have chosen to stay in a hotel – Veronique Raust (widow of a founding member of the Nouvelle Alliance and Jean-Paul Teston & his wife Princesse Sylvie de Savoie. All the others wish to stay with a family – quite a challenge for us!

1. If you can host one or more members of the visiting delegation, please return the attached form by email to either me or Joyce Duncan: [jfmatthews6@gmail.com](mailto:jfmatthews6@gmail.com) or [joyce.duncan@btinternet.com](mailto:joyce.duncan@btinternet.com)

2. Following the beating of retreat on South Street at 6.30 pm on Friday 28<sup>th</sup> November there will be a Civic Reception in Holy Trinity Church, during which the Twinning Agreement between St Andrews and Loches will be signed. If you wish to attend, please let us know as soon as possible so that the Community Council can make appropriate catering arrangements.

3. On the evening of Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> November the Alliance is co-hosting a dinner for our visitors in the Links Clubhouse. Your presence would be warmly appreciated and a rapid reply to the enclosed invitation would be very helpful.

4. A detailed programme will be circulated in the next day or so and I hope that all the organisations involved – ourselves, the Community Council and Fife Council – will be able to make our visitors feel truly welcome, whatever the weather may bring.

### **LOCHES VISIT 2016**

At Easter next year (26<sup>th</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup> March) our friends in Loches plan a parallel event, with signing of the Twinning Agreement in their beautiful mediaeval city. Please put this into your diary. I understand that the Mairie has a substantial budget and will be trying to outdo their customary level of hospitality, so the visit should be memorable. They are even talking about funding a visit by local Fife producers of food and wine (one of our local breweries/distilleries comes to mind as does Anster Cheese), so we have the opportunity of helping to create a splendid twinning experience.

There will be more on this as we try to get reasonable fares to and from France early next year.

In the meantime, it would be helpful if we can hear from you soon regarding your participation in the events at the end of this month.

## **SUBSCRIPTIONS**

As we approach the end of yet another year, it is time to think about subscriptions for 2016. It would be very helpful if you could pay our very modest subscription by standing order and an appropriate form is enclosed. At this key point in the life of the Alliance, it is also vital to try to get new members – so why not speak to friends and neighbours and ask them to join with us in our efforts to improve yet further our relationships with the Lochois.

## **Chairman**

## **COMMITTEE**

John Matthews	Chairman
Joyce Duncan	Secretary
Bill Sangster	Treasurer
Virginia Fowler	
Elizabeth Gray	
Judith Harding	
Izzy Murdoch	