

St Andrews – Loches Alliance

Trustees' Annual Report Year ending 31st December 2023

The St Andrews – Loches Trust SCO 27567 (or Alliance as it is commonly called) was established in 1997. In November 2015 the towns of St Andrews and Loches were officially twinned.

The aims of the Alliance:

Establish, develop and support educational, cultural and sporting links between the Royal Burgh of St Andrews and our twin town of Loches- en-Touraine in France.

Raise funds to afford opportunities to achieve the above for people of St Andrews.

Foster enjoyment of French culture, especially of the Loches area, for members of the Alliance and people of St Andrews

Encourage more involvement by the Community Council and other groups in the town of St Andrews

At all times the Alliance seeks to promote equality and diversity.

The Alliance focuses mainly but not exclusively on young people, aiming to bring them a better understanding of French life and culture through its activities. These activities plus school and sporting exchanges with Loches are funded by social events which are supported by the members of the Alliance.

In January 2023 The Alliance launched a competition for Primary Schools in St Andrews. The brief they were given was to design a brochure, advertising the attractions of the town for visitors from France of their own age. The text had to be at least partly in French. Staff from the St Andrews Tourist Information Centre judged the winners who each received an Easter egg. Their work was displayed in the Tourist Office.

Continuing to work with the Primary schools, we held our annual *Café français* at Craigtoun Park, on the outskirts of St Andrews in June. Primary schools from the local area were invited to join us in a marquee in the park where we served crêpes and organised French language games. We were also able to exhibit material from our 2021 'Look@Loches' exhibition. This day was well attended and an excellent opportunity to raise awareness of the twinning association.

We have for many years organised interval drinks for the Scottish Chamber Orchestra concerts in St Andrews. This provided us with a small income and an opportunity to advertise our existence. However as the orchestra has recently changed its venue to Holy Trinity Church this activity is now no longer possible.