

We should also be thinking about a friendship visit, probably next year. Are you interested in visiting Loches in 2018? Thinking of a long weekend, are there any particular times that would be best for you? Thoughts to Joyce Duncan please.

Fundraising

As members know, we raise modest sums by running a wine bar at SCO concerts in the Younger Hall. The new season approaches, the SCO has secured the necessary licenses and we will be looking for small teams to man each bar. Concert dates are as follows:

Thursday 14 Sept 2017	Wednesday 1 Nov 2017
Wednesday 31 Jan 2018	Wednesday 14 March 2018
Wednesday 18 Apr 2018	

I will, as usual, help out but volunteers are needed please. In particular, I am due to have surgery on my left eye on 12th September and would find it most helpful if two or three members could take on the duty of running the bar on 14th September – on this, please contact me (jfmatthews6@gmail.com).

Organisational matters

As mentioned at the AGM, I am in the process of re-writing our Constitution. It has taken a little longer than expected and will need the approval of OSCAR in due course. At the AGM, I also mentioned that I wished to step down as President at next year's AGM. So we need some brave soul to take on this role and one or two new members for our committee would be most welcome. It is not too onerous – volunteers please.

Committee

John Matthews, President	Elizabeth Gray	Virginia Fowler
Joyce Duncan, Secretary	Izzy Murdoch	Bill Sangster

Frank Quinault, Treasurer Judith Harding

ST ANDREWS-LOCHES ALLIANCE



NEWSLETTER, SEPTEMBER 2017

Twinning

Whilst it is important for all of us to recognise that our twinning with Loches is between the two communities and not just between us and our sister Alliance in France, our role remains largely unchanged, i.e. to foster links of all kinds between the two towns. Thus, although we will aim to have at least one friendship visit to Loches every two years with reciprocal visits from Loches in the intervening years, our main purpose will be to encourage and support exchanges between cultural and sporting groups.

One of the many sad consequences of the vote to leave the EU is that we shall have no access to European funding and funding from local sources is likely to be, at best, modest. We have had a few donations from members and they were very welcome. Additionally, our Treasurer will be seeking to demonstrate our eligibility for Gift Aid and when the time comes to remind you of subscription payments it is expected that all members will be invited to agree to their payments of subs being registered as "Gift Aidable".

In any event we will continue to offer financial support to appropriate activities to the extent that our modest resources allow.

2017 Events

As already reported, the now traditional Drinks Party took place in the St Rule Club on 13th January. We returned to the St Rule Club for our AGM on 26th April. Numbers attending both of these events were modest but the AGM was quorate!

Between the St Rule meetings – on 7th April – we had a wine tasting led by Peter Wood of the St Andrews Wine Company. Since we opted for wines from the Loire, whites were predominant and, were we to run a similar event in the future, a more balanced tasting might be more popular. The venue was the St Andrews Bowling Club whose facilities were excellent, whose prices were reasonable and whose welcome was warm.

On 7th July, we returned to the St Rule Club for a light supper after a guided walking tour of the town which was most professionally led by Virginia Fowler. Although Virginia is a Blue Badge guide, she made no charge for her services and managed to surprise even long time residents with snippets of information which none of us had hitherto known. Thank you Virginia!

All the events so far were organised by our wonderful team of Joyce Duncan, Elizabeth Gray and Izzy Murdoch. They are not resting on their laurels but are well down the track of arranging a Quiz Evening in the St Andrews Bowling Club on 3rd November. Please get this date into your diaries now. The Alliance ought to be able to form at least two or three teams and we will be encouraging other individuals and organisations to join in. More details will be circulated in the next month or so.

In Loches, a small party from St Andrews was able to attend discussions and celebrations in mid July marking the Fete National (formerly Bastille Day) and the Europe for Citizens programme – the latter largely funded by the EU and attracting groups from most, if not all, of the countries within the EU. It is heartening that representatives of the St Andrews Rotary Club visited Loches for the first time, having previously made contact with their opposite numbers. They were warmly welcomed and it seems very likely that the French Rotarians will visit St Andrews next year and may participate in a joint international project. It was noted that Virginia Fowler

and Anne-Sylvie Vassenaix-Paxton added to the Rotarians' sense of welcome by giving a guided tour of the town during a short spell free of other commitments. An informal report on the Rotarian visit is enclosed.

A week later members of the St Andrews Art Club spent several days in Loches, painting and enjoying a little tourism. Sadly they had been unable to take advantage of the EU funding that was available for the 14th July weekend but all enjoyed the visit. Artists from Loches will be encouraged to visit St Andrews before too long – maybe next year?

The Alliance made a modest contribution of £200 towards the cost of this visit.

Future Events

Our events team recently presented to the Committee an outline plan for the next two years:

New Year 2018	Drinks Party	St Rule Club
Spring 2018	AGM	
	Cheese Tasting	
Summer 2018	Putting Competition	Himalayas
Autumn 2018	Café Cabaret	
New Year 2019	Drinks Party	St Rule Club
Spring 2019	AGM	
	Film Evening	
Summer 2019	Lunch/Jazz in the garden	
Autumn 2019	Quiz Evening	

It all looks like a lot of fun. If any member has any other ideas, wants to help or has ideas for venues – please contact Joyce Duncan.

As those who attended the AGM will recall, other matters are under consideration. Sadly the exchange between Madras College and College Georges Besse will not take place this year. Madras seem keen to

participate in an exchange next year and the Alliance will again offer some financial support. Efforts are being made to find an appropriate venue for a proposed exhibition of Poster-sized photographs of Loches (Byre Theatre?) and the University is being approached regarding a possible visit to Loches by a group of musicians. Watch this space.