

CITYLINK



Chairman's Letter

Michael Bevis writes:

In this first edition of **Citylink** in 2022 I will be taking a brief look back over events which took place in the run up to Christmas and looking forward to our new programme.

The talk by **David Bridges** about Uppark and the subsequent visit took place on the 7th and 9th September. Both were thoroughly enjoyed by those who attended. On the 9th November we met to hear an illustrated lecture by art historian **Richard Whincop** entitled *In the National Interest: Art, the Sun King and the Academic Revolution*. We hope to be able to persuade Richard to return and speak to us again.

The 25th November is quite early to begin Christmas celebrations but we were very pleased once again to be able to hold our soiree in the Sherbourne Room at the Bishop's Palace where we were entertained by a talented group of musicians from the University of Chichester. **David Nason** was able to tell us about the history of the room. It seems there was sponsorship around even in the 16th century! **Anne-Louise Briggs** organised boxes of bread and delicious individual cheeses. The picnic boxes made us "Covid Secure" and the charming red checked mini paper inserts gave the boxes a Gallic flavour.

Those of us who are intent on improving our French have enjoyed the Language Circles. More challenging, but worthwhile and fun, have been the Zoom sessions with our friends in Chartres.

We are starting the New Year with a social evening at the Oxmarket Gallery when we will hear talks by two exhibiting artists accompanied by a glass of wine on Tuesday 18th January.

We are planning to hold our Annual Dinner on Thursday 17th February at Chichester College. More details and **The Form for Events** is included as an insert.

All members will receive formal notice of the AGM which will take place on 22nd March when some small amendments to the Constitution will be proposed. Fish and Chips will be provided and I will be talking about my aunt's time working for the United Nations

Relief and Rehabilitation Administration (UNRRA) immediately after the end of the Second World War. She had a journey through France with an overnight stay in Chartres on 16th June 1945.

We really are hoping that our exchange visit to Chartres, postponed for two years, will take place from Thursday 28th April to Monday 2nd May.

Finally, **Stephen Northdale** has asked me to remind you subs for 2022 are now due!
Bonne année!

Letter from the Présidente of the Amis de Chichester

Yvonne Chrétien writes:

Since my previous article for Citylink, I organised a visit to the Castle of Montigny-le-Gannelon for the Friends of Chichester on 29^h September 2021. This castle is situated about 60 kilometers south of Chartres on the Loir River, not the more famous la Loire. Although the castle is not as well-known as la Loire's castles, nevertheless, it is charming, very well furnished and situated in a lovely park with old trees.

In the morning, the owners themselves took us around, and afterwards we sat down to lunch in the Orangerie of the castle.

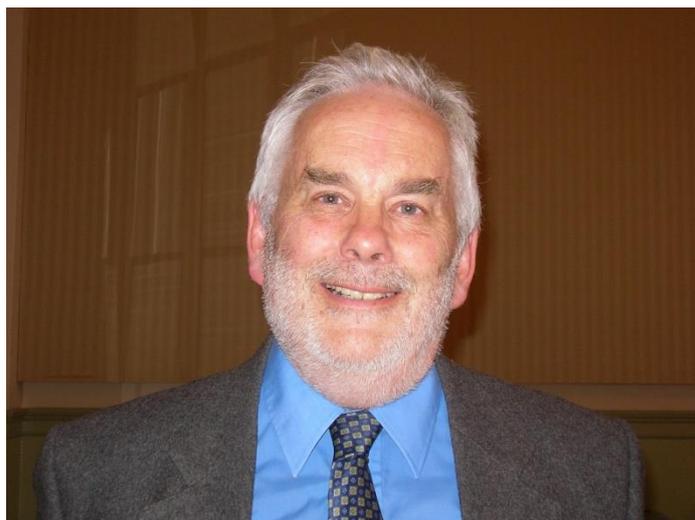
In the afternoon, we went to Bonneval where we boarded small electric boats to visit the canals of the area known as the small Venice.

We were just 19 people but once again we were lucky with the weather and spent a pleasant day enjoying the countryside and each other's company.

Now I wish you all the best for Christmas and the year 2022. Hoping we can see each other in Chartres in April and at last visit Vaux-le-Vicomte !

Yvonne CHRETIEN

Obituary: Michael Woolley



Anne Scicluna remembers Michael Woolley:

It is with great sadness that we announce the death of **Michael Woolley** on 3rd October. Michael was a staunch supporter of international friendship, and a man who lived up to his Quaker ideals of being a friend to all, especially those whose needs were great. He worked tirelessly for refugees and asylum seekers at Haslar, and, as chairman of the Chichester Welfare Trusts, he and that committee helped numerous local people in need. He was very keen on supporting Chichester's overseas links, notably that with Chartres, staying on numerous occasions with Patrick Geroudet while taking part in our exchanges with our twin city. As a member of the Society of Friends he wrote a small book on Quakerism in Chichester.

We extend our sincere thoughts to Alec, his partner of 29 years.

Recent Events

Rosie Speer writes: *Freshers' Fair at the University of Chichester, 15th September*



On a beautiful early autumn day some committee members attended the vibrant Freshers' Fair at Chichester University to raise awareness of the University's corporate membership. We were approached early on by **Simon Growcott** from the Music Department; he is keen to revive links with the Conservatoire in Chartres. Nursing Students and Sports Studies students also showed an interest in partnerships. History students and some staff subsequently attended **Andrew Smith's** talk, *Tasteful Protests*.

Penny Sessa writes:

Uppark: The French Connection, an illustrated talk by volunteer guide David Bridges

We were entertained with David's slides and commentary on a lovely evening and then....





As we left Chichester on Thursday 9th September the weather was far from promising. The further we journeyed up into the Downs the murkier it grew. We met **David Bridges** at the main gate and then proceeded to the cafe housed in the former kitchens with a wonderful cast iron range dominating one wall. Things worsened as we observed the rain slanting past the windows, obliterating the far-ranging scenery. On a clear day one is supposed to catch a glimpse the Isle of Wight but all we saw were grey clouds and more rain.

All was not lost however as the rain soon ceased and we went ahead with our visit even though it was rather wet under foot. **David** had entertained us with an excellent talk a couple of nights before taking us through the various links to France of the families who had inhabited Uppark. He showed slides of important objects housed at Uppark which we discovered during the house tour. David, who is "Mr Uppark" because of his extensive knowledge, provided us with a tour of the gardens and the structural innovations implemented according to Repton's designs. The symmetry of the two buildings housing the dairy and kitchens, though aesthetically pleasing, was not very practical but Repton overcame the inconvenience by having underground passage ways built. We had hoped to visit these but they were closed (Covid again).

Most interesting was the story of Lady Meade-Fetherstonhaugh becoming a world expert in the cleaning and conservation of antique draperies through her care of the soft furnishings at Uppark. She pioneered the use of soapwort (*Saponaria officinalis*) to cleanse them. Beds of this plant grew round the former kitchen at Uppark.



Rosie Speer writes: *Tasteful Protests – a talk by Dr Andrew Smith, Reader in Contemporary History, University of Chichester*



On the 5th October **Dr Andrew Smith** gave a fascinating talk about the way the French go about their political protests. Focussing on the wine producers of the Languedoc and the sheep farmers who produce the milk for Roquefort cheese the talk prompted a lively question and answer session. Friends of Chartres presented Andrew with a bottle of wine and we look forward to future collaborative events with the University History Department.



Peter Tudge writes: *In the National Interest: Art, the Sun King and the Academic Revolution - a talk by Richard Whincop*

On the 9th November we were royally entertained by a lecture on the world of French art in the reign of Louis XIV, centred mostly on painting, by artist and



art historian **Richard Whincop**. The immediacy of the connection between his profession and his subject made for compelling listening and viewing through the excellent variety of relevant illustrations and the meticulous examination of their subject matter and artistic, even geometric, construction. The presentation was an urbane and witty way of contextualising Louis XIV's aspiration for the State to control the artistic realm of France. The success of the evening was demonstrated by the lively question and answer session following the talk.

Ellen Haigh writes:

<https://www.chartres.fr/magazine-votre-ville/>

Click on this link to the Chartres city magazine. It's full of interesting articles and links - from town planning to what to see in Chartres along with an article on Chichester itself.

Soline Jerram (néé Newell) writes:

How Soline got her French name



My memories of my father are as a larger-than-life character who had a way of getting others to support his vision. That vision really was always centred on making Chichester a better place for its citizens. Much of his work, still seen today in the Newell Centre, was for people to come together and support each other as a community. As a Councillor he was always an Independent, not bowing to any political affiliations but priding himself on supporting the things which make a difference to people of the area.

We could never go into town without being stopped by so many people walking down the street to chat. There was always laughter as he had a joke for every occasion.



His role in the twinning of Chichester with the French city of Chartres was one of which he was forever proud and his memories of that period which, along with his life story, he recorded for posterity include the fact that there was not complete support for the project by all Councillors of the time. Concerns about cost and the image of town representatives having junkets off to foreign climes formed part of the opposition. He recorded, "I was all for it, not so much for my generation that only had just finished the war, but for the youngsters who might, by getting together with other Europeans, succeed in avoiding another." All this happened before my birth, but on an escorted trip with the Chartres Maire around Chartres Cathedral when my mother was pregnant, they were shown the stained-glass window of Sainte Soline. My mother stated there and then "If I have a girl, she will be called Soline."

The picture of the window sent to me on my birth, by the Maire, still hangs on my wall.



Friends of Chartres January – April 2022

Events can be booked by email to focevents1959@gmail.com or by returning the booking form provided with this edition.

Tuesday, January 18

Oxmarket Gallery, East Street
6.00 – 8.00 pm

Private View at Oxmarket Gallery
There will be a talk from a local artist
about their work



Entry £5.00 to cover cost of refreshments

Sunday February 5

The Studio, New Park Centre, Chichester
PO19 7XY
5.30 pm

Cine Club showing *Potiche*, a delightful
comedy starring Catherine Deneuve and
Gerard Depardieu



Entry £5.00

Thursday February 17

64 Restaurant and Bar, Chichester College
6.30 pm

Annual Dinner



£21 Members,
£23 Guests.
to include 3 course dinner,
welcome drink and gratuity.
Menu choices will be
circulated later.

Tuesday March 22

The Guide Hall, Whyke Lane Chichester
PO19 7US

Annual General Meeting

7.00 pm



There will be a fish and chip
supper and a talk by
Michael Bevis on his aunt's
visit to Chartres in 1945.
Cost of fish and chips: **£12**

Information Page

President
The Right Worshipful the Mayor of
Chichester

Councillor John Hughes

Officers and Committee

Chairman: Michael Bevis 781016

Vice Chairman: Anne Scicluna 789065

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focsecretary1959@gmail.com

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Annie Barnes 377150

Anne-Louise Briggs 784346

Paul Everett 603513

Ellen Haigh 937027

David Nason 573716

John Wilton 788833

Contributions to **Citylink**,
including *Just for Fun* ideas,
would be very welcome and
should be sent to
foccitylink1959@gmail.com.

Conversation Circles: January – April 2022

Groups meet monthly for lively, informal conversation in French. We welcome new members, whatever your level of French at Petit Cercle meetings. For the Cercle Avancé, you need to be reasonably fluent to contribute to the conversation, but we are happy for you to listen if you wish to improve your French.

We hope that it will be continue to be possible for us to resume indoor sessions. If not, the conversation groups will meet on Zoom. Login details will be sent out shortly before each meeting.

Petit Cercle du mardi

10.30 - 12.00 (First Tuesday of month)

Tuesday January 4

Tuesday February 1

Tuesday March 1

Tuesday April 5

Venue: The Coffee Bar, The Festival Theatre, Oaklands Park, Chichester PO19 6AP

Cercle Avancé

5.30 - 7.00 pm (2nd Monday of month)

Monday January 10

Monday February 7

Monday March 7

Monday April 5

Venue: The Rainbow Inn, St Paul's Road, Chichester PO19 3BW

Petit Cercle du jeudi

10.30 - 12.00 (3rd Thursday of month)

Thursday January 20

Thursday February 17

Thursday March 17

Thursday April 21

Venue: The Coffee Bar, The Festival Theatre, Oaklands Park, Chichester PO19 6AP

If you would like to attend a conversation circle and have not done so before, call **Julia Sander 01243 527435**.