

## CITYLINK



### Chairman's Letter

**Anne Scicluna** writes:

Some very interesting things have been happening during the past few months. The Cinema events are becoming popular again, and, although I have not been able to attend personally, I understand that these have been both interesting and fun. It was unfortunate that the visit to the D-Day Museum had to be cancelled due to too few people able to attend, possibly because of the timing and members still on holiday. However, we do hope to be able to put this on again sometime next year, as it is a most interesting visit to make. Watch out for this being on the programme at some time in the future.



A great success was our Christmas Soirée in the Sherborn Room of the Bishop's Palace. I did feel rather strange when writing to invite Bishop Martin, as it sounded quite awkward inviting him to his own home! However, he gracefully accepted, and came downstairs for a while to chat to the considerable number of Association members present. He told me that he had heard the music, which was being played by gifted recent graduates of the University. The cheese and wine, prepared by Anne-Louise Briggs, Julia Sander, Ellen Haigh and their small band of helpers went down very well with everyone. It was a pleasure to have several new members with us. David Nason gave us a most interesting talk on the Sherborn Room itself and the Lambert Barnard ceiling painted panels. It was then followed by many of us accompanying him to the Bishop's Chapel to learn yet more of the history of Chapel and St Richard.

As I write, I have just returned from Chartres' German twin city of Speyer, which is now one of Chichester's twin cities too! The twinning deed was signed by the mayors of our two cities on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> of December. Our new partners will come to Chichester at the beginning of March to sign the agreement. It was also a great pleasure on Thursday to find our good friend **Patrick Geroudet** present at the ceremony, as well as **Jean-Claude**

**Grouteau**, Chartres's Chairman of their town twinning who was also in Speyer to set up a French Christmas market. As Speyer is also twinned with Chartres and Ravenna, so the circle closes. So now Chichester has four of the most beautiful cities in Europe as our partners – Chartres, Ravenna, Valletta, and now Speyer. We are so fortunate.

### **Letter from the Présidente of the Amis de Chichester**

**Yvonne Chrétien writes:**

On Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> November the Friends of Chichester organized a soirée. It was an opportunity to meet again and share a dinner. Everyone had brought a dish and we shared the food. It started at about 7 pm and it finished around midnight!



It was also an opportunity to see all the photos taken during the exchanges with Chichester, Spire and Ravenne and the photos taken by the Commission of Chichester when visiting Nogent-le-Rotrou, the castle in Montigny-le-Gannelon and the beautiful « jardin de la Feuilleraie » decorated with mosaics.

In less than a month Christmas will be over. So I take this opportunity to send you all my best wishes for a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. We look forward to seeing you next April in Chichester and in January on Zoom.

**Yvonne CHRÉTIEN**

### **Anne Scicluna remembers Valerie Bevis and Rosario Scicluna**

Sadly, two of our staunch members have died recently. For both there could be a great deal more written, showing how they contributed to our association and the many exchanges in which they both took part over the years.

### **Valerie Bevis**

It is with great sadness that we report the death in September of **Valerie Bevis**, wife of our Vice-Chairman Michael. Valerie was a sparkling lady who seemed always cheerful as well as tremendously hard working for the benefit of others. She was one of the kindest people one could know, always looking out for other people and willing to give help and advice if needed. She will be greatly missed in Chichester, a city to which she contributed so much, and in Chartres, where she gained very many friends.



### **Rosario Scicluna**

It is with sadness we report the death in October of **Rosario Scicluna**, known to many as **Rino**, husband of our Chairman, Anne. He was a great supporter of all that Anne does, and much enjoyed his many visits to Chartres, mainly staying with **Jeannie Chassanne**, whom many members will have known, and making many friends in our twin city. For the last few years of his life, he had suffered dementia, which sadly curtailed his activities, but he always remembered his French friends and asked how they were. His funeral took place at Chichester Cathedral on the 10th of November.

*The Friends of Chartres were saddened to learn of Valerie's and Rino's deaths. We send our deepest sympathy to Anne and Michael and their families.*

## **Editorial**

**Contributions to [Citylink](#), including *Just for Fun* ideas, would be very welcome and should be sent to [foccitylink1959@gmail.com](mailto:foccitylink1959@gmail.com).**

### ***GENTLE REMINDER from Paul Everrett***

We would like to take the opportunity of advising members that Membership renewal will fall due on 1st January 2023, at a time when prices of almost everything are rocketing. The Friends of Chartres are pleased to advise there is no change in the annual subscription. Currently most members pay by BACS if this is the method of payment you wish to use, for ease when paying could you email the Treasurer at [foctreasurer1959@gmail.com](mailto:foctreasurer1959@gmail.com) advising the amount and the purpose of the payment which has been made. Of course, payment by cheque is still acceptable.

Have you considered renewing your membership by Standing Order? This saves time for everyone, currently we have some members who prefer this method. A renewal form will be sent by email in December. For those members who do not use email a copy of the form will be enclosed with this edition of CITYLINK when it is delivered.

## Recent Events

Ellen Haigh writes:

### *Social Evening with Fish and Chips – 16<sup>th</sup> September*

Compared with the weather this December 2022, we had warm, summery weather for the annual social evening. Your Esteemed Editor declined the pétanque and, instead, stayed outside with several drinks and enjoyable conversation and then we were called inside for the fish and chips supper which was excellent – hot and crispy. There was plenty of ketchup and tartare sauce as one member even brought extra in case we ran out. We continued with the socialising until the Quiz. Divided into tables with some interesting group names, the Esteemed Editor asked some very difficult questions about France and Chichester. As you can see from the picture the members took the quiz very seriously. The two questions which were the most difficult and stumped just about all the participants:

- Who was the President of France before Emmanuel Macron?
- Name either of the French films to be shown by the Cine Club?



**Answers:**

*Francois Hollande, Lost in Paris and The Adventures of Adèle Blanc-Sec*

### *Cine Club – 16<sup>th</sup> October and 13<sup>th</sup> November*

Ellen Haigh writes:

#### *Lost in Paris and The Adventures of Adèle Blanc-Sec*

Both evenings were well attended and the audience enjoyed the comedies along with a glass of wine beforehand. Each film had lovely scenes of Paris which made us nostalgic for the City of Light. For future reference, all the films are in French but have **subtitles in English**. If any members would like to suggest future French films for the next Cine Clubs, please email the Editor [foccitylink1959@gmail.com](mailto:foccitylink1959@gmail.com). Otherwise, the future showings will include the only French zombie film ever produced.

The City of Chichester twinned, since 1959, with the City of Chartres.  
[www.friendsofchartres.org.uk](http://www.friendsofchartres.org.uk)

Ellen Haigh writes:

### ***Christmas Soirée – 1<sup>st</sup> December***

The Sherborn Room at the Bishop's Palace was the venue for our Christmas evening. Last year we had to 'socially distance' but this time we could mingle and chat with old friends and welcome new members to the Friends of Chartres, though the very large and comfortable sofas at the far end of the room proved hard to leave for some. We had a box of cheese



and bread for refreshment along with the wine provided. **Bishop Martin** came along and did a marvellous job of speaking to as many as he could.

**David Nason** spoke about the wood ceiling and panels in the room. In case you are unaware, the ceiling panels were painted by Lambert Barnard between 1524 and 1528. The initials of H and K – King Henry the 8<sup>th</sup> and Queen Katherine can be seen and help date when the ceiling was completed. Such painted ceilings were fashionable during the late medieval period and this room was meant to impress—for official business, entertaining visitors, and formal dining.



Afterwards, **David Nason** took us to see the Bishop's Chapel. This building is part of the Palace and not the Cathedral and dates from the 12<sup>th</sup> Century. It has remained in daily use for nearly 800 years and is where Bishop Martin celebrates mass each day. What is of note is a relic of St Richard held there. His shrine and grave were desecrated by the Reformation but a small part of his body was returned and now kept in the Chapel. Many thanks to David for his interesting talk on the two rooms.

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**Joseph Williams writes:**

## **Touring Returns: Chamber Orchestra, Chamber Orchestra Choir and Sleepy Lagoon Orchestra visit Chartres**

After a break of two years, orchestral and choir tours resumed with a concert trip to our twin city of Chartres. This was our fourth visit to this lovely cathedral city to perform with the Grand Coeur du Conservatoire de Chartres, 80 musicians from Chichester performing together with 50 singers from Chartres was certainly going to be a spectacle.

Tuesday morning started early (6am yawn!) with a coach to Newhaven where we were dropped off for the ferry to Dieppe. The French coach met us there and took us to Chartres to a lovely hotel but 5 minutes after arriving we had to rush across town for the first rehearsal, our usual warm up was a trot up the hill!

On Wednesday our Chamber Choir had a lovely performance on their own in Chartres Cathedral. Director of the Choir, **John Hancorn** was delighted with the performance, "...to sing in this lovely and historic building was a wonderful experience and all the choir members relished this lovely opportunity. The audience was very receptive, especially when we sang the Ukrainian Prayer."

Thursday was something of a rest day for most, some students went to visit Paris, others the outdoor Lido to soak up the beautiful weather. An outdoor performance in the main square by our own Sleepy Lagoon Orchestra went down very well with surrounding cafes full of people enjoying the music and the sun. Director **Simon Growcott** pointed out that, "the style of music that we play, swing, has a universal appeal across all age groups and borders. It was also good to see people up and dancing in the sunshine."

Friday was the big rehearsal and the first concert all together, what a sound!!!! Carmina Burana by Carl Orff and Mozart's Requiem absolutely filled the venue, the Collegiale Saint-Andre, an amazing building and former church. Performing to 500, the queue to get in stretched around the block. Some people were disappointed and could not get a ticket. The reception was tumultuous, a wonderful experience.



Saturday's performance was even better and the Friends of Chichester together with the Grand Coeur gave us a sumptuous reception afterwards with more food and drink than was possible to consume.

Chartres is a most gorgeous city, full of welcoming people and this trip will go down as one of the most successful ever.

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## Friends of Chartres Events: January-April 2023

Events can be booked by email to [focevents1959@gmail.com](mailto:focevents1959@gmail.com) or by returning the booking form provided with this edition.

### Wednesday January 18

The Assembly Room, North Street  
Chichester PO19 1LQ  
6.30 pm (Doors open 6.00 pm)



**The Anatomy of a Masterpiece**  
**Bathers at Asnières**  
by Georges Seurat  
Lecture by Steven Barrett

This is a shared event with The Arts  
Society Chichester Evening.

**Tickets: £5.00**

*Wine or soft drink available for a donation*

### Thursday February 23

#### Annual Dinner

64 Restaurant and Bar  
Chichester College PO19 1SB  
6.30 pm



**£23 Members,**  
**£25 Guests.**  
to include 3 course dinner, welcome  
drink and gratuity.

*Menu choices will be circulated later.*

### Thursday, March 16

#### Annual General Meeting

The Old Dojo, New Park Centre,  
Chichester PO19 7XY  
7.00 pm

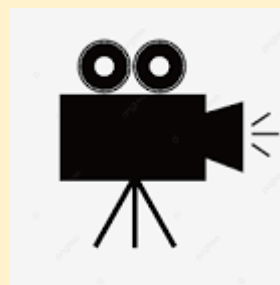


followed by a talk by **Laura Duguid** on  
**André Charles Boulle**,  
cabinet maker to Louis XIV

Including  
**Fish and chip supper £13.50**

### Cine Club

The Studio, New Park Centre,  
Chichester PO19 7XY  
Doors open 5.15 pm



**Sunday, January 15**  
Tell No One -- a gripping thriller  
**Sunday, February 12**  
Asterix & Obelix--Mission Cleopatra --  
feelgood japery  
**Tickets £5.00 per film**

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## Information Page

**President**  
**The Right Worshipful the Mayor of**  
**Chichester**  
Councillor Julian Joy

### Officers and Committee

**Chairman:** Anne Scicluna 789065

**Vice Chairman:** Michael Bevis 781016

**Secretary:** Rosie Speer

[focsecretary1959@gmail.com](mailto:focsecretary1959@gmail.com)

**Treasurer:** Stephen Northdale 822148

Clare Apel 783738

Julia Sander 527435

Anne-Louise Briggs 784346

Paul Everett 603513

Ellen Haigh 937027

David Nason 573716

John Wilton 788833

### Conversation Circles: January-April 2023

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.

#### Petit Cercle du mardi

**10.30 - 12.00 (First Tuesday of month)**

Tuesday January 3

Tuesday February 7

Tuesday March 7

Tuesday April 4

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

#### Cercle Avancé

**5.00 - 6.30 pm (2nd Monday of month)**

Monday January 9

Monday February 13

Monday March 13

Monday April 17

**Venue:** The Duke and Rye, West Street, Chichester PO19 1QU

**NOTE:** The April Cercle will be on the 3rd Monday to avoid Easter.

#### Petit Cercle du jeudi

**10.30 - 12.00 (3rd Thursday of month)**

Thursday: January 19

Thursday: February 16

Thursday: March 16

Thursday: April 20

**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**.