



Friends of Ravenna Report for the Chichester Community Affairs meeting on Monday, 14th November 2022

Programme of Events 2022-2023

We began our 'new year' with an interesting presentation by one of our members about the life and achievements of Guglielmo Marconi, inventor, engineer and Nobel Prize-winner. Another member shared about travels in Umbria including an account of a walk along part of St Francis' Way.

Visit to Ravenna 2022

The group travelled out on 28th September and returned on Sunday, 2nd October. There was a full programme which included visits to The Mausoleum of Galla Placidia, the Baptistery of Neon and the church of San Vitale where we able to admire the most wonderful mosaics and frescoes. There was an outing also to Comacchio and the Parco Nazionale del Po. Besides the opportunities to enjoy lovely food and social time together, there were other particular highlights.

One of these was the opportunity for 5 of our members to participate in the reading of Dante's La Divina Commedia (The Divine Comedy) at his tomb. This happens every evening at 6pm and is recorded and then posted on the Viva Dante website!

Perhaps most importantly, there was an opportunity to meet with the Mayor of Ravenna, Michele De Pascale with the Assessore Annagiulia Randi who holds, among other responsibilities, that of political and european cooperation. We were very warmly welcomed and assured that city of Ravenna is keen to encourage new links and connections and exchanges. There may also be the possibility of a visit to celebrate somewhat belatedly our 25th anniversary!

We have had 6 new members join us since the summer.

Jacky Storey
Chair