

Report by the Friends of Chartres for Community Affairs Committee meeting  
2<sup>nd</sup> December 2024

Since I reported to the Committee on 2<sup>nd</sup> September we have held a number of events which have been of interest to our members and which have helped them keep in touch while we look forward to the next year's exchange visit from the Chartrains.

On 8<sup>th</sup> September we held a social event at the Fishbourne Centre at which members enjoyed a game of boules and a quiz accompanied by a fish and chip supper.

We held a coffee morning to encourage new members to get to know each other on 10<sup>th</sup> October.

We have enjoyed two French films at the New Park Centre – 'Quai d'Orsay' about the fictional goings-on at the French Foreign Ministry and 'Pere Noel est une Ordure', a comic film about Santa regularly shown on French television at the Christmas the title of which I will not give a literal translation!

For us the Christmas season begins with our annual Christmas Soiree and this year we are again gathering in the Sherbourne Room at the Bishop's Palace on 5<sup>th</sup> December.

Always interested in French culture a group of us will be travelling to the Courtauld Gallery in London to see a special exhibition of paintings of London by Monet which have been gathered specially from galleries around the world on 4<sup>th</sup> January.

Once again we will be holding our Annual Dinner at Restaurant 64 at the Chichester College on 23rd January.

Our two language circles continue to meet on a regular monthly basis and continue to be enjoyed by those who take part in them.

We are looking at other events of interest for members including arranging talks on French themes.

The highlight of our year however remains the annual exchange visit and we are looking forward to welcoming our French friends who will be with us from 2<sup>nd</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> May next year. We are busy planning an interesting programme.

We are also looking forward to working with our colleagues from the other twinning organisations to plan our Four Cities event as part of the Festival of Chichester 2025 and to participating again Chichester Gala Day.

We are also looking together to see how the four organisations can work better together to provide complementary programmes and avoid diary clashes which are particularly frustrating for those of us who are members of all of them.

Michael Bevis

Chair