

Friends of Chaville Newsletter

Spring 2015

It seems a while since the last newsletter, but this one shows we have been busy and have lots planned too.

So I'll start with what has been going on since the Autumn

September - Chaville Twinning Celebration. Irene and Wilf Nichols represented us at their international event.

October - Visit of Chaville children to Barnet. This has now become a 'fixture' in our annual programme. The group of 10-14 year olds, accompanied by Brigitte de Palma and Marie Jo Coel, had a fun few days visiting London. They were warmly welcomed by host families in Barnet

November - Remembrance Day in Chaville. The Mayor of Barnet, Hugh Rayner, his wife Sue, John Hart and Fred Harris made up the official delegation who laid the wreath in Chaville and attended the Remembrance Day ceremonies. They were also joined for the 3 day trip by a number of Friends of Chaville, who were entertained by the AIJC – an opportunity to meet up with old friends.



November - Dinner at Chez Tonton, This was a great success, very convivial and very good food!

March 2015– Quiz. Our best one ever, with the hall full to capacity! Our huge thanks are due to Jim and Chelle for organizing our wonderful evening.

And the main event of the year, our visit to Chaville, April 9th – 13th

What a great time we had! 12 of us set off from St Pancras on 9th April, with our spirits only slightly dampened by the chaos in the station, due to delayed trains. However, once on board, all went according to the well-made plans, and we were all able to make the most of the programme set up by our Friends in Chaville. Gorgeous weather helped too! Several of the participants have contributed to this report.

Friday 10 April 2015, AM



Palais Royal, Colonnes de Buren



Passages Couverts du Palais Royal ↓



We assembled in the courtyard of the Palais Royal and our lady guide gave each of us a small white bag containing an earphone and a clip-on receiver. This was for us to appreciate her knowledge of history and her research into the arcades in the district which linked the small streets and Grands Boulevards. These ranged from the opulence of ones comparable to Burlington Arcade in Piccadilly to one built by a rich self-made butcher. The glass-ceilinged roofs and rotundas were created by the new skills of manufacturing glass reinforced with steel. Among the variety of arcades were those housing the Musée Grévin, the Madame Tussauds of Paris, and the Theatre des Bouffes de Paris. In others were specialist bookshops, toy shops and aromas coming from Indian restaurants with tables laid out for diners and the unmissable shoe shops of Louboutin! A most instructive and rewarding guided tour.

Lunch We had lunch at a delightful restaurant called Bouillon-Chartier near the Passages Couverts on Rue Faubourg Montmartre. It was originally opened in the 19th century to provide the poor people of Paris with inexpensive hot food. We were interested in the many small boxes in the walls with numbers on, which were for diners to keep their cutlery and serviettes in until they came the next time. The food was still very reasonably priced and of a very good quality too. We really appreciated having lunch in such a Parisian institution!

Restaurant Bouillon Chartier



The afternoon was spent strolling through Paris in the sunshine, and the evening we spent with our hosts.

Saturday On Saturday morning we met with the Chaville Book Club members. They had invited us to join them and asked us to think of an author for them to ask questions to guess who it was. Most of the Friends of Chaville had thought about someone and some also included talking about a book from the author and sometimes gave details of the author's life. Shakespeare, Enid Blyton, Terry Pratchett and Beatrice Potter were amongst those mentioned. This stimulated much interesting and lively conversation.



The Chavillois then invited us for lunch at Restaurant Douce France in nearby Viroflay. We all enjoyed a very good, typically French 3 course meal, cooked by the elderly French 'patronne' who was pleased to come into the restaurant from time to time to check we were happy with the dishes we had chosen. She also enjoyed the compliments and warm thanks given by Irene before we left.



After lunch we made our way to Chateaubriand's home and the Vallée aux Loups. The house is set in beautiful grounds with many rare trees and flowers. We had an extremely interesting guided tour of the house. The young guide gave plenty of information, beautifully translated as we went along by Penny! We learnt about Chateaubriand, his volatile political career and his relationship with the beautiful Juliette Recamier. The house was acquired by Montmorency and later de la Rochefoucauld, becoming an elegant haunt for the cream of society.



Giant weeping blue cedar

Saturday Evening Our Saturday evening entertainment proved to be quite unusual with us visiting a private home for a soirée with a difference. About 30 people, both locals with some of their children and Friends of Chaville, paid a nominal sum to hear some amazing jazz improvisation based on some of the works of Chopin. Whilst not to everyone's taste, there was no denying that Serge Forte and our talented hostess gave the Steinway piano a great work out. Those attending provided a platter of food each, which we all made a valiant attempt at eating, before, in the interval and after the event. Washed down by glasses of red, white and rosé wine plus Champagne, it all led to a very pleasant social occasion in a lovely turreted room!!!



Sunday Petanque

Usually we play our petanque matches on a small terrain in Chaville itself but as a result of Brigitte's trips to London with some of the 10-12 year olds that she teaches, a number of these children and their families were also expected. Consequently, we went to a lovely and very large petanque area a short drive from Chaville. The weather was glorious and the petanque area was surrounded by forest – a lovely location for a morning's play. We often had 4 games going on simultaneously with children and parents joining in enthusiastically with Les Amis de Barnet and the Friends of Chaville. The final score was 10 games to Chaville and a very creditable 8 games to Barnet. La Coupe Sportive is therefore in Chaville for a year until the next twinning weekend taking place in Barnet in 2016.



Admire the style, the concentration, and the amitié!

The rest of the day we spent with our hosts, some staying in Chaville strolling in the woods, others heading back into Paris, and some finding bargains at the Brocante which filled the streets of Chaville.

Thanks are due to all our hosts in Chaville, who always welcome us so warmly and who always provide a stimulating and fun programme.

The photos I have included are only a small representation of the full set. If anyone would like them all, let me know and I will get them copied onto a CD for you.

Future Programme

- **Petanque.** So far, we are suggesting **either** Saturday 23rd May, 10am at Copthall **or** Sunday 24th May, 2pm at Copthall

plus

either Saturday 27th June, 10am at Copthall **or** Sunday 28th June, 10am at Copthall

These dates and times will be confirmed later

For more information, contact Chelle on 0208 959 4504 or Keith on 0208 445 7850

- **Coffee and Croissants.** Saturday 13th June, 10.30 am, at 51 Garthland Drive, Barnet, EN53BD
Please let Penny know if you would like to come – 0208 440 9096. Members and friends will be most welcome.
- **Wednesday 24th June AGM, 6.30 pm, at Irene and Wilf's - 18 Salisbury Rd, Barnet, EN5 4JP.**
Please let us know if you will be attending, for catering purposes.
(Irene 020 8440 1366 or Penny 020 8440 9096)
- **July 14th – Bastille Day** – activity to be confirmed, but possibly (picnic) lunch and petanque
- **September. FoC dinner – details TBC**

If you have further ideas and suggestions, please let us know.

REMINDER

If you have not yet sent in your renewal to the FoC, for this current year – 2015/16, please send your cheques to Keith Martin, 148 Friern Park, N12 9LU. Thank you!

Remember that you can find information about us and review any past newsletters by going to
[The Friends Of Chaville - Home - friendsofchaville.weebly.com](http://friendsofchaville.weebly.com)

**Please note: Attendance at any function, meeting, or event of this society is entirely at your own risk.
No claim or responsibility for injury, damage, or loss of goods will be accepted by the society.**