

Friends of Chaville Newsletter

Autumn 2018

Phew! I don't know about you, but I function better now that the great heat has gone, and I hope all your gardens are recovering too. We have a bonus for us in this newsletter – memories from John White, who spent a few years of his childhood in Chaville, just prior to WW2. Make sure you read on to catch it. There is also more information about the proposed joint Chaville /Barnet trip to Guernsey and an open invitation from Marie Alice for us to spend a weekend in Chaville and attend their monthly book club meetings. (Programme attached at the end). And plenty of quizzes to keep your minds alert.

Firstly, a little round-up of events since the last newsletter. The **AGM** was held at the Red Lion pub in Barnet and was followed by a very convivial meal. We had a really lovely '**Strawberry Tea**' in July, which was well attended – there has already been a request for a repeat next year. The sun shone, the garden was in full bloom and the strawberries were delicious.



There was an enjoyable session of Petanque at Potters Bar Petanque club, followed by a social event, in August. They are always very hospitable and there is an open invitation for us to play there on Sunday mornings. We are looking into resurrecting the piste at Alianz Park for our own continued use.

Future activities

Visit to Bentley Priory, followed by lunch at The Hare in Harrow Weald. This is something different for us to arrange, but we thought it might appeal to a number of our members. Proposed date - January 12th. Please let Penny know if you might be interested (pennytelfer51@gmail.com)

The annual FoC Quiz - I know it seems ages away, but please make a note of next year's quiz - Saturday 16th February. Plus see the list below of up-coming quizzes.

Joint visit to Guernsey and Normandy Sunday April 28th – Friday 3rd May 2019

Sunday 28th April Ferry from Poole (08.30) to Cherbourg (13.45) 4 people plus car £175. Possible visit to Jardin Botanique de Vauville near Dielette. (info@jardin-vauville.fr) Overnight near Dielette. (Dielette is half an hour by car from Cherbourg) Here is the provisional programme for the trip to Guernsey and Normandy.

Monday 29th April Passenger boat to Guernsey from Dielette– return fare approx. 65 euro. Leaves approx. 09.00 and sailing is one hour 10 mins. (cars will stay at Dielette.) Overnight in Marton B and B attached to the Pandora Hotel, St Peter Port, whose facilities we can use. (Approx 90 euros per night for a double room)

Tuesday 30th April free day in Guernsey (Sark or walking in Guernsey, bus tour etc. as desired) Overnight at Marton B and B

Wednesday 1st May Visit to Victor Hugo’s House and other possibilities. Return by ferry to mainland at approx. 18.30. Stay in same hotel as on Sunday night.

Thursday 2nd May Visit to gardens, villages etc in this northern part of Normandy. Visit to Ile Tatihou. (resa.tatihou@manche.fr)

Friday 3rd May Visit to places of interest. Return to Cherbourg where we will take the high-speed ferry back to Portsmouth. Depart 1700, arrive 1900.

A few notes: Unfortunately, the high-speed crossing from Portsmouth to Cherbourg does not start until May 1st. We therefore have to go from Poole where the departure time is rather early and the sailing is slower. People may decide to stay in a hotel near Poole the night before or set off very early from London.

The timetable for the sailings between Guernsey and Dielette will not be published until October (probably towards the end of the month) but we were able to find out the dates at least fortunately. Timings given here are based on past experience. After May 1st there are no sailings between Dielette and Guernsey until the end of the week as the ferry shifts to Dielette- Jersey. So altogether sailings have played a large part in deciding this itinerary!

If we have enough people we should be able to get reductions at various places. At the moment we do not know how many French will be coming but Josiane will be sorting this out. She will also be doing the bookings for the hotels and crossings to Guernsey. At the moment it looks like 8 people from Friends of Chaville. Josiane will need deposits for some of the hotel stays which will need to be booked up as soon as we have definite numbers from the French and the English.

If you have any questions I will answer as best I can. Phone 020 8440 1366 or email Irene.nichols@gmail.com

Irene

Upcoming Quizzes run by Jim and Chelle

For those of you who love your quizzes, here are the ones to contact Chelle about. (0208 959 4504)

- Saturday 6th October, Barnet Borough Arts Society. With a light supper. Cost - £10, Church House, Wood Street, Barnet. 7 for 7.30pm
- Thursday 25th October, Tea Quiz. 2.45 for 3pm start, Friends of Mill Hill Park to be held at the bowling club pavilion in Mill Hill Park. Cost -£8
- Saturday 3rd November. Mill Hill Preservation Society Quiz Supper. 7 for 7.30 £12.50. venue St Paul's Church hall, The Ridgeway, Mill Hill

And finally, the **Mayor of Barnet’s fundraising quiz supper** in aid of Live Unlimited and Kisharon, 2 Barnet charities. It will take place Thursday November 29th, at St Mary Magdalene’s Church, Athenaeum Road, Whetstone, N20 9AE. 7 for 7.30 start, £15. Please contact Penny (pennytelfer51@gmail.com) if you would like to attend this one.

Barnet Anglo-French Club

- Brush up your French in a friendly atmosphere. You will get the opportunity to listen to native and non-native speakers and to practise your own French. All levels are welcome. Come and share our interest in France and its language and culture.
- Our varied programme includes contributions from members on the music, art, history, geography and cuisine of France, along with wine-tastings, conversation, outings, quizzes, parties, picnics and visits from guest speakers.
- Meetings at 8.00 p.m. every second Tuesday in Ewen Hall, United Reform Church, Wood Street, High Barnet.
- Visitors £3.50 per visit.
- Members £1.00 per visit.
- Annual subscription £25.00.
- For more information, please phone one of the numbers below:
Ian Saunders **020 8445 0119**
Rosemary Andrews **020 8446 9416**

Memories of pre-war Chaville

John White

I am delighted that Barnet, where I have lived since 1971 and may end my days, is twinned with Chaville, where I almost began them. I was born of English parents in 1934 in the British Hospital in Paris. My mother was a high-kicking Tiller Girl at the Casino de Paris and my father worked in a chemicals company and wore spats. After a couple of years in a flat in Levallois-Perret, where I was wheeled around Parc Monceau in one of those deep prams they used in pre-baby-buggy times, the family, including now my younger brother Bob, moved to 23 Avenue Talamon, Chaville. It must have been a dramatic change in her way of life for my mother: eight years on the stage in New York, Johannesburg, London and Paris and then, at twenty-four, having to give all this up to bring up two young sons in a suburban house.

I remember only a little of my time there. Playing in front of the house on the slope down to the garage. Walking through a smelly little tunnel under the railway line next to our house and going to the dairy in the village to ask for 'un peu de lait'. Going into the city and seeing the little green and white buses with open platforms at the back, as well as the fancy metalwork around the base of pavement trees.

Back in Chaville, a memory of the late 1930s is of the 'Tank Road' as we called the main road at the other end of Avenue Talamon that led to nearby Versailles. I imagine we called it that because we used to see tanks transported along it. The railway line visible from the back windows of our house and just beyond the garden also carried goods wagons laden with military equipment - armoured cars perhaps or, again, tanks. I remember my father, who had German as well as French friends and spoke both languages, worrying about the likelihood of war.

In late August 1939 we went away for our annual holiday. That year it was to Wimereux, a seaside town just north of Boulogne. I have a vague memory of an evening in the hotel garden with other hotel guests. I was wearing pyjamas. There was also a corner that we passed on the way to and from the beach that smelt of rotting fish. Suddenly, one day, everything changed. My mother, Bob and I had to pack quickly and catch the ferry to England, whether from Boulogne or Calais I don't know. I suspect this was because of the announcement of the German non-aggression pact with the Soviet Union on August 23. My father, like so many others, would have known what this meant: Hitler now had *carte blanche* to invade neighbouring countries. He did not join us, at least not immediately. He returned to his work in Paris, leaving on one of the last ferries out of the country in May 1940.

I enjoyed the ferry trip, not least because I was given a tube of unfamiliar sweets whose name had something to do with the navy. My father's mother put us up for the night at her house in Hackney and then we took a coach to Blackpool, my mother's home town, where her brother and his family kindly took us in. We lived there through the 'phoney war' until in spring 1940 my mother was able to rent a house near London ready



for my father's return. It was in Hornchurch, Essex, a mile or so from the Battle of Britain airfield of that name. The battle itself hadn't yet begun, but coming down south when we did meant we had a few months to settle in before sleeping in our Anderson shelter beneath the dogfights above, and searching next morning for bright jagged pieces of shrapnel. 23 Avenue Talamon seemed – and was – a different world.

23 Avenue Talamon in the late 30s. That's John in front of the garage.

Membership renewal reminder – STOP PRESS

Thank you to those of you who have paid the current year's subs (2018/19)

To facilitate payment of your subs, we are now offering the choice of doing an **on-line transfer**, (which will save you the trouble of fishing out that cheque book, finding a stamp and envelope etc!)

Please send your cheque*

To **Keith Martin, Friends of Chaville Society,**
148 Friern Park, London, N12 9LU

If you have any questions, please call me (Penny)

Tel 020 8440 9096

Email pennytelfer51@gmail.com

Name _____

Address _____

Telephone _____

Email address _____

Please ensure you provide an email address if you have one, since that will help keep our costs down when sending out newsletters. Please also indicate if the email address has changed from an earlier one.

**For the bank transfer, the details are as follows*. Please also send Keith a quick email to say you have done so - keith.martin18@btinternet.com*

Account	Friends of Chaville Society
Bank	Barclays
Sort code	20-95-61
Account number	30381675

- £5 family
- £10 organisation

Please indicate if you are interested in

- Going to Chaville Youth exchanges
- Hosting a French guest

Cercle de lecture et discussions en anglais Programme 2018/19

Chers ami(e)s, Notre prochaine rencontre aura lieu samedi 15 septembre de 10 à 12 h à l'Atrium de Chaville. Voici les dates des réunions (un samedi par mois, hors vacances scolaires) et les thèmes pour chacune d'elles.

Les dates

Les thèmes

- | | |
|--------------------|--|
| 15 septembre 2018. | Faisons connaissance, reprenons contact, et alors vos vacances ? Qu'avez-vous lu et apprécié ? |
| 13 octobre 2018. | Et si on se lisait une petite nouvel |
| 10 novembre 2018. | Les pays nordiques et leurs auteurs. |
| 8 décembre 2018. | Une histoire familiale et crémeuse : Cornish clotted cream, yummy. |
| 12 janvier 2019. | Le livre du film ou le film du livre, lequel préférez-vous ? |
| 9 février 2019. | Parlons musique ! |
| 15 mars 2019. | La femme est à l'honneur au book club, comment a-t-elle traversé les siècles |
| 11 avril 2019. | Les Puces ne vous font pas peur : Montebello (Portobello ?) Road, Saint Ouen, Place du Jeu de Balle... |
| 11 mai 2019. | Des lettres, un livre, découvrons le genre épistolaire. |
| 9 juin 2019. | La vie secrète de nos auteurs préférés ou autre. |
| 5 juillet 2019. | Un petit frisson pour l'été : devinez le meurtrier. |

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.