

Friends of Chaville: Report from the Chair 2015-2016

Another interesting and busy year has rolled around

The Quiz, held on March 5th this year, is the mainstay of our fundraising. We are very lucky to have Jim and Chelle Paice each year devising the questions and running the quiz. The money raised allows us to pay for the activities during the exchange weekend for the French visitors and also for our host families who are so important to the success of the exchange. We also made a donation of 10% of our profits to Emmaus, a local charity started in France which helps the homeless. Many thanks to Jim and Chelle again for their hard work.

We have strengthened our links with the Barnet Anglo-French. We publicise their meetings, especially when there is an external speaker or a film. David King, who speaks very clear French, gave an excellent talk on Maurice Chevalier, which was accompanied by numerous slides. Apparently Maurice could speak English without a trace of a French accent but of course his rather sexy accent was an important part of his persona. The Anglo-French Club also put on the excellent film “Au Revoir Les Enfants”, to my mind one of the best films ever made – profoundly moving. Further details about the Anglo-French Club can be obtained from Ian Saunders on 020 8445 0119.

We have been trying to run more activities outside the regular quiz, the exchange weekend and petanque events –such as, darts, coffee and croissants, restaurant meals. However, there has not been enough support. If you do want this kind of event please let us know and we will try again.

Brigitte de Palma is trying to find pen friends for French children aged 11-13. If you know of an English child interested in corresponding then please let me know on 020 8440 1366.

As is our custom, a wreath was laid on our behalf at the Remembrance Day service in Chaville in November.

Petanque has been given a boost by the extremely enthusiastic support of the Potters Bar Petanque Players, who have a lovely petanque ground in Oakmere Park. Many thanks to them

The exchange weekend in April involved 12 French being hosted by our members. At Hatfield House our excellent guide managed to find many links with France as she took us round the house. We visited Shaw's Corner at Ayot St Laurence and we all enjoyed our visit to a typical pub in a typical small English village too. The fish and chips evening chez les Telfers (thanks to Penny and Ray) rounded off the day well. Sunday morning involved the usual petanque match for La Coupe Sportive. This very fine but rather heavy cup has travelled innumerable times between Barnet and Chaville but the decision has now been taken that this cup should stay here, looked after by one of our petanque champions, Keith, while a lighter one does the travelling, to stay with the winning team until the following year. After petanque we all enjoyed a fine meal at Bistro the Walk, opposite Oakmere Park. On the final day of our exchange weekend we went to the London Docklands Museum in the morning. It has a wonderful new exhibition. After lunch at the very grand Ledger Building next door – now a Wetherspoons – there was a walk around the docks. In the evening there was a Bring – a – Dish at Friern Barnet Community Library after a talk by Keith about the history of the library's development after the local community refused to let it be closed. A very enjoyable weekend.

Finally, I would like to thank all committee members for their very hard work to keep this town twinning going so successfully.

Irene Nichols

Chair, Friends of Chaville June 2016