

Friends of Chaville : Report from the Chair 2016-1017

A new development this year has been that we have worked hard to create more publicity for the group through designing joint posters and leaflets for the French and German town twinnings. Both groups (like all groups!) need new, younger members to ensure a secure future. On the council website there is now a link to our own website www.friendsofchaville.weebly.com so hopefully interested parties can now find us more easily. Any help anyone can give with distributing posters or leaflets is always welcome. Also word of mouth can be the best recruiter!

The quiz in February was an astounding success with well over £1000 being raised. We welcomed the mayor David Longstaff and his escort to participate in the quiz. They were delighted to be given £100 towards the Mayor's Charities and we also gave £100 to Medecins sans Frontieres, a charity that I am sure needs no further introduction. Our thanks once again to Jim and Chelle for their sterling work in devising and marking all the questions. They do the very important job of keeping us afloat financially.

Our visit to Chaville in April involved 12 people. Two chose to stay in the hotel there whilst the rest were hosted by various 'Amis de Barnet'. The sun shone throughout the weekend. Events included a visit to the Fondation Luis Vuitton— an architectural splendour- and the wonderful Jardin d'Acclimatation, created in 1860, next to it. The visit to the Musee des Arts Forains was an absolute delight. Fairground rides on an extraordinary array of old carousels for young and old alike were enormous fun.

The annual petanque match was closely fought. Brigitte de Palma had located some very good, regular petanque players in Chaville who strengthened the French side. The new salver is consequently now in their possession for the next year. Meanwhile La Coupe Sportive has been donated to Barnet Museum. We also play a number of petanque games during the year with the Potters Bar Petanque players and also hope to be playing at Allianz Park where the piste is hopefully being renovated.

Our visit in Chaville overlapped with Hugh Weldon's 2 weeks spent in Chaville's library in order to gain experience of its working. During our visit, he gave a presentation to the Book Club on British Cinema focusing mainly on the 50s and 60s.

A social event for both Friends of Chaville and Friends of Siegerland members was held at Irene's house in May to celebrate the production of the flyers and posters – a useful exchange of perspectives accompanied by copious quantities of cake. We hope our work will be rewarded by new members and that the twinning will go from strength to strength. As always, many thanks to all the committee for their hard work both at the quiz and throughout the year.

Irene Nichols

Chair, Friends of Chaville, June 2017