

Friends of Chaville Report from the Chair: 2018-19

Along with many community groups we are having to work hard to attract new members, especially young ones! Chaville is working in a very positive way to achieve this. For example, this year they have extended a special invitation to Potters Bar Petanque Players for the exchange visit, bringing new members and new interest to our twinning on both sides of the Channel. We hope this link will continue.

More recently, another possible development is between archery groups in Chaville and Barnet. We hope that this will prove equally successful. I would urge all Friends of Chaville members to think about other possible link-ups between such interest groups, that can enrich the twinning and open it up to more people.

Another initiative in Chaville is Brigitte de Palma's online Forum where students from any country can write messages to each other. She hopes to get links between schoolchildren especially in Barnet and Chaville. It is not easy to find teachers who will support this but if you are aware of any possibilities please let us know. The address of her website is <https://www.chavilleconnect.net/> and look for the word 'Forum'.

On this side we had a stall at the Christmas Fair in Barnet High Street on the first Sunday in December. We gave out a lot of our leaflets and will repeat the exercise this year. We have to get our name out there so that more people are at least aware of our existence!

The quiz was as popular and successful as ever this year. It is a great team effort from the committee and I would like to mention particularly Penny Telfer who masterminded the excellent food and of course, Chelle and Jim Paice for producing a great selection of questions for us.

There have been a number of other events which we have offered to all FoC members, such as a strawberry tea at Penny's house, or rather garden, as we had a beautifully sunny afternoon! Recently our group had a very interesting visit to Bentley Priory which was the nerve centre of all our air force during World War Two. We had a tour-de-force guided visit explaining how Britain managed to defeat the superior Nazi air power during the Battle of Britain, when the Nazis had hoped to weaken this country, making it ripe for invasion as they had done in France the previous year. We already have a bring-a-dish lunch planned for July 20th so please look out for this.

There is no report as yet this year on the exchange visit as it is not taking place until June 20-24th, rather later than usual. It will include a visit to the Café Polyglot that has been started in Chaville to give Chavillois the chance to meet up with like-minded people to practise other languages. More of this, after I have experienced it at first-hand!

Finally a big thank you to all who serve on the committee and next year there will probably be a report on two town twinning visits!

Irene Nichols, May 2019