

Friends of Chaville Newsletter

Autumn 2009

Where did the summer go? I hope you all enjoyed the summer holiday season and are getting ready to embark on a (hopefully) sun-filled Autumn range of activities.

We are pleased to welcome a number of recent new members to the Friends of Chaville, and look forward to seeing you at our Barnet activities, as well as to having you join us on twinning trips to Chaville

The main Summer event for the FoC was, undoubtedly, the Civic Visit by the delegation from the Town Hall in Chaville, and we were very pleased that Denis & Nicole Sommereux, and Marie- Alice could join us for the celebrations. We also had the Musical Evening, and one of our regular petanque sessions.

The Civic Visit June 23-26th 2009

On 23rd June Penny met the Chavillois delegation at St Pancras Station and then accompanied them on a visit to the South Bank, ably guided by Keith Dyll.



The evening entertainment was provided by a jazz group as part of the Mill Hill Music Festival.

On Wednesday 24th June, in the morning, the French visited East Barnet School, and later experienced the Robing Ceremony. After lunch at a local pub, there was the official tree-planting ceremony, to celebrate the 50th anniversary of our town twinning. This was followed by a tour of the RAF museum, and to round the day off, a buffet supper for the Chavillois and members of the committee and hosts.



The following day saw a whistle-stop visit to Brent Cross then Canada Villa youth centre, with the Rolling Youth Bus, and the Artsdepot, before the Civic Dinner in the evening. By the time the last of the French left on the Friday, they must have been glad to have a breather after such a packed schedule.

The French have expressed their appreciation for all the time and effort put into the planning of such a varied programme, and we have strong hopes that further links between Barnet and Chaville will flourish.

We were particularly delighted to see Karl Ruge, our most senior member of the Association, at the tree planting, and also at the display of memorabilia at Friern Barnet Library.



Musical Evening 6th June

This lively, fun evening was very well attended and we were delighted to welcome the Deputy Mayor and his wife. We were treated to an evening of classical singing, interspersed with some Flanders and Swann, Gilbert and Sullivan and not forgetting the Grimethorpe Colliery Band!



Future Events and suggestions

An invitation has come from Chaville for anyone interested in attending their Book Club.

Irene and Wilf Nichols went to several of their sessions and Irene has written an explanation for us of what goes on.

Chaville Book Club

There is a very lively book group that meets in the library once a month on a Saturday morning so that the participants can practise their English by informal discussions loosely based around literary topics. The participants all share an enthusiasm for the English language and some are in fact native English speakers but living now in France. Some of the French members are teachers of English in the school system and they particularly value the opportunity to speak to native English speakers. When Wilf and I were in France for one year we often went to the group and found it very enjoyable and the group always gave us a very warm welcome. They are now extending a welcome to all Friends of Chaville members to attend one of their Saturday morning sessions and are offering accommodation for the weekend from the Friday to the Sunday or Monday with one of the group members and their family. Their hope is to have 1, 2 or 3 visitors to each of their meetings. They are also offering to meet visitors to the group at Gare du Nord on the Friday. Altogether is this a very kind, generous offer. From our own experience we know what a lively and friendly group this is.

The meeting dates planned are as follows – all Saturday mornings from 10.00 to 12.00.

<i>19 September 2009</i>	<i>Your holiday - the books you read during Summer</i>
<i>17 October</i>	<i>What does reading bring you ? What do you expect from a book ?</i>
<i>14 November</i>	<i>Oscar Wilde and his works</i>
<i>12 December</i>	<i>Christmas : literature, custom, carols...</i>
<i>16 January 2010</i>	<i>The British and American Press</i>
<i>13 February</i>	<i>Canadian literature (East-West)</i>
<i>13 March</i>	<i>Great Britain during World War II</i>
<i>10 April</i>	<i>The British and their Gardens</i>
<i>22 May</i>	<i>Senior/junior's attitudes towards reading (I.T., e-books....)</i>
<i>12 June</i>	<i>Books/topics of this year. Suggestions for summer and next year</i>

If anyone might wish to attend, please contact Irene Nichols on 020 8440 1366

Saturday September 5th - Petanque 10.30 at Copthall,. Please call Chelle for details. (0208 959 4504)

October - Chavillois Family visit to Barnet A group of some 10 parents and children are planning to come here over the last weekend of October. If you would like to be involved in any way, from hosting to accompanying them on days out, please contact Penny (020 8440 9096)

November (tbc) -Tennis There is a proposal that we play, as a mixed team, in Chaville this Autumn. If you are interested, please call Penny on 020 8440 9096. So far, we only have one male player, so more men would help balance the team!

November (tbc) - Civic visit to Chaville. The date has yet to be confirmed, but an invitation for this autumn has been received.

30th January 2010 - Quiz supper Our quiz will take place at Quench Café. Further details will be sent out closer to the time, but you can book the date now

April 2010.- AIJC visit to Barnet This has been proposed. During the visit of the Chavillois, we would include petanque (for the Coupe Sportive), a games evening, and possible trips to the Houses of Parliament, Kew Gardens, Eltham Palace and an Elizabethan Banquet at Hatfield House.

July 2010 - London Pro Arte Choir A date has now been fixed for them to sing in Chaville on the first weekend of July

17th February 2010 - Display and Talk at Friern Barnet Library After Keith's lovely display of photos at the Library in July, showing highlights of the last 50 years of our association with Chaville, we have been asked to give a talk . Keith has agreed to do this.

New Committee. Since the AGM in June, the committee now consists of

Chairman	John Hart
Vice Chair	Irene Nichols
Hon Sec (joint)	Chelle Paice and Penny Telfer
Hon Membership Sec	Penny Telfer
Hon Treasurer	Keith Martin
Committee	Lorely Atkinson, Jolanta Broom, June Burton, Jim Paice, Phyllis Palmer

And finally, the committee wishes to thank Cllr Brian Coleman and all his team for the warmth of their reception of the officials from Chaville and the wonderful organization of the whole visit.

Addendum

The French have asked whether anyone would be interested in a 'house swap' enabling Friends of Chaville and Friends of Barnet to stay for a brief holiday period in each others homes.
If this appeals to you please contact me and I shall pass the information on.