

Friends of Chaville – Chairman's Report 2008-2009

Last year, after the AGM, we decided to hold a dinner, but where? A French-oriented body like ours needs to eat. By the next committee meeting on 14th August our researches had come up with *Les Associés* (Crouch End, N8). Date 2nd September. Guest: Cllr Brian Coleman AM. Very good and jolly it was, as the smiling group photo in the Newsletter demonstrated. If you weren't there, boo to you.

That committee meeting sketched out our activities for the year. These would centre round the 50th Anniversary of the Twinning, as well as including building school links and young people's exchanges (hindered by some Health & Safety concerns), visits by Barnet choirs to Chaville, a jewellery evening, a music evening, our annual quiz and major fundraiser, tennis exchanges, petanque etc.

Tennis players from Chaville spent the weekend 3- 6 October in Barnet, playing a friendly tournament at Ravenscroft Tennis Club, thanks to Penny Telfer and the club coach. Some tennis players came to the Mill Hill Preservation Quiz that Saturday. Penny hosted a social evening on Sunday 5th. My thanks, Penny.

Our wish to see a Barnet choir singing in Chaville hung fire: Mrs Joan Bloomfield, of Finchley Chamber Choir, reconnoitred Chaville but arrangements could not be concluded this time. Better chances appear with the London Pro Arte's desire to perform at the Atrium in 2010. At time of writing 'des pourparlers' between Dr Molly Scopes, the Atrium and FOC are going on. Our annual Quiz, and major fund-raiser, held at the Quench Café on 28 February was a sell-out. Not another table could have fitted in. Quench did us very well. Jim and Chelle, and son Andrew on the electronic score board, ran the event with aplomb. Our accounts received an intake of *argent frais*, as General de Gaulle would have called it.

The Jewellery Evening on March 23rd hosted by June Burton at her home was a considerable success. About 25 attended and listened to David Vroobel on valuables; afterwards he gave valuations on items members had brought along.

Irene Nichols, on her own initiative, arranged for several of our Chavillois friends to visit Norfolk from 13 to 19th April with husband Wilf and Jenny and David Eaton who helped with transport. They went YHA hostelling - hardy folk – and enjoyed an interesting and varied programme. Thank you all.

Artsdepot, on May 2, saw the premiere of Keith Martin's exhibition of his delightful drawings, chiefly French and mainly architectural. Who knew he drew so well? Plus he sings. We shall hear him and others on June 6 chez Penny Telfer. Can he warble as well as he doodles, *voilà la question qu'on se pose*.

Now the Big One: Cllr John Marshall, our Mayor till 19 May, wrote on 31 March inviting Monsieur le Maire de Chaville, Jean-Jacques Guillet, to a Civic Visit from 23rd till 27th June to mark the 50th Anniversary of the Twinning. So far, so good, though Monsieur Guillet being also a *député* and the Assembly being in session we can only expect a lightning one-day visit, there and back, to plant a memorial tree in Friern Park with our own Mayor-to-be Cllr Brian Coleman. Other Chaville Councillors, Mme Tilly, M. Bes and M. J-P. Cardin hope to tarry longer. We want to show them places of interest.. We hope some of you will join in the ceremonies and visits.

Of course, I can't thank every one of you, grand bunch, for all you do, one by one. So *un grand merci à vous tous et si par hasard je vous ai omis cette fois-ci, je vous remercierai en double l'an prochain DV*.

John Hart, Chairman