

## Friends of Chaville Newsletter Spring 2008

Welcome to our first newsletter of 2008. We have, as ever, been busy with our programme of events and I shall take this opportunity of highlighting them for you.

### Visit to Chaville in March

Twelve of us from Barnet enjoyed a wonderful weekend in Chaville with the customary, excellent hospitality from our hosts. Many thanks to all our Chavillois friends for their hospitality. Rain and storms were predicted for every day but we hardly noticed, caught up, as we were, in the whirl of a full and busy programme!

On Friday we visited the chateau of Chantilly with its horse-racing and cream connections. Some also went to Auvers, where Van Gogh spent the last few, sad weeks of his life in a frenzy of painting activity. Many of his pictures show scenes in and around the town.

The evening saw us all at a restaurant near a lake and the forest. The small road between these is closed to traffic in the evenings in early Spring to allow the local toad population to cross safely from the forest where they live, to the lake where they breed. The poor female has to struggle over the road under the weight of the one or more males, luckily rather smaller than she is.



Crapauds – see the male hitching a ride?

On Saturday most of the FoC headed off to Chartres with Marie-Alice to see its magnificent cathedral, while a smaller group set off on a voyage of discovery that took them to Crecy-la-Chapelle, a pretty town also with artistic connections and a 'grande randonnée' that enticed some up into the surrounding countryside for some lovely views over the valley.

There was an evening of games; Chinese Checkers got very intense!

On Sunday morning there was, despite the rain, a hard-fought struggle to win the official petanque cup back for Barnet but our side was unfortunately out-classed by the opposition and the cup remains firmly in Chaville's possession for another year.



We tried!



Chateau of Chantilly

A splendid buffet in a local hall, provided by our hosts, was followed by a visit to the Phoenicians exhibition in central Paris. Then there was a return to the hall to eat up the rest of the buffet food and indulge in a touch of Breton dancing, courtesy of Chantal and Philippe.

Altogether it was a wonderful weekend for which we thank all those involved for all their work, helpfulness and organisation. We are all very much looking forward to the visit of our Chaville friends here in Barnet next year.

While we were in Chaville, we held a planning meeting to discuss future joint events. Unfortunately, owing to unforeseen circumstances on the French side, the planned trips to Cornwall and Brittany have had to be postponed, although a small group are still going to Brittany independently.

### **Petanque**

Earlier in March we had a chance to practise our petanque at Copthall – not that that impacted on the result in Chaville, but we enjoyed the session, and raised a small sum for our FoC funds. The winner was Athena Stylianos, so congratulations to her. If you are interested in playing next time, watch out for details, or phone Chelle. (020 8969 4504)

### **Quiz night**

We held a very successful quiz night in January, at the Quench Café. Competition for the winning table was fierce. It was good to welcome so many members and guests.

### **School links**

We are in the process of setting up an active school link between East Barnet School and College Jean Moulin. The video conferencing is up and ready to run in both schools, and we hope pupils will be talking to each other through a live link in the near future.

### **Finchley Chamber Choir**

We are delighted that we have been able to facilitate an initial meeting between the Finchley Chamber Choir and the Conservatoire in Chaville. This meeting will take place in June, in order to plan for an event in 2009.

### **Council Elections in Chaville**

While we have had no direct impact on the elections which took place in France this Spring, we were, in fact, in Chaville when the final result was decided. M. Jean Levain, who was Mayor for many years, and a keen supporter of our town twinning, was not re-elected. He had encouraged many of our joint ventures, and we wish him every success and happiness in the future.

We hope to maintain and develop our current strong links with the new Mayor and administration.

### **Membership**

We are pleased to welcome several new members, and would like to remind those of you who have not yet paid the 2008/9 subscription to do so as soon as possible. Please contact Penny on 020 8440 9096 or use the attached form.

### **Committee**

We welcomed Irene Nichols on to the committee, on her return from France. She had been in close contact throughout this time with the Chavillois and therefore has been an excellent point of liaison.

After 10 years of acting as treasurer, Barbara Minor will be resigning her post at the AGM. We

thank her for all her work. We thought the post would be difficult to fill, but we are delighted that Keith Martin has offered to take up the baton

## Contacts

If you want further information about anything in this newsletter, or have other questions or comments, please call one of us

Cllr. John Hart	Chairman	020 8959 5182
Chelle Paice	Vice-Chair and Joint Secretary	020 8959 4504
Penny Telfer	Membership and Joint Secretary	020 8440 9096

## Dates for your Diary

- 12th June AGM 7pm at the Telfers  
Please call Chelle or Penny if you plan to attend
- 20th July (tbc) Travelling Lunch – a fun event, where different courses of the meal are hosted at different homes. If you are interested, please let Chelle know by June 12th at the latest.
- September/October  
(date to be confirmed) Tennis with visiting team from Chaville
- Spring 2009 Joint planning meeting, in Barnet. Nearer the time, we shall be planning the weekend's activities, and asking for people who would like to host.



Salut à tous!