



ISSUE 7, SPRING 2018

WELCOME TO MBTA's YEAR 3

Thanks to the tireless efforts of our Committee members and the terrific support of you, the Friends, we are beginning to make our twinning presence more widely known. It's now much more common to hear "Oh yes, I've heard of that" rather than "Oh, pardon?" when we mention Bagnères and our growing relationship with our French counterparts. Such a simple mark of recognition, but a really welcome one! We hope that the events and wider contacts we are intending to be involved with this coming year will reinforce local awareness and interest and help the association to grow. If you can help, please get in touch, either directly to me or to Denise (Friends' co-ordinator).

The Second Great Bagnères Bake-Off

How great it was in the midst of a vile January month to enjoy a second party session with your baking talents once more 'show-cased'. Once again we were around 30 Friends gathered to marvel at and to sample 8 delicious versions of this year's focus, the "gâteau basque". Each was distinctive in presentation (and flavour) and our honoured judges (the alter egos of Cynthia Palmer and Richard Edwards) were hard pressed to come to a decision. The winner this year was Sally Fallon but all the excellent contributions were rewarded with a Lucky Dip prize. Many thanks to everyone who took part and helped to make the evening a real success.



What's On in 2018?

Here is a taste of what to expect over the coming months.

We are planning a repeat **Quiz evening** as our next social gathering; the date for your diaries is **Saturday, 17th March**. The venue, as last year, will be the upstairs Lyttleton Rooms but we are currently looking into other meal options rather than F & C. More info to follow a.s.a.p via Denise (who incidentally might also be writing with a reminder about this year's annual subscriptions, if appropriate). We would like those budding Masterminds among you (or anyone just interested in a fun evening with teaser questions) to be putting together your teams already – team size will be up to 6 people and we could cope with a max of 10 teams.

Make sure you spread the word!

Et comme boisson, monsieur 'dame....?

In June we shall be hoping for a warm summer's evening to bring you a SW France **regional wine-tasting** (and potentially buying) evening. We are in negotiation with a wine merchant (based in Ledbury) to finalise a ticket-only

event featuring wines from the wider region around Bagnères. As we found on our visit last year, there are some really palatable wines growing only a stone's throw from the town (which are largely unknown in UK). For this event we have pencilled in **Friday, 15th June** chez moi at The Revue in Orchard Road (MBTA HQ!)

Make sure you are on the list!

Boules et bière evenings

Around le quatorze juillet, it seems a really good idea to think of enjoying a leisurely game of boules followed by a short stroll to the Morgan pub and we are so pleased that Peter Tooke (resident MBTA expert) has once more agreed to guide us through the etiquette of the game at the unofficial ground by the station on a couple of summer evenings around the date of the French national holiday. We will let you know exact dates later on.

Visits to and from Bagnères

Plans are coming together for young visitors from Bagnères to be introduced to our town this year. The lycée students (17 year olds) studying for their Bac partly through the medium of English are hoping to make a 4/5 day study visit in October, experiencing day-to-day routines in local schools and, we hope, staying in families to extend their cultural and linguistic experience.

Anyone who would like to be involved in this visit in any capacity – please contact me with your thoughts.

Separately, the growing link which joins *Somers Park School* and the *Ecole Jules Ferry* in Bagnères will be cemented by an educational visit from 5 of the French school's teachers, also in October. By sheer good luck we have been able to pair up 2 schools which are each recognised locally for their forward-looking approach to education and excellent outcomes.

Adult visitors may have to wait until 2019 for a chance to visit each other's areas in any large group context as the Bagnères Committee, having visited

Malvern last year, is planning to visit their other UK twin in Scotland this year. This does not preclude less formal arrangements between smaller groups visiting each other e.g. small numbers of artists experiencing together the Malvern / Bagnères environment, possibly working together; other possibilities might be groups of walkers / environmentalists planning a focussed holiday programme in the area and so on.

If this kind of idea appeals to any of you, again, do let us know and we will do our best to help put ideas together.

Other planned highlights

Malvern Spring Show: we have been invited to have a stand at the Show this year and shall be making our presence felt!

Well-dressing: we shall again be dressing a well in Priory Park during the early May Bank Holiday Water Festival. **PLEASE COME AND JOIN US IF YOU HAVE IDEAS AND ARTISTIC SKILLS – YOUR COMMITTEE NEEDS YOU!**

Evening with Cora Weaver, the well-known local historian: Cora has kindly agreed to give an evening talk on the subject of “*Malverns Worldwide*” a fascinating topic which has been highlighted in a recent Civic Society publication. We have been able to agree with Cora the date of **Friday, 21st September** for this event; we will keep you fully informed as time goes on.

We’d certainly like to welcome you there for what promises to be a most interesting evening.

Please also support Chris Green and the Malvern French Film club’s March w/end of French classic films at the Coach House. [See attached poster]

Best wishes to you all for the year ahead from the MBTA Committee.

Gina Butler, Chair

Malvern French Film Centre

presents



Six Classic Films of French Cinema

Sat Mar 17th & Sun Mar 18th

LA REGLE DU JEU



Sat 11:00am

LA GRANDE ILLUSION



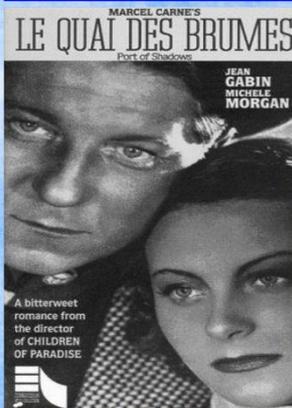
Sat 3:00pm

LES VACANCES DE M. HULOT



Sat 7:30pm

QUAI DES BRUMES



Sun 11:00am

LE JOUR SE LEVE



Sun 3:00pm

LE SALAIRE DE LA PEUR



Sun 7:30pm

For more details of films and offers see www.malvernfrrenchfilmcentre.uk

The Coach House Theatre: Tickets from Malvern Theatres
Box Office: 01684 892277, www.malvern-theatres.co.uk, or on the door (subject to availability)