



## **NEWSLETTER OF THE FRIENDS OF BAGNÈRES-DE-BIGORRE, MALVERN**

### **ISSUE 8, SUMMER 2018**

#### **MIDSUMMER BECKONS**

It seems we are continually poised on the brink of summer, so maybe a new edition of the MBTA Newsletter will set things in motion. One notable MBTA success to report, plus a foretaste of our summer activities with a few dates for your diaries.

#### **AN AWARD FOR MBTA**

A real collective effort between one of our twinning partners, Somers Park Primary School and the MBTA Committee to decorate one of Malvern's wells for the early May festival resulted in a Bronze Award for our creative efforts. Pupils from Y2 and Y4, co-ordinated by teacher Anita Marsh, produced artwork to interpret this year's theme "*Year of the Woman*" and Denise, Diana Morgan and myself splashed around in Priory Park well, using lavish amounts of foliage to turn it all into a colourful display with invaluable help from our artist and sculptor friend Ken Potts.

#### **VISIT FROM BAGNERES' DEPUTY MAYOR**

Also in May we received a visit from Stephane Barthe, Deputy Mayor, who was here setting up reciprocal arrangements between Dr Adrian Burden of the Wyche Innovation Centre and the University of Tarbes' final year engineering students, whom Stephane teaches. Initially Dr Burden is to give a series of lectures to the students this coming September.



### 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, 17<sup>th</sup> 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, 15<sup>th</sup> 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, 21<sup>st</sup> 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

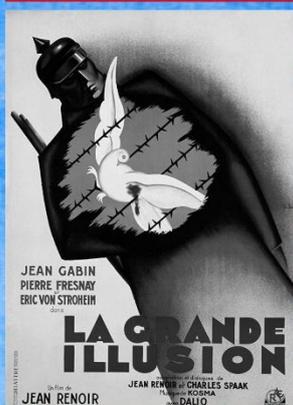
### Sat Mar 17th & Sun Mar 18th

#### LA REGLE DU JEU



Sat 11:00am

#### LA GRANDE ILLUSION



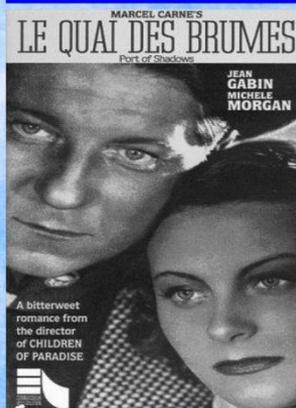
Sat 3:00pm

#### 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.malvernrenchfilmcentre.uk](http://www.malvernrenchfilmcentre.uk)

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

