

# **GRENOBLE-OXFORD 30 YEARS OF TWINNING 1 MONTH OF FESTIVITIES...**

**Grenoble  
Oxford**

04  
au  
29  
Mai 2019

30 ans de jumelage  
CRESCENDO... NATURELLEMENT

**AU PROGRAMME**

EXPOSITIONS    CONCERTS  
THÉÂTRE    SYMPOSIUM  
RÉSIDENCE D'ARTISTES  
CONFÉRENCES  
VISITES GUIDÉES

## **ALLIANCE GRENOBLE-OXFORD**

Maison de l'International  
1 rue Hector Berlioz  
GRENOBLE

*Renseignements et adhésion*  
04 76 40 31 34

[www.grenoble-oxford.org](http://www.grenoble-oxford.org)  
[info@grenoble-oxford.org](mailto:info@grenoble-oxford.org)



## Coats of Arms: Grenoble and Oxford



### *FLORAL MOSAIC CREATED BY GRENOBLE CITY'S PARKS AND GARDENS SERVICE REPRESENTING THE COATS OF ARMS OF GRENOBLE AND OXFORD*

*This mosaic was made up from hundreds of fresh flowers. It measures 2.8m by 1.25m and weighs more than 50kg. It was taken to all the main places where the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the twinning was being celebrated and kept its fresh appearance for the whole month!*

*Bravo to the Parks and Gardens Service for this magnificent creation!*

# A MONTH OF FESTIVITIES

## Which began...

Saturday 4 May and Sunday 5 May - Théâtre Ste-Marie-d'en-Bas, Grenoble.  
*The Three Musketeers* by Hilary Mackelden, presented by Wing It/English Act.

Saturday 4 May I attended a rather unusual performance, a musical comedy in fact, « The Three Musketeers » produced by Wing It.

In front of a full house, the young performers from « English Act » gave their own version in English of the famous tale *The Three Musketeers*. Directed by Hilary Mackelden, secondary school pupils from Grenoble sang and danced with great enthusiasm, leading the audience to clap their hands in time and even join in with the singing.

A fantastic atmosphere!

Bravo Hilary and the young performers. Everyone had a wonderful evening

*Veronica Smith, Vice-President,  
Alliance Grenoble-Oxford*

Wing It presents



The  Three Musketeers  
by Hilary Mackelden

Saturday 4th May 19h  
Sunday 5th May 17h

Tickets 8 €  
[englishactgrenoble@gmail.com](mailto:englishactgrenoble@gmail.com)

38 rue Tres Cloitres, 38 000 Grenoble  
Nouveau theatre St-Marie-d'en-bas

04 76 42 86 11

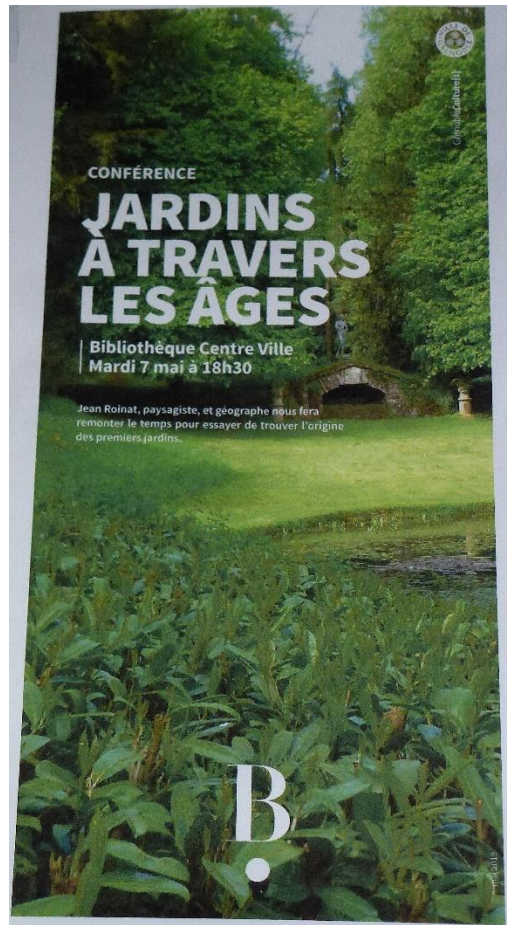


Tuesday 7 May – Bibliothèque Centre-Ville, Grenoble.

Talk “Gardens through the ages” by Jean Roinat, landscape gardener

The talk by Jean Roinat (landscape gardener and geographer) captivated the audience. Afterwards refreshments were offered by AGO and those present were able to continue their discussions around this fascinating topic.

This was the first time we had the enormous pleasure of discovering the floral mosaic with the two cities’ coats of arms. The mosaic was set up at the foot of the staircase inside the library.



*Photo Bernadette Aubrée*

By the end of the 18<sup>th</sup> century English landscape gardens had revolutionised the art of gardens. To explain this, Jean Roinat (landscape gardener and geographer) takes us back in history to the first gardens. He follows the evolution of gardens from Antiquity (Egypt, Greece, Rome) through the Middle Ages and Renaissance to the great classical style gardens. In Great-Britain political, economic and social changes led to a more informal type of garden inspired by landscapes whose beauty was coming to be appreciated.

Some gardens created around Oxford will be shown as well as other gardens representative of this style. This will be followed by examples of new types of landscape gardening which have since emerged. Finally, we will turn our attention to the gardens of the future.



**Monday 6 May – Wednesday 29 May: Maison de l'International, Grenoble.**

**Exhibition « French Gardens, English Gardens » in partnership with the Lycée André Argouges in Grenoble and the Alliance Grenoble-Oxford.**

This exhibition was originally set up at the MJC Mutualité in May 2018 for AGO members. The idea of creating an exhibition comparing gardens was the brain-child of English teacher, Emanuel Santoni, with his students in the International Section of the Lycée Argouges and their English teacher

Marie-Christine Simiand, AGO president, had the idea of integrating the exhibition into the 30th anniversary celebrations. Emanuel Santoni was contacted to modify the posters. It was no longer possible to integrate the project into the English language curriculum so it was the section of the school specialising in training students for careers in visual communication and graphics which took over under the supervision of teachers Aurélie Veyrat de Lachenal and Daniel Naud.

At the outset, 5 students were to be part of the project, but in the end three of them formed a team: Léna Hugues, Amandine Fernandes and Nolan Chamand. This project was part of the assessment in their “Visual communication and graphics” diploma programme.

A method for sharing tasks was quickly established: the students were in charge of the materials, design and graphics necessary for the production of the posters while the AGO members were in charge of fitting the text to the illustrations and ensuring that copyright regulations were respected for a non-commercial exhibition.

Monique Meyrieux, Jean Claude and Christiane Thibault first met up at the Maison de l'International to check out the space which was to be made available and check the size of frames...

Two further meetings were organised at the school and there were many exchanges for correction, layout and synthesis. D people were present to install the exhibition before it opened to the public. Logistical support was provided by the personnel of the Maison de l'International.

The students were always punctual and made helpful suggestions to enhance the graphics of the photos and texts. All in all, 12 posters were made as well as a further one for outside and one for the inauguration of the exhibition on 9 May, 2019.

The students made it clear that they gained much from this international and intergenerational experience: new knowledge, new contacts and new perspectives.

The Alliance Grenoble-Oxford found the contact with the students most stimulating.

After the exhibition the AGO posters were entrusted to Corinne Pinchon, from the Grenoble City International Relations department to be stored in the Maison de l'International.

*Christiane & Jean-Claude Thibault  
Alliance Grenoble-Oxford*

## Partnership between the Lycée André Argouges and the Alliance Grenoble-Oxford

Concerning the exhibition of English Gardens and French Gardens:

- 2-year project with 2 classes of students preparing the International Option of the Baccalauréat,
- talks with photos and texts in English

Unfortunately, it was not possible to set up a partnership with the Horticultural section of the Lycée Agricole in St-Ismier.

Collaboration with the Printing Section of the Lycée Professionnel André Argouges.

Collaboration with other sections was not simple due to technical and logistical reasons, but ultimately the project worked thanks to the professionalism of the colleagues involved.

The texts were shortened and translated into French by Alliance Grenoble-Oxford members.

The printers produced extraordinarily good posters. The exhibition looked professional. Very attractive.

The inauguration of the exhibition went off very well. I would have appreciated being told beforehand that I had to make a little speech. I would have been better prepared, but the public was indulgent and the speech went down fairly well.

*Emmanuel Santoni, English teacher  
Lycée André Argouges*

This collaboration involved the fabrication of a dozen posters on the theme of English gardens/French gardens and another one announcing the exhibition at Maison de l'International.

The project was entrusted to 3 students in the final year of their training programme in Visual Communication and Graphics at the Lycée Argouges. The project was a major part of their evaluation which also included a written report and an oral presentation in front of an evaluation committee. The student team met their « client » several times between January and April 2019.

Work began once the students had received the texts in English and French and the colour illustrations. They prepared several mission statements (functional and technical) to produce the set of posters: layout, printing, finish... They also had to test different materials, order them and check that they were conform. The students had to organise the whole production procedure from the workshops to quality control, communication and client approval.

The project culminated in the setting up of the exhibition.

As with all projects, there were moments of doubt and many corrections. The teachers were there to help the students overcome the difficulties. The students, fully aware of their obligations to their clients, reached the goals they had set. The Alliance Grenoble-Oxford played its role as the demanding client present throughout. The students will long remember the inauguration ceremony in front of a big crowd with the press and the Mayor in person congratulating them. The teachers were most satisfied with this partnership which highlighted the gardens and their specificities, the work with the Alliance Grenoble-Oxford and the work of the students who all obtained their diploma. Quite a Happy ending!

*Daniel Naud, teacher in BTS Production Imprimée  
Lycée André Argouges*

# JARDINS PARTAGÉS



© City of Oxford Allotment on Oxford Road, 1st Floor, Oxford, OX1 2JF, UK. 012043933

### Jardins partagés à Grenoble

In Grenoble there are about 12 allotment sites, and two types of plots: those that are split into little individual areas for each gardener and those that have no limits and are managed by a group of gardeners. The allotments are managed either by the city or by the gardeners themselves.

A Grenoble, il y a une douzaine de jardins partagés en deux catégories: les jardins individuels où chacun cultive son tige de terre et ceux plus étendus, cultivés par un groupe de jardiniers. Ils sont mis à disposition par les municipalités et souvent gérés par les jardiniers eux-mêmes.



### Allotments in Oxford

An allotment is a plot of land rented by an individual for growing vegetables, fruit or flowers.

In Oxford there are about 36 allotment sites. The city of Oxford has around 165 acres of allotment land. The average fee for an allotment in Oxford is cheap.

Un jardin partagé est une parcelle de terrain louée par une personne afin qu'elle puisse y cultiver des légumes, des fruits ou des fleurs.

A Oxford on compte 36 sites couvrant 66 ha. La location de la parcelle est modique.

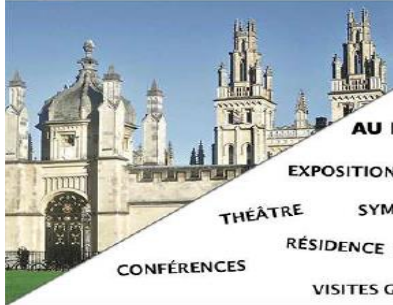


Photo Bernadette Aubrée

## Grenoble Oxford

30 ans de jumelage  
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Friday 10 May

 **Guided tour of the Jardin de la Poterne, Grenoble**

On the occasion of the 30th anniversary of the twinning, AGO members went to the Jardin de la Poterne (part of the Brin d'Grelinette association) to meet gardeners there. This communal garden covers an area of 2,500m<sup>2</sup> and was set up as part of an insertion project. It has been run by volunteers for the past 2 years.

In May it is at its best, with many flowers and vegetables beginning to appear. The leaves on the trees are in bud and with the sun shining the whole place seems to be a celebration of Life! The conditions were such that the encounter between AGO and the gardeners could only be a success.

This encounter was the fruit of a series of preparatory meetings which led to both sides getting to know each other and feel relaxed enough to share in a celebration. For on 10 May 2019 there was a shared celebration even though the two groups had only met 3 months before.

And that is the magic of the Jardin de la Poterne, you push open the gate and you belong there.

A tree was planted to mark this event with a commemorative plaque. It was an emotional moment as in a communal garden in Oxford they planted their apple-tree at the same time. The gardeners are most satisfied at having opened their garden to a public who didn't know it and at having twinned their garden with one in Oxford.

And now perhaps AGO members will come and see us again, maybe for another meal to strengthen the link between our two associations which began with the planting of a little apple and to write a new page of our shared story?

*Marie-Claude Frattini Jacquemard  
Jardin de la Poterne*



*Photos Bernadette Aubrée*



✚ Guided tours of the Dominique Villars Garden-Friday 10 May (17h30) and Friday 24 May (14h30)

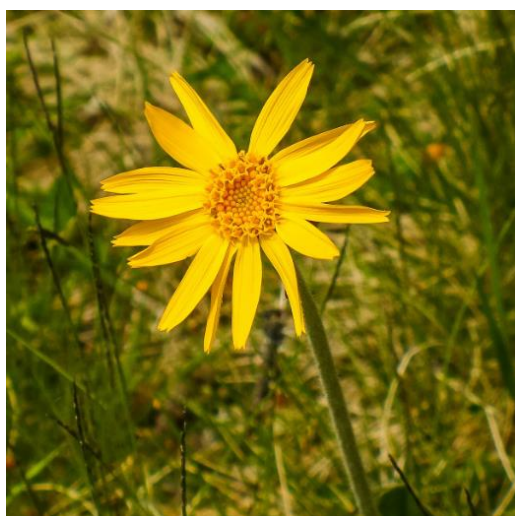
As part of the 30th anniversary celebrations of the twinning, two guided tours of the Dominique Villars Garden were organised, focused on the use of medicinal plants.

Between 20 and 30 people joined the tour for a therapeutic escape from time and other constraints ...

This garden is situated in the grounds of the Faculty of Medicine and Pharmacy and contains almost 250 species of medicinal plants. Starting out in the area between the Michallon Hospital and the former Barral property, the group set off in search of their therapeutic qualities.

The visit was conducted by Dr Serge Krivobok, lecturer in botany and mycology in the Pharmacy department of the University and director of the Dominique Villars Garden. It was organised by Violette Zecchi, from the Equality service of the University, and member of the AGO board. All those who took part in the tour thoroughly enjoyed their discovery of the medicinal plants.

Meanwhile, here are a few lovely pictures of the plants we came across during our visit:



**Arnica des montagnes  
(Arnica montana L., Asteraceae)**

*Properties:* anti-inflammatory, immunostimulant, healing, anti-edematous

*Part used:* flower-head

*Habitat:* grown in beds, native to North America

**Bleuet**  
(*Centaurea cyanus* L., Asteraceae)



**Properties:** internal use: gastric anti-spasmodic, cholagogue

external use: anti-hematoma, anti-inflammatory, analgesic,, anti-viral (oral herpes)

**Part used:** flower head

**Contraindication :** haemophilia, anti-coagulant treatment, epilepsy, child under 7, pregnant or breast-feeding women

**Habitat:** Mediterranean basin, sandy areas



**Belladone**  
(*Atropa belladonna* L., Solanaceae)

**Properties:** dilation of the pupil for eye treatment, antidote for certain poisonings

**Part used:** leaf, root, tip of flower

**Toxicity:** intoxication (anti-cholinergic syndrome) due to shiny black berries mistaken for blueberries or cherries)

**Habitat:** meadows and woods in the mountains of the East, Centre, Midi and Corsica





**Gentiane jaune**  
(*Gentiana lutea* L., *Gentianaceae*)

)

**Properties:** tonic, bitter, stimulant of gastric and bile secretions

**Part used:** underground part

**Habitat:** meadows and woods in the mountains of the East, Centre, Midi and Corsica

**Violette odorante**  
(*Viola odorata* L., *Violaceae*)



**Properties:** mucolytic, expectorant, emollient and sudorific; healing in external use (dry and cracked skin)

**Part used:** flower

**Toxicity:** root in high doses can cause vomiting

**Habitat:** damp and shady areas

Anecdote... latest news from Grenoble

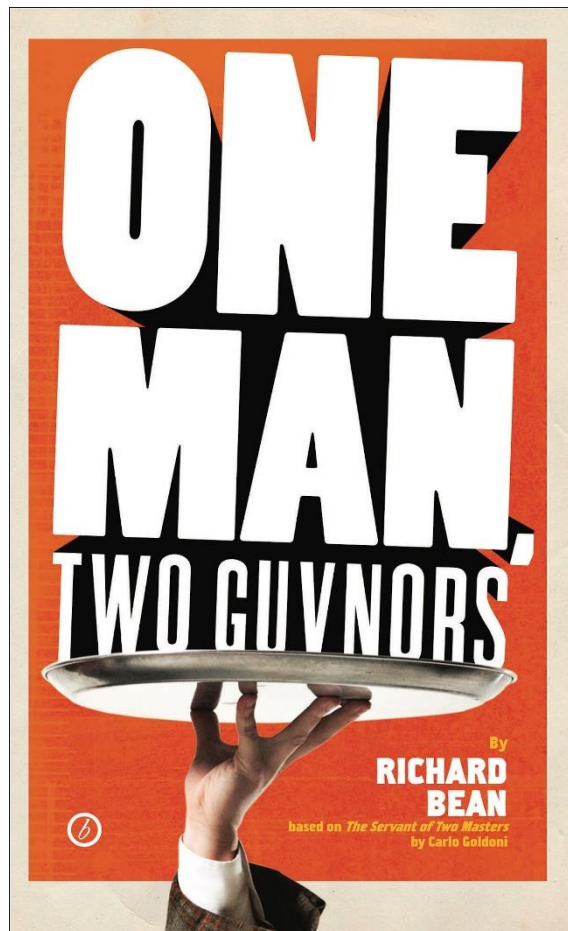


New mural in Grenoble in honour of Dominique Villars  
Inaugurated 17 May 2019

*Docteur Serge Krivobok, Lecturer, Pharmacy department of the University of Grenoble,  
Director of the Dominique Villars Garden  
Violette Zecchi, Alliance Grenoble-Oxford*



Friday 10 May and Saturday 11 May – Théâtre Municipal Grenoble.  
*One Man, Two Guvnors* : Upstage Productions.



Among the many events taking place over the month of May to celebrate the 30th anniversary of the twinning of Grenoble and Oxford figured Upstage Productions' *One Man, Two Guvnors*, at the municipal theatre in Grenoble on May 10 and 11. This comedy is the English version of a Goldoni play (1746), adapted by Richard Bean and staged by Nicholas Hytner at the National Theatre in London in 2011 which was a huge hit. For 25 years, Upstage Productions has been putting on plays in English with an international cast of young performers. Their productions are always well received by a large and enthusiastic public. This was certainly the case for this comedy. Congratulations to all the young actors, but especially to Gaspard Parcy who, in the role of the servant Francis Henshall, spends the whole play trying to conceal from his two masters the fact that he is working for them both. The audience had a thoroughly enjoyable evening watching a comedy that is both verbal and visual.

*Susan Blattès*  
*Alliance Grenoble-Oxford*



Saturday 11 May – Jardin de Ville, Grenoble.

Flower Market, Union of City Centre Districts, the Exposition-Bajatière District and the Mutualité-Préfecture District, Isère horticulturalists.



*Photo Bernadette Aubrée*

The Grenoble Flower Market was originally set up by one of the city centre districts: Mutualité-Préfecture. In 2016 the Union of city centre districts joined in. Every year the Exposition-Bajatière district proposes a programme of events around a theme linked to other events in Grenoble (Fantin-Latour exhibition, anniversary of the Winter Olympics...) This year on the occasion of the 30th anniversary of the twinning of Grenoble and Oxford, the theme "British Touch" was chosen. It could be seen in the hats with flowers (reminiscent of Morris dancers) worn or made on the spot, in the Franco-British dish served with tea at lunchtime, in the cheese brought over especially from Oxford. There was Scottish dances and dancing around the Maypole with coloured ribbons, croquet games and books in English on sale from the English Library. The floral mosaic of the coats of arms of the two cities (created by the City's Parks and Gardens Department) was also on display Further description can be found below.

*Marie-Christine Simiand, President  
Alliance Grenoble-Oxford*

## ✚ Books in English and hand-crafted jewelry

Mary-Jane Villot and I set up our shared stand in the Jardin de Ville at 9 o'clock on the Saturday of the Flower Market. Those who come to the annual Christmas carols, a popular annual event organised by AGO know Mary Jane who makes pretty jewelry with various stones and silver.

To celebrate the twinning, she designed a silver pendent in the shape of a mountain to evoke Grenoble, with a blue stone to evoke Oxford. Her stand attracted a lot of interest and many buyers!

I was in charge of selling a selection of second-hand books in English from « The Library ». AGO is a founding member of « The Library » located in rue Sainte Ursule. AGO members have free access to the library which has a huge and varied collection of books to suit all tastes.

The morning went very well. We had many visitors so we could hand out brochures and leaflets! Unfortunately, the rain and wind conspired to spoil the afternoon. There was no way we could sell damp books. However, I had managed to sell quite a few of the books (mainly crime fiction and chicklit) before the deluge.

Despite the vagaries of the weather, we were left with a very positive impression of the day's events.

*Veronica Smith, Vice-President  
Alliance Grenoble-Oxford*

## ✚ Decoration of hats by the « Ineffables »

The « Ineffables » are an association based in Saint Martin d'Hères, which has also just celebrated its 30<sup>th</sup> birthday. They are known for the magnificent masks and costumes that they make for the Venice Carnival every year, but they also organise art workshops and festivities for many different publics. Their work is often based on re-using or re-cycling objects or materials. We wanted the « Ineffables » to be part of the Flower Market by asking them to set up a stand to make hats adorned with flowers for passers-by and participants.



*David Bailey, Secretary  
Alliance Grenoble-Oxford*

Here is the account of one "Ineffable" member who participated in the day's events:

Participating in the "Hats" workshop for the "Ineffables" association as part of the celebration of the twinning of Grenoble and Oxford in the Jardin de Ville, I never expected such enthusiasm. Children, mothers, grandmothers, as well as fathers and grandfathers joined in to make hats of all kinds: colourful, funny, spring-like, flowery, unusual...

For several hours, we made, helped and advised all the participants. We didn't notice the time go by because we were so busy.

The workshop was organised under a threatening sky and a strong wind. Our tent, hats, feathers and ribbons were nearly swept away by the gusts.

Towards 4 o'clock the rain started to fall, driving away participants, onlookers and passers-by.

Our workshop came to an end after a wonderful day of shared laughter, conversation and joy.

From time to time a pause in the hat-making meant we could catch a glimpse of the Scottish dancing (under the direction of Méaudre Reel) and the twirling round the Maypole.

*Mireille Cavagna  
Les Ineffables*

### The Maypole

For the Flower Market « with a British touch » on 11 May, the idea of dancing around a Maypole seemed to be perfectly natural. Indeed, the Maypole is a vital ingredient in many local festivities during the month of May. It is a coloured pole several metres tall with a crown of flowers at the top onto which ribbons have been attached. Each dancer takes hold of a ribbon and, while dancing around the Maypole, weaves patterns of varying degrees of intricacy around it.

Although the idea seemed simple enough, it was quite difficult to put into practice. Where would we find a "Maypole"? Could we buy one? On the internet? In a kit or already set up? How could we get it to Grenoble? Otherwise, we would have to make one ourselves. What with?

Where could we put it? What about the safety issues? And the ribbons? Who would make them? How would we fix them? What about the crown? What would we do about the traditional music? Who knew any of the dances to weave the patterns around the pole? etc...etc...

Originally the Flower Market was to have taken place in front of the Préfecture (Place de Verdun), but it was moved to the Jardin de Ville to avoid demonstrations by the Gilets Jaunes. After visiting the site with the man from the City Council in charge of lighting, we finally set our sights on a lamppost near the kiosk. It looked sturdy and was the right height. Solutions were found to the other problems and we met up with City technicians to set up our Maypole the day before the Flower Market.

On 11 May, despite a threatening sky dozens of people gathered to dance round the Maypole, sometimes getting their red, white and blue ribbons (and feet!) tangled up in a festive atmosphere. Méaudre Reel provided invaluable help both with the music and the dancing.

An experience to be repeated at the next Flower Market?

*David Bailey, Secretary,  
Alliance Grenoble-Oxford*





*Photos Bernadette Aubrée*

#### Music and dancing around the Maypole with Méaudre Reel.

Méaudre Reel was delighted to participate in the 30th anniversary celebrations. Indeed, quite by chance the very first « official engagement » of the association was for AGO some 10 years ago. Our little dancers had been quite bemused to see people walking about with funny flowery hats on. How strange to see the same funny hats on this 11 May, 2019 in Grenoble. Our little dancers have grown up into beautiful young women.

This 11 May Méaudre Reel intervened twice in the Jardin de Ville of Grenoble: children, teenagers and adults from our association got dressed up in their tartan costumes to give a demonstration of Scottish dancing. Afterwards the public was invited to join in for a few easy ceilidh dances to some reels and jigs.



A Maypole had been set up for the occasion and we all wound our ribbons round it to the music. Some of the dancers got their ribbons in a twist and the result was somewhat irregular. But it was all so much fun that the defects went unnoticed.

After the adults had consumed a hearty lunch, (the children and teenagers kept to their familiar sandwiches and didn't want to try anything out of the ordinary!), we organised another short session and managed to finish just before the clouds burst over Grenoble. Our dancers managed to perform without getting a drenching!

We all hope to meet up again without waiting another 10 years!

*Méaudre Reel*

🎨 Other activities also went down very well: croquet



Careful setting up of game  
by David and Jean-Claude



Maximum concentration to win

...and origami !

*Photos Bernadette Aubrée*



Tuesday 14 May - Saturday 25 May 14 - Jardin des plantes, Grenoble.

### Artists Residence (14-25 May) Jardin des Plantes

The Oxford artists (Diana Bell, Julia Mallaby & Simon Mandarino) and artists from Grenoble (Stéphane Billot, Gabriel Ott & Rodrigue Glombard) were very excited to be bringing “Art in the Park” to Grenoble as part of the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations. It was a new venture to bring art into the environment and the exhibition was first shown in Headington Hill Park in Oxford. There were three artists from Grenoble and three Oxford artists. The Jardin des Plantes was perfect because lots of people use it for picnicking at lunchtime and families come with their children after school. This was particularly good for my new public participation installation ‘Follow the Path’.

We had a warm welcome from the men looking after the park and they were very helpful installing the work. Rodrigue found the perfect tree for his work and Gabriel had plenty of space. Stéphane’s piece was placed near the museum and Julia & Simon near the entrance. My installation started opposite the museum and soon there were people interested in what was happening. I had a steady flow of people visiting and writing on the yellow door. They were particularly interested in the small books and wrote lovely contributions all through the week. The books were left hanging after each day and people continued to read them. The children played endlessly following the footprints and opening and closing the doors.

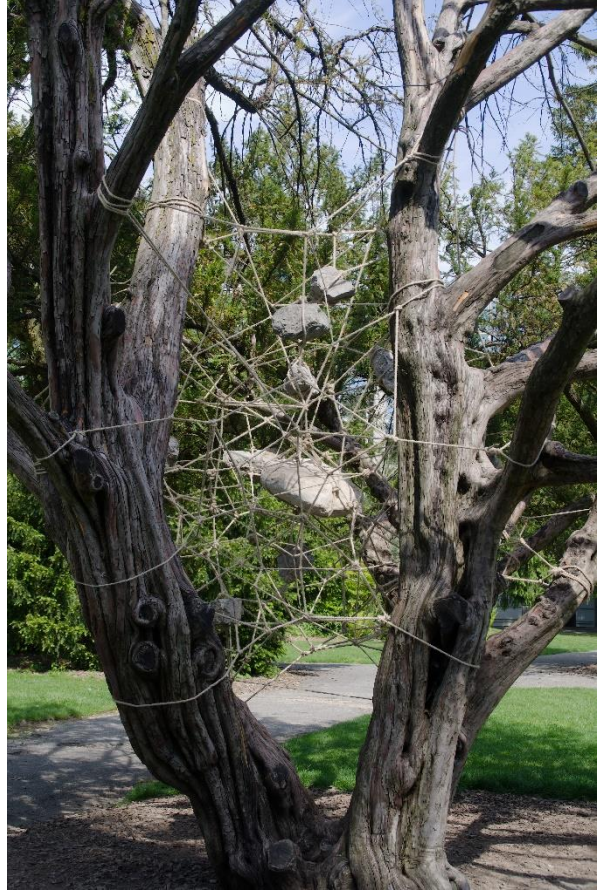
On the day of the inauguration, it rained heavily, so the poems were read in a room in the museum and everyone was interested in the way each language worked differently in poetry. The work by the students from Champollion was very well displayed and it is good to see that this school connection continues. Many people braved the weather and we all stood under our umbrellas for the inauguration of the Fresque Vegetale in rue Haxo. I met a young dancer, Léo Manipoud in the park & he kindly agreed to perform a dance especially for the opening of the installation. Then each of the artists talked briefly about their work.

On Saturday we were invited to the unveiling of Oxford station which was accompanied by the bands Yebarov from Grenoble and Horns of Plenty from Oxford. It was a wonderfully light-hearted occasion which illustrates how friendships are made through twinning. Afterwards there was the « Intronisation à la Confrerie de la Noix ». I am very honoured to have been made a member next to Councillor Altaf-Khan from Oxford and the British ambassador Matthew Lodge, who came specially from Paris to experience the benefits of twinning.

So what was achieved? Over 400 people took part in my installation and many more walking in the park saw new things to test their imagination. Simon and Julia for whom this was the first experience of twinning are now planning to link Oxford Brookes students with the Art College in Grenoble. We hope to bring the young dancer to Oxford and make a link with a group of Oxford dancers. As “Knight of the Noix” it was very symbolic that I was able to bring the two walnut trees back to Oxford, as a gift from Grenoble and through this, Grenoble has made a connection with the Botanic Garden in Oxford. Now I must eat lots of walnuts, because I have plans for the future!

Thank you so much Marie-Christine, Corinne, Susan and all the lovely members of AGO for organising such a wonderful Anniversary. We can’t wait to come back!

*Diana Bell, Oxford artist*



*Photos Bernadette Aubrée*

## ✚ William Morris reimagined, exhibition by students from the Lycée Champollion.

8 years ago, the Lycée Champollion revived an exchange programme that had been set up with the Cherwell School in Oxford. So every year 30 students from the school go to Oxford and receive their hosts back in France. Each trip is organised around a linguistic or cultural theme. The teachers from Champollion had expressed their desire to participate in the celebrations of the 30th anniversary of the twinning and to highlight their links with Oxford.

The Grenoble-Oxford Alliance having chosen the theme of gardens, we thought it would be interesting to work on this theme by showing how nature had inspired the English in the decorative arts, more particularly in the Arts and Crafts movement.

Once the teachers had visited the William Morris museum in London during the summer, we had enough material to get the project started.

The work was organised in 3 stages:

- 1) For the students who went to Oxford this year: study of the different works linked to the theme (Burne-Jones' stained-glass windows in Oxford, Pre-Raphaelite paintings at the Ashmolean Museum...)
- 2) For the students in France (45 students in Years 11 and 12): work on the links between the decorative and the real, research around artistic references in English classes and practical work in art cases. We based our art work on the wallpaper samples given by the Farrow and Ball company.
- 3) The exhibition was set up and the inauguration prepared. The exhibition was presented to parents and public who came in large numbers despite the rain.

Articles on the website of the Lycée Champollion :

<https://lycee-champollion.fr/spip.php?article2951>

<https://lycee-champollion.fr/spip.php?article2952>

Texts written by the students explaining what they were trying to do



*Photo Bernadette Aubrée*

Our sincere thanks to members of the Grenoble-Oxford Alliance who allowed us to take part in their celebrations. We were particularly grateful for being allowed to use the greenhouses for our exhibition and for all the publicity around the project to highlight the work of our students. We hope to continue this collaboration in the future.

*On behalf of the teachers at Champollion:  
Etienne Brunet, art teacher*



**Wednesday 15 May – Auditorium du Musée, Grenoble.**

**Talk « A Walk through an English Garden » by Catherine de Buzon, art historian, in association with the « Amis du Musée de Grenoble ».**

On Wednesday 15 May in the auditorium of the museum, in association with the Friends of the Musée de Grenoble many people came to hear a talk given by Catherine de Buzon, art historian. Catherine de Buzon told us the story of the evolution of gardens in England, focusing in particular on the 18<sup>th</sup> century and illustrating her talk with many fine photographs. It was during this century that a new aesthetics in literature, art and gardens emerged. The straight lines and geometrical figures in gardens were replaced by more informal and « natural » ones, often inspired by imitating landscapes in painting. Fountains and water features were replaced by lakes and ponds.

Three generations of landscape gardeners stand out as tastes amongst the great landowners shifted. The first was William Kent (1685-1745) who was in charge of the gardens at Rousham Hall, near Oxford. Then there was the man who began to work as Kent's assistant and who is the most famous of all the English landscape gardeners, Lancelot Brown, known as « Capability Brown ». He was the man behind many gardens, notably those at Blenheim Palace, near Oxford. The last one, Humphry Repton (1715-1783) was famous for his « Red Books » which contained "before and after" illustrations of his gardens. In her talk, Catherine de Buzon insisted on the fact that these English landscape gardeners interfered with nature just as much as their French counterparts, for nature had to be modified in order to bring out its beauty. She gave the example of the « ha-ha », an invisible barrier, (which could not be seen from the owners' houses, and which allowed them and their guests to avoid having to gaze on the less beautiful elements of the countryside.

*Susan Blattès, Alliance Grenoble-Oxford*



**Friday 17 May - Jardin des Plantes, Grenoble.**

**✚ Guided tour of the Muséum (Natural History Museum), in partnership with The Friends of the Muséum and the IUAD (University of the Third Age)**

On 17 May last, as part of the 30th anniversary celebrations of the Grenoble-Oxford twinning, I organised a guided tour of the Muséum. Although this institution does not claim to have as rich a collection as its equivalent in Oxford, it does have very many interesting specimens which the local population are often unaware of.

As former lecturer in earth sciences at the University of Grenoble I know the museum well and especially the sections concerned with geology, of course. This was a bilingual guided tour thanks to the presence of an English teacher from the IUAD who in fact was not called upon to do much translating as many of our visitors from Oxford were perfectly capable of following the explanations in French.

After a few words of welcome and introduction from Pascal DECORPS, of the museum's events committee, the focus was put on the specifically Alpine elements in the collection: animals that are typical of the Alps (current and extinct), remarkable minerals from the very many mines that once were common in the region, especially the famous quartz from the Gardette mine and fossils from the Alps. We ended our visit in the « paroles de Terre » room in which the history of the Earth is told by remarkable fossils. It is to be hoped that this too brief overview of the museum will encourage the visitors to come back for a closer look.

When will we have a bilingual tour of Oxford's Natural History Museum?

*Simon Du Chaffaut, Les Amis du Muséum*

🌳 Poems on trees and under trees, in partnership with the Creation and Poetry Association, the Friends of the Muséum and the Alliance Grenoble-Oxford.

*Preparation:*

Preparation involved the Friends of the Muséum, AGO and Creation and Poetry. Originally the poetry readings were to take place outdoors under the tulip tree. We had been loaned a sound system by the City Council and this location had been especially selected. The poems had been chosen beforehand by the association on the theme of trees and a bilingual booklet had been prepared. Good collaboration amongst the 3 partners considerably facilitated the preparation of the event.

*Implementation;*

The rain had not been planned for. The Friends of the Muséum organised a room for the poetry reading. The programme of the afternoon's events : guided tour of the museum, inauguration of the mural and the opening of the William Morris exhibition (with the participation of important guests) meant that we reached a large and knowledgeable public, which is not always the case for poetry readings. Readings in French and English were alternated much to the satisfaction of the audience who were most interested in this bilingual cultural exchange; All the booklets were distributed at the beginning of the reading which lasted around 45-50 minutes which is the most that can be done in such an intense programme.

*Conclusions:*

From the point of view of Creation and Poetry, the feasibility of such readings has now been proved. Preparations need concertation to achieve a balance between classical and contemporary texts. We would like to renew such encounters which highlight how poetry can bring people together, especially in Grenoble, a city with a big anglophone community.

*Jean-Jacques Mazet  
Association Création & Poésie*



*Photo Bernadette Aubrée*



Saturday 18 May

- 10h45 - Tram line B – Presqu'île tram stop: Performance of Yebarov brass-band from Grenoble and Horns of Plenty from Oxford.
- 11h00 – Inauguration of tram stop. « Presqu'île » (terminus Ligne B) becomes « Oxford ».
- 11h30 – Grenoble Rowing Club by the Oxford Bridge: «Intronisation à la Confrérie de La Noix» (Enthronement into the Walnut Confraternity) by Bruno de Montal, president.

✚ Performance of Yebarov brass-band from Grenoble and Horns of Plenty from Oxford. The day began with a memorable performance by the twinned brass-bands which thrilled the public, especially when they played the European Hymn together.



*The brass-bands at the « Presqu'île » tram terminus before it was re-named «OXFORD»*



*Welcome at the Grenoble Rowing Club as the young rowers form a guard of honour*

*Photos Bernadette Aubrée*



## The Wonderful Adventure of the Tram

**SMTC-GRENOBLE.ORG**

À l'occasion du 30<sup>e</sup> anniversaire  
du jumelage Grenoble-Oxford.

**INVITATION**

**Yann MONGABURU,**  
Président du SMTC

**Éric PIOLLE**  
Maire de Grenoble

**Marie-Christine SIMAND**  
Présidente  
de l'alliance  
Grenoble-Oxford

En présence de

**Matthew LODGE**  
Ministre Plénipotentiaire et Ambassadeur du Royaume-Uni  
et d'Irlande du Nord auprès de l'UNESCO

**Bruno DE MONTAL**  
Grand Maître de la Confrérie de la Noix de Grenoble

**La fanfare Horns of Plenty d'Oxford**  
**La fanfare Yebarov de Grenoble**



Seraient heureux de vous accueillir à l'occasion du changement de dénomination  
de la station **Presqu'île** sur la ligne B qui s'appellera désormais **Oxford**.

**SAMEDI 18 MAI À 10 H 45**

Arrêt **Presqu'île** lignes B et C6



**Contact presse** | Jérôme BARBIERI  
jerome.barbieri@lametro.fr  
Mob : 06 25 63 44 19 - Tél : 04 76 59 57 58



What a thrill to take the B Tram to go to Oxford Bridge and to hear the destination « Oxford » announced at every tram stop.

It took almost two years for this change to be implemented. The final stages of the change of name will come into effect during the summer.

We will never forget one of the day's highlights which saw Yebarov, the brass-band from Grenoble and Horns of Plenty, from Oxford, perform together the European Hymn.

Amongst the guests attending the event: the UNESCO ambassador, Matthew Lodge, the Deputy Mayor of Oxford, M. Altaf-Khan, the director of services from the City of Oxford, Tim Sadler, the president of the SMTC, Yann Mongaburu, the president of Grenoble Alpes Metropole, Christophe Ferrari, the mayor of Grenoble, Eric Piolle, the president and a few members of the Confrérie de La Noix, who came for the enthronement ceremony of five personalities including the artist Diana Bell and Thibaut Parmentier, president of Grenoble Rowing Club. The young rowers formed a guard of honour with their oars for all the participants at the ceremony.



This represented the successful outcome of a long combat, two years of perseverance on all fronts: a long series of e-mails, telephone calls, meetings and letters.

We thought the new name was « in the bag » when, after handing over a letter in person, we received a positive answer from the President of the Metropole, agreeing to the change of name in November 2017. We were delighted with this news, believing that the implementation of the change was imminent.

However, this was not the case and we had to send out reminders for the information to reach the SMTC public transport authorities who finally responded positively in September 2018.

But the committee that allocates names had to give its approval too. We argued that the tram stop should be called « Oxford-Ville jumelle » for two reasons:

- Few people actually know that Grenoble is twinned with Oxford so this would be an excellent way to inform them that this English city, known throughout the world because of its university, is twinned with Grenoble. Grenoble has nearly 20 twins and, contrary to smaller towns where you can read the names of the twins on the road signs as you drive in or out, you cannot read all their names because there are too many names printed in very small letters.

- The adjacent tram stop being « Cambridge », Oxford's rival as far as both the university in general and rowing in particular are concerned, suggested that the two cities were linked to Grenoble in the same way. This was not very tactful as regards our Oxford twins.

Finally, « ville-jumelle » was not added to the name of the tram stop to avoid having too long a name (but what about « Hubert Dubedout, Maison du Tourisme »?), and to avoid having other similar requests.

Much to our surprise and delight, it was decided to change the name of the « Cambridge » stop. It took the name of an exceptional woman, a French pioneering engineer: « Marie-Louise Paris – CEA », a decision which we find doubly judicious.

Now one tram ticket will take you to Oxford!

*Marie-Christine Simiand, Présidente  
Alliance Grenoble-Oxford*



*Photos Bernadette Aubrée*



*Enthronement in the « Confrérie de la Noix »  
by Bruno de Montal, Président.*

*Photos Bernadette Aubrée*

🚩 13h-16h – Regatta for school students organised by the Grenoble Rowing Club



*Photos Jean-Claude Thibault  
Alliance Grenoble-Oxford*



Wednesday 22 May– Auditorium du Musée, Grenoble.

Talk: « André Le Nôtre's Sublimation of French Gardens » by Fabrice Conan in association with the « Amis du Musée de Grenoble ».

The talk was given by Fabrice Conan in the auditorium of the Musée de Grenoble, in association with the « Amis du Musée de Grenoble » on 22 May. Like Catherine de Buzon, Fabrice Conan set out to correct a few misconceptions about landscape gardeners, this time as far as the most famous one in France is concerned: André Le Nôtre. Using many illustrations of flower-beds and ornamental ponds, he showed that Le Nôtre's gardens were not simply straight paths and geometric flower-beds; Le Nôtre took French gardens in a new direction.

With a particular focus on the garden at Vaux-le-Vicomte, Fabrice Conan demonstrated how Le Nôtre took advantage of optical illusion to achieve effects of distance. These gardens also benefitted from the art of painting, thanks to the collaboration at Vaux-le-Vicomte with the artist Nicolas Poussin, for example. There is one major difference between French gardens and English gardens: the former made systematic use of topiary while the latter laid more emphasis on flowers.

*Susan Blattès*  
*Alliance Grenoble-Oxford*

Saturday 25 May & Sunday 26 May – Centre Œcuménique St-Marc, Grenoble.

Classical concert for soloists, choir and orchestra « Te Deum » by Marc-Antoine Charpentier and « Ode to St Cecilia » by Henry Purcell, by the Interlude choir of Grenoble and the East Oxford Community Choir (EOCC).



For the Interlude choristers, the 30th anniversary celebration of the twinning of Grenoble and Oxford has had very positive outcomes.

- The Franco-British programme of the concerts (*Te Deum* by Charpentier, *Ode to St Cecilia* by Purcell) consisted of major works, motivating a strong commitment on the part of all concerned who worked hard under the direction of Interlude's new choirmaster, Olivier Sola.
- The public, in Grenoble particularly, came out in large numbers and appreciated the excellent communication between all the performers who were given a very warm reception (Cf. *Les Affiches de Grenoble* 31 May).
- The joint performance of Interlude and EOCC in front of the British ambassador and the Mayor of Grenoble, though short, was warmly received by Lord Llewellyn (*Dauphiné libéré* 29 May), with the collaboration of the two choirs providing the perfect example of twinning.
- The trips in May by Interlude to Oxford, then EOCC to Grenoble, created or strengthened the bonds of friendship between the choristers and facilitated the cohesion of the two choirs.
- The choir has improved, even though further progress is always possible. This has reinforced motivation for the 2019-2020 season and the work to come on Joseph Haydn's *The Creation*, one of the composer's masterpieces.

*Philippe Russell*  
*Ensemble vocal Interlude*



Photos Bernadette Aubrée



Monday 27 May & Tuesday 28 May - Institut Laue Langevin, Grenoble.

Scientific symposium: « Oxford-Grenoble Symposium - 30 Years of Collaborative Research in Advanced Materials and Biological Structures », in partnership with EMBL, ESRF, IBS, ILL, University of Oxford, Université Grenoble Alpes and the Alliance Grenoble-Oxford.

As part of the celebrations of the 30th anniversary of the twinning of Grenoble and Oxford, scientists from Grenoble collaborating in research projects with scientists from Oxford got together for the Oxford Grenoble Symposium: « 30 years of cooperative research in Advanced Materials and Biological Structures ».

This was organised on 27-28 May at the Institut Laue Langevin. There were 75 participants, including 12 scientists invited to come and speak from Oxford.

Participants were welcomed by speeches from the director of the ILL, Helmut Schober, the director of the ESRF, Francesco Sette and the president of the University Grenoble Alpes, Patrick Lévy. The UK ambassador in France, Lord Llewellyn, praised the setting up of the symposium and called for such high-level scientific collaboration between the two cities to continue.

During the afternoon sessions, 7 speakers from Oxford and Grenoble presented their most significant findings during the past 30 years of collaboration. Then a round-table chaired by Andrew Harrison, director of Diamond, discussed the state of current research collaboration and future prospects. To close this first day, a cocktail and barbecue was held at the ESRF chalet.

The following morning there was a presentation of an economic study comparing the development of the two cities. This was followed by 8 scientific papers given by scientists from both universities in the field of material sciences and biological structures. In conclusion, it is hoped that a follow-up symposium can be held in Oxford in the not so distant future

*Jean-François Legrand  
Ancien Directeur de l'Unité Mixte de Recherche (UMR)  
Structures et Propriétés d'Architectures Moléculaires CEA-CNRS-UGA*



*Photos Bernadette Aubrée*

# OXFORD-GRENOBLE ALPES SYMPOSIUM

30 years of collaborative research in Advanced Materials and Biological Structures

27-28 May 2019  
Institut Laue Langevin, Grenoble,  
France

Grenoble, le 7 mai 2019

Madame, Monsieur,

Le comité d'organisation du Symposium Oxford Grenoble Alpes : « 30 years of cooperative research in Advanced Materials and Biological Structures » a le plaisir de vous inviter à participer aux sessions qui se dérouleront les 27 et 28 mai et dont vous trouverez ci-joint le programme détaillé.

Si vous prévoyez de venir assister à tout ou partie de ces sessions qui se tiendront dans l'amphithéâtre Chadwick de l'Institut Laue Langevin, il est nécessaire de vous inscrire sur le site du Symposium avant le 14 mai <https://workshops.ill.fr/e/oxford-grenoble-symposium> pour pouvoir, en particulier, pénétrer sur le site dont l'accès est contrôlé.

Vous pouvez bien sûr transmettre cette invitation aux personnes susceptibles d'être intéressées autour de vous.

En souhaitant avoir le plaisir de vous rencontrer à cette occasion, soyez assurés, Madame, Monsieur de nos sentiments cordiaux.

Le comité d'organisation

Loubna Bouhri (UGA), Matthew Bowler (EMBL), Giovanna Fragneto (ILL),  
Robert Jacobs (Oxford University), Jean-François Legrand (Grenoble-Oxford Alliance),  
Edward Mitchell (ESRF), Carlo Petosa (IBS)

71, avenue des Martyrs – CS20156 – 38042 Grenoble Cedex 9 – France  
[www.ill.fr](http://www.ill.fr) - Siret 779 555 887 00024 NAF 7219 Z. RCS Grenoble 779 555 887  
tél +33 (0)4 78 20 7082 . sec. +33 (0)4 76 20 75 35  
<https://www.ill.eu/users/scientific-groups/large-scale-structures/people/giovanna-fragneto/>



## PROGRAMME

All talks will be given in the Chadwick Amphitheatre ILL

### MONDAY 27 MAY

9:00-11:00	Visit ILL-ESRF	
10:00	Registration	
	<b>Welcome address</b>	
11:30-12:30	Helmut Schober (ILL director) Lord Llewellyn (Her Majesty's Ambassador to France) Patrick Levy (President of UGA) Francesco Sette (ESRF director)	
12:30-12:50	History of Oxford-Grenoble scientific partnership	Andrew Harrison
12:50-14:00	WELCOME BUFFET	
14:00-14:30	Neutrons and Surfaces: an Unlikely Tale of Two Cities	Robert K. Thomas
14:30-14:50	Oxford scientists and the ILL, more than 30 years!	Timothy Ziman
14:50-15:20	20 years of Oxford-Grenoble collaboration on radiation damage research: what have we learned?	Elspeth Garman
15:20-15:40	Raoult's Law revisited: collaborative research between Oxford and Grenoble 130 years later	Matthew Bowler
15:40-16:10	Coffee/tea break - Hall ILL 4	
16:10-16:30	Supervised Learning with a focus on Deep-Learning	Amini Messih-Reza
16:30-17:00	Virus crystallography in the early days of the ESRF	David Stuart
	<b>Round table</b>	
17:00-18:00	A. Harrison, Y. Lakhnech, EPN directors Present collaborations and perspectives for the future	
18:00-19:00	Aperitif	
19:00	Barbecue (ESRF chalet)	





## PROGRAMME

All talks will be given in the Chadwick Amphitheatre ILL

### TUESDAY 28 MAY

8:30-8:50	Oxford and Grenoble : twin cities in divergent pathways ?	Helen Lawton Smith - & Dimitris Assimakopoulos
8:50-9:10	Is the technopolis enough to become a metropolis?	Gilles Novarina
9:10-9:30	An introduction to photoacoustic imaging	Emmanuel Bossy
9:30-10:00	Physical limits on the negative pressure inside a photoacoustic source	Robin Cleveland
10:00-10:30	Biosurfactant and biosurfactant / surfactant adsorption: meeting the environmental challenge	Jeffrey Penfold
10:30-11:00	Coffee/tea break	
11:00-11:20	Deep Care: AI for patient empowering with a participatory health project	Philippe Cinquin
11:20-11:50	The EPN Campus and its extraordinary contribution to materials physics: A personal view from Oxford	Andrew Boothroyd
11:50-12:10	Misfits and dislocations: from Oxford to Grenoble	Andrew Wildes
12:10-12:30	Pyrochlore oxides: Spin ice and the search for magnetic monopoles	Elsa Lhotel
12:30-13:00	Complementarity of isotopic labelling in biomembrane studies - NMR, neutrons, x-ray crystallography and XFELs	Anthony Watts
13:00	BUFFET & FAREWELL	

Tuesday 28 May – Auditorium du Muséum de Grenoble, Grenoble.

Talk: « The black swift in Grenoble », presentation of findings by Jean-Marc Coquelet, in the presence of Chris Mason, Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB), Oxford ornithologist, in partnership with the Ligue pour la Protection des Oiseaux (LPO).

This talk on the black swift, organised especially for the 30th anniversary celebrations, constituted an event of particular importance in local ornithology. It focused on a study which began in 2017. The participation of Chris Mason who is the Oxford specialist of the species reinforced the spirit of the twinning by giving the talk an international dimension.

No fewer than 80 people crowded into the auditorium of the Natural History Museum to listen to the presentations of Adrien Lambert and J-Marc Coquelet from the LPO, and Chris Mason from the RSPB. The public was fascinated by the description of the extraordinary life of the swift in both Grenoble and Oxford and showed their interest by asking the speakers many judicious questions.

Swifts are often mistaken for, or associated with, swallows and are appreciated by the general public. We know little about them, however. This evening made a significant contribution to our better understanding and recognition of this fascinating bird.

The next day, 30 people took part in an observation activity around the St André church, which is home to the largest colony of swifts in the city.

The participants joined in the counting of the swifts as they flew in and out of the holes in the walls where they make their nests. Prior to this, the observers were able to spot swallows and learned how to distinguish them from swifts.

The talk and observation walk were so successful that we are now able to envisage further talks over the coming years as knowledge of this species continues to progress in Grenoble.

How wonderful that an animal species like the black swift can contribute to the representation of a link between two cities!

*Jean-Marc Coquelet*  
*Ligue pour la Protection des Oiseaux*



## Very special guests

The programme of festivities for the 30th anniversary of the twinning of Grenoble and Oxford had been sent to Isabelle Hurley, Director of the Lyon office of the British Embassy's International Trade Department. She sent it to the Embassy in Paris and a few days later we were informed that the Ambassador might come to Grenoble. This was later confirmed. The Embassy contacted me to fix dates and it was announced that the Ambassador wished to attend the scientific symposium.

The programme was very full and the Embassy specified that the Ambassador would not be able to attend the baroque concert the day before, but would like to hear an extract during his visit to the City Hall.

We made arrangements to be able to do this and eventually convinced the authorities at the City Hall to agree to the request of the Ambassador. Quite obviously, Lord Edward Llewellyn appreciated this and later tweeted his satisfaction. He has since told us of his wish to have us sing at the Embassy. This twinning clearly constituted a powerful symbol of harmony between France and Great Britain.

But this was not our only special visitor. Matthew Lodge, UK Ambassador to UNESCO did us the honour of attending the opening of two different but complementary exhibitions: the Artists' residence in the Jardin des Plantes, and the William Morris exhibition of works created by students from the Lycée Champollion under the direction of their teacher, Etienne Brunet, in the greenhouses. The following day, Matthew Lodge was kind enough to take part in the ceremony surrounding the change of name of the tram stop (the terminus of Line B) now to be called "Oxford". The destination "Oxford" is announced at every stop along Line B. Afterwards, Matthew Lodge took the tram back to the railway station to catch his train with a few other guests. Much to the delight of all (including people who just happened to be travelling on the tram), the two brass-bands: Horns of Plenty from Oxford and Yebarov from Grenoble accompanied him there with music.

The AGO Board very much appreciated the recognition of their work shown by these two visits.

*Marie-Christine Simiand, Présidente  
Alliance Grenoble-Oxford*



## COMMUNICATION

A great deal of time and energy goes into the preparation of an important anniversary like this and it is vital to give maximum publicity to the programme of events. Communication needs to reach as many people as possible in order to highlight the achievements of many months' work.

For the 10th anniversary we were fortunate enough to have exceptional posters. Some were full-size advertising billboards. The programme itself formed a triptych with the same illustration on the outside.

For the 20th anniversary a design with the silhouettes of each city was used on the widely distributed invitations, posters and programmes. A specific programme was produced by the Chambre des Métiers during the Week of Taste. Food outlets, cake-shops, bread-shops, butchers and delicatessens all handed out British recipes.

For the 30th anniversary we had expected to have a visual design evoking Grenoble and Oxford to put on all our documents. The City chose to create a logo with abstract symbols which, in our opinion, required explanation.

The choice of the date for the celebration was fixed by the City. In the middle of the Brexit tension, it was placed in the middle of the Month of Europe. We consider that this was not an appropriate choice since the celebration of the twinning was immersed in a host of other events concerning different European countries. The document produced every year for the Month of Europe lists scores of events and those linked to the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary ran the risk of getting lost in the long list of Europe-centred festivities.

It was decided that a specific document about the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary would be placed inside the Month of Europe programme, but we were given an electronic version to re-read the night before the deadline. This electronic version proved to be so difficult to read that we were not able to make the necessary corrections and modifications in time.

The AGO Board therefore decided to make its own programme. It is impossible to count the number of versions or corrections before the final one was agreed on. What a labour of love!

It took a great deal of patience and tenacity to produce this document which was essential to publicise the many events organised and the names of all the sponsors and partners involved in this exceptional celebration.

Since we did not have an image to evoke the twin cities, we decided to use the one designed by the students from the Lycée Champollion. Jean-Claude Thibault did the lay-out for the cover of the programme and Monique Meyrieux-Drevet was in charge of the text. We soon used up our first batch of programmes and had to print a second batch to add to the electronic version.

Publicity for our anniversary celebrations appeared in the *Dauphiné Libéré* and in the *Affiches* on several occasions. The *Lettre de l'International* also mentioned our activities as well as many of our partners, a good way to make the existence of the twinning better known.

Our programmes were to be found in every place where an event was organised and in other places too, either because of the number or profile of the people passing through. Some events received specific publicity elsewhere, thereby increasing the impact of the anniversary. This was the case notably of the classical music concerts. The number of people finding out about the twinning rose considerably.

Furthermore, now if you take tram B in the direction of the Synchrotron, you can go to Oxford with one tram ticket. Amazing but true!

*Marie-Christine Simiand, Presidente  
Alliance Grenoble-Oxford*



## TESTIMONIES & RECOLLECTIONS

### 30th anniversary of the twinning - Recollection of the first years

I have some memorable photos of the Twinning Events in Oxford and Grenoble.  
Long live the Twinning and congratulations to you for sustaining it.

Our start was a dinner at an International Oxford City Council event in 1987 when an Adjoint from Grenoble attended and asked: "does Oxford have a twin with any French city"? The answer surprised her "No" and then she said "Well what about Grenoble?" It was a science meeting and the similarities of Science Parks, the Synchrotron etc. was a spur. Councillor Bob Price, fluent in French took the request to a full meeting of Oxford City Council and it went to a vote with a close majority for starting a Twinning. The council asked the local people to attend if they were interested in the Twinning. Oxford's Twins at this point were Leiden, Bonn and Leon in Nicaragua. The Council were composed of many Socialist members who were francophiles, speaking French including a future MP, Phyllis Starkey. There was a meeting to decide on a Group of interested Oxford people to form a Twinning Association.

An Association was formed with the Chairman, Dr Mark Bannister, Head of French at Brookes University in 1988 - 80 Members joined and with publicity in North Oxford an Oxford-Grenoble Association was formed at the Maison Francaise in Summertown in 1988. The then Mayor of Oxford, Queenie Whorley came to meet Alain Carignon, the Mayor of Grenoble, to dedicate the Twinning in 1989 and sign the Charter. Mike Harvey became Chairman after Mark Bannister stood down, Clive Jenkins was the Secretary and Roger Summers was the Treasurer.

Unfortunately, the equivalent Association headed by M. Xavier. Becker of the Lycée Stendhal was not able to sustain the Twinning and it led to his resignation in favour of Marie-Christine Simiand who took the Twinning Association in Grenoble to new heights and began to recruit more members. It was helped by the new Secretary, an Oxford graduate David Bailey.

That is my recollection of the first years.

*Mike Harvey*

✚ Alps and Spires: Plans develop for celebrating 25 Years of Oxford-Grenoble Twinning,  
26 April-3 May 2014

The full Alps and Spires programme to celebrate 25 years of Oxford-Grenoble friendship, starting 26 April with a Mayoral launch at the Town Hall, is now finalised, Oxford-Grenoble Association Chair, Mel Houldershaw, announced today. Formal and informal events and happenings include – within one week – five concerts, four exhibitions, a photo trail, a market stall, and participation by three Grenoble bands in Oxford's traditional May morning revels. Over 100 guests will come over from France to take part. Full programme: see [www.oxford.gov.uk/alpsandspires](http://www.oxford.gov.uk/alpsandspires)

Recovering the 25-year story of Oxford-Grenoble twinning has required some Inspector Morse style sleuthing and a brisk electronic exchange in “franglais” between the University cities. Mike Harvey, the OGA Chair from 1989 to 2000, proved to have the longest memory. He recalls that Councillor Bob Price and Monique Sacchi-Meunier, a counterpart on the Grenoble City Council, sat next to each other at a 1988 event in Sweden, and they set the ball rolling. BBC Radio Oxford, Bill Heine in particular, gave fulsome support. ‘We had a soirée at the Maison Française, which Radio Oxford publicised, and everything kicked off from there,’ Mike remembers.

The official ‘Friendship Agreement’ was signed on 27 April 1989 by Lord Mayor Queenie Whorley and her Grenoble counterpart. It aimed ‘to encourage and to favour friendly relations and exchanges ... in the scientific, economic, university, sporting, cultural and social fields’. These ideas were built into the statutes of the Oxford-Grenoble Association (OGA) in Oxford, and the Alliance Grenoble-Oxford (AGO), formed a few years later, in July 1993. The Chair of the Association was Marie-Christine Simiand, whose tireless promotion of the twinning has been vital to success. In 2012, Marie-Christine was awarded an MBE for her services to Anglo-French friendship. Says Marie-Christine: ‘For 20 years, my life has been marked by great Oxford-Grenoble moments that I hold among my most precious recollections.’

Among many twin-ships, that between the East Oxford Community Choir (EOCC), and Ensemble Vocal Interlude, Grenoble, has been particularly dynamic. It was proposed by Marie-Christine Simiand to a co-singer from Oxford, Susie Pye. The twin choirs’ first joint concert was in 2001, and every year since then they have repeated the experience in Oxford or Grenoble. The combined choirs make it possible for both to sing large works for many voices, as well as more intimate chamber pieces.

The founder and Director of the EOCC, Mel Houldershaw, was from the outset an active enthusiast for the twin choir programme. Thus, when the Oxford Grenoble Association was suffering a temporary loss of energy, Mel put herself forward as Chair. ‘I did not want to lose the excitement and fun of co-performing’, she said. ‘So if it needed someone to take the lead, then I would do it myself!’

Since 2006 Mel, together with Jean Burrell, Trish Attwooll, Marie-Alice Frappat (originally from Grenoble), Diana Bell and other OGA members, has helped to reactivate the wider twinning programme from the Oxford end. The Alps and Spires 25th anniversary programme, and the management of all the events, will be the culmination of months of hard work by this small band of enthusiastic Grenoble-ophile volunteers, with the generous support of the City Council.

Released: 2 April 2014 Further information from Trish Attwooll, OGA, Mel Houldershaw, Chair OGA.

*Maggie Black, for OGA*

## In the beginning

In the beginning, we would meet at the Lycée Stendhal with the Headmaster, Mr Becker, the chair of the association.

Colette Roux was all the keener to set up links with Oxford as her father had been the very first French assistant at Headington in the 1930s!

Later, Peter Thorpe Tracey, who had become chair « LET'S GO » let us use a room in the rue Sainte-Ursule, in the Vieux Temple buildings...

David Bailey, who graduated from New College, Oxford, as well as Pierre Veyret-Abran attended regularly.

Finally, Marie-Christine Simiand became chair of the association, henceforward known as « ALLIANCE GRENOBLE-OXFORD.

*Jean-Louis Roux  
Membre de l'Alliance Grenoble-Oxford*

## 1995 – Summer on the Thames

The Grenoble Rowing Club participated in a regatta organised by the Oxford Rowing Club.

The Grenoble teams:

- Women's teams : two coxless pairs
- Men's team Eight with cox, the club's star team, led by Xavier Dorfman, who later won Olympic Gold at the Atlanta Olympics (1998).  
Coach: Alain Wachter.

The women's teams obtained good results.

The men's team got through to the final where it was narrowly beaten by the famous Leander Rowing Club of London.

The next day, all the rowers were received by the Lord Mayor of Oxford.

*Pierre Veyret-Abran  
ex secrétaire de l'Aviron Grenoblois*



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