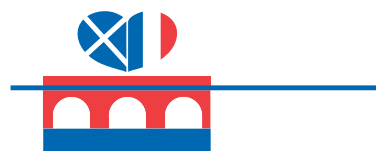


Dundee & Orléans

AN ENDURING AULD ALLIANCE

DID YOU KNOW...?

Dundee and Orléans have been twinned since 1946 - making this ancient French city our oldest twin. Indeed, this is the longest continuing link between a Scottish and a French city.



Dundee - Orléans Twinning Association

Dundee
Orléans

Since 1946 Dundonians and Orléanais literally in their thousands have exchanged visits. These include lord provosts and mayors, several thousand school children, golfers, rotarians, members of the legal profession, sportsmen and women, choral societies, gardeners, railway modellers, town planners, university and college students, doctors and nurses, amateur artists, members of the Orléans University of the Third Age and the Department of Languages and Lifelong Learning in the University of Dundee.

Throughout the years personal and family friendships have been established so that there are exchange visits taking place at all times ... and there's been a wedding or two as well!

WHERE IS ORLÉANS?

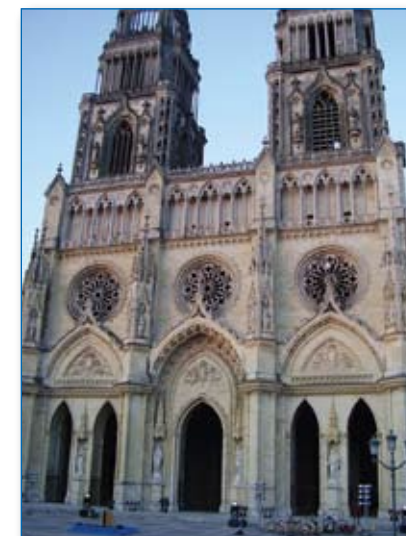
Situated 80 miles southwest of Paris, Orléans has stood on banks of the River Loire since pre-roman times. Long famous for its part in the story of Joan of Arc, it is the capital of the Centre Region and of the department of Loiret. Orléans suffered severe bomb and fire damage in 1940 and 1944, but recovered to become once again one of France's great commercial centres. In its hinterland to the north are the great fertile plains of the Beauce and the Gâtinais. South of the Loire is the Sologne, the beautiful wooded hunting grounds of French kings and presidents. And within a short distance of the city are some of the most famous and beautiful châteaux of the Loire.



Joan of Arc statue



In the aftermath of the Second World War the old city with its fine cathedral was beautifully rebuilt and restored. A new second city was built south of the river and now the population is around 200,000. Its ancient university was re-established in the 1960s and Orléans now has prestigious crop and geological research establishments as well as modern high technology industries. The city's Parc Floral is famous for its flower and tree collections and is one of France's most famous city parks.



Cathédrale Sainte-Croix

ANYTHING MORE?

There's no room here to give chapter and verse on the relief of Orléans by Joan of Arc and her army in May 1429. But here are some lesser-known facts about the event:

- ✘ In Joan's army were thousands of Scottish archers under the command of two Kennedys, a Douglas and Patrick Ogilvy from Airlie.
- ✘ At the time of the siege of Orléans the city's Bishop was John Kirkmichael from Crail who had studied at Orléans University.
- ✘ When the city was relieved John Kirkmichael arranged for Joan's Victory Parade through the city on May 8th.
- ✘ In 1430 he organised a commemorative parade and this parade - with a young Orléans lass representing Joan - has taken place almost every year since.
- ✘ In the procession Joan is always preceded by four horsemen, dressed in red, green and white - the colours of the Scottish army and probably representing her four Scottish captives.
- ✘ The Joan of Arc celebrations take place during the first week in May and include concerts, military and musical parades and displays, a medieval market, fireworks, a spectacular son et lumière during which the cathedral appears to burn down, and the Joan of Arc procession through 5 miles of city streets.
- ✘ The city of Dundee is always represented at these festivities. In the past 60 years these have included pipe bands, troupes of Scottish dancers, members of the twinning association, and every Dundee Lord Provost since Sir Garnet Wilson.
- ✘ In 2006, on the 60th anniversary of our link, the opportunity was taken to celebrate our "Diamond Wedding" with a re-affirmation of our valued relationship

Dundee

Dundee - Orléans Twinning Association

Orléans

The Dundee-Orléans Twinning Association was set up in 1993 with the aim of fostering and furthering the already excellent relations between the two cities.

The Association acts as a source of reference and information for all who would like to participate in twinning activities, or who would like simply to visit our historic French twin.

Many members of the Association know Orléans very well and are able to offer groups or individuals practical and detailed advice on how to plan a visit - either as a tourist or an exchange. The Association is in regular contact with the Bureau des Relations Extérieures at Orléans Town Hall, and with the Orléans Office de Tourisme.

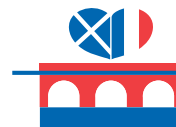
.....COME AND JOIN US

For Further information please contact:

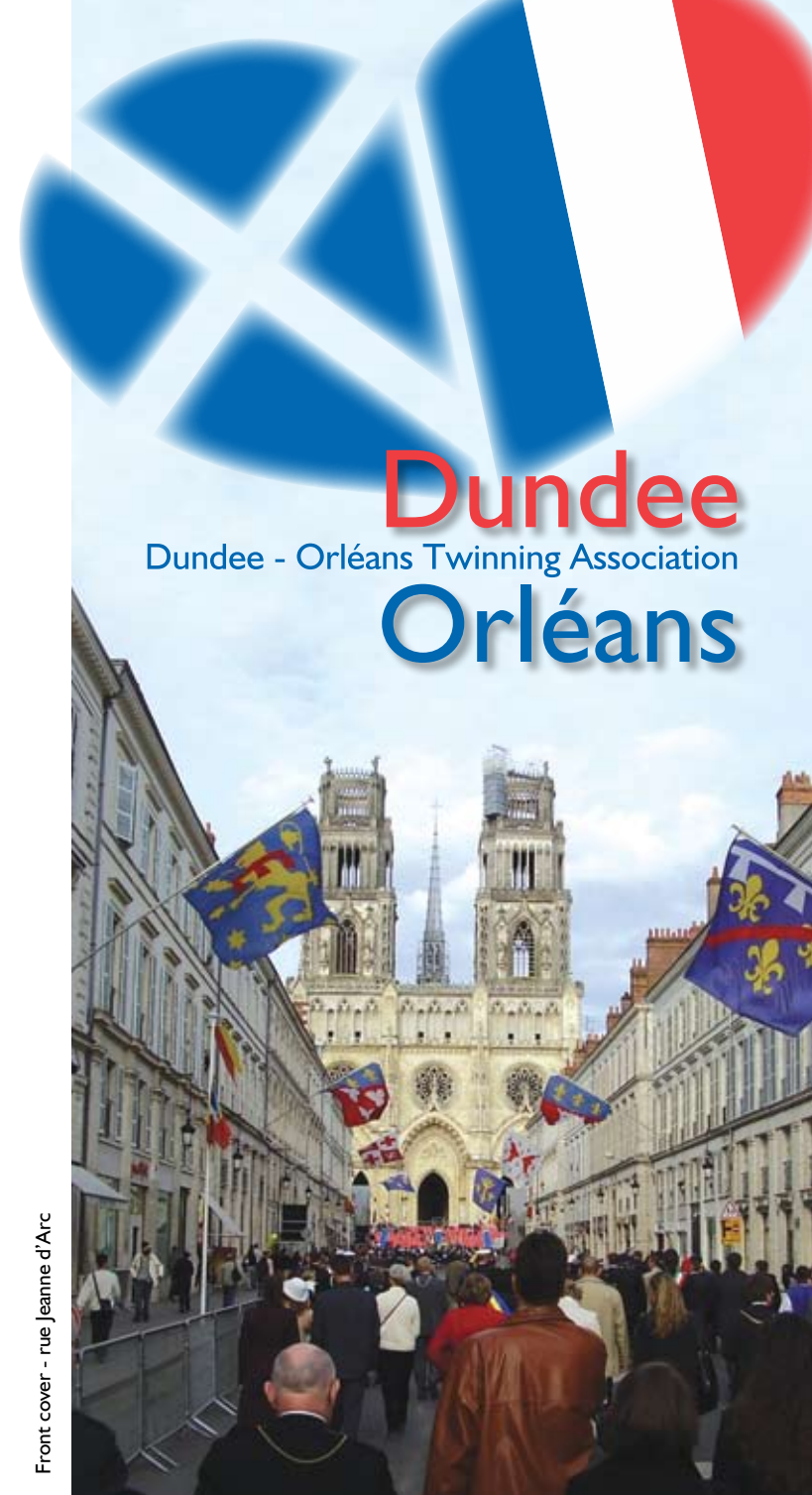
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