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Lawrence of Arabia in Châlus

On Saturday 1st and Sunday 2nd August, there will be a show commemorating the life of Lawrence of Arabia in Châlus, the city where Richard the Lionheart died. While the city of Châlus is well known for the famous troubadour King who met his end there, not everyone will be aware of the town's connection to the hero of the First World War, T. E. Lawrence.

The man who would come to be known as Lawrence of Arabia was born in Tremadoc, Caernarfonshire, in North Wales on 16th August 1888 and died near Wareham in Dorset on 19th May 1935, but visited Châlus on the day of his twentieth birthday. He is believed to have visited the area to learn more about the heroes of the Third Crusade.

Events are taking place to mark the 80th anniversary of his death, including an English market, where visitors are encouraged to come bearing Welsh or other flags from the United Kingdom. Central to the events will be a free bilingual show that will combine theatre and equestrianism. The celebrations are being organised by Christophe EOCHE-DUVAL, director of the Festival Richard the Lionheart, who put The Bugle in touch with Michael Clarke, an English expat who will be playing the part of Lawrence of Arabia himself.

Hello Michael, what brought you to France and how did you end up becoming Lawrence of Arabia?!

My wife and I are originally from Cornwall, but we have been living near Argenton-sur-Creuse for six months now where I have been working on a farm. We love France and are really enjoying living here. I recently saw the advert for an English-speaking actor in The Bugle and it caught my eye. I have had previous experience with local productions



Michael Clarke - a young T. E. Lawrence

when I was younger, and it is something I wanted to get back into, so I thought this would be a perfect opportunity. I also thought it would be a great way to meet other people from the area.

How do you feel about playing such an iconic man and what did you know about T. E. Lawrence before taking up the role?

When I found out that I was playing the role of a young

Lawrence of Arabia, it was initially a little daunting. Everyone in England has heard of Lawrence of Arabia, made even more famous by the film starring Peter O'Toole. Embarrassingly, I must admit that my knowledge of his life was a little lacking, although since taking on the role I have learnt a lot about him. In this production people may well find out more about the man and especially his tour of France. Hopefully we will do justice in portraying a great Briton.

Programme of Events

Saturday 1st August 2015:

8 pm: Salle des fêtes. Giant screen showing of the film "Lawrence of Arabia" by David Lean, 1962, with Peter O'Toole (free). In French with English subtitles.

Sunday 2nd August 2015:

From 2 pm: Exhibition: Vintage motorcycles.

From 2 pm: Exhibition on Châlus in 1908 and Lawrence of Arabia (free admission).

From 2 pm and into the evening: English Market.

Afternoon: Traditional games and cartoonist. Free camel rides.

5 pm: Parade of the caravan of Lawrence of Arabia through the streets of Châlus.

Evening: English Market continues and there will be a "couscous banquet" (to book for the meal tel 05 55 31 88 88).

10 pm: Late-night bilingual show: "Lawrence of Arabia and Châlus" with fireworks (free admission).

For more information about taking a stand at the English Market email lawrencechalus2015@gmail.com

*Lawrence d'Arabie
et Châlus...[®]* **FREE**

Saturday 1st & Sunday 2nd August, 2015

Saturday:
8 pm: Giant-screen "Lawrence of Arabia", salle des fêtes subtitled

Sunday:

- From 2 pm: English market, center of city
- 4 pm: Parade of Lawrence's caravan through the streets of Châlus
- Afternoon: Traditional games & Free camel rides
- 8 pm: "Couscous" banquet **05 55 31 88 88**
- Exhibition of vintage vehicles and "Lawrence of Arabia" (Museum)
- 22h: bilingual show: "Lawrence of Arabia and Châlus" followed by fireworks

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Châlus

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