

# Newsletter



February 2015

[www.bordeauxbritish.com](http://www.bordeauxbritish.com)

## **WEBSITE VERSION of NEWSLETTER** *(without personal contact details)*

We are now well into 2015, and have had some most enjoyable and well attended events in January, especially our Burns' Night celebrations in a member's chateau in Bordeaux. You will see below that we have a good range of events laid on for the next months.

Your committee is working to expand our range of events, and all ideas are most welcome. We are also preparing a major upgrade to our website, and you will see that our event photos are up to date and can be easily viewed via tablets, iPads and phones, as well as the less portable devices ! Have a look (Web address above).

### **Forthcoming BBC Events List**

- Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> February – Cooking Workshop, Chartrons
- Monday 9<sup>th</sup> February - Cinema
- Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> February – Bowling at Bordeaux Lac
- Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> February – Walk at le Teste/Arcachon port
- Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> March – le Corbusier Citée Fruges – Pessac
- Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> March – St. Patrick's Night – Martignas
- Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> March – Smurfit Paper processing visit - Biganos

## **February BBC Events**

### **Cooking Workshop : Chartrons / Bordeaux : Tuesday 3rd February**

The company 'Cook and Go' is well equipped, and is providing us with a workshop in which we shall prepare a number of different aperitifs, with all ingredients and English tuition provided. We can then enjoy them together with a drink. The fee will be 39€pp. Ten 'students' can be accommodated. We shall meet there at 4pm.

Cook and Go is located in Hangar No 18, Quai de Bacalan, 33300 Bordeaux (on the river). Access from tramstop 'les Hangars' (line B). There is parking available in the Hangar.

**This event is currently full**, but if you would like to join us, .....

### **Utopia Cinema visit : Bordeaux : Monday 9th February - Meet 6:30pm**



The film is 'Queen and Country' (in English). It is the hilarious follow-up to John Boorman's 'Hope and Glory' (1987 nominated for 5 Academy Awards) and picks up the story nearly a decade later as Bill begins his National Service with basic army training in the early 1950s. Bill and his trouble-making army mate engage in a constant battle of wits with the Catch-22 worthy, Sgt. Major Bradley (David Thewlis). Richard E. Grant is their superior, the infinitely put-upon, aptly-named Major Cross. A superb cast in a wonderfully funny and often moving depiction of a still-recovering postwar Britain during the time of the Korean War. Humorous multi Family gatherings watching the Coronation on new, small, flickering black and white television should bring back memories to many !

The Utopia Cinema is a converted church located at 5 Place Camille-Jullian, less than a 5 minute walk from tram stop 'Sainte Catherine', Ligne A. We shall meet at the cinema bar/cafe at 6:30pm onwards. The performance starts at 7:15 but late admissions are often prohibited. We shall take some refreshment together after the film and why not before as well!

If you would like to join us then please email Ian ..... or phone Ian on .....

### **Bowling at Bordeaux Lac : Tuesday 17th February : 3pm**



We have arranged a Bowling outing, at the Bowling/Karting Centre, Rue du grand Barail at Bordeaux Lac (<tel:0556432949>). I have reserved two lanes, for 3pm start, please arrive a little earlier ! The cost, including shoe hire will be 10€ per person.

We can arrange lunch nearby beforehand at a suitable venue, depending on our numbers. To join us for lunch and/or bowling, please contact me at .....

### **Bassin Walk : le Teste – Arcachon : Thursday 26th February**



We have had a number of walks round the Bassin, this one is a little off the beaten track. We shall start at le Teste Port at high tide and follow the 'coast' via an excellent newly opened Salt Marsh, full of wild life (I saw a Kingfisher there!) there are also informative signs. After a short stretch inland we shall return to the coast at Aiguillon and weave our way through charming fisherman's huts and jetties, and a few luxury dwellings prior to approaching Arcachon port via a sandy beach.

We shall then 'earn our reward' at Arcachon Yacht Club, situated on the quay with an unrivalled panoramic view of the Bassin. As well as the great view, they offer a 3 course menu (4 choices per course), and we have negotiated wine and coffee within the 17€ price (assuming our average sized walking group !).

Thus fortified we shall return to le Teste Port, taking a slightly different route, there are possibilities at the port if folks would like some further refreshment afterwards. It should be a 'dry' walk (unless it rains) around 7km! There is a good coastal footpath going east from le Teste if keen walkers wish to extend, conversely I shall leave a car at the Yacht club in case anyone wishes to abort there.

If you would like to join us for the walk and/or lunch, please book with Phil .....

**Directions** Even with GPS, driving in le Teste town is a disaster! I recommend you follow directions to Arcachon via A63 from Bordeaux, then A66, which becomes N250 (the Voie Rapide). Continue past le Teste, and look for a distinctive roundabout (the sixth!) which has a tall triangular section metal 'spike' sculpture in the middle. Turn right signed to Aiguillon and le Teste Port, you will shortly cross the railway line and reach your final roundabout where you turn right to the Port. Continue along Avenue du General Leclerc, passing the salt marsh, and you will see a new large car park, our meeting place, on your left, before the traffic lights.

## **March**

### **Architecture visit : Citée Frugès – Pessac : Wednesday 4th March**

Le Corbusier, the international giant of modern architecture and town planning, came to fame following his first major project in 1926 - in Bordeaux ! This was commissioned by a sugar industrialist, Henry Frugès, who was interested in contemporary and innovative architecture and wanted his workers to live in "a wide meadow surrounded by pine trees, creating a garden town ".

We shall be visiting this pioneering development of 50 dwellings, with an English speaking guide, and going round one of them at 3 rue des Arcades. This is listed as a historical building, and is owned by the Pessac Mairie.

Before this we shall meet for lunch at 12.30 at 'Les Associés' Brasserie, 184 avenue Pasteur, 33600 Pessac. Our menu du jour and price is not yet available. There should be no problem parking nearby. An option is to take the no.4 bus to le Monteil, there is no tram stop nearby. Following lunch we can take a ten minute walk, or a quicker drive to 4, rue le Corbusier where we shall assemble for our tour at 3pm.

If you would like to join us for lunch and/or the visit, please book before February 28th with Phil .....

**Directions** 'Out of towners' should exit the Rocade at junction 13, head south for 500 metres, then turn left onto avenue Pasteur. The Brasserie is just over a km on your left.

### **St. Patrick's Night : Martignas : Saturday 14th March**

Following on from January's Burns' Night, Eileen and John ..... have kindly offered to host our other Celtic celebration in their house in Martignas sur Jalle.

This will commence at 7.30, wear something green if you wish, and bring a plate of finger food to share - and a well tuned singing voice ! An aperitif, wine and water will be provided but a charge of 5€ per head will be needed to cover costs.

Numbers will be limited to 32, - earliest booking is recommended ! If you can contribute 'Irish' ideas or even perform anything Irish please also contact John.

Please book asap with John ..... and say what food you will bring.....

**Directions** to .....

## **and later this year....**

### **Activities week in the Gers : 30th May until 6th June.**

We will be staying at the same place as last year which is Les Tournesols, 6 minutes away from the lovely market town of Eauze.

The accommodation is in small independent chalets with double bedroom, simple kitchen (two ring burner), fridge, microwave and shower room. On site there is a heated swimming pool. Each day we go on walks or visit the interesting villages and sites around. There is also a golf course minutes away. In the evenings we often get together for a meal and we will probably have a meal out. Lunches are usually 'bring your own picnic'. Of course, you may decide not to join in and do your own thing.

The cost would be 41 euros per couple per day and if anyone prefers to stay for just the second half of a week, that would be possible. There are still a few chalets available.

**February update : Please note that we must send the group deposit by end February latest. We have had a good number of bookings to date, but some full weeks, and half weeks (second half) are still available.**

**Please email us directly if you would like to join us :** Ted and Jenny .....

## **Whats on and Where**

### **Useful Websites**

<http://southweststory.com>. This is a new English language SW France website. It is a site dedicated to the history, historic and natural tourist attractions, gastronomy of the south west of France, as well as current events, festivals and activities.

[www.BritishinFrance.com](http://www.BritishinFrance.com) The BBC is a member of the British Community Committee (BCC). and we are listed in this national community, our current events are also listed, together with a large

range of 'British' Events throughout France, many in the Paris area. If you are visiting other parts of France you are invited to attend these, conversely we hope some of those visiting from outside our area will join in some BBC events.

[www.bordeaux-tourisme.com](http://www.bordeaux-tourisme.com) I recommend this website, it can be switched into English, and contains a mine of information, including monthly surveys of upcoming events, Videos and general information. It even offers a monthly programme of films in English ! It seems very professionally and elegantly presented.

#### **Other Bordeaux Cultural Websites**

[www.bordeaux.sortir.eu](http://www.bordeaux.sortir.eu)

[www.lepingalant.com](http://www.lepingalant.com)

[www.BilletReduc.com/Billetterie](http://www.BilletReduc.com/Billetterie) Site that sells all tickets with up to 80% reduction

[www.Abacart.com](http://www.Abacart.com) Dinner spectacles in Bordeaux

[www.box.fr](http://www.box.fr) A great site for info on entertainment

#### **Church Services in English**

These will be held on every Sunday in February at 10.30, all will be held in the Chapelle de l'Assomption, 370 boulevard Président Wilson, Bordeaux. For further information, including services throughout Aquitaine, see monthly Newsletter at **Chaplaincy of Aquitaine** web-site: [www.churchinaquitaine.org](http://www.churchinaquitaine.org), or contact Ian Couper, tel 05 33 05 52 35, [iancouper1@gmail.com](mailto:iancouper1@gmail.com)

We extend our best wishes to the Rev'd Bramwell Bearcroft, who has recently moved to the Lot et Garonne. The Chaplain, Rev'd Dr Paul Vrolijk is responsible for Bordeaux, he can be contacted at Tel: 05 53 23 40 73 or [paul.vrolijk@gmail.com](mailto:paul.vrolijk@gmail.com)

### **Info of Interest**

**Bordeaux Park and Ride Changes** A number of members have already experienced the new year changes ! There is no longer a 'manned' pay on entry system, instead you need to buy a special ticket from the 'infernal machine' on the tram platform, this now costs 4.50€ (driver + up to 5 passengers – day return and exit from parking). Hopefully the January teething problems will soon be behind us !

**UK Pensioners Winter Fuel Allowance update** There is still a possibility that France will remain in the list of countries entitled to receive this. 13 MPs have supported the appeal to date (see last month's article)

**Beware - Distraction Robbery** A lady bought some products from the bio health supermarket in Eysines, Bordeaux. Later that day when back in Montalivet, she discover her purse was missing including her credit cards. She immediately phoned the bank and notified them, and the bank told her 700 Euros had been taken out of her account in cash in 4 transactions at two different cash points. On reflection, she remembered a white car drawing up along side her car just when she had got back into the car after leaving the shop. The single male in the white car gesticulated that he was lost and he wanted help to show him where he was on the map. Being good natured she got out of the car to help him. After a while, he received a phone call on his mobile and then said he needed to go. She then got back into her car, totally unaware she had just been robbed. How was this possible ? They target individuals so they watch the car park and monitor women on their own. Then they follow that person and one gang member is in the queue at the till directly behind the lady and notes/records the pin number. Then after she has put her shopping in the car and the handbag say between the two front seats, she is enticed out of the car and unwittingly they make sure she has her back to her vehicle, so she don't see or hear a person open the front passenger door and look through her handbag. They steal your whole purse if there is cash in it, or just the bank card. When the deed has been done, the gang member in the car receives a phone call to leave the scene.

*With thanks to Anthony .....*

## January BBC event reports

### Film: Mr Turner : Utopia Cinema : Sunday 11th January

15 members were due to visit this cinema in central Bordeaux. Sadly the events in Paris the previous weekend, and the demonstration of solidarity with Charlie Hebdo, which 140,000 Bordelaise attended, was scheduled for the same time and place. With the impact on transport and crowds, but also the immensely sad occasion, it seemed inappropriate to be enjoying ourselves, hence our visit was cancelled, although some saw the film later in the week.

### Museum of Decorative Arts & Design visit : Wednesday 14th Jan

The first part of the visit, getting there, was not easy as the New Year was marked by a change to the hitherto excellent Park and Ride system ! There was no longer a pay on entry system, instead we were directed to the tram platform, to buy the park and ride tickets. As well as a price increase of 30%, we were confronted by an intimidating machine, which would not accept coins or a card. It timed out countless times and eventually displayed that it was out of order ! As was the one on the opposite platform !



Despite this we got there ! We were amongst the 18 members meeting for lunch in the Bistro Régent, where we enjoyed an excellent meal (the frites must be the best in Bordeaux), and the simple choice of steak, duck or salmon was cooked to perfection. It was good to meet some new members, and with our table seating all 18 of us, there were some lively conversations. We were delighted to see Anthony Alexander so mobile after his major leg fracture. As the majority were 'out of towners' most had also experienced frustration with the Park and Ride changes, but at least their ticket machines had worked!

Fortified by the splendid lunch, we enjoyed a short walk past the Cathedral (gleaming after its recent clean) to the Museum, where we paid our 2€ entry fee. The exhibits were housed in a lovely mansion,



in countless rooms, with sumptuous period settings, spread over three floors. These gave some insight into the plush, and highly decorated surroundings in which the wealthy of Bordeaux lived around the time of the Revolution. There were some beautiful exhibits, furniture, textiles and especially ceramics and glass. The exhibits ranged from 17<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> century, with periods including Art Nouveau and Art Deco on the third floor – it was well worth the climb ! As well as admiring the skill and precision of the applied decoration on ceramics and furniture, we were most interested to see a special display of the work of Bordeaux based locksmiths, with even more precision evident !

The layout of the museum, with quite small rooms and restricted space, meant that our group was soon spread out, but there were a number of pleasant reunions continually taking place throughout the museum.

There was a final pleasant gathering in the museum café (with a good choice of teas) at the end of our visit. Norma ..... who had arranged the lunch and visit was thanked for what had been a most successful visit.

*Report and photos by the Editor*

## Burns' Night : Chateau Camparian - Cenon : Friday 23rd January



Many thanks to Alan and Aracelis ..... for hosting this year's Burns' Night which again was well attended. Naturally, the traditions were followed. Alan gave the Selkirk Grace followed by Chris .....s ceremonial address to the Haggis, which was paraded to Jack .....s bagpipes. Deirdre reminded everyone of all the Scottish inventions that the English rely on from driving on tar macadam invented by John McAdam, to watching TV invented by John Logie Baird. There was Eileen .....s rendering of poems of caring for men with splinters in their fingers and Tam o'Shanter in which the image of Robbie Burns cavorting with naked ladies is replaced by a horse having its tail ripped off by some ghoulish witches. The ceremonies finished with toasting the ladies with a glass of Arnaud .....s Special Blend Scotch, This year Chris ..... read a toast initially performed by Andy ....., one of the BBC's well-loved past presidents who sadly is no longer with us.



As ever, this report would not be complete without thanking LIDL for the 'Norwegian salmon' Deirdre, Norma C and Eileen for serving the starters and main, the ladies (Norma B, Norma C and Avril P) for their flavoursome trifles and last but not least, John for his witty Master of Ceremonies. Here's hoping that everyone returned to their abodes safely.





*Report by Gary .....,  
Photos by David .....,  
Pamela .....and the  
Editor*

## Walk: le Domaine Nature d'Hostens : Wednesday 28th January



One, two, one, two, Oh! Here comes Molly : one, two, three, four!! And thus, 13 of us, plus one very white, fluffy little dog in her stylish pink mackintosh, set out on a 8.24 km walk around one of the two lakes at Hostens. Some would say the weather was less than ideal, but in truth we were quite lucky in that what rain fell at the beginning of our walk was only light and misty, adding to nature's winter charm. As we walked, groups formed and reformed, conversations, too. The path was flat and easy though some careful navigation became necessary in one or two of the wetter, hence muddy, sections. A certain one in our group took full advantage of this dark matter! But in all fairness to Molly, being small and close to the ground, she could not have stayed white even if she had tried.



And yes, at the end of our walk we ended up around a table in the local "Restaurant des Sports" where we ate heartily because, as everyone knows, after the effort the reward!

Our thanks to Piet for organizing the walk and the restaurant, we are starting to be known there and feel quite welcome.



*Report by Elizabeth .....,  
Photos by the Editor*

## **BBC Information**

### **Teresa (Terry) Furloubeyx 1947-2015**

As intimated in an email shot to BBC members, the funeral of Terry Furloubeyx took place in Mérignac on Tuesday 27th January 2015. Seven people who had known Terry through the BBC in earlier days joined family and friends to say goodbye at the Eglise St Vincent de Paul in Mérignac Centre. Apart from the immediate family who live locally, relations came from further afield; Scotland and the Auvergne for example plus old friends of the family from Paris.

Terry was proud of her origins in the north-west of England, coming to France to teach and marry Paul, from Corsica, living first in Paris and later in Bordeaux. Paul and Terry have two daughters, Estelle and Christine and two grandchildren.

Terry and Paul were active in the BBC in the nineties and up until they moved to Tarnos just north of Bayonne on Paul's retirement. Terry was Vice-President for a spell and they both contributed greatly to organising events, many of which took place in their house in Mérignac, Arlac. A particular speciality was Paul's encyclopaedic knowledge of music, which, coupled with Terry's enthusiastic hospitality, provided entertaining evenings. Terry was also involved with supporting the annual bazaar for the Chaplaincy of Aquitaine. While we saw them from time to time when in Tarnos, none of us saw much of them during that period. Suddenly, they appeared back on the scene in Mérignac, made contact and started coming to BBC events again. Following a period of being quite poorly, Terry's health began a recovery which was wonderful to see. Thus, her sudden loss was an even greater shock.

Our heartfelt condolences go to Paul, Estelle and Christine, and to Estelle's husband Julian and their children Chloe and Axel, and also to their extended family and friends

*Obituary by Chris .....with help from BBC members present and past*

[www.bordeauxbritish.com](http://www.bordeauxbritish.com) Our BBC website is our major shop window, enabling English speakers in our region to easily find us, please help to promote it! Problems, or suggestions please contact our Webmaster : Gary .....

**An Introduction to our Committee** We felt that you might like to know about your recently elected Committee, and there follows a brief introduction of the next two members.

**Norma** ..... (Secretary)



I was and brought up in the north west of England as was my husband Gary whom I have known just about forever. Following our marriage in 1973 I moved down to London where we lived at that time. I have various diplomas and RSA qualifications in business and secretarial studies and latterly as a mature student, I studied for my IPD qualification in human resources.

I have worked in the pharmaceutical industry assisting with the organisation of drug trials and also in the health service and regional government.

We have two sons, Christopher and Jonathan of whom I am a very proud mother. At the moment we have one granddaughter, Natalie who is 8 years old and another one, a boy, on the way and yet to be named.

Gary's work has taken us to live in various places in the South East of England and also to Brussels and Paris. Following his semi-retirement we decided to live permanently, in what was our holiday home, in Biscarrosse where we have been very happy and made many new friends as well reuniting some treasured old friends.

As far as my hobbies are concerned I love to walk and to sail. Also I love sewing and many other handicrafts including jewellery making. I should not forget gardening - as much as my dodgy back will allow! I should also add to that the BBC as I am enjoying organising events and serving as a committee member.

**Brian** ..... (Treasurer)



I have lived for a number of years some 30 km north of Bordeaux together with my French wife Catherine and our two sons. Both boys, who were educated in France, live nearby with our three; and soon to be four grandchildren.

We moved to France after I retired from the metropolitan police. Catherine had lived with me in England for some twenty five years, and so we decided France should have a turn !

We have been members of the BBC for several years, during which time; I and my son Tony have been active members of the Golf section, enjoying the company and all that comes with it. We also enjoy the numerous activities, walks, talks, BBQs and Christmas festivities.

**Membership Details**

If any of your particulars have changed please contact our Membership Secretary : Sarah .....

**New Members**

We are pleased to welcome the following member who has recently joined the BBC:

David .....

Jo and Leon .....

Danielle .....

**Recruitment**

Our current membership is healthy, but a number have not yet renewed ! Please help us to build the membership, it is important for us all to recruit new members! Your new committee is continuing to improve our PR, and website, but most effective are chance encounters by members and word of mouth! Please do all you can to spread the word ! - **So if you hear someone speaking English in our region, please introduce them to our BBC.**

In these chance encounters there is rarely paper or pen available !

Be prepared, and carry a few BBC 'business' cards with you. Committee members generally carry a few which they will be happy to give you.



**BORDEAUX  
BRITISH  
COMMUNITY**

Join our English speaking community in and around the Bordeaux region.  
 Enjoy a full calendar of social, cultural and sporting activities for all ages and nationalities.  
 Share with others your experiences of living in, and appreciating la France

Info : [www.bordeauxbritish.com](http://www.bordeauxbritish.com) Tel : 05 56 03 37 65

Siege Social: BRITISH CONSULATE GENERAL, 353 Boulevard du Président Wilson, 33073 BORDEAUX

**Disclaimer**

As a 'not for profit' Social Club, the BBC produces newsletters and other information in support of its activities which may, from time to time, include information and links to other organizations for which it has no responsibility. In all such cases, this is done solely on the basis that it might be of interest to its members and the BBC takes no responsibility for anything said or advertised in relation to the other organizations or services. For the avoidance of doubt, any action taken by anyone as a result of such information is done at their own risk.

**Members Adverts**

**Memory Cards** I have some memory cards which are going spare. Nothing leading edge, but if anybody wants one, please contact me :

*2 x 8Mb 40 x 30 mm, 1 x Canon SD 16Mb 20x 30mm, 1 x Lexar 256Mb 20 x30mm*

Norman .....

**Wanted** A small compact left hand drive car. Any model or make and not worried about any bumps or scratches, as it is for our son to learn to drive.

**Also** A golf trolley and/or a golf bag.

Contact Anthony .....

*If you would like to place an advert or recommendation here (members only), please send an email to the editor - Phil ..... If you have advertised please advise when the advert is no longer relevant*

**Next Newsletter**

The Editor needs your copy by 24th February - .....