

Newsletter



January 2015

www.bordeauxbritish.com

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

Welcome to 2015 ! We hope that all our members have had a most enjoyable Christmas, and a good start to the New Year. I should apologise to those members who receive postal editions of the newsletter, that they did not receive the email edition of 'forthcoming events' sent out just before Christmas, it is now rather short notice for our early January events.

Hopefully the Christmas 'excesses' are now behind you, and that participating in, and enjoying many of our BBC events is amongst your new year resolutions ! Your committee are organising a good number of events over our winter season, if you have ideas for others later in the year, please contact our Events Organiser (see p.9)

Forthcoming BBC Events List

Sunday 11th January – Film : Mr. Turner : Utopia Cinema
Wednesday 14th January – Bordeaux Lunch + Musée des Arts Decoratifs visit
Friday 23rd January – Burns' Night at Chateau Camparian, Cenon
Wednesday 28th January – Walk in Hostens Nature Reserve
Tuesday 3rd February – Cooking Workshop, Chartrons

Membership Renewal – **Final Reminder**

We received an encouraging number of new and prospective members in December, but there are still a number of members who have not yet renewed their membership. Please check whether you have paid, and if not please send your cheque made payable to the BBC for 20€ (per family) as soon as possible to: Sarah It would be helpful to inform Sarah if you do not intend to renew.

We regret that if you have not renewed by the end of this month, this will be your last newsletter !

January BBC Events

Film: Mr Turner:Utopia Cinema, Bordeaux : Sunday 11th January 2.15pm

We shall be seeing this award winning film (Cannes 2014) about the life of Britain's, and probably the world's greatest landscape painter. We shall be seeing the original English version. The cinema is located at 5 Place Camille-Jullian, close to line A tram stop Sainte Catherine. From the tram stop take rue Ravez north, then turn right and left into rue du Serpolet, which leads into the Place. We shall meet at the cinema at 2.15, performance starts at 2.30. We shall take some refreshment together after the film !

If you would like to join us, please contact *Norma*, or mobile on the day

Lunch + Decorative Arts Museum Bordeaux : Wednesday 14th Jan

We shall meet for lunch at 12.00 at Bistro Régent, 50, rue Maréchal Joffre. This is one of a chain of interesting restaurants, offering excellent Steak, Magret de Canard or Salmon all with a special sauce, Salad and the best frites we have experienced ! We have a group menu price of 18€, including an interesting range of desserts, wine and coffee. No advance ordering is needed. Hopefully we shall be able to manage the 15 minute walk to the Museum afterwards !

The Musée des Arts Décoratifs et du Design is located in a dramatic mansion at 39 rue Bouffard, next to the Cathedral. There will be a group admission charge of 2€ per person.

Directions : Trams A and B stop at Hotel de Ville by the Cathedral. Rue Maréchal Joffre runs south from the SW corner of the Cathedral, you will reach the restaurant within 5 minutes. For those driving, and not using Park and Ride, there is limited meter parking nearby, and underground Parking at Place de la République or Pey Berland.

If you would like to join us, please contact *Norma*, or mobile on the day

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

As predicted, this event has proved to be very popular, only 2 places currently remain, but we shall have a waiting list !

Our next major event in the BBC diary is the celebration of the birth of the great Scottish (British!) poet, Robert Burns. This year we will be celebrating it two days early and we are once again very fortunate to have been offered the splendid chateau home of Alan and Aracelis Nimmey at Cenon (Bordeaux) to host the event. We shall commence proceedings with an Apero at 7pm.

Those who have been before will know what a wonderful and comfortable setting this is for a Burns' supper but numbers are strictly limited to 28 so you will need to book early. The price will be 20€ per head and will include a traditional meal of smoked salmon, haggis, neeps and tatties and a selection of trifles, topped off with the traditional whisky (to ensure the haggis is happy) and wine. Entertainment will include the Scottish pipes, the haggis Address and, of course, some Burns' recitation.

Please book with John B..... cheques should be made payable to the BBC, and sent to him at :

If you have queries please call John on

Directions :

Chateau Camparian,

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

Recover from the Christmas excesses with a healthy walk. This large Nature Reserve, including 5 lakes, lies about 60km south of Bordeaux on D3. We shall meet at the Marie in the centre of Hostens town (33125) at 10am. We will have lunch at a local restaurant after the walk. More information is available on

http://www.gironde.fr/jcms/c_5115/les-domaines-d-hostens-et-blasimon or for directions try Mappy on <http://fr.mappy.com/plan/33125-hostens>

I am going to do a trial walk during the second week of January, and can then provide full details, but for booking the restaurant I will have to know numbers by Monday 26th. If you would like to join us please contact Piet

February

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.

If you would like to join us, please contact *Norma*

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 half a week, that would be possible. There are still a few chalets available.

All interested people should contact Ted and Jenny at

Whats on and Where

Cancer Support France – New Drop In Centre in Bordeaux, Friday 23rd January, any time between 10am and 8pm. Join us for a cup of tea, a chat, or to find out about CSF. At Association Bordeaux-USA, 38 Allée d'Orleans – Quinconces.

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 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 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

www.lepingalant.com

www.BilletReduc.com/Billetterie Site that sells all tickets with up to 80% reduction

www.Abacart.com Dinner spectacles in Bordeaux

www.box.fr A great site for info on entertainment

Church Services in English

These will be held on every Sunday in January 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, or contact Ian Couper, tel 05 33 05 52 35, iancouper1@gmail.com

The Rev'd Bramwell Bearcroft, Assistant Chaplain of Aquitaine and BBC member is responsible for Bordeaux, he can be contacted at Tel: 0556 400512 or anglican.bordeaux@gmail.com

Info of Interest

Playful Seal at Lacanau. As a reader of the electronic version of the Daily Telegraph, I was interested to see this remarkable video of a seal playing with surfers at Lacanau beach. See it for yourself on the following link :

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/europe/france/11276809/Watch-Curious-seal-plays-with-surfers-in-France.html> This brought back my own experience of playing with a dolphin whilst windsurfing off the Welsh coast – it would not let me sail away! - *Editor*

Anthony A.....'s Accident. Sadly yet another BBC member has been hobbling on crutches, Anthony had a freak accident when walking with his dog. It was on a long lead, saw another dog, and charged. The sudden jerk when it reached the end of the retractable lead was enough to topple Anthony who fell awkwardly, badly fracturing his femur. Luckily he had his mobile phone, and was accompanied by Piet, who was able to summon the emergency services, and with some difficulty was able to direct them to the isolated spot. Anthony, with two metal pins reinforcing the break, is making a good recovery, and would like to pass on some advice to members when walking: Be prepared! Carry a mobile phone, Know where you are, and ideally have Piet with you !

Home Smoke Alarms– Beware of Fraudsters. They try to get into your house by telling you that it is mandatory to have the detectors fitted. (It is true that the law is changing – but does not become effective until March 8th 2015). Their purpose, of course, is to survey your home with the intention of returning to rob you.

The Gendarmerie advise firstly that you do not let them into the house, then: ask for their Professional Card, their employer (name of the company) and if possible remember what they look like, how many of them there are and the type of vehicle that they are driving (with the number plate if you can get it!) Then report all that to the local Gendarmerie who will do their best to identify the miscreants and put a stop to their activity. Be on your guard and be careful.

The relevant law requires all home owners to fit smoke alarms by 8th March 2015. You will need to send an attestation to your Home Insurance agent stipulating that the work has been carried out. It is a DIY job, and a sensible precaution. If you are a tenant and you have fitted your own smoke alarm - you can reclaim the cost from your landlord. I am not quite sure how the law will or can be enforced - but that is another question!

From: Association FrancoAnglaise, via Catherine

No Winter Fuel payment in 2015 ! Winter Fuel Payments for British pensioners in France will not be paid out for winter 2015/16 as the government today laid a new Regulation before Parliament excluding France from the list of countries where it will be paid.

More than 95,000 British pensioners living outside the UK, in France, Spain, Greece, Portugal, Malta, Gibraltar and Cyprus, will lose the annual £100-£300 Winter Fuel Allowance payment. Note that British Pensioners in EU countries such as Italy will still receive theirs ! Note also that France, originally

included, has been deleted as a result of adding the temperatures of France's tropical territories to the data.

Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, Ian Duncan Smith stands accused of showing contempt towards British pensioners living in France by claiming they should not get their Winter Fuel Allowance because they can all afford to 'retire to the Mediterranean'. Clearly the majority of mainland France does not enjoy such warm winters !

The so-called Statutory Instrument was laid this morning to come into force from September 21, 2015, and it is likely to pass through the Standing Committee without debate.

- See more at: <http://www.connexionfrance.com/Winter-Fuel-Payment-Allowance-Webb-16447-view-article.html#sthash.BckUfIx7.uoT4gCuv.dpuf>

Have you got anything interesting or amusing to offer ? Please send to the editor and we will publish it in 'Info of Interest' subject to availability of space

Continued below.....

December BBC event reports

Visit to Bordeaux Xmas Market, + Dinner: Thursday 4th December



As arranged we all met up at 18h30 outside the tourist information office, and then we made our way across the road to the 19th Bordeaux Christmas Market on the allée de Tourny. The area was covered with wooden chalets and fake snow. Organised in neat rows, the small wooden chalets were a great place to find gifts, decorative items, costume jewellery, gourmet delicacies and, best of all, the appearance of Santa Claus! It is a fabulous venue, full of twinkling lights and fine treats to nibble, not to mention plenty of vin chaud, which was the first stop for many of our party :o)

A couple of hours later we made our way to the Entrêcôte. We were soon all inside, seated, chatting and ready to eat. The interior with its tartan walls, gloss black ceilings and yellow table linen is well presented. There are just 3 questions at l'Entrecôte: how do you want your steak cooked, what colour wine and what dessert do you want? The meal started with dressed green salad with walnuts, followed by fabulously tender steak in amazing sauce and shoestring fries, and then dessert.



A very memorable evening, much enjoyed by all. Many thanks to the organisers, Colette and Norma

Report by Sarah, Photos by Phil

Christmas Party at Chateau la Cheze : Friday 12th December

The 30 members who attended the annual Christmas party enjoyed a great start to the Christmas festivities.



Our venue was the stunning Chateau La Cheze in Floirac. Built in the late 19th century on the grounds of a former small fortified castle by a wealthy market gardener, this Art nouveau style mansion has been recently modernized to high standards whilst retaining many of the original charming features. The staff were very helpful, friendly and welcoming.

Our evening began with a chance to catch up with some old friends and welcome some delightful new members whilst partaking of cocktails and delicious nibbles. We then took our seats in the beautifully decorated modern dining room for our special Christmas menu and selection of wines. The tables were just perfect with handmade centre pieces, candles and of course crackers. Everyone joined in the amusing table games and tricky Christmas anagrams (probably should have attempted before the wine started flowing!) and the men changed places after every course though some did forget to take their cutlery, glasses etc with them.



We then retired to our private reception with a fully stocked bar, a log fire and music with our fantastic DJ Gary Brooks. Due to the several "walking wounded" (mostly men), I did think that us ladies would be dancing around our handbags, but how wrong can you be! I am sure everyone was dancing. Gary brilliantly took us from the 1950's bang up to date with his selection of music. Even saw some Hip Hop, might have been Hip Après Op!!!



We all know just how difficult it is to organize these events and how many people are involved but a very special credit must go to Norma and



Colette for their hard work and attention to every possible detail to make this event so successful.

Though the Chateau were happy to let us party all night, I think the glowing embers of the fire, the copious amounts of alcohol and perhaps the conga drove us to our beds at 1.30. Those of us fortunate enough to stay in the spacious comfortable rooms at the Chateau were in for one more special treat, a freshly cooked breakfast that we all greatly enjoyed.

I would strongly advise anyone who sees this event advertised for 2015 to put in their diary and join in

the fun.

To sum up, for those who are old enough to remember the classic Frankie Valli song

"Oh What a Night"

Report by Avril, Photos by Phil

BBC Information

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

Graham Charlesworth

It is with great sadness that we announce the death of Graham at the age of 65, on Boxing Day. Our thoughts are with Janet his wife, their family and friends at this time. Graham and Janet are among the longest standing members of the Bordeaux British Community joining in 1982. They were active members and Janet a former secretary of the club. Graham had been ill for some time but was on the mend. So his death was unexpected. The funeral service took place on the 3rd January, at Montussan.

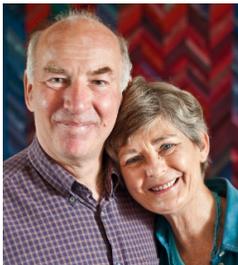
Graham and Janet met in Bordeaux at a cocktail on board HMS Sheffield. In those days a naval boat would dock on average every two months and Graham became a major figure in organising the cricket matches (sometimes mixed) at La Breda to entertain the crews. When the BBC Golf was established in 2005 at the Biscarosse Golf Course, Graham and Janet were among the first to participate. They would subsequently go on golfing holidays together.

The Bordeaux British Community send their condolences to Janet, her children and grandchildren, and hope to see her at future events.

With thanks to Gary and Liz

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.

Phil and Norma (*Newsletter Editor and Events Co-ordinator*)



Events Co-ordinator

We need local information from members to find interesting things to do in our region. If you have an idea for a possible event please contact Norma and she could help you to progress this, including choosing a date, restaurant etc. Alternatively it could be organized by her or another committee member if you prefer.

Please contact Norma on

Membership Details

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

New Members

We are pleased to welcome the following members who have recently joined the BBC:

Lin

Carol

Simon and Jane

Recruitment

Our current 'family' membership is 112, 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.



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

There has been no new content for this month, (everyone has been busy with Christmas festivities ?)

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 29th January -