



# ENTRE NOUS!

## ACIP News update – August 2014

So much has happened since the Entre Nous of December last year. Here are just some of the highlights.

### Opening our new 'home' - Le Bastion

Following the committee's invitation to celebrate the reality of our new 'home', the 'Opening' provided an opportunity to gratefully acknowledge the dedication of those members who have given many hours of their expertise and hard work to make Le Bastion something really special for us all. Led by our Vice-President, John Kuppens, the project to refurbish Le Bastion to meet our needs was completed in early January. This wonderful new venue is surely ACIP's success of the year.

We opened officially on January 9<sup>th</sup> with a very lively social event, attended by over 90 members, partners, sponsors and representatives of the Mairie. We opened on schedule, and on budget. More improvements are afoot as we use the venue and discover other needs – ceiling fans will be fitted to provide summer and winter comfort, as well as additional task lighting. We will invest in a new, fully 'plumbed in' music/sound system and, once they are renovated, we will have five new matching tables.



I know that those of you who have been members of ACIP for some time will be amazed at how far we have come from the small room we used to use in the Grand Rue and left in 2011. The best way we can show our gratitude to those who have achieved all this is to throw ourselves wholeheartedly into what ACIP does and help it to achieve still more.

### New Members

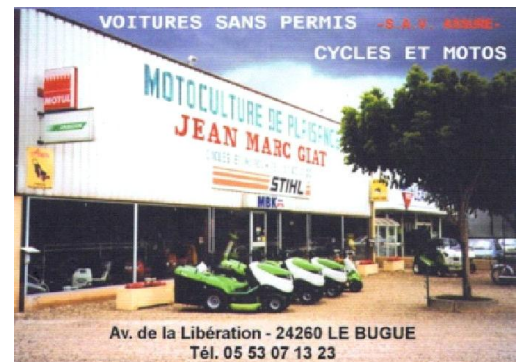
A significant number of new members have joined since December. We extend a very warm welcome to you all and hope that you will find activities to interest you but also that you will bring your ideas, skills and help into the association. Bienvenue!

### Website

The French website is now up and running, thanks to the efforts of Jill Little and Linda Higgins. The new Dutch site is being developed and we intend moving the site to a new web host to make updating simpler and more efficient whilst saving money.

### Financial matters

ACIP continues to enjoy a healthy financial position, boosted by a subvention from the Mairie, contributions from our sponsors and from bar takings. This means we can hold the annual subscription at the same level as last year - **25 euros per member** – great value for what is on offer.



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## New ways to pay your subscription

We are introducing some changes to the subscription renewal process. These are designed to make it easier for you to pay, to streamline and speed up the whole process, and to save us time and money.

Please help us by paying your subscription on time - by the due date, **1<sup>st</sup> October, 2014**. You will now be able to pay in one of four ways. We hope these offer you a helpful choice, especially if you are out of the country at times or are not a regular visitor to Le Bastion. You can now choose to pay by setting up a Direct Debit or making a Bank Transfer to ACIP's new Membership Bank Account, depositing a cheque or cash at Le Bastion or posting your cheque to the ACIP Membership Secretary. However you pay, from now on you will receive an e-mail receipt with your membership number on it, rather than a membership card which has proved costly to produce.

You will have recently received an email – sent on September 1<sup>st</sup>, with full details of how to pay.

## SOCIAL EVENTS THIS YEAR



### Mardi Gras

60 members gathered to celebrate Mardi Gras (Fat Tuesday) in February. We told the story - originally a European tradition, it is now celebrated throughout the world. The room was decorated by Paula Maburn and her team in traditional Mardi Gras colours and motifs and many of us got into the spirit of the celebration by dressing in these colours and wearing masks. We were entertained with music from DJ, John Miller, and, for the first time, a group of keen Acip cooks prepared and served a three course meal of typical Mardi Gras dishes.



A memorable evening! Thank you to everyone who made this event possible.

### BBQ

This year we held the July BBQ in the woods at the Tennis Club with around fifty members bringing food to share. Despite the rain, which eventually forced us to move indoors, it was, as usual, a very jolly occasion. Special thanks go to our international team of organisers and cooks for their efforts on the day.



### Summer drop-in mornings

We have been running drop-in mornings at the Bastion on Tuesdays and Saturdays throughout the summer months, hosted by a team of volunteers. These have proved popular with those who came along, often with their summer visitors, for coffee and cakes, to change library books and to chat - a welcome break from the busy Le Bugue market. A big thank you to all those who helped with and supported this venture.

**Between them, these social events are making a significant contribution to the sound financial footing ACIP is now enjoying. So please continue to come along!**

## Medieval Christmas Social and Supper

This year our Christmas social event on December 13<sup>th</sup> will have a medieval theme and entertainment. We are looking for people to help with the entertainment, the decoration of Le Bastion, the food and more. We will be sending out a more detailed request shortly but if you would like to help, please contact Jenny West on:

[jennyjones@spirallearning.co.uk](mailto:jennyjones@spirallearning.co.uk)



## Group News

This has been a successful year for groups with new groups starting and many carrying on over the summer. Others are due to start very soon. Your group leader will contact you with the start date.



The following groups are looking for new recruits and, as we have quite a few new members, we hope they will be of particular interest to them:

**Beginners Bridge** – contact [eikwe@orange.fr](mailto:eikwe@orange.fr)  
**Computing** – contact [wsquare@wanadoo.fr](mailto:wsquare@wanadoo.fr)  
**Book Club** – contact [teresa.crawford@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:teresa.crawford@hotmail.co.uk)  
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**Gardening** – contact [jennyjones@spiralllearning.co.uk](mailto:jennyjones@spiralllearning.co.uk)  
**Beginners English** – contact [jill.lawrence-burke@orange.fr](mailto:jill.lawrence-burke@orange.fr)  
**Stage 4 French conversation** -  
contact [christine@theoldchapel.org](mailto:christine@theoldchapel.org)



Group News sheets are being circulated separately with full details of these and other group news. Please look out for them!

All our groups are listed on the web site with full details of meetings and contact information. The Calender also lists group and other Acip activities. You can also contact our Group Co-ordinator, Gwyneth Green on [gwynethverte@aol.com](mailto:gwynethverte@aol.com)

## Library

Our library is now quite extensive including a shelf of books in Dutch. The summer drop-in sessions on Tuesdays and Saturdays provided some members with a great opportunity to change library books.

You have been so generous with your donations that the library shelves are full and we cannot accept any more books for the time being. We are looking at ways of extending our library shelf space, so please watch this space!

You can donate your unwanted books to the Phoenix association, should you wish.

## Volunteers - Acip, as always, needs you!

We cannot achieve all that we offer to members without the help of our many volunteers who give their skills, effort and time to the association. We hope that you will continue to support the association by sharing your ideas, knowledge, skills and time and by:

- coming along to our events and groups
- acting as Group Leaders
- helping to organise ACIP events and activities
- translating into French and Dutch
- providing technical computing and administrative support
- maintaining and improving our venue, Le Bastion

If you think you can help out in any way, please contact Jenny West at [jennyjones@spiralllearning.co.uk](mailto:jennyjones@spiralllearning.co.uk)



## Committee changes

Paul Cope has recently been co-opted onto the Committee. He will take on the role of Membership Secretary, helped by Alec Robshaw. For all membership enquiries please contact Paul at [calimoncope@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:calimoncope@yahoo.co.uk)

We thank John Pretty for his ideas on ways to improve our membership administration and for the hard work he has put into this role over the last year.

## Our Sponsors

Our list of sponsors continues to grow with Couleurs Café and Batir en Perigord being our newest additions.



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**FOR MEMBERS ACIP : SPECIAL BENEFITS**

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- See ACIP's email about Couleurs CAFE for all details
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Thank you once again to all our sponsors whose adverts appear throughout Entre Nous and whose support and financial contributions help to make ACIP such a success.

# *Enjoy the coming Acip year!*

*from the ACIP Committee, September 2014.*

*Dates for your diary follow on the next page*

# DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- September 14<sup>th</sup>** Treasure Hunt in Le Bugue  
**September 25<sup>th</sup>** Social evening with finger food and a harvest theme at Le Bastion  
**October 24<sup>th</sup>** AGM with social  
**November 20<sup>th</sup>** Social evening with a meal – theme and venue to be confirmed  
**November 30<sup>th</sup>** Annual Vide Grenier at Les Eyzies  
**December 13<sup>th</sup>** Christmas Medieval Social and Supper with entertainment at Le Bastion  
All members are invited for social drinks, nibbles and entertainment. Places for supper afterwards are limited to 60.  
**January 15<sup>th</sup>** New Year's Social at Le Bastion

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(Annick Ducher, Le traiteur d'ACIP)



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