



ENTRE NOUS!

ACIP News update – January 2015

We hope your Christmas and New Year celebrations went well. A warm welcome to our new members and a very happy, peaceful and healthy New Year to all ACIP members.

It is tragic that the year began with such appalling acts of terror in Paris. Our thoughts go out to all the families affected at this time of loss and grief. The international outpouring of support and solidarity for democratic values, unity and peace is truly phenomenal and, as an international organisation ourselves,... ACIP est Charlie!

Le Bastion



We are now one year into our tenancy of Le Bastion - ACIP's superb new home. With the refurbishment we undertook and the recent improvements carried out by ACIP volunteers we have transformed the room to meet our many and varying needs. Since moving in, we have purchased additional chairs, new tables, a sideboard and two counter-top electric ovens. New fans with lighting, a music system and a large drop-down screen for films and presentations have been installed. We are setting up a small office area which will soon have a dedicated ACIP internet connection.

Le Bastion now gives us a spacious, comfortable, flexible and rather spectacular space for group activities, social events and drop-in sessions. Above all, Le Bastion has a welcoming relaxed atmosphere – a place to meet, greet, learn, chill out and of course have fun.

We celebrated this anniversary in true Happy Birthday fashion at our first social evening of 2015 on January 15th.

Website

We are almost ready to relaunch our website in English, French and now in Dutch using a new web host **one.com** Huge thanks are due to Alec Robshaw and to Leo Drughorn who have made this possible with their technical expertise and with the hours of work they have put in. Thanks are also due to our French and Dutch translators. Updating the site will be simpler and more efficient and will save us money in hosting fees. Our new webmaster is Alec Robshaw. Please contact him if you have any queries or comments on the site at Alec.Robshaw@orange.fr

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Financial matters



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

SOCIAL EVENTS

The Treasure Hunt

Forty one members of ACIP and their friends took to the streets of Le Bugue in September to participate in a Treasure Hunt designed and organised so brilliantly by Paul Cope, our Membership Secretary. Divided into eight teams, the contestants walked four different routes around the town to find answers to fifty intriguing questions. The sun shone hot throughout the day so regular coffee breaks at Le Bastion provided welcome relief to the weary hunters. At the end of the competition there was a tie for first place between three teams. Three tie break questions later and the first prize (two bottles of Champagne) went to our Dutch members Roy and Wilma Gibson. Congratulations to them! The team in final place will remain nameless to spare their blushes! Following a short award ceremony most contestants made their way to the Vezere Lodge restaurant for dinner and a welcome rest. Everyone had a good great day out and thanks go to Paul and all those who helped make the day such a success.



Coach trips to Bordeaux

We organised two coach trips to Bordeaux last year. The first included a shopping spree at IKEA and the second is remembered by Jane Morris "What a great day out before Xmas, transport arranged, friends to chat with to make the journey short. Last minute present buying, festive brass bands playing in the streets and a glass of wine under the chandeliers of the magnificent Grande Theatre before leaving. Snacks and drinks to enjoy on the way home."

Vide Grenier

As always, the annual Vide Grenier in Les Eyzies was a great success with 45 stalls inside the Halle and a further 8 outside. Many of the stall holders were ACIP members, but a lot were regular "experienced traders" from areas in and around the Dordogne whom we see year after year and who are now always eager to secure a reservation with us. This year we raised around 800 euros for ACIP funds which included a near record contribution of 400 euros from the catering effort. As an annual attraction we are always given lots of help and encouragement from the Marie and all its staff. Thank you so much to all those members who helped to make the day such a success by setting up tables, baking, making and serving the delicious refreshments, clearing up at the end of the day. Special thanks are due to the following: Alan Reeves – organiser, Lycette Hoogendyke - reservations coordinator, Paul and Julie Cope - signage/printing and general assistance, Annie Robshaw and her team - catering organiser.

The 2015 event is already booked for Sunday, November 29th. A notice will be sent to members on October 1st and bookings for stalls will be accepted on and after this date.

A Medieval Christmas



This year 60 members joined us for a medieval celebration on December 13th. We made shields and banners to transform Le Bastion into a medieval banquet hall, dressed up as kings, queens, lords, ladies knights, wenches serfs and jesters. We cooked, served and tasted authentic medieval food, enjoyed some wonderful music of the time and were entertained in traditional and in comic fashion. A memorable evening! Special thanks are due to the organising team – Jenny West, Gwyneth Green, Christine Dumaux and Paul Maburn and to everyone else who made this event possible. Please take time to look at the medieval history display featuring Eleanor of Aquitaine, Henry II and Richard the Lion Heart.



Group News



This has been a successful year for groups with new groups starting and many carrying on over the summer. Following successful trial sessions before Christmas we have two new groups running this year:

The folk/traditional music club will be running on the first Thursday of the month following an extremely well attended and very entertaining first meeting. It never ceases to amaze what fantastic talent we have in ACIP. Well done to everyone who participated and to Roger Spencer who is the organiser.

Meditation will run on a weekly basis from March on Wednesday afternoons. It is run by Elke Tyczka who can be contacted at - elkebtyczka@gmail.com.

We also have two more groups in the pipeline but more about them when details are finalised so watch this space!

Choir Thank you to the members of the choir who made up our medieval troubadours and to Tony Baden who made it possible. There will be no choir for the foreseeable future in Chrissie Anderson's absence, but we hope that Chrissie will resume as choir leader when she can. She is much missed.

Beginners English This group is looking for new students, so if you know anyone who may be interested, please ask them to contact - jill.lawrence-burke@orange.fr.

With so much commitment and success it is regretful that one issue threatens some of our groups. It is that the number of people attending some groups fluctuates significantly one week to the next. This can be disheartening for group leaders and other members attending. Sporadic attendance makes planning and progression (in the case of language classes in particular) difficult and unfortunately a couple of groups have had to be suspended because of this. We would ask that if you sign up to a group you make an effort to attend on a regular basis and that when, or if, you are unable to attend you let your group leader know in good time. Thank you.

All our groups are listed on the web site with full details of meeting times and contact information. The Calendar shows our weekly and monthly group sessions and social activities. You can also contact our Group Co-ordinator, Gwyneth Green, on gwynethverte@aol.com



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 acip24@orange.fr

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.



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Enjoy the coming ACIP year!

from the ACIP Committee, January 2015.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

February	Social at Le Bastion. Please bring food to share.
April 26th	Concert Gourmand at Audrix
April 29th	Concert, Cadouin
May 2nd	Concert, Le Bugue
November 29th	Vide Grenier, Les Eyzies.

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