

Entre Nous - Winter 2016-17

Happy New Year, everyone...

2016 has certainly been a busy and interesting year, one which saw ACIP achieve a record membership comprising 14 different nationalities. Our aim, as always, is to provide a warm welcome to newcomers to the region and a friendly society for those already here, so let's celebrate the year just gone with a quick review of events:

We enjoyed a thrilling Brazilian-hosted Olympics over the summer and saw the UK electorate vote to exit the EU, whilst Americans returned their most controversial President elect in living memory. France hosted the European Cup football tournament (losing to Portugal in the final) and François Hollande decided not to try for a second term. The wearing of a Burkini was banned in Cannes and the COP21 agreement on Climate Change was ratified in Paris by all signatory nations, including the USA and China. It was the 400th anniversary of the death of William Shakespeare, the same year that saw Bob Dylan win the Nobel prize for literature and a lock of John Lennon's hair sold for €35,000 in Dallas, Texas. The USA also celebrated 75 years since the attack on Pearl Harbour and the famous Route 66 enjoyed its 90th birthday.

Alphabet (Google's parent company) surpassed Apple as the world's most valuable company and Oxfam reported that the world's 62 richest people were as wealthy as half the world's population (with Bill Gates still at no.1). Google's DeepMind artificial intelligence program AlphaGo beat a South Korean grandmaster GO player 4-1 and Chinese archeologists found the earliest use of barley to make beer dating back to 3400 – 2900BC; meanwhile UNESCO added Belgian beer to its cultural heritage list.

Pranav Dhanawade became the first batsman to ever score 1000 runs in a single innings in cricket when the 15 year-old Mumbai schoolboy scored 1009 not out, and Andy Murray was named sportsman of the year whilst Chris Froome won the Tour de France. 2016 was also the year that scientists discovered gravitational waves and the first ever flower was grown in space - a Zinnia aboard the International Space Station, from whence astronauts Scott Kelly (USA) and Mickhail Kornienko (Russia) returned to earth after 340 days (an ISS record). Ukraine won the Eurovision song contest, Pokémon GO became a worldwide phenomenon and Amazon began making deliveries by drone. Meanwhile, eight museum workers from the Egyptian Museum in Cairo were referred for prosecution for reattaching Tutankhamun's beard with inappropriate glue.

So, there you go - another year passed - which only leaves us to wish you all a wonderful, healthy and interesting year to come. We hope you enjoy this issue of Entre Nous and very much look forward to seeing you at some of the many welcoming events we hope to host over the coming year. Don't forget to visit www.acip24.com for more details...

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ACIP key facts

- Founded in 2003
- 260+ members
- 14 different nationalities
- €25 per annum membership

Members' contributions & news items - I

Dear Members — With such a diverse, well-travelled and inspiring membership we hope that you find the following contributions of interest. If you yourself have a story you would like to tell, then please let me know - webmaster@acip24.com

David & Jeannie Walker -

Having enjoyed a somewhat peripatetic lifestyle in some rather unusual places, the probability in 1991 of a small war breaking out about 400km away from where they lived in Bahrain somewhat crystallized David & Jeannie's thoughts regarding a possible bolt-hole, with a view to eventual retirement. Knowing that some of the Hong Kong diaspora had chosen the Dordogne as an attractive destination, Jeannie also found that the scenery reminded her of her native Pennsylvania so they bought an old fermette with acres of land to accommodate Jeannie's Arab horse, this in the small hamlet of St. Geyrac, near Perigueux. In 2004 it was time to retire so they marshaled their belongings and installed themselves permanently.

Over time they increasingly participated in local activities to become a functional part of the village structure, with duties including running the buvette at their local fête and involvement in the Comité des Fêtes, amongst other things. It thus became apparent to the commune that they were here to stay and their French language skills progressed to a level where a conversation of sorts could ensue. At this point the mayor decided to invite David to join his list of potential "Conseillers Municipaux" only for him to be voted in by the commune at the 2014 election.

Each commune requires Conseillers to have a "mai" erected on their property, this being an eight metre flagpole designed to indicate where, in times gone by, a local resident could solicit advice or make complaint. The Conseil decided (under the not inconsiderable influence of their former schoolmistress) that David's "mai" should also include the Union Flag and the Cross of St.George, in addition to the usual Tricolour, which were duly presented by their French friends for the topping ceremony. Virtually the whole of St.Geyrac arrived for the event, partly out of curiosity as some hadn't yet seen their house but also a desire to enjoy some of the "Pudding Anglais" that they were happy to provide.





Nowadays, in addition to regular committee meetings, David is the communes' representative on the SDE24 organisation whose function has been to remove St.Geyrac from the 'pole' position (sorry) of being one of the smallest communes with the longest run of overhead bare electric cables, some dating from 1955. This objective having been largely achieved, the position currently involves discussions with the Syndicat Mixte Numerique Perigord to implement the introduction of fibre-optic links across the commune, whilst the recent conversion of a commune building into the new Mairie / eco-centre meant that David was given the task of overseeing the installation of a new eco-friendly fosse septique!

Greatness at last!

Members' contributions & news items - 2

Sue Gordon -

It was 1994 when active member Sue Gordon arrived in Calais, having traversed La Manche from Dover (via Ramsgate) in a **Tjalk** (an Apple Cheeked Barge) with her sadly departed husband Tony. They spent their first winter in Cambrai (Hautes de France) – a place perhaps best known for the WWI battles where tanks were extensively deployed for the first time – before departing in late April '95 to work their way

down to Roanne via the Canal du Centre (very busy), canal du Marne et Soane (very rural) and then into the Roanne / Digoin Canal to finally moor up in the basin at Roanne.

Sue reports that they were the first barge to arrive there so facilities were spartan, although the town was very welcoming. The basin had originally been designed for coal barges from Monceau les Mines but nowadays it is a Port de Plaisance with over 100 barges moored there permanently. It would be good to think that she started a trend but in any event Sue says that it was a wonderful way to travel as it was very relaxing, stopping almost anywhere you wanted and meeting lots of like-minded people.



The wildlife and scenery were wonderful, especially the buzzards that would follow the barge hoping for a fish to get caught in the propeller, and mooring up in the evening they would get out the BBQ, sit down with a glass of wine and enjoy the peace and quiet. Sue says she was very sorry to sell up when her husband decided to buy a steam launch instead – from the sublime to the ridiculous, she says – and although she misses a life on the water that heralded their arrival in France she now enjoys a more anchored lifestyle in Belves.

A Christmas drop-in...

As a personal initiative, Jane Morris decided to open the doors at Le Bastion on Christmas Day to welcome and gather together anyone who perhaps didn't have the benefit of family around them during this festive time. However, as there were just ten people Jane & David decided to host the event at their own home, with ACIP providing a few bottles of Christmas cheer and participants bringing along a nice selection of treats to be enjoyed by all.

They met up at around 1 p.m. and shared chatter and lunch around the table, which was a nice introduction to one recent and two very new members to get to know each other - a lovely "ACIP family" way to spend Christmas day. Thanks go to both David and Jane for their immense kindness and consideration of others at this family-oriented time of year.

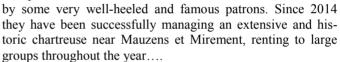
Members' stories & news items - 3

Paul & Jennifer Lowther –

Paul Lowther first met his future wife Jen in Antigua (British West Indies) where he reports that relations were not as friendly as when they met again in St Barts on New Year's Day 1997, alcohol allegedly influencing better communications! Over the following eight years they acted as Skipper and Chef / Mate on a variety of fleet and privately owned yachts throughout the Caribbean. They thoroughly enjoyed the clear waters and idyllic life, especially when no clients were aboard and they could enjoy some snorkelling before watching the sun go down.



Alas, all things must pass and for family reasons they left to manage a succession of properties using the skills they had acquired, these in mainland Europe and the UK and owned



...but their dream is to complete the construction of their 60ft motor boat so that they can cruise the waterways and European coastlines. The boat has been lovingly christened 'Acushla' which, in Gaelic, means 'dear heart'. However, as in life, its completion has met with a number of setbacks, the latest being the bankruptcy of the constructor where they say it took some fancy manoeuvrings to retain ownership and get her moved to another yard.





Thus their dreams remain intact and in the meantime they are thoroughly enjoying their life here in the Dordogne amongst their new-found ACIP and local French friends.

To read more about some of Paul's recollections of his days in Antigua, please take a look at the following article that he sent along:

http://acip24.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/01/Antigua.pdf



Members' stories & news items - 4

Nadia Graves -

It was a request for cakes to support the ACIP refreshment stall at our recent Vide Grenier that provided new member Nadia Graves with an opportunity to show off her talents by providing us with some superb confections. Now widely travelled, Nadia was raised in Cape Town by her French mother and French / Italian grandmother whose love for cooking instilled in her a passion for food. And so, despite qualifying as a chartered accountant she left for Paris in her mid-twenties to attend several courses at Le Cordon Bleu institute. Moving around France, London and Denmark broadened her knowledge of food and whilst living in Denmark she started teaching cookery lessons from home to other ex-pats. Her husband's job then took them off to Los Angeles in the late 90's and fast forward 15 years she divorced, met her current (reportedly wonderful) husband Stuart and married him two years ago in January 2015.



As sometimes happens in life, whilst browsing the internet they saw their future home 'Travers' for sale in Journiac and made the leap, despite still being in their early fifties. Nadia calls it a "coup de foudre" by cleaving to her life philosophy of 'follow your passion and do it now' so they sold up in Los Angeles and moved here in June 2015. Although she knew the Dordogne a little from having holidayed here as a child they have since fallen in love with this gorgeous, rural part of France – the fact that it is also known as one of the best food regions in the world was also of no small benefit!

They say that they could not be happier and for anyone who loves food and wine, cooking, eating and sharing these passions with others, this was a dream come true. Nadia now teaches cooking, mainly to English speaking holiday makers and ex-pats living in France (although she can also teach in French) and maintains a cooking blog (see https://maisontravers.wordpress.com/).



50's / 60's social evening - 24th June 2016

Rebekah Calland, having thought that a social with a 50s/60s theme would 'go with a swing' for ACIP members, volunteered to get on and organise it for us. Our member John Miller, the owner of one of the most extensive music collections on record (!) agreed to put together a play list of our musical favourites from a period when many among us were in our early or later teenage years.





Salle Eugène le Roy was decorated according to the period, with vintage clothing, 78s, LPs and singles, guitars, posters featuring the icons of the time - from Twiggy to The Beatles, Citroen 2CVs and VW Beetles and stars of the era with fans all dressed à la mode! Many members (and guests) really entered into the spirit of the evening, coming in their own costumes of the time – it was a great chance to give some of our treasures an 'airing' before the moths demolish them!

The bar supplied plenty of refreshment to accompany the food offerings which everybody brought to share together and we all enjoyed a really varied feast before venturing onto the dance floor to jive, twist and generally get it together with Chuck Berry, Little Richard, Bill Haley, Elvis, Cliff, Dusty, The Beatles, Buddy Holly, etc.



What a great idea – great decor, great music, great food, great company, great fun – altogether a superb event, so 'Thank You Rebekah - Rock an' Roll Baby'.....

Robert Bereton

Summer BBQ - 10th July 2016



On a lovely hot Summer's day what could be better than sitting under the shade of towering trees, drinking wine (supplied by ACIP) and eating a variety of foods contributed by everyone who came along - not a lot!





The meat and fish was freshly cooked by our expert chefs Joel Gendre and Andre De Wandeler whilst everyone enjoyed passing the time with friends, both old and new. Another successful event with a major contribution from Joel and Andre – thank you both very much for bringing along and manning your BBQs for our benefit!



Spanish themed Tapas evening - 2nd September 2016

Offering a change of nationality and mood, our Spanish themed tapas evening was very successful - in fact we had so many there it was almost too successful. A laminate floor board was bought especially for use by the two Spanish dancers and after a delicious tapas buffet provided by specialist caterers from Sarlat (organized by Annelies Rees) we were treated to a demonstration of flamenco dancing by Dominique Dogneton (a member) and her friend who had traveled a distance to dance for us.

Sadly, Dominique has now moved away from the area but their display was magnificent. Bryony Marshall made up an authentic sangria whilst Jane Morris decorated the room with Spanish dresses and fans. The Flamenco music added further flavour to a fine and festive evening, enjoyed by everyone except perhaps the downstairs neighbours! Maybe next time the numbers will prompt us to use a much larger venue...

Jane Morris







Halloween Social - 28th October 2016

On a cold, dark autumn night the Salle Eugène Le Roy in Le Bugue was transformed into a pumpkin- and spider-festooned, dimly lit cavern made suitable for hosting ACIP's Halloween themed social.

Forty-two diners gathered after nightfall to partake of a hearty meal, amid convivial company, before taking flight before the stroke of midnight. ACIP member John Miller provided music for the feasting and our trusty cellar keeper Annelies Rhee distributed thirst quenching potions. The four course feast (prepared and served by traiteurs Chapoulie from Les Eyzies) was highly appreciated and consumed amid much rejoicing. The casting of spells and low flying were forbidden within the hall and the organisers were somewhat disappointed to report that these rules were not broken. Fancy dress was optional but many attendees happily wore Halloween themed costumes, which added to the chilling ambiance of the evening.





It naturally remains to say a gory "Thank you" to Julie Cope, Jenny West, John Miller, Annelies Rhee, Toni Willems, Chapoulie (traiteurs) and members of the support group who all contributed to making the evening a great success.

Paul Cope (seen below right as Dracula himself, putting the bite on his wife Julie!)





Annual Vide Grenier - 27th November:

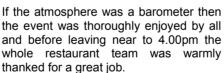
The venue for the 2016 ACIP Vide Grenier moved from Les Eyzies to the Salle Eugene Le Roy in Le Bugue, which provided us with much more space and facilities. Once again, table space was fully booked and as we were blessed with such a beautiful November day many additional stallholders took advantage of the space available outside the venue – including the Dordogne chippie van who reportedly did good business.

The event was an immense success and thanks go to Alan Reeves and his large team of helpers whose efforts were rewarded with such a delightful and enjoyable day.

Christmas Lunch - 17th December 2016

As a change from the normal routine it was decided that this year we would organize the Christmas event in a restaurant, the choice being Brasserie Le Parc in Le Bugue. Many thanks go to Annelies Rhee and Jane Morris for organizing this massively successful event where an excellent menu was negotiated for 25ϵ per person (ϵ 20 for ACIP members), to include a welcoming drink, amuse bouche and coffee to follow.

Over seventy people attended and not only was it a great time to socialise and meet faces new and (perhaps not so) old but we also greeted two new members on the day and are thus very pleased to welcome Jon and Jo Ann Erickson to our association. Annelies, Jane and Jenny West arrived an hour before the event to arrange all the decorations before greeting guests as they arrived, leaving folk to choose their own table before John and Robert made a short welcoming speech.









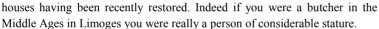


Limoges Coach Trip - 17th December 2016



After early morning pick-ups in Le Bugue and Les Versannes we arrived in the very centre of Limoges opposite the Tourist Information Office at around 10.00am. A coffee stop and maps and brochures in hand we then all took off in different directions to see what we could find.

Founded by the Romans near the capital of the Gaulish people the Lemovices, Limoges has been an important city for 'ages'. We started our tour with a visit to the Butchers' Quarter, a beautifully preserved area of ancient buildings including a charming little chapel, many of the







We visited the Christmas Market and then later the Artisans' Christmas Market where we saw many novel products, some of which just had to be bought! Then on to an Irish Pub where 10 of us lunched together with some happily testing the Guinness. From there, on to the Cathedral and the Bishop's Garden overlooking the surrounding countryside, then down to the medieval bridge from where we watched the rowers before visiting the railway station. Why visit a station? Well the one in Limoges is quite unlike any station I have ever seen before - more like an oriental mosque with the lines way down below in a cutting. Everybody also asks did you 'do' the porcelain factories / museum / shops? Well no - there was not enough time, but we did see one or two interesting things in porcelain as we passed the many interesting shops – ornaments such as animals and birds and light-fittings!

When it was nearly 5.30pm we returned to find the coach and our thoughtful driver Remis patiently waiting for us. After a gentle drive we were back in Le Bugue around 7.30pm, tired but I think it fair to say that everyone had thoroughly enjoyed the trip saying that they will return to Limoges sometime to see the rest of the sites and sights which they missed!

Robert





Group News - I

Bridge Tournament -

As part of our very popular Bridge group, ACIP's first ever bridge tournament was organised in August at Le Bastion by John Kuppens and the tournament director Fons de Jongh. To manage the all-important game timing, Fons built a real time bridge clock via the internet which was severely tested several times during the Thursday event, providing a number of hilarious moments!





Lunch was booked by John at the local restaurant La Renaissance which was included in the $16 \in$ entry fee, as were refreshments at the awards ceremony where there were also small prizes to be won. Tine Koning and Marie José took care of the bar whilst thirty participants played from 09.30 to midday and from $2.00-5.00 \, \mathrm{pm}$, followed by the award ceremony. Congratulations go to the winners Yvonne Blackwood Murray and Wil van der Heijden and the tournament was considered a great success, definitely to be repeated in 2017...

John Kuppens

(Dog) Walking Group -

This popular group, run by Sue Gordon, goes from strength to strength and meets on the first Thursday of each month for an enjoyable ramble along a route selected by a group member. Amongst this happy band are a growing number of dogs, ranging from Jack Russells to Labradors, and all enjoy each other's company and relinquish their leashes as soon as we hit the wooded tracks.





The summer months witness cooling stops at any and all water holes for their refreshment (or immersion) and the picture on the left is testimony to the length's pursued in search for a cooling bath. It shows Andre & Renilde de Wandeler's pet Labrador Charlotte who found a bucket in which to repose and it is a blessing that so many restaurants welcome pets as we all enjoy a good meal to follow the exercise and to water ourselves as well.

If you are interested to join the group then please contact Sue at suegordon1@gmx.com

Short Walk Group -

Not to be outdone, the short-walk group meet weekly (rather than monthly) and undertake a more sedate 4-5km hike in and around Le Bugue.

Organised by Cindy Yeomans-Blagg she can be contacted on dyfer925@gmail.com if you wish to partake.



Group News - 2

New Year's Walk -

In what has now become an annual tradition, a group of 38 hardy souls from Holland, France, England, China, Australia, Canada and America took part in a New Year's Day walk organised by joint-president Robert Brereton. Starting from Limeuil, in temperatures of about 4 degrees, they enjoyed a very pleasant 8km walk along the river and up the hill around this beautiful village. Although they were an international group, it did feel very British to finish the walk with a shared picnic on the riverbank at the confluence of the Dordogne and Vezere rivers!



A really good way to start 2017.

And just in case you are not yet walked-out, here's a heartening tale:

The New Year's Day walk in Limeuil took an unexpected turn when the large group seemed to be separating, rather than walking together as usual. Robert continued with the lead group and Jane Morris went back to discover that Sue Gordon had become separated from her dog Jonty. After some searching they decided that perhaps the dog had gone ahead with the others so Jane phoned the lead group to establish if she was indeed there. Jonty wasn't so Jane and Sue continued to frantically search for her, calling out along the riverside until both of them saw what they thought was her body in the grass but which thankfully turned out to be a black log! Now anxious and increasingly concerned they stopped to calm down and at that very point Jane heard a small bell and realized the dog might be near. No sound was heard for a while, then a faint whimper that suggested that Jonty was somewhere down a steep river bank which was covered in thick brambles. Despite trying to get down it was very dangerous and they couldn't see the river edge, or the dog, so eventually Sue went for help to a nearby gite and some young French holiday-makers came to assist. Jonty then started to bark, revealing her location, and two of the girls insisted they stand back whilst they lowered themselves through the brambles using some hosepipe to discover that Jonty had fallen in a hole. They rescued her and returned her to safety, one poor girl becoming cut and muddied in



the process. They were complete Angels and sadly didn't leave their names, but if they had not stopped by that deceiving log Jonty would never have been found. As a much-relieved Sue said later, she was literally 'saved by the bell'!

So you want to speak English?

We are currently running two vibrant English classes and both have spare places for those who may be interested to join. The classes are focused, friendly and fun, with learning through conversation and articles. Exercises with gentle grammar input are also provided to help with pronunciation, where needed.

Our Tuesday class, lead by Bryony Marshall, is for beginners and those with some basic knowledge of English. You will learn to communicate with confidence in everyday situations. The class will resume after the extended Christmas break on Tuesday evenings from the first week in February. Starting at 6.30 until around 8.00pm, Bryony hopes to go back to the beginning of the course, so newcomers are welcome. The rough outline of the course is over 15 weeks, covering greetings, home & garden, directions, shopping and travel, etc, and uses a mixture of vocabulary learning, crosswords, games, exercises and conversation. Explanations are in English and French and if you are interested in joining, please contact Bryony Marshall on: bryonydelacym@hotmail.com

Our Wednesday class is run by Jenny West and is for those with a good knowledge of English. You may be rusty, lack confidence or may simply want to continue to improve so you can hold conversations with English speakers.

Bryony and Jenny are both qualified, experienced teachers with a passion for language. 'Practice makes perfect' and ACIP activities and social events offer excellent opportunities to engage with native speakers and practise your spoken English in a variety of informal situations. Please contact Jenny West on jennyjonesspirallearning@gmail.com if you would like to join a class or if you know someone else (perhaps not yet a member) who might be interested.

Inside ACIP

Le Bastion update -

Our comfortable, historic premises in the centre of Le Bugue continues to benefit from year-round improvements and attention, with the major commissioning of a new stair lift in March being but one example of the work done by our volunteer membership. A new storage area (accessed via the wash room) has also been added to de-clutter the main function room and a group of willing helpers recently had a further clear-out to keep things tidy. A new stair carpet will soon be fitted, once attention is paid to fireproofing the stairwell, and an emergency exit via the storage area is in planning. Finally, bar staffing arrangements have been streamlined such that a rota of committee members will offer their time to supervise during events and socials, which will hopefully maintain a high standard of service to all those who attend.

ACIP library -

Bryony Marshall has taken over the running of the ACIP library and has so far re-sorted the collection of books into alphabetical order, by author, and discarded those volumes that were beyond repair or reader enjoyment. All the Dutch and French collections have been organized onto the bookcase on the far left as you come into Le Bastion and a reader review system is being considered, so that people can leave helpful comments for others. We are sadly very short of book space so the more people who would like to borrow books the better. A book record is in place, for stock purposes, and if users could leave their name and the name of the book borrowed, with the date, this would be very helpful. When you return a book, please leave it in the basket provided and it will be returned to the shelves.

If members have any books they would like to donate then Bryony would be very grateful if you would contact her first (instead of just leaving bags or boxes in Le Bastion). She can be reached on 06 38 98 50 51 or by email (bryonydelacym@hotmail.com) and says that we are particularly short of classic literature, so any copies you are no longer reading would be gratefully received.

On a separate note, until recently we had the benefit of a large French dictionary which was regularly used during language classes. This was not meant for 'lending' so if you find yourself mistakenly in possession of this mighty tome, or indeed have copies of language dictionaries that you no longer need, then again please let Bryony know, with thanks.

Christmas Wreath-making session -



Paula Maburn, our gifted stage and set designer, once again organised her popular wreath-making class for members as she has now done for several years. This happy group spent an afternoon making festive swags and wreaths with fresh greenery from their gardens, together with Paula's glorious bows tied in seconds from beautiful ribbon to suit every taste. Having made their own, everyone then worked on decorations for Le Bastion to complement Paula's take on the traditional Xmas tree.



Seasonal music, cake and wine added to the warmth we enjoyed so many thanks once again go to Paula for her gifts and talents shared. (Jenny West).

As with the above and all of our manifold group activities, please take a look at our website at www.acip24.com for full information and also our calendar for their scheduling (https://acip24.com/calendar/)

Inside ACIP: introducing two of our new committee members

Martin & Teresa Crawford -

Martin & Teresa moved permanently to France in July 2011, having spent many happy holidays with their family in the Dordogne - especially around Le Bugue and Bergerac. Teresa has been resident pretty much full time since then although Martin continued to work as a consultant project manager and planner within the UK finance industry until he retired in late June 2015. Teresa was a PA to a surgical professor in the NHS and since moving has continued to offer typing services, mostly to the medical sector. Before leaving the UK they also ran a very successful Inventory business, offering independent inventories for letting properties and now run a successful gite where Martin is currently busy installing a new kitchen, ready for the coming season.



They very much enjoy traveling and apart from regular visits to the UK to see family they try to also visit places as yet unexplored. This coming year will witness a February birthday trip for Teresa to Singapore and Hong Kong followed by what could become regular visits to the south of Spain to escape the worst of the French winter. Then it's off to Sicily in May before the holiday season starts and they will be busy entertaining their guests in Cendrieux.



Apart from that, Martin 'enjoys' taking instruction from Teresa around the garden and they both love reading – Teresa is the leader of the ACIP Book Club that meets once a month at Le Bastion or sometimes at the house of one of the book club regulars. They both participate in the ACIP bowling club and thoroughly enjoy the resulting monthly visits to Sarlat, added to which they now happily spend some time working on their respective roles on the ACIP committee, alongside meeting up with the many friends they have met through the association.

All in all, it is easy to see that they are a very busy couple, enjoying their life here in the Dordogne and getting the most out of their early retirement. We welcome them both to their new committee roles.

Other committee news -

After many years of selfless and diligent service our Treasurer of 8 years Alan Reeves retired his position at the 2016 AGM in October. Gwyneth Green also sadly resigned due to continuing health issues and we wish her every success during her ongoing treatment and hopeful recovery. We are happy to report that Gwyneth will be picking up the reins of SwopShop once again and ACIP owes them both a great debt of gratitude for all their efforts in bringing ACIP to it's current prosperity, although they both happily remain active members. Jane Morris has kindly taken over the Group Leader responsibilities whilst Jenny West looks after the language groups, to share the load a little.

Useful stuff to know

Emergency numbers –

Following a recent crisis with an ACIP member, it is perhaps timely to remind ourselves as to how to deal with an emergency here in France. In the event of any emergency the number to call is **112** (alongside 15 for Ambulance, 17 for Police and 18 for Fire) via any landline or mobile phone. This is a free of charge call and reputedly you don't have to speak French due to the assistance of interpreters who speak 40 languages. However, this was not the case during this recent incident so do not assume that you can make yourself understood without some basic French. The following tips may therefore prove useful. The operator can and will call you back on the number you used to contact them, so it is better to have used a mobile phone, if possible, as this will allow you freedom of movement should this be necessary.

Important tips when calling French emergency services:

- State your name and the location where help is needed, the current situation and how many people require help.
- For those who are deaf or hard of hearing, you can send text messages to 114
- Never hang up until you are told to do so and if the person concerned is known to have medical problems or regularly takes prescription drugs then either make sure you know, or ask someone, and especially get this description in French.
- The age and date of birth of the person is also needed / useful, as is having their carte vital available.
- Try to note or memorise the French translation for the following critical conditions:
 - Heart attack attaque cardiaque / crise cardiaque
 - **Stroke** accident vasculaire cerebral or AVC ('ah vay say')
- A general term by which to express the urgency of the situation is
 - 'j'ai une urgence' or 'j'ai une crise'
- If dealing with intoxications, make sure to inform them of what was taken and, if possible, give them the remainder of what was consumed.

The Fourth Revolution - the new digital age and it's security implications...

Many consider that we now stand on the brink of the fourth industrial revolution. The first saw mankind harness water and steam to create mechanical power whilst the second witnessed the production of electrical power, mass production and the division of labour. The third was the more recent emergence of electronics, automation and Information Technology (IT) and it is the extension of the latter that is leading us to a fast-changing world of cyber and digital technologies that are likely to transform the way we live our lives (and indeed already has).

This particular Newsletter is brought to you via an online delivery service called 'MailChimp' to augment the usual '@acip.24.com' email channel that is used by ACIP to keep in touch with members. The other method of communication is our website at www.acip24.com but sadly all internet-based activity is nowadays subject to criminal and / or malicious activity so security is an increasingly vital issue. All members should remain vigilant to the possibilities of fraud but any mail coming from ACIP should be OK to 'white-list' so that it goes directly into your mailbox, rather than a SPAM folder. Please check your security folders regularly to make sure you do not miss anything.

On a separate note, ACIP is keenly aware of data protection so please feel secure that we will make every effort to ensure that any membership details remain confidential and that they will under no circumstances be used for commercial purposes.

Forthcoming Events:

Friday 27th January – Evening social in Le Bastion from 18.30pm

Friday 24th February – Evening social in Le Bastion from 18.30pm

Friday 31st March — Quiz (organised by Paul Cope)

29th (or 30th) April – 'Tulips in Amsterdam' themed social, Salle

Eugene Le Roy, Le Bugue

Friday 26th May — Evening social in Le Bastion from 18.30pm

Friday 30th June — Evening social in Le Bastion from 18.30pm

Sunday 9th July — Annual BBQ

Friday 28th July — Evening social in Le Bastion from 18.30pm

August – Bridge tournament, Le Bastion

Friday 25th August – Evening social in Le Bastion from 18.30pm

Friday 29th Sept' — Themed social (details to be announced)

Mid-October – Group Leader's luncheon

Friday 27th Oct' – AGM, followed by evening social in Le Bastion

12th (or 19th) Nov' – ACIP Vide Grenier, Salle Eugene le Roy, Le Bugue

Friday 24th Nov' – Evening social in Le Bastion from 18.30pm

Please note that some or all of the above are provisional dates until they are announced in good time by email.

Polite Notice – Please note that for the comfort of the wider membership, no animals are allowed in Le Bastion.

Meet the Sponsors:

Pages dedicated to the local restaurants and artisans who sponsor ACIP's activities:





















Meet the Sponsors - 2

Pages dedicated to the local restaurants and artisans who sponsor ACIP's activities:









SARL COTRABAT

MACONNERIE GENERALE CARRELAGE – VIEILLES PIERRES

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