

Entre Nous - Spring 2016

A warm welcome to all....

That's what we hope to provide through **ACIP** – an association that offers friendship, support and a wide range of activities aimed at integrating international (and domestic) visitors who have decided to come and live in this beautiful region. For a further explanation of ACIP's aims and ambitions please take a look at our recently published summary document that can be downloaded via the following link:

http://acip24.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/04/ACIP-summary.pdf

Our aims are simple and as we have grown, so too have the facilities and the support network that we can offer – most of which is provided freely via the voluntary help of our membership. A big thank you goes to everyone who gives so generously of their time and effort, and of course to the wider membership who support us with their subscriptions and attend our manifold events and group activities. Thanks also go to the local businesses who provide funding to support our ambitions whilst offering discounts for their services, not to mention the Mairie and other local associations, all of whom provide our collective wherewithal. And long may it continue....

We hope you enjoy the new format of our newsletter, which we aim to publish on an irregular basis perhaps two or three times a year, as newsworthiness dictates. As always, we welcome your news items and feedback so please feel free to get in touch with any committee member with your thoughts or ideas - full contact details can be found on the ACIP website at www.acip24.com

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ACIP key facts

- Founded in 2003
- 250+ members
- 11 different nationalities
- €25 per annum membership

Members' News Items

Jane Izzard -

Following the terrible fire that destroyed ACIP member Jane Izzard's home in Le Bugue in early December, Jane has expressed immense gratitude for the kind support that many ACIP members provided during this difficult time. Thanks go to everyone who helped, in whatever capacity, and in due course we hope to lend further 'physical' support as she slowly moves things back into place. Jane was further gratified to receive a cheque for monies collected via an emergency appeal amongst the membership, this being presented to her during our regular monthly soirée in January. We wish her well and hope that the support that ACIP has been able to muster has at least helped to ameliorate her trauma during this difficult time.

Christian Dumaux -

After a visit with their extended family in Paris to celebrate Christian's birthday last October, his daughter presented him with a long-standing dream — a pet pig! The charming Göttingen (a German minipig) has since been christened Serrano and once established in his new home in Le Muscle he was quickly joined by two baby goats, named Vergule and Bouquine, to keep him company. Friends have been waiting for some time now for the pending feast but Christine has firmly declared that they are family members and not for the table, despite her renowned culinary skills....





Beekeeping -

Committee member Alec Robshaw has recently fulfilled his ambition of setting up some new hives and was wondering if there are any fellow beekeepers within the wider membership? If anyone has an interest in this rewarding and challenging hobby, or indeed thinks that a new Activities Group could be formed alongside the many others that ACIP offers, then please let him know (alec.robshaw@orange.fr)

Rebecca Easdale -

Christine Stevenson has been one of Rebecca's teachers for more years than either would like to mention, so it was a great treat when she came out to stay with them and to play at an Arcades' concert in Le Buisson. Christine is very demure until she sits at the piano, then she is another person. After entrancing the audience with Beethoven's Moonlight Sonata, Liszt and lots of Russians, she ended with 'Pictures at An Exhibition' and, in a fitting dramatic climax, played its last chord with her fist as the audience rose to give her a standing ovation.

Her husband is an organist and Arcades arranged for him to try the historic organ in Sarlat Cathedral (pictures right). It is a huge beast but what you don't appreciate from below it is that the space for the organist is so cramped he can barely play! Karl Lutchmayer, another of Rebecca's tutors, is coming out to play in October and, having seen him in action, it is guaranteed that he will be equally spectacular.



Recent Events

ACIP Social with Quiz Night – 30 October 2015



Nearly seventy contestants gathered in Le Bastion to participate in a quiz organised by ACIP member Dan Blagg, this to follow our usual monthly soirée in October. They dispersed into twelve teams to battle their wits as Dan delivered several rounds of questions, in both French and English (well done Dan!). The late evening result declared "The International Brigade" victorious and congratulations go to team members Greta Tow, Jan Nuboer, Michael Burke, Greg Pollak and Paul and Julie Cope.

The runners up were only a few points behind although those collecting the booby prize were – let's just say that there was a significant gap between the scores (their names are withheld to spare blushes, but they know who they are!).

The pictures do little justice to the excellent ambience and good-natured banter enjoyed throughout the evening, the bottom right photo further demonstrating the humility of the victorious team, basking in their glory

A warm thank-you goes to Dan who put in several weeks of preparation for the event and also to his friends Francesco and Hans who, despite not being ACIP members, helped him with translation work and score-

keeping respectively. Feedback indicates that the quiz was a big hit with the members who attended and the committee very much hope to repeat the exercise in due course.

The ACIP Support Group provided staff to run the event and distribute finger food, whilst additional volunteers ran a bar that was certainly kept busy during the evening (the act of recalling facts being thirsty work). Several others arrived early to help set up Le Bastion for the evening so a big thank you is due to all who gave up their time to make it such a success, and of course to all who came along to enjoy the event.





<u>Special event – 27th November EGM and Credit Agricole presentation:</u>

As an interesting supplement to our monthly soirée in Le Bastion, the November event was doubly blessed with both a special meeting to confirm new committee members and hosted by a team from Credit Agricole. The latter provided some delightful snacks and local wines for our delectation followed by a brief presentation that apprised us of some history of the organisation and, of course, what it has to offer expats in the region. As a special offer to ACIP members they now offer a 10% discount on their policies. Should anyone be interested in taking up their offer then please contact Christelle Denys (who speaks excellent English) at Le Bugue branch.

Recent Events 2

ACIP Christmas Dansant - 17th December 2015



Our annual Christmas celebration took the form of a '60s/'70s dance repas where well over seventy trendy ACIP 'beatniks', 'm o d s' a n d 'rockers' gathered to chill out in Salle Eugene Le Roy to



relive those youthful hip decades. The meal – prawn cocktail, beef stroganoff and lemon tart – the live music, dancing, decoration and the psychedelic art work exhibited by Tony Baden were all so evocative of the era.



A Tombola was also organised by James & Shirley Swarsbrick with gifts donated by local businesses and the wider membership, raising 250 euros for our charity Le Croix Rouge. Thank you to them and during the evening we also opened a bene-

fit fund to support our member, Jane Izzard, after the disastrous fire that destroyed her home. Thank you to all those who worked so hard to make this trip down memory lane such a happy success.

Jenny West.



Monthly Performance Group:

The ACIP performance group meets on Wednesday evenings once a month at the Vezere Lodge in Le Bugue to provide an informal atmosphere in which musicians and

Bugue to provide an informal atmosphere in which musicians and other performers of all levels can come and display their talents. To date there has been a wide variety of performances, both group and solo, including country, folk, pop and classical music, as well as poetry readings. Regulars have included Roger & Christine Walter, Ashley Meredith, Eddie & Inger Baud, Tony & Erica Baden, Bryony Marshall and of course Guy Meyer, who with Marie-France have until recently been leading and organising the group. During the sessions, which run from 8pm to 10pm, drinks and light snacks are available so why not come along and have some fun. Anyone interested please contact Roger Walter at roger@theoldchapel.org



Recent Events 3

Spring is in the Air social – 18th March 2016



For our vernal event this year we devised a five-course Spring-inspired dinner, superbly cooked for us by La Porte Verte. Our local Salle Eugene le Roy was transformed with decoration once



again conceived by Paula Maburn, tables radiating from an Eiffel Tower centrepiece alongside wonderfully evocative background music put together by ACIP member John Miller. Sixty five revellers were transported to the 'city of lights' and as someone commented - "what a lovely way to celebrate the start of Spring".

Thanks go to Cindy Yeomans Blagg for loaning her impressionist art work, to Nadia Graves for her delicious canapés and, once again, to Shirley Swarsbrick who ensured the dinner was truly Parisian. A special thank



you is also extended to Jane Morris who prepared and served the after-meal coffees and to the dedicated support troop, organised by Robert Brereton, who did sterling work helping us set up and clear away afterwards. Great fun – thank you all.

Jenny.



Inside ACIP

New stair lift installed -

After an extensive search, ACIP members Alec Robshaw and David Morris took a trip down into the Lot department to purchase a richly patina'd second-hand stair lift that had spent recent years under a large barn hangar. A thorough overhaul and paint job later, the newly renovated Stannah lift became operational in early April and although it does marginally restrict the stair width (noting that the two banister rails are still in place) the chair now provides easy access up and down the stairs for those less able to make the climb. For member safety please respect this facility, for which we are now investigating an annual maintenance contract to ensure ongoing security and peace of mind.

Pictured right is ACIP member Linda Pretty bravely acting as our test pilot and, in true style, donning a crash helmet!



Further improvements to our wonderful facility at Le bastion includes a new secure storage room at the rear (accessible via the toilet area) which was created from a previously unloved and dilapidated area. Sadly, the toilet is the only viable access point and plans are now underway to provide an emergency exit. News and updates will be announced as work progresses.

General maintenance work continues behind the scenes to keep the facilities and furniture in good shape, with thanks going to Roger Green, David Morris, Ton Willems, Christian Dumaux, Alan Reeves and many others for their continued work in keeping the facilities in good order (and apologies to those not mentioned). If you see anything that needs attention or have any suggestions yourselves, or indeed if you can assist in these matters, then please let us know.

Job vacancy - ACIP secretary

Salary and perks:

Not a lot, although you will not get bored! Jenny West, our current Secretary, is stepping down after four years in the role. She will continue as Vice President so will be there to hand over the reins to a well-organised and committed individual who wants to get involved in our exciting association. If you are interested please contact Jenny at admin@acip24.com

Other members of the committee, having served in various roles for a number of years, are also hoping to get a potential replacement involved so that they can take up the role in due course. This includes our Treasurer Alan Reeves and Joint-President Robert Brereton so, once again, if you wish to get involved then please let us know.

Inside ACIP: introducing two of our new committee members

Bryony Marshall

Just a year ago, Simon and I made the momentous move from East Yorkshire to this beautiful region of the Dordogne, having been in the fortunate position of taking early retirement from working lives as a GP and teacher respectively. We'd only been resident in the country a fortnight before we were introduced to ACIP via the walking- and performance-groups, which was a great welcome to life in France!

Not long after that, Robert kindly asked me to join ACIP's committee and I am very pleased to be part of such a fantastic organisation. We offer so much for so many people - it's quite staggering and a great offset to those doomsayers back in England who wondered what I'd do with myself tucked away in the depths of the French countryside.

In addition to walking, singing, going to concerts and socials, I am also pleased to be using my teaching skills, running an English lan-

guage course and indulging my love of literature by running short courses - last year on Shakespeare and this year on 1st world-war poetry.



Annelies Rhee

Whilst still in my early twenties I made the momentous decision to leave Holland to study hotel management and to learn French in Paris. This is where I later met my French partner Thomas, whilst we worked for the hotel group "Accor" for around ten years, but we dreamed of finding a place for ourselves where we could manage our own business and make somewhere to feel like home. In March 2014 we found our little paradise and so we moved from Paris to Le Bugue with our two boys, Maxime (5) and Antoine (2 ½). Hotel Restaurant the Vézère Lodge became our home where we now work and live and enjoy life together.

I joined ACIP as soon as we arrived in Le Bugue but unfortunately, busy building up our business, I didn't had much time to join groups. However, when John approached us to become a sponsor he also mentioned that the Performance Group needed a new home so since last year, every last Wednesday of the month, we host this lively group in our restaurant and have a lot of fun. Last year John also asked me to join the ACIP committee so I am very happy to join the organization and will try to make enough time and to do the best I can for all of the members.



General appeal -

We are sadly lacking support for the ongoing demand in providing translations – mainly from English into French. This is to cover the regular communications between the committee & group leaders to the wider membership, not to mention special events, documentation and of course this Newsletter! The more people who contribute lessens the load and allows a rotation of workload, so If you can help in any way then please let us know via the following email: admin@acip24.com

Polite Notice – Please note that for the comfort of the wider membership, no animals are allowed in Le Bastion (not even Christian's pet pig Serrano!).

Forthcoming Events:



Spring concerts - May 2016

For ACIP's cultural programme during 2016 we have organised a week of classical music concerts to be held in May. The concerts feature the following musicians:



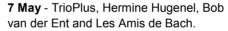
TrioPlus (3 multitalented musicians), **Hermine Hugenel** (mezzo-soprano singer), **Bob van der Ent** (violinist) and **Les Amis de Bach** (a 13 person ensemble). Each concert will have a different programme and the dates of the concerts follow:

1 May Le Bugue – Salle Eugene Le Roy, Le Bugue - TrioPlus, Hermine Hugenel and Bob van der Ent. (this concert includes a four course meal with coffee)

4 May – Le Bugue – Les Amis de Bach

4 May – Le Bugue - Les Amis de Bach.

4 May - Lalinde - TrioPlus and Bob van der Ent.





Full details about each concert (cost, time, venue etc) and the various musicians can be found on our website www.acip24.com under the tab "Forthcoming events" then click on the link "ACIP Concerts 2016".





Clothing sale – Following the kind donation of some excellent clothing from an ACIP member we are holding a special event in Le Bastion on Saturday 14th May to raise money for the local Croix Rouge. If anyone has any spare clothes that could bolster the fund then please let us know.

Email: randrbrereton@wanadoo.fr

Summer BBQ - In the hope that it stops raining at some point, our popular annual BBQ will once again be held in July. There is a possibility that as a change of venue away from the Tennis Club we may be able to enjoy the wonderful ambiance beside the Vezere river, adjacent to the Salle de Fete (just in case the heavens open). Please keep an eye on our website and the pending announcement for full details.

Group News

Walking Group -

The ACIP New Year started well for a number of members, with a two hour walk around Limeuil organised by Robert & Rebekah Brereton:- up through the old village, along the ridge and back down along the river. Around 20 people attended, alongside a variety of well-behaved canine friends, and after the walk we passed the remainder of a beautifully warm and sunny afternoon beside the river. It was there that we enjoyed a wealth of savoury nibbles plus cake, chocolate, the best mulled wine ever, tea, coffee and good company. Altogether, a superb start to the year. This was the second year we have spent New Year's Day like this and the hope is that the tradition will continue, so thank you all who participated for your generous contributions to our shared picnic. Robert.





The latest outing for this active and popular group was organised by Andre De Wandeler for a walk around Berbigueres. This was

once again well attended with about 28 walkers and ACIP member Martine Van Meerbeeck gave an informative talk on some aspects of the local chateaux's history. The whole group then retired to "Les Tilleuls" ferme-auberge in nearby Marnac for an excellent and inexpensive lunch.



A new English Language group has now started, for those with limited English who would like to improve. The course is suitable for anyone with an interest in learning English, whether for travel, business, or just for pleasure. There are still places for anyone who would like to join the class so please contact Bryony Marshall (bryonydelacym@hotmail.com) if you are interested.

Advanced French Conversation

We are looking for another French speaker to share this established group with Marie Lacheze as group leader. This is an hour and a half of conversation around a prearranged topic which is focussed but unstructured i.e. there is no specific slot for grammar, syntax, etc. Although the conversation remains fluid and pertinent, persistent mistakes are corrected and explanations given. The entire session is solely in French and if you are interested in sharing the teaching in this group can you please contact Marie at: hmlacheze@wanadoo.fr

Our **computer group** is due to restart in May under the capable guidance of Tony Willems. Aimed at beginners, the initial proposal is to have the group each 2nd and 4th Monday of the month, although this may change depending on availability in the calendar. Monday 9 May will be the groups' first session and the computer group blog on https://acipblog.wordpress.com will be updated before each session to indicate what subjects will be covered and also where people can leave comments and questions. If you would like to join the group then contact Tony at wsguare@wanadoo.fr

Group News 2

Stage 5 French conversation -

Christian De Roton reports that there were many students at his April meeting - 13 participants and all very applied and well pre-Their pared. "homework" was on the topic of "what are you going to visit in Périgord with your anglophone friends who are coming to the Dordogne for the first time?". As there were many participants we only had time to listen to each editorial, talking about castles, country houses, the 100-year's war and especially restaurants.



We decided that the May meeting would be held exceptionally in my home in Berbiguières, for a discovery walk of the local flora (wild orchids ...) and the village. Attached is a photo of our exhausted group after Wednesday's session. Christian de Roton

Beginners Bridge Group

This group was started in 2015 to lead those interested in learning to play Bridge. As they progress, it is hoped that they can join together with the Bridge Club for social games.

In May a new Bridge beginners / refresher course will start. Places are limited (first come, first served) and a basic knowledge of card games is required. The course will be in English. If you want to participate please send your name, e-mail address and phone number to Eike Willems at wsquare@wanadoo.fr

We are pleased to announce that the Ladies Lunch Group has restarted with Nadia Graves at the helm. She is well qualified to lead the group as she has a serious professional interest in food as well as enjoying dining out. The first meeting was held on Friday 15th of April at Campagne and any interested members need to contact Nadia via email at: nadiakgraves@gmail.com,

Our Gardening Group ran very successfully on a regular basis, often visiting each others gardens and swapping plants and ideas, but it has not been able to operate for a while as we currently have no one to lead the group. There are members waiting to rejoin and ACIP would be here to help anyone willing to run it. If you feel that you could be the new group leader then please contact Gwyneth via email at gwyneth-yerte@aol.com

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/)

Meet the Sponsors:

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







Bar-Restaurant

68 Rue de Paris 24260 Le Bugue





Menhir







Le samedi de 9h30 à 19h00.





JUINOT

Meet the Sponsors

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





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Route de la Gare – 24260 LE BUGUE 06 84 05 10 81 – perezende@orange.fr







BAR de l'UNION PMU - LOTO - TABAC Soírées à thèmes Evelyne SERICOLA

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DESIGN MENUISERIES

PECANY 24260 SAINT CHAMASSY Part : 06 79 81 45 11 - Tel : 05 53 04:00 18 mail : designment or to 24@orange.fr SHRT : 808 800 155 0001 REC QUALITAT

Adresse de notre SHOWROOM : 22, rue de Laboétie – 24260 LE BUGUE