

ENTRE NOUS!

ACIP News update – October 2015

We hope you enjoyed your summer wherever you were and that you met the challenge of those scorching summer weeks we had. A warm welcome to our new members. We trust that the coming ACIP year will be one where we all find activities and events that bring the friendship and joie de vivre we are all aiming for.

AGM

Our annual AGM was held on October 16th in Le Bastion with 59 members attending. Robert Brereton, President, summarised our varied activities for the year, some of which are described in this Entre Nous. We continue to be in a healthy financial position only falling short of our projected budget for 2014-2015 by 40 euros!

Robert and John Kuppens described the Committee's concern that to achieve our objectives we need additional members serving on the committee. We also need to spread the load by establishing a well organised support group of members we can call upon for help with activities and events. A joint presidency was proposed (shared between Robert and John) and was agreed by members. Alan Reeves (Treasurer) and Jenny West (Secretary) were re-elected. Paul Cope (Membership Secretary) and Gwyneth Green (Group Co-ordinator) will continue in their posts. Christine Dumaux will step down as language co-ordinator – a time consuming task which she has lead for three years. We now have a vacancy for Vice President and 4 new nominations for the committee. Robert thanked the committee and volunteers for their help over the year. The meeting was followed by a very jolly social evening.

Spring Concerts



One of ACIP's initials is C for culture! To achieve this aim we are a partner of Arcades who put on regular concerts. We Also completed our first series of three classical concerts in Audrix (with lunch), Cadouin and Le Bugue this Spring. And what a great success they were. The object of the exercise was to bring top quality artists to play in our area at an accessible price, whilst at the same time raising ACIP's cultural profile with the public and with the Mairies of the local communes involved. We certainly achieved this. The internationally acclaimed musicians and singers who performed offered a wonderfully exciting and varied programme from generally lesser known composers. They were supported by Vox Vesunna and our very own Chrissie Anderson. Members of ACIP and La Tulipe, music lovers from the area and even tourists passing by attended. We

were joined by the Conseille Generale, as well as the relevant commune's maire and/or maire-adjointes from whom we received unreserved acclaim. We enjoyed excellent write ups in the Sud-Ouest, and praise and thanks from the Maires of Le Bugue and Audrix.



As you will imagine, a venture such as this was a huge undertaking - 6 months focussed work by John Kuppens, our past Vice-President, helped by a small team of ACIP volunteers in the final weeks. Many thanks go to John and to everyone who helped to make the concerts such a success.

SOCIAL EVENTS

Summer BBQ

We held our annual summer BBQ once again this year in the woods beside the Tennis Club. Delicious meats, salads and desserts were brought to share by the 40 + members attending. To top it all, we were blessed with good weather this year. Thanks go to Joel and Murielle Gendre and to Andre and Renilde de Wandeler for the loan of their BBQs and for their excellent cooking. Thanks are also due to all who helped prepare the site, set up, decorate, serve drinks and clear up afterwards.



Our soirées

We have decided to hold our social evenings on a more regular basis throughout the year. Some of these will be themed. You can drop in to Le Bastion on the last Friday of each month from 6.30 to around 9pm. As usual, you will be able to enjoy a relaxing drink and nibbles among friends. Meanwhile, the income generated by the bar makes a substantial contribution to the rental of Le Bastion and to general ACIP funds.



GROUPS - THE CORE OF WHAT WE DO

We have 25 different group activities running throughout the year. One of our key commitments is to provide French language teaching at a variety of levels. Our Stage 2 group started in September for those with some knowledge of French who want to learn more to handle day-to-day situations with confidence. We aim to keep our language groups to a size where everyone gets the opportunity to speak and this particular group is heavily over-subscribed. We are urgently seeking another Group Leader to run a second Stage 2 group. If you think you can help with this, please email Gwyneth Green on groups@acip24.com

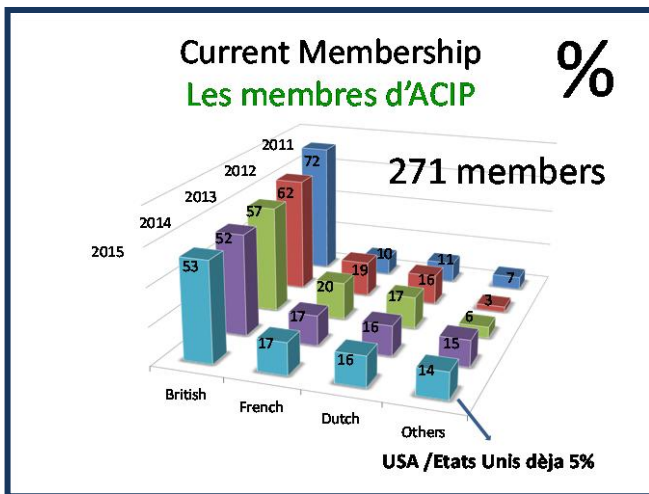
The ACIP Performance Group meets regularly with a varied programme of playing, singing or reciting poetry at the Vezere Lodge, Le Bugue. Contact Marie-France Meyer on mfgmeyer@gmail.com if you would like to attend.

All our groups are listed on the web site (just Google 'acip24.com') 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 groups@acip24.com Gwyneth has recently undergone a significant operation which means that she will not be at ACIP events and activities for a little while. She is nevertheless busy behind the scenes and is prepared to be contacted on email or by telephone. She is much missed and we wish her every good wish for a speedy recovery.

SWOP SHOP

This is a new venture – the brainchild of Gwyneth Green our Groups Co-ordinator. Gwyneth is sending out a monthly list of members' items for sale, for free, wanted or to swap. All you need to do is email Gwyneth groups@acip24.com with a description of your item by the 10th of the month. She will collate all requests and send them out in a monthly email. After that, it is up to you to contact the person who has listed the item you want. Please let Gwyneth know if you are not receiving this list. Please note that Gwyneth will not get involved in any transactions and no commercial items may be advertised. Enjoy swapping via the Swop Shop.

MEMBERSHIP



We have welcomed 57 new members this year. Our numbers (271) and international mix (11 nationalities) continue to grow even though some members have moved on to pastures new. We wish them all the very best. In the diagram you can see our current international make-up and how it has developed over the last few years.

CHANGES TO THE WAY WE EMAIL YOU

As we hope you will now know we are changing the way we email you. As this is the key way we maintain contact with you, we needed to streamline the process, making it more speedy and efficient as well as to spread the communication load across the committee. The change will also mean that we can directly target our French, Dutch and English messages according to your stated language preference. The usual mass emails will come to you using a system called MailChimp. Information about the groups you already belong to will continue to come directly to you from your Group Leader.

The new system will enable a few selected committee members who need to contact you to do so directly. Attachments can be viewed by clicking on a link you will find embedded in the email. Any reply you make will go directly back to the relevant committee member. In future, when you receive a mass ACIP emailing it will come from one of the following addresses:

announcements@acip24.com (Robert Brereton, President)
admin@acip24.com (Jenny West - Secretary)
membership@acip24.com (Paul Cope - Membership Secretary)
groups@acip24.com (Gwyneth Green - Groups Coordinator)

Huge thanks are due to Alec Robshaw for his expert work in making this change possible. As with all new systems there may be a few teething problems. Please let Alec know if you experience any difficulties with the new system.

WEBSITE

After the many hours of work put in by Alec Robshaw and Leo Drughorn in refreshing the ACIP website and transferring it to a new host we recently re-launched it in English, French and Dutch. Once again huge thanks go to everyone involved, including our French and Dutch translators. Alec updates the site regularly and this should be your first port of call for information about ACIP, its aims and its activities, so please add it to your 'favourites'. If you introduce ACIP to new people, please direct them to the website at acip24.com and if you have any queries or comments about the site itself then please contact Alec at webmaster@acip24.com

You will find email addresses for each committee member and for all our group leaders and activities on the site. For specific information, queries or comments please contact the relevant person directly.

PÉRIGORD NOIR IMMOBILIER

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FINANCIAL MATTERS

We continue to enjoy a healthy financial position, boosted by bar takings, a subvention from the Mairie and contributions from our sponsors. As a result we can once again hold the annual subscription at **25 euros** per member for the next financial year. 2015-16 – great value for what is on offer - and make the improvements to Le Bastion we want to make.

OUR AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The Committee has recently been reflecting on its core areas of work and the associated objectives and actions needed to achieve them and we have written this up. This was a useful exercise as it helped us to summarise for you what the Committee, and the volunteers who support us, do and achieve. It has also helped us to prioritise what we can and cannot do. Importantly, it has identified where additional support is needed if we are to achieve what we want to achieve . You can find this summary on the ACIP website under Secretariat.

AS ALWAYS IT IS YOUR HELP THAT MAKES ACIP TICK!

We cannot achieve all that we offer to members without the help of our dedicated Group Leaders and volunteers who give their skills, effort and time to the association. Thank you for your help and we hope that you will be able to continue supporting the association.

The more help we have from members the more we can do. We need volunteers who will:

- act as Group Leaders
- help to organise an ACIP event or activity
- translate into French and Dutch
- clean, maintain and improve our venue, Le Bastion

We will soon be setting up a Support Group of volunteers. If you think YOU could be part of such a group and help out in any way (even if you are only able to give occasional help or are not here all year), please contact Robert Brereton at announcements@acip24.com



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- Bekijk de ACIP e-mails betreffende Couleurs CAFE voor alle details

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DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

November 7 - Bordeaux Coach Trip

November 27 - Soirée, Le Bastion

November 29 - Vide Grenier, Les Eyzies

December 17 - Xmas Dance Repas with a 0s/70s theme, Eugene Le Roy

January 8 - New Year Soirée at Le Bastion



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Enjoy the coming ACIP year!

from the ACIP Committee, October 2015.

Jenny West

Secretary