



## eNEWSLETTER DECEMBER 2019



### Welcome from our President Andrew Easdale

As we approach the New Year, your new multi-national committee will comprise British, Belgian, Dutch and French members. This new team will combine experience, new ideas and diverse international outlooks, ensuring we take ACIP forward with the skills and energy to deliver the very best for our members. This newsletter touches on some key initiatives – but you can also discover more about my ambitions on the [website](#).

### SOCIAL SCENE

Despite bad weather, our Vide Grenier made a good profit. A big thank you to Annelies for her hard work and to all helpers – not forgetting the catering team of Jane, Maddy and Tina. Charity stalls were busy too, so a brilliant result all round.



And the Long Walking Group's November outing was conducted entirely in French – unplanned, but great practice!

**Can you help?** The Pétanque Group is looking for a new leader. Please contact [Jane Morris](#) to volunteer.

And in conclusion, we bring the focus back to our core values of Joie de Vivre and Friendship. The **ACIP Language Tuition Programme** is a key part of encouraging these values. Most classes during 2019 were very well attended, if not over-subscribed, which is very encouraging. We look forward to this successful programme continuing and, indeed, growing in 2020.

**À bientôt** - [The ACIP committee](#)

### LOOKING AFTER OUR MEMBERS

We can report good progress since the AGM:

**The Care & Resource Group** is taking shape; an initiative designed to offer a help network to members with any problems, ranging from health issues to bureaucratic challenges.

**Drop-in on Sundays:** Mandy Williamson will be opening the Bastion on Sunday afternoons, starting 15<sup>th</sup> December.

And thank you to Jane and Lianne, who have assumed responsibility for ensuring we don't run out of essential Bastion supplies such as tea and coffee.

**Being Inclusive:** We are reaching out to French members, which included a recent networking event to which all francophones were invited. Attended by some 20 people, a helpful dialogue was established which enabled us to share concerns, make suggestions and engage.

Everyone involved must now commit to keeping momentum going on this important initiative.

### BASTION BULLETIN

Record membership and our widest-ever cultural menu means the Bastion is coming under pressure. **Can you find an alternative in or close to Le Bugue?** Any new venue must offer a ground floor of over 100 square metres, nearby parking, natural light and exclusive use.

Failing that, we need to decide whether to install a fire escape at the Bastion to increase capacity and adhere to safety requirements, an expensive undertaking on this listed building.