

## ACIP President's Report 2020/2021

This was a year of two halves. In the first half we were still shut down by Covid for all except the smaller outdoor groups and were waiting for our vaccinations, but at last in the second half we have finally been able to meet together safely and even reopen the Bastion. Hurray!

Despite the shutdown our membership numbers have stayed healthy and I thank all of you for supporting us, and helping pay the rent on the Bastion, even when we couldn't offer you much in terms of cultural or social fun.

The July Barbeque was the first time many of us got to see each other in almost two years (and admire new hairstyles!) and it was an excellent event, both the food and the being together again, and we hardly got wet either! Especial thanks go to André and his team for the fine food we enjoyed.

Nearly all our regular groups have now restarted and, as usual, the French language classes are already full with fifty five members and if any French speaking volunteers would like to step forward to lead a class we have a waiting list that could fill another class easily! The best cultural bridge is being able to communicate with one another!

We have one new group. Petanque has started up on Wednesday evenings at 18.00. Email Evelyn to join in the fun. [evelyn.kaplan@gmail.com](mailto:evelyn.kaplan@gmail.com). Yoga will restart if a group leader comes forward.

Looking forward, we will hold our final social at the Bastion on the evening of Friday November 26<sup>th</sup> and our ACIP Christmas lunch will again be held in Campagne on Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> December. Further details will be sent out nearer the time but save the dates!

We will move from the Bastion to the new modern clubhouse in the former Mairie building in le Buisson at the end of this year. We will open the new clubhouse in Le Buisson with a special social and celebration of the Galettes des Rois on the evening of Friday January 7<sup>th</sup> 2022.

Unfortunately ACIP has lost several friends this year. Our Secretary, Paul Cope, has had to stand down as a result of ill health, Martin Crawford, our Treasurer, has moved back to England, and Jane Morris, our invaluable helper and organiser, has also stepped down. We all owe each of them a huge debt of gratitude for their selfless service to ACIP.

I would like to thank the whole committee – André, Martin, Alec, Maddy, Martine and Julie - and the Support Team – of Lianne and Simon - for all their hard work in making ACIP a success.

We need volunteers please to help share the load. If you have a desire to do something useful then please put yourself forward, we need all the help we can get. There are three vacancies on the committee now and we always need support. Your ACIP needs you!

I therefore recommend that you vote to re-elect me as President, André as Vice President and elect Alec Robshaw, a long serving committee member, to be our new Secretary, and Shona Wisedale, to become our new Treasurer. Thank you.

Andrew Easdale, President