

Newsletter

March 2010

www.bordeauxbritish.com



WEBSITE VERSION of NEWSLETTER *(without photos / names, contact details)*

We have a lot of activities planned for the next months, see below and come and join us. Also we hope you find the following event reports and other information interesting. Your committee is working to create new and better events, please let us have your comments and/or contribution.

Upcoming BBC Events

Oysters/Lunch/Walk Bassin d'Arcachon Friday 5th March

Start the walking season early, with apologies to those who may be unable to join us on a week day ! – Out of season an indoor lunch is preferable to a picnic, this becomes rather expensive at the weekend, also the oyster museum is only open during the week.

Three events are planned :

- 11am Oyster museum visit (Maison de l'Huitre) Port de Larros (Gujon-Mestras), a guided tour plus film in English. Cost 3 – 4.50 Euros - depending on numbers. Note, prompt 11am start - please arrive by 10.50 !
- 12.30 Lunch at Restaurant la Marine, Price to be negotiated when we know numbers, but Formule (2 courses) with fresh fish (excellent) costs just under 10 Euros, so hopefully we can get some extras for a similar price.
- 2pm Leave restaurant for our walk, going west along the edge of the Bassin, through some fascinating Oyster fishing ports, and nature reserves finishing at the pretty port of La Hume. The total walk (there and back) will be around 11 Km (allow 3.5 hours) it is flat and should be dry, but allow for sandy paths Cost Free !

Directions

From Bordeaux take A63, then A660 towards Arcachon. At first roundabout turn right on RN250 past HyperU, and continue north crossing the D650, following signs to Port de Larros, crossing the railway just before you reach the port, where there is ample street/quay parking around the restaurant and museum.

Lunch + Chateau Tour (Medoc) Tuesday 16th March

Chateau Beycheville is on the D2 between Cussac and St Julien de Beycheville.

The meeting time at the Chateau Beycheville for an English speaking tour of the chais will be 10.45 am, to allow those using the Blaye/Lamarque ferry to arrive (leaves Blaye at 10 am). The charge for the visit will be 3 euros. We will buy the wine at the Chateau and do a tasting at the restaurant.

The lunch at the Boule d'Or at Moulis will be 12.30. Please choose from the following menu choices:

- Feuilleté de chevre ..or..Salade Landaise (gesiers, lardons, croutons)
- aiguillette de canard sauce chef..or..escaloppe de saumon+sauce legumes
- tarte au citron meringuée (home made)..or..omelette Norwegienne
- coffee
- Vin rouge Granin Lagravette Moulis 2001 + white wine....1 bottle between 3 people.

Price 17.00 euros.

The Boule d'Or is on the D5, opposite the Mairie and a big car park.

Please make your booking by 10th March, along with your choice of menu, the earlier the better !!!

If you would like to play golf at Margaux after lunch please contact Pat Sanderson

St. Patrick's Day Party Friday 19th March

Many will remember the most successful St. Patrick's celebration two years ago, help us make this year's even better ! Mike and Mary Pratt have once more offered to host this, but at their new house at 8 Rue Emile Zola, 33000 Bordeaux. The party will be from 17.30 onwards. Please wear something green and bring a dish of something to share. Red wine will be provided, but if you want an alternative please bring it too. Parking is very difficult so using the tram/bus is a good idea.

Please book with numbers and what you would be bringing by 17th

BBC Golf day at Cameyrac Thursday 25th March

The BBC golf season starts this month, please note also the possibility of playing on 16th March at Margaux (see above). Our group caters for all abilities, and is especially keen to welcome new members, also non golfers who may enjoy walking round (offering encouragement !) and also enjoying the normally excellent clubhouse lunches.

Our next golf day will be on 22nd April at Langdon

Children's Easter Party Saturday 10th April

This is being organised by Jenny Montagu and Catherine Alexander and will take place from 2.30 to

There will be Easter Hat making, an Easter egg hunt and games followed by a party tea. Parents are welcome to stay or drop their children off and go to Paulliac nearby, or take a walk or cycle ride around here (we can give maps) A downstairs room will be available for any adult wanting tea/coffee or just to sit and chat.

If anybody out there can provide ribbons or scraps of material for the hats they would be welcome.

Please let us know numbers as soon as possible so we can start planning. If numbers allow we'd welcome the friends of children coming.

Walk and Picnic : Moulis-en-Médoc Sunday 11th April

Meeting at 10am sharp, we will mostly be walking through the vineyards around Moulis-en-Médoc. The walk is 11.5 km long and takes approx. 3 hours to complete. As usual many short cuts are possible for those who feel the walk is too long. Bring a picnic and a bottle of wine for after the walk.

The meeting point is the "moulin de Tiquetorte", 2 km south-east of Moulis, which is also the suggested picnic spot.

From Bordeaux take exit 7 or 8 from the Rocade towards Castelnau on the D1215 (previously known as N215). Follow the D1215 until the village of Bouqueyran, a few kilometers after the Castelnau by-pass, and turn right towards Moulis. On reaching Moulis take the first turn to the right towards "le petit-Poujeaux" and the "moulin de Tiquetorte".

For those who are familiar with "Les grands vignobles pas à pas" by Jean-Pierre Xiradakis & Alain Aviotte refer to the walk on page 37.

Whats on and Where

Concerts en balade. Always on Sundays at 11.00. A very different way to discover classical music. Performing at these concerts are the artists of the ONBA plus guest players. ONLY €6 !! Here are the dates: Feb 2nd, March 7th, April 4th, May 2nd, June 6th

Holiday on Ice 12 –14 March: Seats from €39 - €68 at Patinoire Mériadeck.

Roberto ALAGNA (brilliant tenor) 24 April at 20.30 at Patinoire Mériadeck.

Stages & Ateliers : until 30th June, the Jardin Botannique in Bastide will teach you how to recognize the weeds of this area and how they interact with their environment.

Useful Websites All the above info and tons more can be found on the following sites :

www.bordeaux.sortir.eu

www.bordeaux-tourisme.com

www.lepingalant.com

www.BilletReduc.com/Billetterie Site that sells all tickets with up to 80% reduction

www.euroteam.net Another site for " tickets on line"

www.Abacart.com Dîner spectacles in Bordeaux

www.box.fr A great site for info on entertainment

Traffic Free Sunday I wonder if some of us are aware that the first Sunday of the month is car free from 10.00 till 18.00. The centre of town, after being cordoned off, is then dedicated to bicycles and pedestrians. Details can be found on the Bordeaux website.

Casino Plus Have you heard of the Casino Barrière ??? Of course it is a casino with gambling tables, one arm bandits etc ... but it is a resto too and a theatre. It is located in BX Nord in the hotel area. They offer concerts (TH 18 March at 8.30 p.m./ 15 €), operettas (La Périchole SUN 4 April at 3 p.m./ 35 €), African dances, Ciné concerts, Abba fever etc ... to name but a few.

Great Wine Have you ever wanted to taste great (prohibitively expensive and out of reach) wines like Chateau Cheval Blanc, Chateau Ausone or St Julien Beychevelle ??? Now you can. Max Wine Gallery, 14 Cours de l'Intendance offers just that. You buy a card for 25,50 or 75€ and it gets debited as you drink your choice wine. Brilliant idea for visitors or even for ourselves !!!! Info on: www.maxbordeaux.com

Church Services in English

These are held every Sunday morning in March at 10.30 in the Chapelle de l'Assomption, 370 boulevard Président Wilson. For further details, see monthly Newsletter and **Chaplaincy of Aquitaine** web-site: www.chapaq.org

Info of Interest

Bordeaux Buses : Spring Changes

In order to better tie in the buses with the trams, some major changes have been made in Bordeaux bus routes and numbers, and frequencies increased. Basically, instead of buses and trams running into the city like the spokes of a wheel, some long bus routes will run across the suburbs, linking the tram routes as they go. An example is Route 34, from Mérignac to Pessac, Talence and Bègles. Some routes called "Flexo" are even on call by 'phone ! Changes took effect on 22 February and can be seen on www.infotbc.com as well as in the free leaflets widely available. A very useful bus is the new Route 1, which runs from the city centre (Quinconces) via Mérignac to the airport, every 10 minutes. It starts at 5a.m. and runs until midnight. So if you park your car somewhere along its route, you save those airport parking charges!

Dangerous Caterpillars.

Thaumetopoea pityocampa

These strange Processionary Caterpillars are increasingly common in, or adjacent to our Pine forests, often looking like a snake as they progress linked head to tail, often for several metres, across roads, up walls, along washing lines etc.

Don't touch them, their hair is highly toxic (can be fatal to pets) and even when airborne, can cause asthma, painful rashes, and eye irritation. They are also destroying our pine forests, their white nests (sacks) can be seen in many pines, and at this time of year, after feeding on the pine needles, they descend to the ground, and bury themselves together in the sand (forming a strange ball in the process). See www.cortland.edu/fitzgerald/PineProcessionary



Have you got something to amuse or inform fellow members ? Please send to the editor and we will publish it subject to availability of space.

Recent BBC events

Midweek Lunch : Wednesday 3rd February : Grand Regent Hotel

The reopening of the Grand Hotel Bordeaux in 2007 was an exciting event for the entire city. The majestic trio of Place de la Comedie, the Grand Theater and the Grand Hotel (now the Regent Grand Hotel) has brought new charm to the famous square in the heart of the world's wine-capital.

Looking back at the history of this spectacular building, created by the architect Victor Louis in 1776, a group of 23 BBC members gained unique insight into why the Regent Grand Hotel is of such importance to the people of Bordeaux through a conducted tour of the hotel.

The elegance of the exterior of the Grand Hotel is breathtaking with its neo-classical facade and unified look with surrounding buildings. And as our group entered the main entrance from Place de la Comedie we found ourselves immediately immersed into the universe of a very luxurious establishment. Truly a world of elegance and enchantment. The decorator Jacques Garcia has successfully created the most perfect atmosphere by a mixture of marble, Bordeaux sand stone, elegant fabrics in warm tones, furniture inspired from the 18th century, magnificent floral decorations and elegant lighting.

The hotel lobby was the perfect showcase that invited us to discover the hotel further. A huge globe located in the patio let us know that we were about to embark on a journey here. An entire luxury complex of 23.000 m² with 150 rooms and suites, La Brasserie de l'Europe, a gourmet restaurant (called Le Pressoir d'Argent), the Victor Hugo bar and a winter garden (called the Orangerie). A wine cellar, a private club and a Spa are all in development.

Next, and a very important part of the agenda, was the lunch at the Brasserie l'Europe on 1st floor directly facing the Place de la Comedie and the Grand Theater. Designed in the spirit of the Belle Epoque this restaurant offers an intriguing interior with generous curtains, exciting lamp shades, different frames created by Jacques Garcia using photographs from the 19th century and, despite its large size, an atmosphere of familiarity.

A delicious three course meal, coffee and wine of the standard expected was served and around 15 o'clock all members left convinced that this Brasserie can be counted among Bordeaux's most exquisite overnight and dining places.

Our gratitude goes to Graeme Street for arranging and managing this enjoyable event.

Prepared by Karin & Bjarne Christiansen, Photos by Phil Christal





Jumping de Bordeaux : Friday 5th February

SURPRISE! On Wednesday 3rd February we got an invitation from Alain Juppe (Bordeaux's Mayor) for the Friday 'Jumping de Bordeaux' (international show jumping event). This invitation came through the BBC website and was specifically for members of the association. A circular went out that evening (many thanks Norma and Phil) and by Thursday lunchtime we had requests for 10 tickets!

Friday am we picked up the tickets at the Hotel de Ville and placed them with the VIP reception at the arena. Luckily the transfer went smoothly and everyone was thrilled to be so close to the action and watch the World Champion Schwizer (Swiss) win the main event with the fastest clear round. We had a non stop display of superb horsemanship.

Many thanks to Alain Juppe and the Mairie de Bordeaux for the tickets.

Report by Ted Grant

St. Valentine's Dinner : Saturday 13th February at 7.30

On a freezing St Valentine's Eve, members of the BBC gathered at "La Brasserie Bordelaise" in central Bordeaux for dinner. Those who arrived early were given wine and generous "bits" to nibble at the bar, then we went downstairs to our table where we were given more wine and more "bits". As the 14 members who were expected became 16 and then 18, we were moved to a larger adjacent table where - yes, you guessed, we were given yet more wine and more "bits"!

The food was excellent, as was the service. The very reasonable negotiated price included "a 1/3 of a bottle of wine". If that was so, the staff must have badly miscounted, as the wine just kept on coming. The large square table meant that everyone could talk - or rather shout

- to everyone else instead of just the people on either side as often happens. A most enjoyable evening was had, and even going back out into the icy night didn't cool our spirits! Thanks very much to Danielle and Jacques for organising such a successful evening.

Report by Michele and David Chown

BBC Information

www.bordeauxbritish.com Our BBC website is our major shop window, enabling English speakers in our region to easily find us, please help to promote it!

Mike and Mary Pratt are temporarily without fixed phone or internet.

For Sale

Solid pine Captain's bed with 4 ample storage drawers, Like new. Comes with FREE photo duvet, two sets of fitted sheets and pocket sprung mattress. Bargain at 150 euros. 'Please phone David and Naomi Younge 05-45-25-35-51, but don't delay - it will be gone quickly!

Wanted

Friend sought by BBC member. Ideally a person between 68 and 75 years old, who likes going out; Restaurants, (international cuisine), long walks (rambles), cinema and sometimes theatre, reading, travel in France or elsewhere,; also entertaining at home. I live in Pessac. I feel as much French as British having lived a long time in both countries. Please contact Lucette : tel 05 56 96 00 78

Position sought. I am a recently 'retired' former commercial banker and also financial adviser, physically fit etc and with Intermediate level French. I'd like to spend 6 months in France developing my knowledge of the language and all things French during the Spring/Summer months. I'm not seeking any remuneration (probably too much hassle), and also willing to pay for my accommodation (though would need help finding same). Perhaps there are some smaller businesses in Bordeaux or its environs amongst your membership who would be interested in this proposition? If so please contact Patrick Fitzpatrick <pat@letterfrack.fsnet.co.uk> Mobile: 00447812 565755

Guesthouse sought for Anglican Minister. The Chaplain of Aquitaine, Revd Dr Paul Vrolijk is looking for free or low cost guest house or house sitting accomodation for a visiting Minister and his wife for 2-3 weeks whilst he performs services in a camp site in the north of the Medoc. Dates are flexible but he is looking at June/July/first half August. If you can help please contact Paul on Tel: 05 53 23 40 73 or Paul.Vrolijk@orange.fr

If you would like to place an advert here, please send an email to the editor If you have advertised please advise when the goods are sold.

Next Newsletter

Copy to the editor please by March 27th norphic@hotmail.com