

Newsletter

November 2011

www.bordeauxbritish.com



WEBSITE VERSION of NEWSLETTER ***(without contact details)***

We had a good turnout for our AGM, and your Committee augmented by new members has been busy finalising events leading up to Christmas, as well as planning the new year's activities.

We have a Walk and Picnic on 6th followed by an interesting visit to Smicotom plus lunch on 18th (immediate booking necessary). This is followed by a mid week lunch and a talk on Bordeaux's wine trade on 29th. We are repeating last years successful Christmas Market, Lights and supper on December 3rd, followed by our Christmas Dinner at a new venue on 16th.

We look forward to seeing you at many of these events - especially our Christmas Dinner

As usual this newsletter contains illustrated reports on last month's events, including the AGM. It also covers the seasonal Church events and other events of interest. We would especially welcome more contributions to this Whats On section – what is happening in your area ? There were some valuable proposals and offers for new events at the AGM, have you got any ideas to offer ?

Upcoming BBC Events

Walk & Picnic at Vendays : Sunday 6th November

I am organising a walk and picnic around Vendays in the north of the Médoc on 6th November. The walk is approx. 9 km long and as usual shortcuts can be taken if the walk is too long for you. Bring a picnic, which can be taken inside or, weather permitting, outside in the garden.

We will meet at my house to start the walk at **11am**.

My address is: My preferred route to get there is via Carcans and Hourtin. It is a one hour drive from the Rocade exit no 8 (or 7).

Please let me know if you are joining us on Piet.

Visit and Lunch for November Friday 18th November

We will meet at the Restaurant L'Embellie in L istrac Médoc at 12 noon and follow up with a visit to the Smicotom Centre de Tri at Saint Laurent Médoc around 3pm. At Saint Laurent they do the sorting and recycling of our yellow and green topped dustbins. There is a limit of 20 persons per group at Smicotom but if we are more than 20 we can be taken round in two groups. The visit is only 30 minutes long. L istrac Médoc is on the N1215 north of Castelnau. Take junction 8 off the Rocade and follow directions to Le Verdon. The restaurant L'Embellie is in the center of L istrac on the right hand side going north, opposite the post office. There is a reasonable amount of parking outside the restaurant and a big car park on the other side of the road. The restaurant has a €12 euro menu not including wine. . For more information on the restaurant try www.lembellie-listrac.com and for Smicotom www.smicotom.fr. Please enrol with Piet before **Monday 7th November**. Please note change of contact. Deirdre will be there on the day

Mid Week Lunch + Wine Trade Talk : Tuesday 29th November

This will be at the Restaurant Chapeau Rouge, Cours Chapeau Rouge (adjacent to the Grand Theatre in central Bordeaux) William Bolter, who has worked in the Bordeaux wine trade since the mid sixties, has kindly agreed to give a talk entitled " The Wine Trade in Bordeaux : How it works and how it has changed".

We will meet upstairs in our normal room at midday for lunch at 12.15. Menu to be chosen on the day. Approx. € 17 per head including wine and coffee. Bookings to me please by midday Friday 25th November.
Graeme

Christmas Market, Lights & Supper : Saturday 3rd December

Last year David arranged a very successful evening event to get us into the Christmas spirit. We visited the Marché de Noël in Place Tourny followed by a meal at Le Wok at 17 Rue St Rémi. A walk to enjoy the Christmas Lights to Place Gambetta and back, was also planned but due to a torrential downpour, we headed straight to the restaurant - hopefully the weather will treat us more kindly this year. The schedule gives options to meet at various times and places as follows :

6.30 Meet at the Grand Theatre and proceed to the Marche Noel. Explore/buy/sample hot spiced wine, etc.

7.30 Return to the Grand Theatre for the walk up Cours d'Intendance to Place Gambetta turning left towards Porte Dijeaux. Walk back down Rue de la Porte Dijeaux (which becomes Rue St Remi).

8.00 Arrive at Le Wok.

For 16 euros, Le Wok offers an 'eat-all-you-can' buffet, including a wide range of starters and desserts. For the main course/s, and part of the restaurant's attraction, is that you choose your raw ingredients and see it being cooked - with the sauce of your choice - at the 'wok station'. Wine, chinese tea/coffee is not included in the price.

To get there: Tram C stops at Quinconces, Tram B stops at the Grand Theatre, on Tram A you will need to change at Hotel de Ville and connect with Tram C. If you want an easy access parking after the meal, park in Place de la Bourse, turning left immediately after going through the ticket barrier. This parking area gives direct access to Rue St Remi.

You may like to precede this visit with one to the Church Bazaar, see 'Whats On' below.

To join us and enjoy a fun evening, please contact Gloria by email - (don't be put off by the standard French message if we're not here!). The restaurant requires final numbers by **SATURDAY 26TH NOVEMBER** so please book with me by 6 p.m. on that day. Looking forward to seeing you there.

Christmas Dinner : Friday 16th December 7.30 for 8.00pm

We have chosen a new venue this year, in a delightful small restaurant with an excellent reputation, Le Domaine des Tentations at Gradignan. Entertainment will include a quiz. The menu will be fixed with a vegetarian option, and will be 40€ for members and 50€ for non-members. This price is fully inclusive of the following five courses, plus Kir and amuses-bouches, ¼ wine and coffee:

Pétales d'artichauts au foie gras, vinaigrette balsamique
*

Ravioles de langoustine au citron vert
*

Granité au vin rouge

*

Filet de boeuf en crouste au fumet des bois

*

Buche de Noel

English translation : Petals of artichoke with foie gras and a balsamique vinaigrette; langoustine ravioli with lime; red wine sorbet; fillet of beef in pastry with a woodland sauce (a sauce made with dried cepes, shallots, port and cream); chocolate Christmas log.

The restaurant holds a maximum of 50 people so it would be very helpful to know even at this early stage how many people would like to attend. Directions will be included in the December newsletter.

As many people like to stay overnight, there is a hotel, Le Chalet Lyrique, less than 1km away (a short stroll to aid digestion!). Double rooms at the weekends cost approximately 67€, 76€ and 79€ (depending on size and location) but we can have a further 10% discount if a minimum 10 rooms are booked. So again, early reservation for a hotel room would be advisable.

Please let **Eileen** know if you would like to come to the dinner only, and if you would like to book a hotel room. Tel:email:

Invitations

ACT4 Events We have been contacted by ACT4 a French association which is 100 strong in Lyon and has recently opened a Bordeaux branch. They describe themselves as having a passion for the English language and culture and hold regular English speaking events in Bordeaux to which they would like to invite BBC members, they are also keen to introduce us to new restaurants! We in turn are initially inviting them to some of our events. For information on ACT4 please check their website www.act4.fr

Their upcoming programme includes English Dinners at 8pm on November 3rd, 15th and 30th as well as a Pub Quiz (Charles Dickens Pub) on Tuesday 22nd and a Brunch at 10am which is welcoming their Lyon President on 20th. If you would like to attend any of the above please contact Géraldine Some BBC members are planning attending the Pub Quiz on 22nd, and are hoping to form a BBC team. If you would like to join them please contact Gloriaby email : or telephone

Whats on and Where

Salon des Createurs et des Ateliers d'Art 18-20 November 10-7pm (9pm on 18th). This Craft exhibition at Hangar 14 in Bordeaux looks interesting offering Decorative goods, Fashion, Jewellery, Accessories and Table Art – perhaps an opportunity for some Christmas shopping !!

Cultural Institute Bernard Magrez The opening exhibition has started and runs until 14 January. The institute is in the centre of town not far from Bld Pierre 1er - directions etc (unfortunately only in French at present) can be found at the following page - <http://www.institut-bernard-magrez.com/informations-pratiques>. The opening exhibition shows modern art inspired by Picasso's painting "Lady Sitting" (1949)

Useful Bordeaux Cultural Websites

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



Remembrance Service

SUNDAY 13th NOVEMBER at 10.30 am

Held at the ALLIED MILITARY CEMETERY

RUE BAHUS, BORDEAUX TALENCE

There will be a lunch afterwards at the **Connemara Irish Pub**, Cours d'Albret in Bordeaux, opposite the Galerie des Beaux-Arts.

Church Bazaar : Saturday December 3rd: 2.30 -5pm

This is at the Lycée de l'Assomption opposite the British Consulate, the entrance is at 370 Boulevard Président Wilson. For three hours you will have the opportunity of catching up with old friends, as well as making new ones. Nibble some of the typically British or American delicacies at the tea-stall, replenish your stock of English books on the book-stall, pounce on some traditional marmalade or one of the other gastronomic delights from the Home Produce stall and choose some wine with which to celebrate the festive season in style at the Wine stall. What better way to initiate the Christmas period ! For further details, please get in touch with AnneYou could follow on with the Christmas market visit. (see above)

Carols by Candlelight : Saturday December 10th at 5pm

Don't miss the chance of hearing the Christmas story, listening to the choir and singing all the well known carols in the beautiful candle lit Chapel of the Lycee de l'Assomption, Boulevard Président Wilson, Bordeaux. The Carol Service is definitely not to be missed. If you arrive with less than a quarter of an hour to spare, you will have to stand for the entire service, such is its popularity.

Church Services in English

These will be held on Sunday 6th and 20th November at 10.30. On Sunday 27th there will be a Carol Service at 5pm. These services will be in the Chapelle de l'Assomption, 370 boulevard Président Wilson, Bordeaux. There is a special Remembrance Sunday service at Talence Cemetery on 13th (see above). For further details, including services throughout Aquitaine, see monthly Newsletter at **Chaplaincy of Aquitaine** web-site: www.churchinaquitaine.org or contact the Chaplain: The Revd Dr Paul Vrolijk (tel 05 53 23 40 73) chapaq.office@gmail.com

Info of Interest

Faux Amis ! Many French and English words are the same and some are clearly recognisable, here are some that aren't :

1. Maniac. A faux ami if ever there was one. In French, this means 'passionately obsessive about', as in cleanliness or good order or opera. It never means crazy, except in the sense of 'crazy about'.
2. In English, we may talk 'about coming a cropper', or in the vernacular, 'falling arse over tit'. In French the common expressions are the polite 'se casser la figure', the vernacular 'se casser la gueule', or if you really want to impress the neighbours, the provincial 'se casser la margoulette'.
3. Evident. The dictionary definition of this word is more or less the same as that for the English word. BUT the common usage for this word has slipped into a parallel meaning, as in 'ce n'est pas évident', meaning 'it's not so easy' or 'it's hard to do'.

"The French Malaise" The title of an interesting article concerning French politics and the upcoming election by the well-known France watcher Jonathan Fenby. This is accessible (free) via , www.prospect-magazine.co.uk - click on the heading 'Current Issue'

The above supplied by Norman

Anti-cold call service operational from 1st December. If you are annoyed by the ever increasing interruptions from cold marketing calls, you can now log on to www.pacitel.fr . This will prevent the vast majority of cold calls from reaching you, but allows calls from businesses you normally deal with (eg your bank).

Have you got anything to offer ? Please send to the editor and we will publish it subject to availability of space.

Recent BBC event reports

Walk & Picnic at La Brède : Sunday 9th October

Twelve members, including 2 television personalities from the programme 'Little Britain in the Dordogne' ! met promptly at the church of Saint Jean d' Etamples in the centre of La Brede, you can see the church spire from miles around. The weather was overcast to start with, but improved as the day went on to become perfect walking weather.



We passed through the beautiful town of La Brede with lovely hanging baskets and flower arrangements all looking at their peak. After a while we got into the surrounding countryside, passing some outstanding properties with lovely gardens, and passed through vineyards and forests on roads and tracks. Eventually we came upon a wild fig tree and orchards from which some of our members tasted the fruit. After a most enjoyable two and a half hours' walk, covering

8km (and losing 390 calories) we were all very hungry and ready for our picnic. After a short drive to our picnic spot, made very pleasant by the warm sun.



Some members had 40 winks [sleep] after their picnic. It was a most enjoyable and entertaining day, but unfortunately we had no time to visit the Chateau de La Brede, built in the Gothic style in 1306 on the site of an earlier castle, surrounded by a water filled moat and an english type garden, situated in the centre of the vineyards.

Thank you Piet, our organiser, for a lovely day's walking.

Report and pictures by Susan and Ricky

Annual General Meeting : Friday 14th October

Thirty-Three members attended the AGM in the l'Avenue Carnot restaurant, which provided an outstanding meal afterwards. After aperitifs, Our President, Deirdre opened the meeting, welcomed members, explained the change of venue and thanked staff at the customary British Consulate which was unavailable. She then outlined the previous BBC year with its very many varied, well attended and successful events, and a strong membership. She also thanked those non committee members who had offered and organised events including tours, walks, lunches, golf and a garden party. She encouraged other members to come forward with ideas and offers over the next year. She stressed the importance of all of us continuing to recruit new members and reminded us that BBC Business cards were available to aid introduction.



She reported that Martin was handing back BBC Website responsibility to Gary, thanked him and wished him success in his new business venture. She also reported that David had handed over the BBC Secretary role to Norma, thanked him and wished him well in his new domicile in Spain. She also thanked retiring members of the Committee, Charles and Mike for their years of stalwart work.

The AGM proceedings under way

The Treasurer, Secretary (proxy), Membership Secretary, Webmaster (proxy) and Newsletter Editor then provided their reports – all good news with a healthy bank balance, and 109 memberships (representing more than 200 members) The Website had also seen an encouraging 61% increase in visitors. Deirdre concluded by thanking the committee for their support and hard work over the past year, before passing over the meeting to the Presiding Officer, David

Comments regarding BBC activities were invited from attendees, and a number volunteered to host events, and/or help. Others offered ideas for visits and questions were raised, and answered concerning childrens' events and Insurance for events (confirmed).
In view of the Treasurer's Report, and recommendation, the proposal to keep the Membership subscription to € 20 was unanimously adopted.

Three Committee members had previously announced their resignation, and two members had agreed to stand, no other proposals were forthcoming from the meeting. It was proposed that the 8 remaining committee members plus the 2 new ones be elected – this was unanimously adopted. Please see below :



Members enjoying the restaurant after the AGM

The meeting was closed, and the informal proceedings continued when our meeting room was speedily converted into a restaurant and an excellent dinner was served. Our thanks to Danielle for organising both the AGM venue and the dinner, and a most successful and enjoyable evening.

Report and Photos by Norma and Phil

Your New Committee

The AGM was followed on 18th by the first meeting of the new committee, at which members were elected to the following positions:

<i>President</i>	Deirdre
<i>Vice President</i>	Eileen
<i>Secretary</i>	Norma
<i>Membership Secretary</i>	Piet
<i>Treasurer</i>	Graeme
<i>Newsletter</i>	Phil
<i>Committee Members</i>	Danielle
	Sarah
	Gloria
	Bjarne

Golf at Lacanau Ocean : Wednesday 26th October.

In a period of unsettled weather we were blessed with a perfect day, sunny and not too hot (it poured the day before and after !) Twelve golfers and 2 non players first met there for an excellent lunch. The setting was magnificent with autumnal colours surrounding the fairways.



We played the Texas Scramble system, making a very sociable game where each foursome drives off the first tee, then elects which ball has landed in the best lie. Then each player takes their next shot from there – and so on until the ball is putted down the hole ! The system produces some excellent scores, and every shot can be a winner ! We got to know each other, and their foibles !

Our foursome scored many pars, the rest were bogies (one over par) and all had the satisfaction of hitting a number of 'winners'. We returned exhausted to 'play' the 19th hole (the bar) having walked 12 Km plus (Bjarne had a pedometer !). I did not see the results of Tonys analysis with his I-pod application, but it is clear that technology is ever more penetrating the golf domaine ! It is unfortunate that David was ill and had to cancel, but most fortunate that his place was taken by John, who immediately joined as a new BBC member !



Enjoying the 19th hole

Our thanks to Brian for arranging this excellent day out, and also settling up for the 'wicked' members who planned paying after the golf, but were unable to !

Report and photos by Phil

BBC Information

Betty Logan

Members who knew Betty Logan will be sad to hear of her recent death. Betty and her bar the "Que Sera", provided a rallying point for the Brits in the 70's and 80's. We always held our committee meetings there followed by a copious fish and chip/irish stew/steak and kidney pie dinner with wine flowing in generous quantities. Betty looked after the Brits and the visiting navy (she always made sure the lads got back to the ship). She looked after everyone with all her generous spirit and goodness of heart, but in the end it was her heart that got her. It just gave out. Betty will always be remembered with love and affection by all who knew her. Knowing Betty, as I did, she is probably already pulling pints in that great "Que Sera" in the sky.

Obituary by Marjorie

Membership Secretary:

You will all have received a notice concerning your membership contribution for the year 2012. Last year it took many months to collect the money from all the members and then only after many reminders and telephone calls. To avoid a similar situation this year I would urge those who have not yet paid to send me your cheque a.s.a.p. Please make the cheque payable to the BBC and send it to: Piet.

Membership

To keep an effective and dynamic membership we all need to continue to recruit new members. Your committee is continuing to improve our PR, and taking a number of initiatives, but the most effective way to keep growing is word of mouth – and the more mouths the better ! So if you hear someone speaking English in our region, please introduce them to our BBC. Please ask a committee member for BBC business cards.

2011 Photographs now on BBC Website

One or two photos of our events are reproduced (in reduced quality) in the newsletter, but very many more, covering most of our events are now on our website - Relive some happy moments !

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!

Members Adverts

Scientists sought by School. Whilst this ad is not from a member, it could present an interesting opportunity. Chantal is a teacher of English in Libourne, and is seeking English speaking scientists who would be willing to complete a questionnaire about the role and application of mathematics in their field and if possible visit the school and give a short talk on the subject. Please contact [.....](#)

Members Recommendations

We have a very good ophthalmologist who speaks excellent English and wondered whether other members would be interested in having her details. She is based in Ambares et Lagrave and is a great Agatha Christie fan! If you are interested please e-mail me

If you are looking for an authentic Turkish restaurant in Bordeaux, David and Michele recommend the "10 Janissaires", at 10 Cours Victor Hugo. This is about 50 metres from the city end of the Pont de Pierre/Place Bir Hakim. The owner and staff are Turks, the food is fresh and delicious. The restaurant offers tables outside , a bit noisy but you see life in all its colours, but the newly arranged arched interior is typical lovely old Bordeaux stone. Our tip: don't choose the Turkish wines, the Turks still haven't got it right, but the food is great! We had generous three-course choices with drink for about €25 each.

Long term members of the BBC may remember some memorable evenings and meals at the Villa Primrose Tennis Club in Bordeaux. Maurice Perot has now moved to Gradignan. It is a charming restaurant set amongst trees and a park next door to a Moulin and one of the stopping points on the route de Compostelle. Anyone wishing more details please contact Deirdre Please note this this is the venue for our Christmas Dinner this year.

If you are trying to sell an unwanted possession in France, have you tried www.leboncoin.fr I have had excellent results, Eileen

Are you really missing British style, bacon, sausages, pork pies? Contact Deirdre

Looking for a good B&B in the Virsac area? Very convenient for the A10. Can be recommended by [.....](#)

If anybody has a computer problem that can't be sorted out by a friend or BBC member, the name and phone number of a very helpful computer professional who does home visits is available from Lionel

If you would like to place an advert or recommendation here (members only), please send an email to the editor - Phil at [.....](#). If you have advertised please advise when the advert is no longer relevant

Next Newsletter

The editor needs your copy by 28th November