

# FRANCO-BRIT NEWSLETTER

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## JANUARY 2023

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### HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!

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#### Out & About

The « Association Comtadine France Allemagne » is organizing a special event, the « Franco-German Friendship Festival » in the Carpentras town centre on January 28<sup>th</sup>, from 10 am to 4 pm,

A lunch composed of German specialities is being organized by the Mairie and the local shop keepers. There will be beer from local brewers. Let me know if you are interested in participating in this event: [franco.britsvn@gmail.com](mailto:franco.britsvn@gmail.com)

If you hear about any local events which could interest other members, please don't hesitate to share the news by sending it to: [info@francobrits84.fr](mailto:info@francobrits84.fr)

**H**appy New Year and welcome to the January newsletter. Yet again, events seemed to happen before there was time to announce them in a newsletter. You can guess what my New Year's Resolution is for 2023 - get the newsletter out on time each month...



**T**he new season, which started on September 11<sup>th</sup>, Association Day, has been extremely active. Our stand was very well attended with many enquiries and we were pleased to welcome new members who joined in our activities after meeting us at the Platanes. Many thanks to those who helped at the stand - in particular, Josette Meyssard, Anita Caillet, Michèle Gallichio and Marilou .... And a big thank-you to all those who dropped by to say hello...

**T**he big change this season concerns the functioning of the Tuesday Conversation Group. Anita Caillet had been successfully running these sessions for the last few years and had built up a loyal and enthusiastic group. In early October Anita announced that regretfully, due to family commitments, she was unable to continue animating the group. New members Peter and Zsu Guillery and Jane Westcott immediately stepped in to keep the group going. A new format was put into place, with a team co-ordinated by Alison Skinner. French participants are encouraged to join the team and recently Josette Meyssard took the plunge and led a very successful conversation group. The accent this year is more on language exchange and English members are encouraged by the francophones to practice their French. A big thank-you to Anita Caillet for her dedicated work over the years. Many thanks to Pete, Zsu, Jane and Alison for taking over with such enthusiasm and to John Elmhirst for continuing to support the animators and keeping a record of attendees...

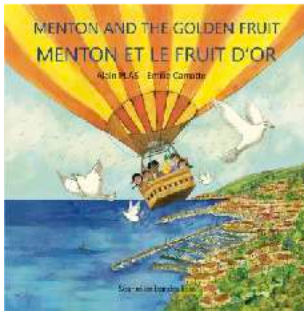
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## *Items for sale*

### **A bi-lingual children's book.**



If your children or grandchildren are bilingual or if you want to gently introduce them to French or English, this book is perfect.

The story is set in Menton and is about a magic lemon. Translated by Marie-Jacqueline Ballagh.

Only 12€ (plus postage & packaging, if applicable)

For more information, send an email to:

[franco.britsven@gmail.com](mailto:franco.britsven@gmail.com)

**G**eorges and Geneviève Casy started a new season of Qi Gong in the gardens of the Château de la Roseraie on Monday mornings. In November we were allocated a room inside the Château, so it is possible to continue the sessions throughout the winter months. Georges and Geneviève would appreciate it if participants committed to coming regularly and to let them know if they are going to be absent... Thank-you Geneviève and Georges for this popular activity. If you wish to join in, send an email to [info@francobrits84.fr](mailto:info@francobrits84.fr).

**T**hanks to a collaboration with the MJC of Carpentras, the Scottish dancing sessions have continued. Members meet on Thursday afternoons at 2.30 in the MJC. Anne-Mie and Alain Devos encourage an enthusiastic group, teaching intricate steps in a joyful atmosphere. The sessions are free but members are asked to join the MJC association. Many thanks to Anne-Mie and Alain for this initiative and to the MJC for hosting this activity on their premises. If you wish to join in the fun, come long on a Thursday afternoon between 2.30 and 4.30.

The first « Let's Lunch » of the season took place on September 16<sup>th</sup> in Bedarides, featuring « Fish & Chips » in a British atmosphere with a red double-decker bus as décor.

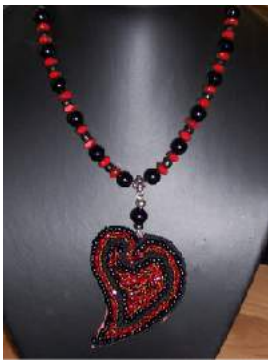
On October 16<sup>th</sup> we held our AGM in the Château de la Roseraie, followed by an apéro. Unfortunately there was a severe petrol shortage at the time and there were far less participants than usual. However, many members made an effort to send in their proxies. A big thank-you to those who attended or who showed support by sending in a proxy. A pdf version of the Excel slide show presenting the President's report will shortly be posted on the website and is available on request : [franco.britsven@gmail.com](mailto:franco.britsven@gmail.com).

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Monique d'Hooghe 's  
handicrafts



Some of you enjoyed learning how to make jewelry with Monique d'Hooghe a couple of years ago and are still wearing the items you created. Monique has many fine pieces of jewelry for sale, contact her for further details:

[moniquedhooghe@yahoo](mailto:moniquedhooghe@yahoo).



## Photo competition

In July the subject of the photo competition was announced: « Flight - Le Vol » which could be freely interpreted in many ways: flying, fleeing - or even thieving, in French! Photos were submitted in September and we were pleased to see such a variety of photos... They can be seen in the album: <https://flic.kr/s/aHBqjAcsY5>

The outright winner was Philip Riddle, both his photos were very popular and « Swan » was chosen for the cover page of the calendar. Zsu Guillery came a close second with her atmospheric « Flying fish eagle at dusk » and in third place Maxime Anton with « En plein vol ».

Many of the photos feature in the Franco-Brit 2023 calendar which will be distributed to members at various events. Members are offered a copy each as a show of appreciation for their support of the association. Many thanks to Josette Meyssard for her invaluable help processing entries and counting the votes.

On October 15th we were invited by the « Association Comtadine France Allemagne- » to participate in a 'friendship day' - various associations from Carpentras and other towns were present, representing foreign countries and twin towns. It was the occasion to meet other associations in a relaxed atmosphere and to plan future events together.

On November 19th a guided tour of Carpentras was organised by Raina Pavlova. This was an extremely popular event. Our guide Elodie pointed out many features in Carpentras and her vivid explanations distracted participants from the ferocious mistral blowing relentlessly that day. The tour was followed by refreshments in the café « La Place ». The next guided tour will be in Vaison la Romaine. Many thanks to Raina Pavlova for organising these guided tours and to our excellent guide, Elodie.

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#### *An interesting biography*

Marion Canessa has informed us that a biography about her great-aunt, Marion Davies, has just been published.

« Captain of Her Soul » by Lara Gabrielle. Copies may be obtained from the bookshop « Book in Bar' » in Aix en Provence



#### *Geneviève Casy's handicrafts*

Please consult the website for more details of Geneviève's work:

<https://www.francobrits84.fr>

If you wish to advertise any crafts or items you wish to sell, please send me an email with photos to:

[info@francobrits84.fr](mailto:info@francobrits84.fr)

Thank-you

**I**n November, « Let's Lunch » took place in a charming, authentic, inexpensive Italian restaurant in Avignon « Le Chapeau Rouge Italienne » We look forward to returning there in spring.

**T**he Christmas lunch took place chez « Jeromus ». The many participants were pleased to enjoy a log fire, mince pies and Christmas carols as well as an excellent lunch. Many thanks to Monique d'Hooghe, Michèle Gallichio and Carole Harris for organising the lunch.

**T**he Tuesday Conversation Group took off again on January 3rd with Alison Skinner leading the session. Do feel free to drop in and participate. If you are new to the group, send an email to [info@francobrits84.fr](mailto:info@francobrits84.fr) so as to receive news about the plans for the following session. Please note that photocopies of texts will no longer be provided. Participants are asked to either use a mobile device or print their texts at home.

**T**he outing to the Château du Barroux in December had to be postponed as many members who had enrolled were 'cas contacts'. The outing will take place in February.

**T**he Book Exchange & Galette des Rois is back! It was our last big face-to face event in 2020 before lockdown was announced. This year it will be held in la Maison du Citoyen, on Tuesday January 17th, from 2.30 pm to 5 pm. It is essential to reserve in advance so that there will be enough Galettes for everyone. Send an email to [iinfo@francobrits84.fr](mailto:iinfo@francobrits84.fr) stating if you have a preference for 'provençale' ( with fruit confits) - or 'frangipanne'. You are of course entitled to a slice of each! Price is 5 euros for members, 7 for non-members. Our special guest speaker at the book Exchange is Constance Bradburn, who sang in the Paris Opera for many years. She will talk about her experiences there, taking us behind the scenes of this magical institution. She will also talk about a novel she has written set in the Paris Opera.

Maison du Citoyen et de la Vie Associative 35 Rue du Collège, 84200 CARPENTRAS

<https://www.francobrits84.fr>

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## *The British Community Abroad*

The « British Community Abroad » is an umbrella association whose members are associations in France involved with British life and culture. We have been members for the last few years. Their website offers a vast range of useful information on many subjects. Do not hesitate to consult it to learn what is going on in the British community in France and for many updates. You can also download a very useful booklet.

[www.britishinfrance.com](http://www.britishinfrance.com)

**W**e are pleased to announce that on Monday January 23rd members Kam and Tarlochan are running a cookery workshop, featuring Indian recipes and an introduction to using spices correctly. Invitations were recently sent out and this event is already fully booked. You may however send an email with a request to be put on the waiting list, in the event of a cancellation. The workshop will take place in the Maison du Citoyen, followed of course by sampling what has been cooked. Many thanks to Kam and Tarlochan for this initiative.

**I**n February there will be a new venture - a Cheese & Wine event, featuring cheeses from different countries. More details as soon as the venue and date has been fixed.

**T**he next « Let's Lunch » is planned for Friday, February 24th at a Créole restaurant in Montoux, recommended by one of the associations we met on « Friendship Day ». Details will be sent nearer the date.

**T**here are many more projects in the pipeline, a visit to Aix in March for the exhibition « Yves Klein, intime », a visit to Nîmes to see the magnificent street art there, a guided tour of Vaison la Romaine, a walk in Mallemort-du-Comtat - and much more! Consult the website regularly for news about the latest events: <https://www.francobrits84.fr>

**M**any thanks to the committee members for their ideas, enthusiasm and commitment and to our webmaster, Ulrich Boes. Thanks are also due to members who suggest and run events, making it possible for the association to offer a wide variety of activities. If you have any suggestions, please do not hesitate to contact a member of the committee.

Marie-Jacqueline Ballagh

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To conclude, here is a piece by member Steven Ward....

## **Devotion rewarded**

HUNDREDS of Avignonnais and others flocked to the heart of the city last night to listen to one of their favourite singers and their devotion was immediately rewarded as the multi grammy award winning diva belted out more than a half-hour of extra entertainment.

Diva Angélique Kidjo was appearing in the l'Opera d'Avignon, backed by members of the orchestre National Avignon Provence, as part of her European Tour of 2023 which includes other European cities like Bode in Norway and Hamburg in Germany.

The newly renovated French venue provided just the right setting for the stunning concert with its newly-painted interior, rococo embellished decor, smooth, newly-installed lifts and freshly carpeted floors.

During the half-hour encore involuntary shouts of « Bravo » could be heard from the grateful and satisfied fans.

During the 2-hour gig Kidjo (a fluent French speaker) shared intimate secrets of her life in the French territory of Benin in Africa where residents are considered fully French from birth and get to vote in general elections and enjoy all the privileges of European identity.

Some of Kidjo's well-known numbers available on Spotify include « Choose Love », "Do Yourself » and « Dignity ».