

FRANCO-BRIT NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2024

HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!

OUT & ABOUT

Ballet

On Friday March 22nd there is a performance of Swan Lake performed by the International Festival Ballet at the 'temporary' theatre near the Avignon TGV station. As places are already almost sold out you are advised to book quickly, online for example.

The cinéma

Many interesting films in v.o. are shown at the Rivoli cinema in Carpentras. Please send an email to info@francobrits84.fr if you are interested in an outing to the cinema.

'Ambiance Latines'

- a night out in Carpentras!

On Saturday, February 17th at 6 pm the Conservatoire is organizing a free concert at the 'Cabaret' in the Saint-Labre car park. Booking is essential. Here is a link for more details:

<https://provence-alpes-cotedazur.com/que-faire/sortir/toutes-les-sorties/ambiances-latines-par-le-conservatoire-de-carpentras->

Happy New Year and welcome to the January newsletter. Wishing all our members and friends

happiness and success during this coming year and of course, health. Much is in store for the Franco-Brits in the coming months, we hope everyone will find something of interest in the various activities and outings on offer.



Association Day, on September 11th, went particularly well this year. Our stand was very well attended, there were many enquiries and we were pleased to welcome new members who have subsequently participated in our activities after meeting us at the Platanes. Many thanks to those who helped at the stand - in particular, Marie-Christine Lamiche, Monique

d'Hooghe, Peter Guillery, Michèle Gallichio and Anita Caillet... And a big thank-you to all those who dropped by to say hello.



Brocante

Have a stroll down the Platanes on a Sunday morning. For a few hours the car park is transformed into a 'brocante'. A selection of English books are for sale at Georges' stand, opposite the Credit Agricole.

Items for sale

A bi-lingual children's book...

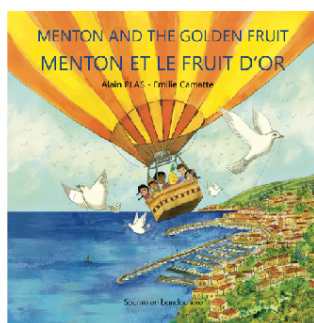
If your children or grandchildren are bi-lingual or if you want to gently introduce them to French or English, this book is perfect.

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.britsvn@gmail.com



The Tuesday conversation group resumed on September 12th. Alison Skinner, John Elmhirst, Peter and Zsu Guillery welcomed new members at the Maison du Citoyen. There is now a rota system, Alison, John Elmhirst, Peter and Zsu take it in turn to suggest topics of conversation and activities. Participants are welcome to come forward and also make suggestions. The conversation group is open to all members. If you wish to be on the mailing list and receive the latest information about the conversation group, please contact John Elmhirst: at johnelmhirst12@gmail.com. Many thanks to Alison, John, Peter and Zsu for the lively and varied sessions and all the work involved in the preparation.

Georges and Geneviève Casy started a new season of Qi Gong sessions on Monday mornings at the Château de la Roseraie. When the weather permits, the sessions are held in the gardens of the Château. The next Qi Gong session will be on Monday, February 5th. Please contact Geneviève if you wish to participate in the sessions and be on the Qi Gong mailing list. Geneviève has also started a WhatsApp group. Many thanks to Geneviève and Georges for these interesting sessions.



You can find quality organic beauty products and original gifts in this local company 'Cocoon'Essence'

<https://www.cocoonessence.com>

If you have any items for sale, they can be advertised in this column.

Church services in English, in the Luberon

There is a monthly church service in English in Oppède. For more details send an email to :

franco.britsven@gmail.com

Photos from the competition



*Water reflecting fishing boats
Zsu Quillery*



*Still waters run deep
Philip Riddle*

Thanks to a collaboration with the MJC of Carpentras, the Scottish dancing sessions are 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 along on a Thursday afternoon between 2.30 and 4.30.

The first « Let's Lunch » of the season took place on September 16th at the Restaurant 'la Cahute' near the Lac de Moirmoron and was very well attended. In November we explored the new Japanese restaurant in Carpentras, 'le Petit Japon' - the restaurant is tiny and only seats 15 guests so we had the restaurant to ourselves for tasty and original dishes.

The AGM took place on October 16th in the Château de la Roseraie, followed by a lively apéro. This year the AGM was well attended and we were pleased to welcome new members. Participants showed appreciation of the efforts made by the committee to offer a varied and interesting programme of events throughout the year. New members were welcomed on the committee and at a brief committee meeting after the AGM Beata Baran was voted Treasurer and Michèle Gallichio took over the Secretarial post. Raina Pavlova remains an active member of the committee after many years of devoted service as Secretary General. The evening was rounded off with a performance of 'Dinner for one, brilliantly rendered by Monique d'Hooghe and Nigel Skinner. Many thanks to all those who attended the meeting or who showed support by sending in a proxy.



La Fontaine 1
Jacqueline Duault



Monique d'Hooghe
La parole de l'eau

Peter Guillery organized a successful visit to the Jewish cemetery in October. The guide, Muriel Euzeby, was excellent and we hope to organize other guided tours in the spring.

Laure Overwater informed us about an interesting and unusual outing in Mormoiron organized by the 'Parc naturel régional du Mont-Ventoux' and she made reservations for those who contacted her. We would like to encourage such initiatives. There is much of interest going on in the area, if you hear of anything don't hesitate to send an email to: info@francobrits84.fr. Many thanks, Laure for an enjoyable afternoon in stunning countryside.

In October we held a Christmas cake baking workshop. Members prepared two traditional Christmas cakes which were shared at the Christmas lunch and a light but exotically decorated sponge, eaten on the day - a suitable reward for the hard work involved in making the cakes. The traditional cakes were carefully 'fed' with whisky by Carole Harris and decorated by volunteers a couple of days before the Christmas lunch.

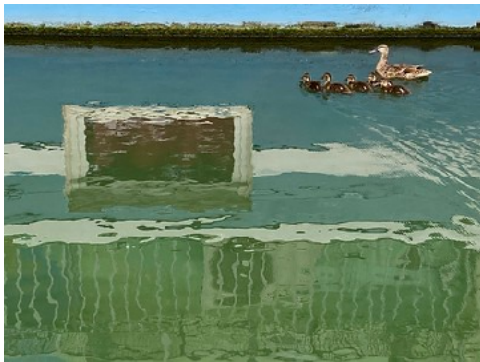
We returned to Jeromus for the Christmas lunch as there is a log fire there and we can have music and sing carols. Ulrich Boes played the piano and Patricia Gay Fauquet played the saxophone and we sang carols after lunch. Thirty-nine members attended and many commented on the warm and friendly atmosphere. Many thanks to those who organized the lunch and to Laure Overwater for her table decorations and specially designed menus.



Forthcoming events



Patricia Gay Fauquet
vague de Teahupoo Surf Polynésie



Zsu Guillery
Barge reflected in the Saône
river with ducks



Allison Skinner
Plage de Jean Blanc

This year the Book Exchange is taking place on **Tuesday, January 30th** at the **Maison du Citoyen** from **2.00 pm to 5 pm**. Peter Guillery has kindly agreed to give a talk about and show a short film from his career investigating London's historic buildings. There will of course be the sharing of Galettes des Rois. Many thanks to those who have booked for this event.

You may have noticed on the invitation that non-members were charged 5 euros extra, whereas formerly the extra charge was only 3 euros. This was recently decided by the committee out of respect for members who pay their dues and should therefore be offered extra value when they participate in activities. Events such as the Christmas lunch cost the association more than is received from the contributions of participants so it is only fair that members should benefit more from such subsidies. We hope you understand the reasoning behind this decision. The 5 euros surcharge will be applied to most events henceforward.

As many of you are aware, the association will be celebrating its fortieth anniversary in 2025 - next year! As a foretaste of celebrations in 2025, we are organizing a special trip to the Camargue. Wednesday June 5th has been suggested. The details have still to be worked out, but as a token of appreciation to our members who have supported us over the years, the cost of the day out will be partly subsidized by association funds. For this reason, the outing will be strictly limited to members. If there are any remaining places available, the five euro surcharge will not apply, non-members will be asked to pay the full, non-subsidised, cost of the outing.



Jean-Rémy Olesen
Table cloth over Table Mountain



Patricia Gay Fauquet
Milford Sound New Zealand



Ann Doukhan
Miroir d'eau Bordeaux

New member Bernard Dubois has kindly agreed to lead a walk on **Saturday, April 13th** along a 'sentier de pierres sèches' that he was instrumental in forming. There is no charge for this event.

A visit to Nîmes for a guided tour of the town's street art is planned on Saturday, May 11th. More details later.

A 'Spring concert' is planned in March, the venue and date have not been chosen yet. Members are invited to come and play an instrument, sing, dance... Please send an email to info@francobrits84.fr if you are interested in participating, either actively or as an audience.



The name 'Franco-Brit' is misleading - in the committee alone at least five nationalities are represented and members hail from the four corners of the world...



You are encouraged to consult the website regularly. Our webmaster, Ulrich Boes, keeps an up to date diary of our activities on the home page. There is also an excellent photo gallery recording the various events and activities. There is a 'members only' section with blog posts and more photos. Have a look now!

<https://www.francobrits84.fr>

Many thanks to Peter Guillery for his patient proof reading and suggestions. Hoping to see many of you at our next events and please don't hesitate to contact us to share your ideas:

info@francobrits84.fr

Marie-Jacqueline Ballagh