

FRANCO-BRIT NEWSLETTER

March 2023

OUT & ABOUT

English for children 'Let's play!'

On Tuesday afternoons at the MJC, from 5.15 pm to 6.15 pm, an hour of fun - in English - for children, with Marine Moitel.

<https://maafé.fr/>

MJC Carpentras,
8, place des Pénitents Noirs

<https://www.mjc-carpentras.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

Brocante and bric-a-brac

Carpentras: every **Sunday** from 8 am in the Platanes carpark Come and browse - or set up your own stall!

Isle-sur-la-Sorgue, famous for its antique shops, has a vast 'brocante' every **Sunday** in the town centre from 8am.

Villeneuve-les-Avignon **Saturday** 'brocante' in the main carpark from 8 am to around midday.

Welcome to the March Newsletter. Spring is in the air and soon we will be suggesting outdoor activities.



January and February were particularly active this year. The book exchange took place in the Maison du Citoyen on January 17th with the traditional Galettes des Rois. This year our guest speaker was Constance Bradburn who illustrated life behind the scenes in the Paris Opera by reading extracts from her novel based on her own career. The event was very well attended. Thank you Constance for your interesting and lively talk and thank you Carole Harris for the delicious 'Galettes des Rois'.

At the end of January, we once more gathered in the 'salle protocolaire' in the Maison du Citoyen, this time for a cookery workshop. Kamaljit Uppal demonstrated how to cook a delicious chicken tandoori and Tarlochan (TG) Gata-Aura showed us how to make dhal (lentils). We were delighted to sample the results, together with kulfi, an Indian ice-cream, made by Elaine Henry who kindly explained how it is prepared. Many thanks to Kam, TG, and Elaine for the demonstration and to Peter & Zsu Guillery for helping with the preparations. Read all about it in the blog on the website.

On February 6th we yet again met in the 'salle protocolaire', this time to sample pancakes and learn about pancake traditions in France and England. Many thanks to Monique d'Hooghe and Laure Overwater who prepared the batter and delicious fillings and patiently made pancakes all afternoon for us to enjoy.

The 'salle protocolaire', as it is called, is a special room on the ground floor in the Maison du Citoyen. There is a kitchen and many tables and it is ideal for cookery demonstrations and themed meetings. Many thanks to the Mairie for providing this useful room.

Items for sale

If you have any items for sale, you can present them on the Blog.

<https://www.francobrits84.fr>

You can find quality organic beauty products and original gifts in this local company:

Cocoon'Essence

<https://www.cocoonessence.com>

A bilingual 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.britsvn@gmail.com

Regular activities:

The weekly conversation group got off to a good start. Many thanks to Alison Skinner, Peter & Zsu Guillery, John Elmhirst and Josette Meyssard for the lively and varied sessions. Other participants are encouraged to have a go at running a session, maybe even in pairs, an anglophone and a francophone.... Please contact Alison Skinner or Peter Guillery if you wish to volunteer. New members are always welcome.

The **Qi Gong** sessions are now held on Monday mornings in the Château de la Roseraie. When the weather gets warmer these will take place in the gardens of the Château. Many thanks to Georges and Geneviève for organising these sessions. If you wish to join the group, send an email to info@francobrits84.fr and Geneviève will get in touch with you.

The **Scottish dancing** sessions are thriving. They take place on Thursday afternoons from 2.30 to 4.30 pm at the MJC in Carpentras. Newcomers are always welcome. Come and try it out! The sessions are free to members but it is necessary to join the MJC too.

Events in March

March is a busy month this year for Franco Brit members.

The visit to the Château du Barroux, which had to be postponed in December, took place on Friday, March 3rd, with the added bonus of a visit to the newly installed whisky distillery. Many thanks to Corinne Duval for organising this outing which was much appreciated by the participants.

On Wednesday, March 8th we had our first cheese and wine party at the Restaurant Jeromus in Loriol-du-Comtat. It was well attended and everybody commented on the excellent atmosphere. We were pleased to welcome new members and guests. Most of the cheeses came from the Fromagerie Clément, to be found in the market in Carpentras on Fridays, behind the Mairie. Some of the cheese came from the Bio-Coop l'Auzonne in Carpentras. A selection of English cheeses were bought from a site on the internet. The wine was supplied by Monique d'Hooghe, website: monique-winetruck.com Many thanks to Monique d'Hooghe, Carole Harris and Raina Pavlova for helping me organise this event.

Monique d'Hooghe's handicrafts



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

moniquedhooghe@yahoo.fr



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

info@francobrits84.fr

Guided tour of Vaison-la-Romaine... Following the successful tour of Carpentras in November, Raina Pavlova has organised an outing to Vaison-la-Romaine on Saturday, March 25th with our popular guide Elodie Burge. You will be sent more details shortly but you can already pencil this date in your diary.

The next '**Let's Lunch**' will be on **Friday, March 31st** at the Creole restaurant **Escapade Créole** in **Monteux**: 12 boulevard Maréchal Foch, Monteux. <http://escapade-creole.fr> If you are interested in participating please send an email to info@francobrits84.fr

Visit to art exhibitions:

There is still time to see the **Yves Klein** exhibition at the **Hotel de Caumont in Aix-en-Provence** (it ends on March 26th). There is now also a David Hockney exhibition at the Musée Granet. **Is anyone interested in going to Aix** to see both exhibitions? If so, please send an email to : franco.britsven@gmail.com

Coming soon!...

Printemps Anglophone

We have once more been invited to participate in the Printemps Anglophone programme. There will be two play-readings, featuring extracts from 'The Critic or, a Tragedy Rehearsed' by Richard Sheridan, in the Château de la Roseraie, on **Saturday, April 15th** from 2.30pm to 5pm and on **Friday, May 12th** from 2.30pm to 5.30pm. The full play is being performed in Avignon in the Archipel Théâtre on **Saturday, May 20th at 7.30 pm** and on **Sunday, May 21st at 4 pm**.

Indian cookery workshop - this has been scheduled for **Friday, May 5th**. More details later.

Member Laurence Brun, a qualified teacher, has offered to give members a few **French lessons**, based on pronunciation. There will be a small charge to cover photocopies etc. Details to follow .

The website

In February a few members got together to discuss the website and make suggestions for some changes. Ulrich Boes, the webmaster, started implementing these changes immediately though it will take a month or so for all the suggestions to become operational. Meanwhile, members are invited to explore the website and to send in comments.

<https://www.francobrits84.fr>

Looking for an original gift?
Consult Genevieve Casey's on-line exhibition on our website:
<https://www.francobrits84.fr>

Laure Overwater also has paintings for sale:
laureoverwater@gmail.com

The British Community Committee

The British Community Committee (BCC) 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. Its 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

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 in Aix en Provence.

<https://www.bookinbar.com>

Book in Bar - Librairie internationale 4 rue Joseph Cabassol Aix en Provence



The website is a means of communication for members. Not only will you find details of all the latest events and photos of past events but also information about the Comtat Venaissin, local events, the Avignon Festival, local public transport and numerous other subjects... Explore it now! <https://www.francobrits84.fr>

One of the new pages will be dedicated to promoting the work of members - paintings, crafts, etc... If you are interested in showcasing your work please send an email to franco.britsven@gmail.com with photos and a short text. You can also promote 'odd jobs' services as long as you are up to date with the URSSAF.

Don't forget to apply for **access to the members-only pages**... One of the big changes is that some of the posts on the Blog, at present only accessible to members, will shortly be on the public pages. Do please consider contributing to the Blog. It would be interesting to read about experiences of settling into the area - and battling with French administration...

We are very pleased to welcome three new members who have recently come to Provence and we look forward to meeting you at the Tuesday Conversation Group and during our outings.

If you have not already done so, please consider filling in Elisabeth Stoddart's survey. She has formally qualified as an electrician and is planning to launch a company, based principally in Avignon. She feels there is a niche in the market for a female odd-job-man who speaks English (and specialises in electricity). As part of her market research she is looking for feedback on her plans and hopes as many people as possible will spend a few minutes. It is completely anonymous.

Many many thanks for helping Elisabeth launch her project. The results are anonymous.

In French: <https://fr.surveymonkey.com/r/LVWPJ6F>

In English: <https://fr.surveymonkey.com/r/V9YZ2TT>

Many thanks to Ulrich Boes, our webmaster, and to all the committee members for their ideas, enthusiasm and commitment. Thanks are also due to members who suggest and run events, making it possible for the association to offer a wide variety of activities. Many thanks to Peter Guillery for his patient proof-reading. If you have any suggestions, please do not hesitate to contact a member of the committee. Looking forward to seeing you at our events.

Marie-Jacqueline Ballagh