

Monique d'Hooghe's  
handicrafts

# FRANCO-BRIT NEWSLETTER

## OUT & ABOUT

**Carpentras Patrimoines** is an association whose aim is to organize visits to historical buildings that are not normally open to the public. Although the visits are entirely in French they may be of interest to many of our members. Find out more in the blogpost!

<https://www.francobrits84.fr>

### A special event in August

Some of you have already enjoyed Katherine Despax's generous hospitality in the Luberon. On August 13th she is hosting a full day with lunch, afternoon tea, music and an evening apéro, all for 20€ plus a bottle, or 30€ all inclusive. Invitations have already been sent out by the Franco Brits, but please note that henceforward only those who have written to Katherine to ask to be put on her mailing list will receive notifications about her events.

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)

Welcome to the August Newsletter. Yet again, June and July slipped by before the newsletter appeared and now the Franco-Brit season is over until September.



### Regular activities:

The **Tuesday conversation group** wound up on June 20th and after the meeting participants relaxed over a drink in the Rich bar. The sessions will resume on Tuesday September 12th at 5 pm in the Maison du Citoyen. The present team of organizers will meet over the summer to decide how best to structure the sessions next season. Your comments and suggestions are welcome. Participants are encouraged to join the team... Send an email to [info@francobrits84.fr](mailto:info@francobrits84.fr). Many thanks to Alison Skinner, Peter and Zsu Guillery, John Elmhirst and Josette Meyssard for the lively and varied sessions.

**Qi Gong** sessions were held in the gardens of the Château de la Roseraie until the end of June, after a break in May due to the many bank holidays. Many thanks to Georges and Geneviève for organising these sessions.

The **Scottish dancing** sessions continued on Thursday afternoons at the MJC in Carpentras and will resume in September. Newcomers are always welcome. Come and try it out! The sessions are free to members but it is necessary to join the MJC too. Many thanks to Anne-Mie and Alain for organising these sessions

### Let's Lunch

Corinne Duval organised a 'Let's Lunch' at the restaurant Côté Vignes in Beaumes-de-Venise on Tuesday, May 16th and on June 13th we met in a Polish restaurant in Monteux- you will find an account of this festive and well attended event in Peter Guillery's blogpost on the website. If you have any ideas for restaurants to explore please send an email to [info@francobrits84.fr](mailto:info@francobrits84.fr).

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

## Events in May & June

Due to popular demand a second cookery workshop was held on Friday, May 4<sup>th</sup> in the 'salle protocolaire' at the Maison du Citoyen. Kamaljit Uppal demonstrated how to prepare 'Chaat Masala' and tamarind chutney. The session was much appreciated by the participants - thank-you Kam!

The second 'Printemps Anglophone' play reading was postponed as the date clashed with the 'Big Buffet'. It will take place in September.

### The King's Coronation.

The official Franco-Brit celebration of the King's Coronation was held on Friday, May 12<sup>th</sup> at Jeromus in Lorient du Comtat. The Big Band from the Conservatoire in Carpentras opened the proceedings, many members danced before enjoying a 'Big Buffet'. The jury for the hat competition - consisting of the two youngest members in the Big Band, voted Monique d'Hooghe as the winner of the hat competition.

### Fête de la Musique - Friday, June 29<sup>th</sup>

The Fête de la Musique has become a tradition with the Franco-Brits. Members are invited to share their talents and to play an instrument and/or sing. Many thanks to Geneviève & Georges for hosting this event and to all the numerous participants who shared their talents.

It has been suggested that musical events should be held more often. Now that the association has acquired a portable keyboard it will be possible to hold such events in various places. If you are interested in participating in a singsong on a regular basis please send an email to [info@francobrits84.fr](mailto:info@francobrits84.fr).

## Events in July

End of season get together...

The French National Holiday was celebrated this year on July 21<sup>st</sup> - the date of the Belgian National holiday - and in a Greek restaurant, Papiko in Montoux... A French restaurant had been planned nearer July 14<sup>th</sup> but for various reasons this turned out to be impractical. However, given the number of nationalities represented in our association, this fusion of countries and national holidays seemed a fitting way to end the Franco-Brit season. We were made to feel very welcome by the staff who generously filled and refilled our glasses with raki and gave us delicious Turkish Delight to sample - after we had paid the bill. Many thanks to Laure Overwater for telling us about this restaurant in Montoux which only opened a couple of months ago.

## 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



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

And made items and paintings  
for sale - they make ideal gifts!

[laureoverwater@gmail.com](mailto:laureoverwater@gmail.com)

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

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

## September

The next season will be launched on **Saturday, September 9th** with the traditional association day, referred to as 'le Forum des Associations'. Come and visit our stand on the Platanes car park to find out about our new programme, meet up again after the summer, speak to potential new members... Volunteers to help out at the stand are always welcome, please send an email to [info@francobrits84.fr](mailto:info@francobrits84.fr) if you wish to help for a couple of hours. Looking forward to seeing you there!

The **Tuesday conversation group** will meet again on **Tuesday September 12th at 5pm at the Maison du Citoyen**. New participants are always welcome and there is no need to commit to attending every week.

The **Scottish dancing** sessions will start on **Thursday, September 14th** at the **MJC in Carpentras**.

'**Let's Lunch**' will take place on **Wednesday, September 20th** in the restaurant 'la Cahute' which overlooks the lake in Mormoiron. Those who wish can go for a walk afterwards.



An outing to **Nîmes** is planned, exploring **street art** in the morning (a guided tour) followed by lunch and a stroll around Nîmes. Details will be sent nearer the date but please send an email to [info@francobrits84.fr](mailto:info@francobrits84.fr) if you are interested in participating in this outing.

The guided tour of Vaison la Romaine which had to be cancelled in spring will take place under a different format.

Please send an email to [franco.britsven@gmail.com](mailto:franco.britsven@gmail.com) if you wish to participate in the next paly-reading.

## Photo competition

We are pleased to announce **the theme of the fourth Franco-Brit photo competition: « Water - from ice to steam » - « L'eau dans tous ses états »**. In **September**, you will be informed of the dedicated email address for sending in your entries. The winning entries will be announced at the AGM in October and feature in the Franco-Brit 2024 calendar. The photo competition was first introduced in 2020 during Lockdown and was intended as a means of getting through those difficult months in a positive and pleasant way. A chance remark during Zoom apéro led to the first calendar in 2021. We look forward to seeing your entries in September.



*Two entries from the 2022 competition...*

## The website

Members are invited to explore the website for up-to-date details of activities. Accounts of recent activities can be found in the Blog. Do please consider contributing to the Blog.

<https://www.francobrits84.fr>

Don't forget to apply for access to the members-only pages...

On these private pages you will also find photos taken at the various Franco-Brit activities. If you have participated in any activities and wish to share your photos, please send them to the webmaster [webmaster@francobrits84.fr](mailto:webmaster@francobrits84.fr) after asking those in the photo for permission to publish it.

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. If you have any suggestions, please do not hesitate to contact a member of the committee. Looking forward to seeing you at our events.

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## **A communal kitchen garden - allotment...**

A Big Bang communal kitchen garden project was chosen by the Mairie earlier this year. The Franco-Brits have been asked to collaborate in the organisation and practical running of this project. Although initially reserved for those living in Carpentras, all Franco-Brit members will have the possibility of participating in this project, wherever they live. The idea is that 'many hands make light work'. Many would like to grow their own vegetables, but even if they already have a garden, they might not have the time, space or the know-how to cultivate a successful kitchen garden. A garden needs constant care and attention and this is not compatible with frequent holidays, long weekends and prolonged absences. In a communal garden, participants will take it in turns to dig, plant water, weed.... The crops, hopefully abundant, will be shared by those who have contributed to the upkeep of the kitchen garden.

Those with knowledge about gardening will be invited to give advice on what to plant and when, how to rotate crops... Talks can be organised to share knowledge and discover perma-culture, bio-dynamic cultivating...

The Mairie has allocated a plot of land in the Prairie des Cerisiers and work will start soon, the land will be prepared so that the first crops can be planted in late autumn.

If you are interested in participating in this project in any way, either by sharing knowledge, digging, weeding, general upkeep, please send an email to [info@francobrits84.fr](mailto:info@francobrits84.fr) stating how you can contribute and approximately how much time you can devote to the project. It does not have to be on a regular basis, the whole point is sharing tasks to fit in with varied schedules and skills.

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Many thanks to Monique d'Hooghe, Michèle Gallichio and Laure Overwater - the idea quite literally sprouted during one of the walks organised by the association a couple of years ago. We talked about sharing a garden but finding a suitable location was problematic. Now the Mairie has offered Carpentras a plot of land for growing vegetables...

Marie-Jacqueline Ballagh