

# FRANCO-BRIT NEWSLETTER

## APRIL 2020

### Out & About In Cyberland

Since lockdown museums all over the world have opened up their doors online, musicians have played from their homes, synchronizing to play in an orchestra, every day there is something new on offer. Below are just a few links, others are posted regularly on the Franco-Brit FaceBook page. If you hear of any interesting experiments please send me an email so that it can be shared.

#### Music:

<https://slippedisc.com/2020/03/believe-it-orchestra-plays-beethoven-9th-from-their-homes/>

This is just one example of many you can find on you tube.

#### Museums:

Tate : [national collection](#)

Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum  
[www.guggenheim.org](http://www.guggenheim.org)

#### Libraries

[ARCHIVE.ORG](#)

#### Humour:

You will find a selection of British comedy here:

British Comedy UK - YouTube  
[www.youtube.com/c/BritishComedyUK69](http://www.youtube.com/c/BritishComedyUK69)

Hello and welcome to the April Newsletter. I hope you are all keeping well and safe and that « confinement » is not weighing too heavily on you.



Franco-Brit activities came to a dramatic halt mid-March when first the schools and public buildings were closed down and then, a few days later, all movement was restricted and we were told to stay at home. This is particularly difficult for those who live alone or are separated from their family. We are trying to make things a little easier for you by keeping you up to date with the latest developments, suggesting on-line activities and contact and keeping in touch with you by email.

I want to thank in particular Ulrich Boes and Raina Pavlova who have been working so hard since lockdown set in. Ulrich keeps the website up to date and you will find a lot of useful information and advice there:

<https://www.francobrits84.fr>

Raina tirelessly sends out encouraging messages and useful tips. I also want to thank Anita Caillet who has organized plenty of activities for the Tuesday conversation group (open to all members of course). Some of these activities can be done in pairs or in a group, via Skype, messenger or whatever system suits you. I also wish to thank Jacqueline Duault who made a wonderful suggestion - sharing jokes and amusing video clips to lighten the mood. Many thanks also to Tim Akitt who has agreed to share his tips on « Dry gardening » and will answer any of your questions about gardening - so look out for the Franco-Brit « Gardeners' Question Time »!

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## SERVICES

French banking in English: mortgages; investments; property insurance & everyday banking requirements.

Contact the Service Anglophone at the Banque Populaire Méditerranée.

### **Robin Boxall (BPMED)**

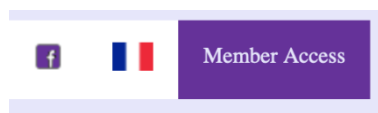
will be happy to advise you  
**Robin Boxall (BPMED)**



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The internet has turned out to be a boon during this time of enforced isolation. Thanks to the new website you can find all Anita Caillet's suggestions in the 'member's access' part of the website.



Be sure to ask for your password so that you can access these activities. Ulrich Boes is developing the blog and it will shortly be on line. This blog will depend on **your** contributions! You can send in articles about your travels, about how you are surviving confinement, about books you've been reading, about gardening or places of interest to visit when we are free to move around once more... The subject is up to you. Please send your contributions to : [franco.britsven@gmail.com](mailto:franco.britsven@gmail.com)

Last Tuesday three of us experimented a « chat in » via Skype. Two other members joined us two days later and we had a « Happy Hour », sharing an apéro on line! All members are welcome to join in this experiment. There are several possibilities: « Morning Coffee », « Afternoon Tea », « Happy Hour »...

Skype, Messenger, FaceTime, WhatsApp, Zoom, among others, can be used, please let us know what you are happiest with. We are still experimenting. If you are interested in participating, please send an email to:

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

And if any of you have any experience in 'video conferences' we would be glad of any advice you can give us.

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Looking back on early March, we are grateful to have been able to hold the Karaoke before lockdown. Despite a few technical hiccups there was a lot of fun, singing and dancing. Many thanks to John Elmhirst for the music and to all those who participated. The Tuesday conversation group had more and more participants, the sessions are carefully prepared and animated by Anita Caillet who does an excellent job. Thank-you Anita.

The outing to the gardens of the Lycée Agricole has had to be postponed yet again and no further outings can be organized during this uncertain period. We had already reserved the Roseraie for the 6th of June for a summer party, let us hope that by then it will be possible to get together again. Plans for the 35th anniversary celebrations have had to be postponed. If you have any ideas for a suitable venue , please let us know.

Meanwhile, be sure to keep in touch and let us know if you are facing any particular difficulties. We will try to help or to find a solution.

Thank you to all the members who have sent in photos of their gardens. Continue to send them in please. Many thanks.

All initiatives are welcome, please send in your suggestions to: [franco.britsvn@gmail](mailto:franco.britsvn@gmail)

Stay safe,

Marie-Jacqueline Ballagh