

FRANCO-BRIT NEWSLETTER



November 2020



OUT & ABOUT IN CYBERLAND

During Lockdown, please consult the website for the latest information about available online films, plays, concerts, opera, ballets, exhibitions...

Avoiding the shops...

LOCAVOR

<https://locavor.fr>

« Locavor » is a platform for local producers. You order and pay online and either collect your purchases or get them delivered. Click on the link above to find the one nearest to you, if Monteux is not convenient.

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Welcome to the November newsletter, presented under the shadow of a new Lockdown... We hope we will be able to help you feel a little less isolated during this troubled period. As during the first Lockdown, the website will keep you up to date with information about new developments and the possibilities of virtual entertainment. We will be sending you many emails with information about what is happening.



The main event in October was the AGM which took place on Thursday October 8th at the Roseraie. Many thanks to all those who made the effort to attend despite the restrictions and having to wear a mask throughout the proceedings. As we were unable to have our traditional buffet after the AGM we invited the participants for a drink in town.

Many thanks also to those who sent in their proxies, thereby showing their support of the association. This is much appreciated. Photos of the AGM and the Treasurer's financial report can be found on the member's only part of the website and a pdf version of the President's report can be found on the public part of the website at: <https://www.francobrits84.fr/en/page.php?pn=35>.

After the report of the year's events and the financial report, the webmaster, Ulrich Boes, gave a thorough presentation of the website and how to use the member's only section. Anita Caillet also gave a short presentation of the functioning of the Tuesday conversation group. A big thank-you to all those present for making the AGM an enjoyable occasion.

The Tuesday conversation group at the Maison du Citoyen, organized and animated by Anita Caillet and John Elmhirst, continued until the half term break. As only nine people were allowed in the room allocated to us in the Maison du Citoyen it was necessary to reserve a place and some members had to be turned away. However, sometimes not all those who had reserved turned up and they did not inform the organizers while other members did not reserve but turned up nevertheless... Many thanks to Anita and John for all their hard work in organizing and animating these sessions which unfortunately, due to Lockdown, have had to be temporarily suspended.

The monthly outing in October, a visit to the Nougat centre in St Didier, on their open day dedicated to bee-keeping, did not arouse much interest. Hopefully in spring we will be able to organise a special visit more tailored to the interests of our members.

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SERVICES

French banking in English: mortgages, investments, property insurance and everyday banking requirements.

Contact the Service Anglophone at the Banque Populaire Méditerranée.

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

Monique d' Hooghe's first craft workshop of the season was a great success. Beautiful flower and plant arrangements were made, emphasizing the beauty of the season's autumnal colours. The atmosphere was warm and friendly and the afternoon was rounded off with home-made muffins and herbal tea. Many thanks to Monique for her generous hospitality and patience. Photos of the work shop will be posted on the website shortly



« Let's Lunch » : In October we explored «L'Estanquet Di Font » in Pernes les Fontaines. Unfortunately, the menu was somewhat restricted that day due to the chef having to leave early. The restaurant's famed vegetarian burgers were not on offer and we will have to return some other time to sample them.

The first monthly « morning coffee » meeting took place in Caromb on Tuesday October 6th. This location had been chosen as there is a small market in Caromb on Tuesday mornings. Although only three people turned up it was the opportunity to put new members in contact with each other and these morning coffee meetings will resume as soon as possible.

One informal cycle tour was organized by John Elmhirst. Hopefully it will be possible to continue this activity in spring.

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Unfortunately, all activities planned for November are 'on hold': the Tuesday conversation group, the guided tour of Pernes, « Let'sLunch » in St Pierre de Vassols, morning coffee in Sarriens and the creation of Christmas table decorations with Monique. There was also a new activity planned, suggested by Geneviève Casy - an outdoor session of Qi Gong. The committee had been working hard to prepare these activities. They are something to look forward to when life gets back to a semblance of 'normality'.

Meanwhile, virtual activities will be organized. As not everyone is happy with Zoom and Skype proved not to be very satisfactory, any suggestions for alternative systems of online communication and video conferencing are more than welcome. You can send me an email or better still, write about your video experiences on the blog, thereby sharing your suggestions and experiences with all our members.

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During the first lockdown regular video sessions were held twice a week, on Monday and Thursday evenings. These were appreciated, permitting some kind of contact between members. We hope to resume these sessions as soon as possible.

There could also be themed video conferences, for example, a quiz night (this has apparently been done with success else where) or a play-reading. More ambitious -a sing-song! Please share your ideas by email or on the blog...

Another possibility of communication is « Adopt a pen-pal » : the idea is that French members find an anglophone for an exchange of emails. Both participants write part of their emails in the foreign language and correct the mistakes in the emails they receive. If you would like to participate in such a scheme, send me an email and I will put you in touch with each other, respecting your privacy of course. No contact addresses will be given to anyone without prior consent.

And how about inventing a bilingual crossword? This could be a communal project, members sending in suggestions for clues to potential 'crossword-masters' who would put the clues together and create a crossword. Any volunteers???

Hopefully theaters, opera houses and cinemas will renew their generous offers of free entertainment online. You will find up to date reports the website and if you hear of any interesting offers, please contact a member of the committee.

The website During Lockdown, the website is an essential means of communication. You are all encouraged to contribute to the blog, to share your experiences, ask questions about gardening, share recipes, amusing anecdotes... The more contributors there are, the more interesting and entertaining the blog will become. You can also comment on other member's contributions and send in photos. If you have not done so already, please apply for your password to have access to the 'members only' section.. Many thanks to Ulrich Boes who has made all this possible and who continues to develop the website.

I hope that despite the frustrations of this second Lockdown you will will not find that time weighs too heavily and that we can help you keep busy and entertained... Above all - keep safe - and keep in touch...

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