



Women's International Club
Méditerranée

Association loi 1901



Building bridges

Jeter des ponts

Newsletter No 11 – April 2011

PRESIDENT'S LETTER –Newsletter 11.April 2011

We have been very busy over the last few 2011. You should now have received your keep up our membership very well. Several other interests, but we have also managed –so we are very pleased to welcome them. and also to Carole and Marie for dealing



months compiling the new members list for copy and I am pleased to say we have managed to ladies have left us either to relocate or to take up to collect new members –some of them are French Thank you so much Gillian for compiling this list with the cheques.

When you destroy your old lists, please take by shredding. We do try very hard to respect for 2011, so please ask me for it at the next meeting.

care that they are disposed of safely, preferably your privacy. I have your new Membership card

ANGLO / FRENCH Group, Beaumont.

We have decided that for the time being the place.



Anglo/French conversation group will not take

We hope that after the new committee has to continue in the autumn.

been elected in June, arrangements can be made

If you are interested in continuing or starting then we can keep you informed of any future

with this activity, please give me your name and plans.

CLOTHES SWAP

On April 14, instead of our usual monthly swap. I must say I was a bit disappointed with about 35 at our gatherings, but this time there



meeting, we held our now biennial clothes the turnout of members. We normally have were only 15! Where were you?

However the people who did turn up sat in the their friends and managed to find a few euros from the sale of raffle tickets. The prize nated by Sadie Rothwell. Thank you very much chosen charity C.S.F-L. Thank you to all who

sun and enjoyed a glass of bubbly, a chat with bargains. We raised 220 euros, including 116 was a selection of beauty products kindly do- Sadie, the sum raised will be donated to our helped.

At this meeting we were pleased to welcome Diana Pareja from our sister club in Paris. She and her husband Thierry are in the process of making their home here in Languedoc, and we hope we shall be seeing more of them.

A.G.M. ELECTION OF PRESIDENT AND NEW

Very soon we shall be holding our Annual committee will be elected. Several members new people to come forward to help with the



COMMITTEE ON JUNE 9TH 2011.

General meeting where a new president and will be retiring and we are therefore looking for running of the club.

Please think about it. If you would like to be soon. Maybe you have been on the commit- ideas as to how to move on to new things. also very rewarding with worthwhile things to

nominated please give your name to me very tee of another WIC club, if so you may have new Being on the committee is hard work, but it is be involved in.

Many thanks in anticipation.
Catherine Kirby PRESIDENT WICM.



Visit to the Domaine des Trinites.

Although the date was April 5th we enjoyed beautiful summer weather on our visit to the Domaine des Trinites.

In one direction we could see Canigou with a covering of snow and in another Cap d'Agde and the sea.



The welcome we received from Simon and Monica was equally warm. Simon showed us his cave with its mixture of modern and ancient equipment. His enthusiasm for and knowledge of wine making were delightful to hear.



We then made our way up the hill to the terrace where a wonderful lunch (provided by Jan Churchman) awaited us and Monica served us with samples of their wines. A great time was had by all.

Many thanks are due to all who worked hard to provide this special occasion and a total of 170€ was raised for 'women for women'.



Dress Exchange

Our April Monthly Meeting was the Dress Exchange probably had the lowest turnout of members 116 raised by the raffle, so kindly donated by came (and enjoyed some lovely warm the quality of clothes that you brought, just know some of you went away with excellent my Cave. I have been asked to arrange a Summer so will with the Club's permission donate what is left to that.



Exchange in aid of Cancer support France. Sadly we all year and raised only 220 Euros, and that included Sadie Rothwell. A big thank you to those of you who weather and a glass of sparkling Rosé outside) for not enough buyers to do them justice, although I bargains. As usual I have all the "left over clothes " in Dress exchange for Cancer Support France later in the

Dress Exchange

The monthly meeting held on April 14th was a little different. Firstly we were greeted with a glass of either white or rosé sparkling wine! How delightful.

Then instead of our usual meeting we held Sadie Rothwell kindly donated 50 euro the same charity. Carol Turpie was the



a "Dress Exchange" in aid of Cancer Support France L/R. worth of VIE products which were raffled off in aid of lucky winner.

Unfortunately, only 15 members and two range of clothing, shoes, and other items

guests plus the committee attended. As a result, the on offer was rather disappointing.

A special "Thank You" to Sadie, Carole (and her daughter) and to Val for tea duty, and all who helped with arranging the clothing. We must also not forget to thank those members who did support this excellent charity.

Activities Corner

Share a Salad Lunch

Gloria and Sally invite you to lunch at Sally's house in Tourbes on

Tuesday 24th May at 12.30

Come and join us for lunch on the terrace and a glass of wine



Bring a salad to share and a donation of 5€ for **Women for Women International**

Directions to Sally's house to follow later.

We hope you can come and help us to help women whose lives have been devastated by war.



Please let us know if you can come email gloria - riacrow@gmail.com or sally - rosstourbes@gmail.com

A Little Light Reading—Some stores from our members The Perils of taking mobile phones into the toilet!!!!!!!

I visited the UK last week, to see my daughter. Upon arrival at Luton Airport, I decided to use the toilet before meeting my friend, who was giving me a lift to my old hometown. I took my large, hand luggage, in with me. I was wearing a lightweight shoulder purse, big enough to carry my passport, pennies and mobile phone. I pulled the chain and left the toilet when I was immediately called back by a lady who had gone in after me.

"Is that yours?" she asked. When I looked down I realised that, when I had bent down to grab the handle of my suitcase, my 'purse' must have fallen into the toilet without my realising! I quickly retrieved the purse, dried my passport and mobile on some paper and left the toilets.

My mobile phone has not worked properly since which has made things very awkward. I have lost all my numbers and will need to get a new mobile. What a costly thing to do. So, ladies, beware of taking your mobile into the ladies.



Lost in London (The story of a frightened 18-year-old fresh and green from the Emerald Isle)

A bright Sunday evening in early May 1965 would prove to be one of the most traumatic in my life. I stood alone in the centre of London, aged 18 years, dressed in what my mother considered the mode for a young lady (a tailored suit, hat, gloves, high heels, handbag to match and two cases) and looking obviously lost and very vulnerable to every 'nice' man who thought they could offer to help!



I was supposed to be met by my uncle, but having adhered, like glue, to the instructions I was given, I was in Cromwell Road and he at another airport bus terminus in London!! This was the days before mobile phones and with few households with phones.



The story, however, starts many months earlier in Dublin. I had been accepted for nurse training in a prestigious Dublin hospital. With my fee for training having been paid and my uniform provided by my parents and looking forward to embarking on a wonderful adventure, I was delivered into the tender care of the "Home Sister". Little did I know of the misery of life that awaited me within the confines of that building. The work was hard, the hours long and the study time inadequate. However that was not the problem. There was the existence of intimidation and what these days we would call bullying, but then, was called "respect for our elders" caused untold misery.

For example, as juniors, we had to stand aside and allow everyone else to go ahead of us. The dining hall was at the end of a long corridor, and we were obliged to look back prior to going in to see if any 'seniors' were approaching. If so, we had to wait until they had entered before entering ourselves. By this time, someone else would have commenced the approach! The occasional kind person would wave us in and not make us wait.

Mornings started with roll call, cup of tea and door by 6.30 we would still be standing there commencing duty. Breakfast lasted just 15 I doubt if I ever had even a piece of bread lunch, there was the possibility of having at became obvious that I was loosing a vast my 5ft 5 ins) when I started it was no wonder to leave. She actually had me screened for TB not too happy with the loss of the fees and



prayers at 6.50am. Sometimes in spite of being at the as roll call was made and therefore no tea for us before minutes and that included getting to and from the ward. prior to lunch for most of the 4 months I stayed. At least half of the meal before having to return on duty. It amount of weight and as I had only weighed 7 stone (to my Aunt told my parents in no uncertain terms that I had as she was so convinced I was very ill. My parents were the cost of the now wasted uniforms.

Some months later I wanted to go to England to train but my parents were violently against such a thing. The priest was sent for and he persuaded them to allow me to go for training at a convent hospital in Cheam, Surrey. I was to be met by my uncle in London, spend a few days with them and then onwards to Surrey.

My uncle had written telling me to take the 'Aer Lingus' bus into Cromwell Road bus terminal from Heathrow. Unfortunately, sometime earlier that particular route had changed its destination. My uncle arrived at Cromwell Road to be told the destination had changed and immediately went there. Mean-time, at Heathrow, I asked where the bus to Cromwell Road went from and was directed to the BA shuttle!



After some time standing alone on the pavement outside the bus station, and rejecting many offers of help, I found a policeman. I explained the situation and asked for directions to the right bus to take me to Tottenham where my uncle lived. Absolutely no help, except to tell me I should not be alone there! Taxis did not want to venture to North London but eventually a driver took pity on me and off we set. By this time it was almost 11pm and panic had well and truly set in. I have never prayed so much in my life!

Somewhere close to midnight we turned into the road where my uncle and aunt lived. My uncle was half way down the road heading for the police station to report me missing and to ask them to inform the police in Dublin to notify my parents! My aunt was pacing the pavement saying her rosary. I was not exactly the open air. I think she was more afraid of what my remember this was a time when many an innocent found themselves in rather nasty circumstances.



sure why she thought this might prove more effective in mother would do on receiving such news. One must girl, arriving into London, accepting help from a stranger,

Dear St Anthony, patron of lost causes and St Jude, night between listening to my aunt and me. My aunt departure to Surrey, that if there had been metal panic around the city of London.

patron of hopeless cases, must have had earache that festooned me with so many religious medals prior to my detectors around in those days, I would have caused

The fear of being lost has never left me but I am thankful, that unlike many a young girl arriving alone in London, I did have the money to take a taxi to safely. Marie Bowie

More stories like this are very welcomed, so please get writing!!!

Membership— We welcome our New Members:

| | | | |
|---|--|-------------|-----------------------|
| Nathalie Deslandes Tel: 06 66 34 38 44 | E mail: nathaliedeslandes@orange.fr | Nat: French | Mother Tongue: French |
| Isabelle Chatenay Tel: 04 67 00 08 87 | E mail: isabelle.chatenay@neuf.fr | Nat: French | Mother Tongue: French |
| Veronica Monteith (Ronnie) Tel: 04 67 01 34 88 | E mail: ronniemonteith@yahoo.co.uk | | |
| Sylvie Bayonove Tel: 06 26 05 48 65 | E mail: sybayo@gmail.com | | |
| <u>Corrected Telephone Number</u> | | | |
| Ingrid Summersall Tel: 04 67 44 78 81 | | | |



WICM wishes its following members a very happy birthday:



- May 4th Hank Hooreman
- 9th Marie Bowie
- 11th Erna Gaunt
- 24th Diane Broderick
- 24th Sally Ross



Apologises if your birthday isn't on the list, it could be that we do not have the date. Do let us know it and we will include you in our wishes.



Probably no need to remind you, but for those who are interested don't forget the wedding on the 29th April—as if the news and newspapers would let us!



Don't forget "Books at the Bourse Cafe" in Pezenas (next to Hotel Moliere), the next one on Sunday 15th May 10-12 . An excellent selection of English books for 1 Euro or less and good coffee too! Want to sell some books? ring Carole on 04 67 90 59 10 to book a table .

For Sale

Resin table , white , circular , 98cm diameter .
 Manufactured and guaranteed for 5 years by Grosfillex , centre hole to support a parasol , folds flat for easy storage .
 Never been used , still in the maker's original wrapping .

Price : offers around 30 € . Contact Marie Bowie on 04 67 01 46 97

May 2011

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

Sun

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|----|--|----|--|--|----|--|
| | | | | | | 1  Fête du travail |
| 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 Book Club 10.00—12.00 Maison pour Tous, Florensac 'Earthy Joys' by Phillipa | 7 | 8  Fête de la Victoire |
| 9 | 10 | 11 | 12  WICM Meeting Speaker Feggy Tolleson 14.30 Florensac | 13 | 14 | 15 |
| 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 |
| 23 | 24  Share A Salad Sally's house in Tourbes At 12.30 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 |
| 30 | 31 | | | | | |

Dates For June

- 3rd Book Club—Florensac—The Right Attitude To Rain by Alexander McCall Smith
- 9th Monthly Meeting—Florensac. AGM followed by a 'Pot Luck Lunch'
Gourmet Gals date to be announced