



### Remembrance Day

This day is for so many people in the world; the day to remember all who have given their lives in pursuit of freedom. In the UK the red poppy is the symbol of those lives lost or maimed, but you may not know that the bleuet, a cornflower, is the beautiful little flower worn at war memorials in France

### December Events

On December 2<sup>nd</sup>, we shall begin our Christmas celebrations with a lunch at Bistro d'Alex, VINIPOLIS, Florensac at noon. We are hoping for a good turnout, partners are very welcomed.

December 9<sup>th</sup> will be the day for the PANTO, served with mince pies, mulled wine and carols. Remember to bring along your voices for a very seasonal sing-song!

### Book Club

Several members of the Book club were not able to attend this month. However, nine of us had a lively discussion on the chosen book, Jane Eyre, which covered not only Charlotte Bronte's classic novel, but explored the lives and times which produced three sisters of such literary talent. Brought up in an isolated parsonage on the Yorkshire moors, the world could have passed them by, and their literary gifts never acknowledged, nor appreciated by successive generations worldwide.

The general opinion was that re-reading the novel, and being already familiar with the story-line, accentuated our appreciation of the author's skill in portraying the characters, their relationships, and the unfolding drama of the story. Also we discussed, the author's detailed description of the moor land, the weather, and the way of life 150 years ago. We wondered that the Bronte sisters, seemingly cut off from the world, their early lives punctuated by the successive deaths of their mother, their siblings, and with a delinquent brother and an uncaring father had the will to produce their novels and have them published within the timescale of their lives. Emily and Anne died unmarried by 30 years and Charlotte lived a further 10 years and died in childbirth. In conclusion, after re-reading Jane Eyre, we were conscious, as women, how much our expectations from life have advanced.

### Anglo/French

We have a few changes in our groups. Andrea Long has been so good in looking after us for quite some time now, but sadly she has decided to step down. However, we have a French lady, Isabelle Chatenay, who has agreed to take over in our monthly gatherings at Beaumont. Thank you Andrea and Isabelle. There are a few vacant places if you wish to join us for Anglo/French conversation at intermediate level. For beginners, Maria Fletcher (0467 940531) is running a group in her home in Pomerols.

### Cookery & Gardening Groups

The Cookery & Gardening group met at Beverley Stanford's house in Aspiran. Jacky Murray had chosen a Russian theme and six ladies used their imagination together with a little help from Google to cook suitable dishes.

We started with borscht and followed with an eggplant appetiser and a herring and apple salad. The next course was a combination of Armenian spinach, a Russian meat dish with chicken and a pumpkin bake with almonds. Jacky made a delicious Black Russian cake to finish. Beverley provided white and rosé wine, but we decided against vodka as several people were driving!

Beverley's maison vigneronne has an unusual secluded terrace and after lunch we had a brief look at it. There is a flourishing Catalpa (Indian Bean tree) given a few years ago by Carolyn Goddard, as a small cutting. Olive trees in pots provide height and together with Jasmine, blue Plumbago, several Laurier roses. Lilies, Begonias and a Lemon tree with many flowers, a 'concrete' garden has been transformed.

### Frock Exchange

Thank you so much to Carole for providing the venue for what now seems to be an annual event - "The Frock Exchange". We all had such a good time and went home happy carrying our bargains. I am sure that C.S.F.L. was delighted to receive our cheque for 400 euros given in donations. Well done everyone.





**"Women helping women"**

As well as being most affected by poverty, women tend to suffer the greatest casualties in times of war, including torture, rape and mutilation.



Women for Women International sponsor individual women who are victims of war in 9 countries, including Sudan, Nigeria, Afghanistan, Iraq and DR Congo. Sponsorship provides direct aid to support a woman and her family, job skills training and rights awareness education.

It's been suggested that we at WICM might sponsor a woman. This would cost around 20€ per month, plus a one-off 22€ admin charge. We would have a direct link with one named woman and be kept regularly informed of her progress.

As this would need to be an ongoing commitment we'd like to know what you think. Please have a look at the website – [womenforwomen.org](http://womenforwomen.org) – and contact any Committee member with your views.



**Restos Bebe - Do you have a scarf you no longer wear?**

As well as presents for children, Restos Bebe are hoping to give all the mothers a present this Christmas, and are appealing for gifts of good quality scarves ( foulards, light, silky ones, rather than echarpes, outdoor woolly scarves).

Please bring your scarves either to the Christmas lunch on 2<sup>nd</sup> December or to the Panto on 9<sup>th</sup> December.

**Birthdays**

We at WICM have been for sometime now, sending a Jacqui Lawson email greeting card to our members to help celebrate their birthday. Sadly, some of these emails/cards are not being opened. We can assure you they are quite safe and are not junk mail. If you have not received one of these cards and would like to on your birthday, please let either Sally Ross or Jan Churchman know the date of your birthday.



**Restos du Cœur**

Sally is still collecting tins, jars, etc. for Restos du Cœur and we hope to present them with a big hamper later in December. Remember to bring some more items to the Monthly Meeting on December 9th. Thank you !

**Les Nouvelles**

Do you have any interesting articles to be included in our December edition of Les Nouvelles ? The closing date is Dec 20<sup>th</sup>, send to Jan Churchman at [jechurchman@aol.com](mailto:jechurchman@aol.com).

**Les Petites Annouces**



**Are you looking for a kitten?**

Can anyone out there give a loving home to 8 week old 'Jimmy'. He needs somewhere warm for the winter otherwise he won't survive. Please contact [Anniewillers@aol.com](mailto:Anniewillers@aol.com). Please help.

**Christmas Concerts**

The Chorale Internationale de Capestang will be performing Christmas concerts at 18:00 on Saturday December 11th at La Collégiale St. Etienne in Capestang and at 18:30 on Sunday December 12th at L'église St Jean-Baptiste in Marseillan. The programme will include Benjamin Britten's "Ceremony of Carols" and other popular Christmas music.

Also at 13:00 and 16:00 at the Christmas Fair at the Chateau de Cassan on Sunday November 28th.

The Appassionata chorale will be performing Christmas concerts at 20:00 on Thursday December 9th at L'église St. Pierre-aux-Liens in Bassan and on Friday December 10th at L'église St.-Gervais-et Protais in Caux. Programme to include Christmas songs from many countries.

Info: Andrea Long - [along200@gmail.com](mailto:along200@gmail.com).



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If you wish to include anything in this section please let Jan Churchman or myself have the details.



**HAVE A VERY HAPPY CHRISTMAS – with my best wishes, Catherine Kirby, PRESIDENT WICM**



## Dates for the Diary

Thursday December 2nd – Christmas Lunch, VINIPOLIS, Florensac @ 12 noon

Friday December 3rd – Book club, HOTEL du LAC, Anita Brookner

Thursday December 9th – PANTO, mulled wine, mince pies and carols, MAISON POUR TOUS -husbands and partners are invited @ 14.30

Tuesday December 14th – Anglo/French. Beaumont @ 10.00

Saturday December 25th – Happy Christmas to you all !

**2011**

Thursday January 6th – Committee meeting, Tourbes @10.00

Thursday January 13<sup>th</sup>, Monthly Meeting – our 5<sup>th</sup> BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS. Speaker: Fiona Joyce (formerly Dunscombe) on “My Life As a Writer”

Tuesday January 18<sup>th</sup> – Anglo/French – Beaumont @ 10.00

## New or Renewing Members, Change of email address, etc.

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