



Women's International Club
Méditerranée

Association loi 1901



Building bridges

Jeter des ponts

Newsletter No 17 — December 2011



PRESIDENT'S LETTER – DECEMBER 2011

Dear Members,

It was so lovely to see many of you, and particularly those who had been unable to attend the recent meetings, join us at the monthly meeting on December 8th. We enjoyed an afternoon of songs, carols and some wonderful singing from Heather Curry and Jean Black. I must not forget to thank our 'Fun Singers' who made a 'comeback' (if pop stars can do it why not them?) for this occasion. Maybe we can look forward to them entertaining us at future meetings?



We were able, as a result of your generosity at the recent 'Dress Exchange', to present a cheque to the value of 450 euro to the CSF O'Shea. Pauline



although they are in a more secure financial months ago, donations are always welcome and

a cheque to the value representative Pauline explained that, situation than when she visited WICM about 18 put to good use.



We also welcomed a lady from Mexico, and two to see new faces and hopefully some of them may join us as members.

other visitors from the local villages. It is always good

Can I say a 'Big Thank You' to all who brought along contributions to our little party? There was some delicious food on offer and the mulled wine went down extremely well. I have to say that when I prepared 5 litres of mulled wine I thought I had wildly over estimated! To then find that requests for re-fills had to be turned away, well what can I say? Everyone appeared to have a good time and that is the most important thing.



To those who could not join us due to illness may I say get well soon?



On behalf of the members we would like to wish Catherine all the best for her operation in January. We expect to see you dancing by Easter, Catherine!

There is such upheaval in the world at the moment and so many people suffering. We should be thankful for what we have here, in our little piece of paradise. May we continue to enjoy life and particularly our club.



I would like to wish you all a very Happy Christmas and a Healthy and Happy 2012.

Marie Bowie





CHRISTMAS LUNCH AT BISTRO D'ALEX — THURSDAY 1ST DECEMBER, 2011



21 members and 11 guests enjoyed a very good lunch at the above Restaurant.

We started our lunch with a variety of aperos, provided by the Club, together with the odd bubbly.



This was very pleasant 3-course meal, and plenty of wine, enamoured with all the food, the atmosphere was time.



followed by a etc. Although some people were not totally superb and everyone appeared to have a good

Some of the Club members participated in a completed by coffee for those who so wished.

exchange of small Xmas gifts and the meal was

A very enjoyable few hours – spent in good company.



Do you think that this member didn't get enough to eat?!



ON A BICYCLE MADE FOR TWO!

The next time you meet one of our members, Gloria Crowther, take a second look! This lady and her husband, think nothing of a cycle ride which on one hand, might just be through the local villages, or on the other, perhaps 800km. And in just 13 days! According to Gloria, "at the end of each day they were absolutely exhausted and what is more they had really sore bums"!



Her husband Pete, had enjoyed extreme cycling for many years and once set off for Perth, Australia and then cycled the 5000 miles across the Nullarbor Desert to Sydney. And that was just to pass the time whilst he waited for some official documents to come through!

Gloria only took up cycling after her marriage to Pete 10 years ago. She had never cycled, even as a child, so to her surprise she really enjoyed it.

According to Gloria, one of the delights of cycling on a tandem is the fact that they can chat whilst peddling along. Maybe some other nationalities could take a lesson and not block up the roads by cycling three abreast chatting!



In Spring 2012 Gloria and Pete intend to travel across America from Chicago to San Francisco, California, on the famous Route 66. This is familiar to most of us via the song "Get your kicks on Route 66". This song was first made famous by Nat King Cole in 1947 but most of us will remember the Chuck Berry version from our youth!

More recently the comedian and entertainer Billy Connolly has done the trip. Gloria and Pete will join the elite band that has completed this journey. However, this time they hope to do it on a motorbike with a sidecar. I am sure their 'bums' will appreciate the rest!

Good luck to them in their future adventures. We can look forward to Gloria telling us a little more about their previous adventures at our monthly meeting in February.





CHRISTMAS GREETING FROM SISTER WIC CLUBS



We have received Christmas Greeting from the following WIC Clubs:

Chicago (USA) - Athens - Brussels

Many of our WICM members replied to the WICM Christmas card (sent via the Jacqui Lawson website) and have sent their best wishes to all WICM members for Christmas and the New Year



YOGA FOR BEGINNERS

Gentle exercise for building strength, unwinding, stiff reducing stress.

If you are interested in joining a practice group please crow@gmail.com or phone 04 67 37 76 13.

Venue to be decided later, depending on numbers.



joints and loosening muscles. For relaxation and

contact Gloria Crowther at Ria-



GOURMET GIRLS

The January Gourmet Girls will be held on 24th January at Restaurant L'Essentiel, Pezenas



For 20 Euros per person, you will have an Entree, Plat, Dessert, Wine and Coffee.

The restaurant is on the industrial estate, close to Komoko and the Akena Hotel. There is plenty of parking. The restaurant is run by Phillip, who prepared WICM's Christmas lunch in 2009

Contact Joan Purple if you wish to attend.



BACK TO BASICS - DID YOU KNOW?

The acid in lemon juice removes stains, dip the cut side of a lemon in baking soda and rub over countertops wipe with a clean wet cloth. Dry with paper towel.

Dishes - Add a teaspoon of lemon juice to your dish washer.

Taps - Rub lemon juice over taps at night, rinse off and wipe dry in the morning.

Tile Gout - Mix lemon juice with 1 or 2 teaspoons of cream of tartar to make a paste apply with a toothbrush, then rinse.

Laundry - Add a cup of lemon juice to the rinse cycle of the washing machine to brighten whites.

Plastic food containers - Rub lemon juice on stains, let dry in a sunny place, then wash as usual.



NEXT MONTH

Ketchup is not only for chips and toothpaste all around the house!!!!!!!!!!!!



PAUSE FOR THOUGHT



Apparently the White House referred to Christmas Trees as Holiday Trees for the first time this year which prompted CBS presenter, Ben Stein, to present "Sunday Morning Commentary". It does to America .



this piece. He recited it on CBS applies just as much to lots of other countries as it

Ben Stein—"My confession: I am a Jew, and every single one of my me even a little bit when people call those don't feel threatened. I don't feel trees.

ancestors was Jewish. And it does not bother beautiful lit up, bejewelled trees, Christmas trees. I discriminated against. That's what they are, Christmas

It doesn't bother me a bit when people are slighting me or getting ready to put we are all brothers and sisters celebrating that there is a manger scene on display at people want a crèche, it's just as fine with

say, 'Merry Christmas' to me. I don't think they me in a ghetto. In fact, I kind of like it. It shows that this happy time of year. It doesn't bother me at all a key intersection near my beach house in Malibu . If me as is the Menorah a few hundred yards away.

I don't like getting pushed around for pushed around for being Christians. I think people who believe in God are sick and tired of getting pushed around, period. I have no idea where the concept came from, that America is an explicitly atheist country. I can't find it in the Constitution and I don't like it being shoved down my throat.

being a Jew, and I don't think Christians like getting

Or maybe I can put it another way: where did the idea come from that we should worship celebrities and we aren't allowed to worship God ? I guess that's a sign that I'm getting old, too. But there are a lot of us who are wondering where these celebrities came from and where the America we knew went to.

In light of the many jokes we send to one another for a laugh, this is a little different: This is not intended to be a joke; it's not funny, it's intended to get you thinking.



Billy Graham's daughter was interviewed on the Early Show and Jane Clayson asked her 'How could God let something like this happen?' (regarding Hurricane Katrina).. Anne Graham gave an extremely profound and insightful response. She said, 'I believe God is deeply saddened by this, just as we are, but for years we've been telling God to get out of our schools, to get out of our government and to get out of our lives. And being the gentleman He is, I believe He has calmly backed out. How can we expect God to give us His blessing and His protection if we demand He leave us alone?'

In light of recent events... terrorists attack, school shootings, etc. I think it started when Madeleine Murray O'Hare (she was murdered, her body found a few years ago) complained she didn't want prayer in our schools, and we said OK. Then someone said you better not read the Bible in school. The Bible says thou shalt not kill; thou shalt not steal, and love your neighbour as yourself. And we said OK.

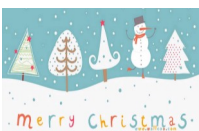
Then Dr. Benjamin Spock said we shouldn't spank our children when they misbehave, because their little personalities would be warped and we might damage their self-esteem (Dr. Spock's son committed suicide). We said an expert should know what he's talking about. And we said okay.

Now we're asking ourselves why our children have no conscience, why they don't know right from wrong, and why it doesn't bother them to kill strangers, their classmates, and themselves.



Probably, if we think about it long and hard enough, we can figure it out. I think it has a great deal to do with 'WE REAP WHAT WE SOW.'

Funny how simple it is for people to trash God and then wonder why the world's going to hell. Funny how we believe what the newspapers say, but question what the Bible says. Funny how you can send 'jokes' through e-mail and they spread like wildfire, but when you start sending messages regarding the Lord, people think twice about sharing. Funny how lewd, crude, vulgar and obscene articles pass freely through cyberspace, but public discussion of God is suppressed in the school and workplace.



Are you laughing yet? Funny how when you forward this message, you will not send it to many on your address list because you're not sure what they believe, or what they will think of you for sending it.

Funny how we can be more worried about what other people think of us than what God thinks of us"

I HAVE SENT THIS TO EVERYONE AT WICM AS I THINK IT IS WORTH SHARING AND I WISH YOU ALL A VERY HAPPY CHRISTMAS — Jan Churchman



**BOOK CLUB**

Meets the first Friday every month at Maison pour Tous, Florensac — 10.00—12.00

Books for 2012

JanuaryA Very long Engagement by Sebastien Japrisot .

FebruaryLark Rise to Candleford by Flora Thompson

MarchShort stories by Guy de Maupassant .

AprilThe Help by Kathryn Stockett .

MayThe Other side of the Bridge by Mary Lawson /

Junenot chosen yethow about "The Grapes of Wrath "by John Steinbeck ,as chosen by Irene ????

**ANGLO/FRENCH CONVERSATION**

The next Anglo/French conversation group will be on 17th January at Beaumont at 10.00

**NEXT MONTHLY MEETING:**

January 12th at Maison pur Tous, Florensac 14.30—it will be WICM's 6th Birthday. Wine will be provided by Heather and the Birthday Cake will be provided by WICM but made by Jan Churchman.

FEBRUARY MONTHLY MEETING

There is a change of venue for this meeting. It is: Foyer de Artisans. Florensac It is the old meeting room on the 1st floor over the large meeting place.

9TH FEBRUARY 2012 — 1.00 p.m. **General Knowledge Quiz and Pot Luck Lunch**

We are inviting WIC Languedoc-Roussillon St. Chinian members to join us for a Pot Luck lunch and Quiz afternoon.

For new members, this means each person brings a dish (savory or sweet) which is shared via the lunch table. WICM will provide the wine and soft drinks. Each person should bring their own cutlery and plate. Also, if anyone has a folding picnic chair they would be prepared to bring we would be most grateful. Guests of both genders are invited.

At 2.00 p.m. the quiz will begin and you should arrange teams of 4, 5 or 6 persons. Each team should decide on their TEAM NAME e.g. "The Brains Trust" or "The Dead Beats" etc.

We do hope you will participate as St. Chinian gave us a lovely day when they organised a similar event last year. Due to space restrictions, if you would definitely like to participate, **could you please advise Robin Gregory on robinski.gregory@gmail.com**.



WICM wishes its following members a very happy birthday:

January

1st	Jan Churchman
11th	Francine Devoto
13th	Charmaine Eldridge
15th	Julia Buckland
21st	Heather Curry
22nd	Joan Purple

E cards are sent from WICM to members on their birthday, please do open them. The sender is WICM Birthday Card.



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

