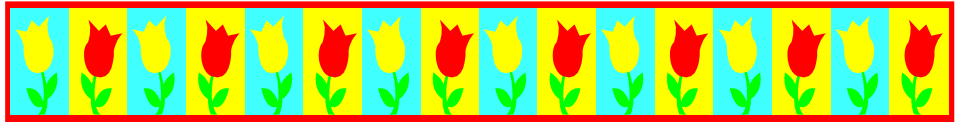




Women's International Club  
Méditerranée

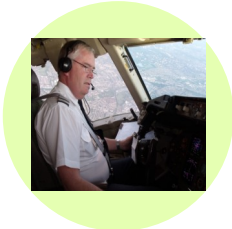
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Building bridges Jeter des ponts

Newsletter No 9 – February 2011

### Letter From Your President



I was sorry to have missed the last monthly meeting where Tim Churchman gave an interesting account of his life as a pilot.. Tim started by role playing a captain being interrupted by a member of cabin crew, (his wife, Jan in this case). He gave a very enjoyable, entertaining and interesting talk and about how he came to be a pilot and his experiences working for two different airlines, answering a wide range of questions. Both members and guests had a very enjoyable afternoon. Thank you Tim!



One of the topics of discussion at that meeting was once more the problem of getting articles etc. translated into French. It has always been difficult, and despite the very many attempts to attract more French members and ask for help this has not always forthcoming. The members were asked whether they wished the Newsletter/Les Nouvelles to be available in both languages and the vote was overwhelmingly to continue with our present system, but always to welcome content in French if this can be provided by the contributor. It would be great if we could have some articles just in French! No reason why not! We shall of course continue to have our Anglo/French conversation groups and French speakers at our monthly meetings. We have also recently recruited several new members of different nationalities, who have joined us from other clubs around the world where just English is used, and they have indicated that this is what they want here in WICM. Let us now move on and remember we are just a part of a much bigger and very successful world-wide organization.



Sadly we have had to decline the invitation from IWC –Denmark to their gathering in early September .The difficulty of travel, costs, plus lack of interest was just too much, but we have sent them our good wishes and hope they all have a wonderful time. We will look forward to hearing all about it. Thank you to Yvonne and Irene for trying to help re. the travel arrangements.



Our meeting in March will have two parts to it. First of all we shall be celebrating International Women's Day where we shall remember our women friends around the world who are not always as fortunate as us. Wear something purple –the special colour. Women for women international group (supporting women in war zones) will be walking over bridges (including London and New York) and displaying notices to promote peace and development for the women of the future. As our motto is "Building bridges-jeter des ponts" it would seem only right that we shall think of these things. We are planning to hold an event in the future to sponsor this cause. The second part of our meeting will be to welcome Jeanne Fourthier from Restos du bebe, Pezenas. We hope to give her a "bumper bundle" of baby things, nappies etc. so please bring them along to the meeting or give them to Sally beforehand.



In April we shall be holding another Clothes Swap-the last one was very successful! Please save your summer clothes for this occasion –more details later. Also on April 5<sup>th</sup>. we are arranging a wine tasting and lunch in Roquessols nr. Faugeres .This should be a great day out for yourselves and your guests.



Sadly Anglo/French at Beaumont had to be cancelled this month because Isabelle was unable to be there, but the March 15<sup>th</sup>. meeting is scheduled to go ahead.

Thank you to Joy for hosting a Pause Café this month – always a good way to enjoy each other's homes and company. Due to the generosity of our members and friends 118 euros was raised for charity.

Maybe another of our members might consider hosting one?



### Pause Café



A glorious sunny afternoon brought out a number of WICM ladies, some neighbours and a couple of gentlemen to enjoy afternoon tea of home-made cakes and sandwiches on the terrace of Joy Powell's home in St Pons de Mauchiens.

They came bearing gifts which were sold in yet another enjoyable fund raising experience for "Women for Women International". We made a princely sum of 118 euros. A big thank you to everyone especially my local friend, Jill who kindly made the cakes and whom I have yet to introduce to WICM.

### Trip To Spain



Our trip to Spain is now on Thursday March 17<sup>th</sup>. We plan to leave Florensac at 8.00-PROMPT! and hope to be back at about 18.30. How you spend your day will be for you to choose. The Dali Museum costs 12 euros entry fee and is well worth a visit, or you may prefer to enjoy the old town of Figueres –great shops and choice of restaurants. On the way home we shall stop at La Jonquera so you can fill up those empty shopping bags with goodies. The cost for yourself and your guests will be 10euros –a real bargain for a day out!(pay on the coach).

**HAVE TO REPORT, THE LIST IS NOW FULL!** So sorry, only a waiting list is available for any cancellations

### Gourmet Gals

2011 got off to a flying start for the Gourmet Girls.

The first lunch was at the Restaurant/Grill "Hippopotamus", situated in the new Polygone Centre, Beziers. 10 ladies met and enjoyed an excellent meal. The menus were varied and of reasonable prices. Quality and presentation of food was good and the service excellent.

The only down side to the event was the lack of locally sourced wine plus the price of the wines.

Most of us appreciate we are living in an area, which now has an excellent reputation for its wines, so to have on offer only one local wine, a "Merlot de pays d'Oc" was very disappointing. Much to our amazement there was even a Chilean wine on the carte.

However, we have no hesitation in recommending this venue for a pleasant meal.

Parking in the complex is free for 3 hours but only if you remember to ask at whichever establishment you purchase/eat for a card which has to be inserted into the payment machine before introducing your parking ticket.

The Gourmet Girls would like to encourage more members to join us in future months.

You may not be guaranteed a good meal every time but the company is always excellent and a good laugh is enjoyed by all. So do remember "Man (or Woman) cannot live by bread alone"!!

February's Gourmet Girls lunch date truly was Gourmet, Gourmet, Gourmet!

I am pleased to report that 14 WICM ladies lunched with style and sophistication at *La Table d'Emilie*, Marseillan. We each enjoyed a fabulous 3 course midi menu for only 19 € plus 3 excellent wine selections, made by Catherine. With outstanding presentation, we were wowed at each and every course.



Offering contemporary yet classic cuisine and superb fish dishes, *La Table d'Emilie* is a "must eat at" restaurant. We were treated with outstanding service throughout our entire meal and we were spoiled with fabulous tasters between courses.

With conversation and laughs flowing up and down the table, we hardly noticed the time creeping past 3 O'clock! Gourmet Girls is a great way of meeting up with other members of WICM, getting to know people a little better and building friendships.

By a unanimous decision all ladies concurred that our lunch at *La Table d'Emilie* was one of the best Gourmet Girls lunch dates so far and we all very keen to have the next Gourmet Girls date in our diaries before we even left the table.

What a wonderful afternoon ladies, thank you all for your company and thanks to Catherine for the venue suggestion.



### Activities Corner

A date for your diary! Wine tasting and lunch!

On Tuesday 5th April Simon and Monica Coulshaw will be welcoming WICM to their domaine at Roquessels, near Faugeres. A tour of the winery will be followed by a buffet lunch, accompanied by their wines. The cost will be 5€ pp. Numbers are limited to 40, so watch out for more details, including how to reserve your place.

For more information on the domaine and wines go to [www.domainedestrinites.net](http://www.domainedestrinites.net)



### Book Club

February's book 'Suite Francaise ' was well received . Well done to Rosemary Balmer for introducing the author and the novel to us so well at the beginning of the meeting. It was set at the beginning of the Second World War and dealt with occupied France and how all different sorts of people reacted to it. We discussed what we would have done and Freddie Ridler told us about her father being held hostage in Holland, very frightening indeed. In March we delve into English High society with the famous classic,"Pride and Prejudice". All members are welcome, even if you haven't read it recently



### English Conversation Practice

Joan Purple and Carole Turpie held their first English Conversation Practice session. They had 3 french speakers and talked about St Valentine's Day ,Internet dating and changes since they were young . Everyone said they enjoyed it. This activity will be repeated every 2 weeks .



### Announcements

#### Cancer Support Information.

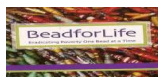
As Cat Hartley will be away until March 23rd. C.S.F.-L can be contacted on [csf.languedoc@gmail.com](mailto:csf.languedoc@gmail.com) or by phone— 04 67 97 31 44.(Sara Bowles)

For French speakers there is now a helpline for them . They can be contacted on [www.cancersupportfrance.info](http://www.cancersupportfrance.info) – or by phone— 0810 810 821.



CSFL are considering running a regular “drop-in” centre in the Pezenas area. Currently they have two possibilities one in Pezenas, the other in Montagnac. This would be an effective way of clients getting in touch with CSFL without having to ring for help. Additionally it offers relaxation and entertainment to cancer patients, their supporters and our members.

Volunteers are needed—if anyone is interested please contact CSFL on the above details.



#### Bead For Life Europe.

Host a Bead party for impoverished Ugandan women. Info: [www.BeadforLife.org](http://www.BeadforLife.org) or phone: 04 67 65 01 31.

#### Web Site

The Web Site ([www.wicmediterranee.org](http://www.wicmediterranee.org)) is in the process of being updated and some changes have been made to it—please do take a look at it. \if anyone has anything they would like to add, please contact : [jechurchman@aol.com](mailto:jechurchman@aol.com)



#### Membership— We welcome our New Members:

Elizabeth Moir

Tel: 0467005348 Mob 0686041715 E mail [lizedimp2001@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:lizedimp2001@yahoo.co.uk) Nat: Welsh Mother Tongue: English

Annette Cole

Tel: 0467181305 TEL 0682180807 E mail [ac.cole@dbmail.com](mailto:ac.cole@dbmail.com) Nat: .British Mother tongue: Danish  
Other Languages: .English ,French, (some Italian and German)

Amanda Kent

Tel: 0499416988 Mob 0676807906 E mail [amandakent2010@gmail.com](mailto:amandakent2010@gmail.com) Nat: British Mother tongue: English

Ingrid Summersall

Tel 0467887704 Email [ingridsummersall@hotmail.com](mailto:ingridsummersall@hotmail.com) Nat: German Mother tongue: German/English

Michelle Dickson

Nat: French.

**March 2011**

**Mon                      Tue                      Wed                      Thu                      Fri                      Sat                      Sun**

	1	2 Committee Meeting 14.30 in Montlanc	3	4 Book Club 10.00—12.00 Florensac "Pride and Prejudice"	5	6
7	8	9	10 Monthly Meeting 14.30 Florensac International Women's Day WEAR PURPLE	11	12	13
14	15 Anglo/French 10.00 Beaumont	16	17 Trip To Spain Leave 8.00 Mairie Car Park, Florensac DON'T BE LATE	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

**APRIL DATES TO BE NOTED:**

Tuesday 5 April —Wine tasting and lunch at Roquessols—See Page three for current details—more to follow

Thursday 14 April —monthly Meeting at Florensac

Clothes Swap—Date not known yet. Details to follow