



Dear members,

I know that many of you are travelling or in your home countries, but here in the Var the Mimosa has started to flower. We still light our fires in the evening, but we lunch outside and are finding new signs of spring in the countryside every day. We look forward to meeting up with our friends in the weeks to come and might see you at the Mimosa festival in Tanneron on Sunday 4 February. The village is decorated with Mimosa and there is a marché as well as dancing, and a mimosa cocktail offered by the Mairie.

Best wishes

Siri

Pot Luck Lunch

It's that time of year when we start to organise our season of Pot Luck Lunches, and we are looking for volunteers who would be willing to host an event. These popular Sunday lunches (partners are invited too) are a leisurely way of spending time with friends and meeting new people whilst enjoying an array of delicious food and plenty of wine! As a host, you provide the venue whilst guests each bring a dish of food as well as their own plates, glasses and cutlery - so no washing up left for you at the end! The lunches are normally held in the garden during the Summer months and the Club can provide additional tables, chairs and parasols as necessary. A small charge of 8 euros per person covers the cost of wine, beer, water and bread.

If you think that you may be interested in hosting a Pot Luck Lunch from April onwards or would like any further information, please contact Pamela McKenzie pammckenzie@hotmail.co.uk

New Member

We extend a very warm welcome to our newest club member.

Miruna Smith, who is from USA/Romania and lives in Cotignac,

Committee News

The Club would like to thank Pauline Fraser for her work as Treasurer and Membership Secretary for the past two and a half years. She has done a wonderful job modernising our accounts and revising the way we welcome new members. Pauline's husband is seriously ill in hospital in Marseille, and she now needs to devote her time to help him recover. We send both Pauline and Stuart our heartfelt wishes.

We are very pleased to let you know that Jenny McNaught, who many of you know as the previous editor of our newsletter, has agreed to be co-opted to the Committee as Treasurer.

We would like to wish a very
Happy Birthday
to all our members
who will be celebrating their
birthday in February.





Coffee Mornings

Normally the **Fayence** group meets on Tuesday mornings at La Camandoule (just past the roundabout at the bottom of Fayence, direction Seillans) from 10.30 until noon. Coffee and biscuits are available for €3.50 per person, payable even if you just pop in.

Golf

For information on golf dates in February and to book a place, please contact Lesley Joffick at lesleyjoffick@hotmail.com or call 06 47 79 77 56

IWCV Bridge

Aurora Hille has organised the IWCV Bridge for several years with great enthusiasm. Bridge is normally organised every second Tuesday. The February dates are Tuesday 6th & 20th. Please consult the Bulletin Board for all information relating to Bridge club. Or contact Aurora for dates and details. aurorahille@gmail.com

Walking Group

Dear ladies, there will be **NO WALKS** in *January and February*, as I am travelling in Equador.

Looking forward to seeing you all in March
kittycaassist@gmail.com or 06 82 79 70 26

English Book Group

At the English Book Group's January meeting we discussed "Napoleon's Last Island" by Thomas Keneally. Based on the diary of a young English girl whose family befriended the Emperor in exile, this is a fascinating look at Napoleon Bonaparte's final years on the remote island of St Helena. A fictionalised account, it is impossible to know if we have been given a valuable insight or a vivid re-imagining of "Boney", who took his pastry chef and lamp-lighter into exile and was surely one of history's most complex, charismatic and consequential figures.

The next meeting will be on Wednesday 14th February. We will be discussing "The People in the Photo" by Hélène Gestern.

The Book Group is fully subscribed, but if you would like to go on the waiting list, please email sally@aggerbear.com

Tennis

We play tennis on Monday mornings in Fayence, starting at 9 am. Anyone with a racket is welcome. Play is organised by Evelien. Contact her for more details:

evelienvandersluis@orange.fr

IWCV Monthly Lunches

The next monthly lunch dates are Tuesday 13th February and 13th March. The price for a three course lunch is 23.50 euros including an apero, a glass of house wine and coffee. This is a special price for members of the club for these Tuesday lunches only, and still represents excellent value.

Bookings must be made one week before by emailing gill@mywaterskiemail.com

Bookings will then be confirmed back to you by Gill.

French/English Conversation Group

The French/English conversation group continues as usual in February. We divide into small groups so that everyone has a chance to speak. Each week we have a different topic for conversation in both languages. The meetings are weekly from 10:00-11:30 at Le Vol a Voile at the aérodrôme on Thursdays. The group is very informal and welcoming, so if you are interested in practising and improving your French or your English, please contact dianeriddell123@gmail.com.

Pickleball

Pickleball takes place every Wednesday.

Contact Lesley Joffick on 06 47 79 77 56 or email lesleyjoffick@hotmail.com

Quiz Night!



Quiz nights are starting up again this month. The dates are Thursday 1st and 15th February.

As usual, the event takes place at Les Oliviers hotel in Fayence at 6.30pm, though we gather around 6pm for drinks.

Entry is 2.50 euros per person with all proceeds to our club charities.

If you want to take part, please contact Gill by email at least one full day before each quiz

gill@mywaterskiemail.com

Wine Bar Social

Our social evening at La Vigne Vincent normally takes place on the third Wednesday of the month.

There will be no meetings in February. We will start up again in March.

Details will be published in the next edition





The Processionnaires are Back!

These killer caterpillars are found in large nests, mainly in pine trees. At this time of year they make their way to the ground and then proceed to march, head to toe, across the forest paths. They are extremely poisonous and can cause rapid necrosis of the tissue, particularly of the tongues of any animals that lick them. They are becoming more and more numerous, and now until end of April is when they march. Never touch them with bare hands, or attempt to stand on them as you may well transfer their hair into your home. If your animal has contact with these caterpillars, take your pet immediately to the vet. When I found these insects in my garden, I sprayed the procession with hairspray and set fire to them. Cruel maybe but kind to my dog. Several people have mentioned that they have nests in their gardens.

It has also been pointed out to me by Sarah Legon, that les mesanges - the cute little great or blue tits, eat an enormous amount of them and are easy to attract to your garden with sunflower seeds - you can buy a 20 kilo bag at Gamme Vert for 22 euros.

Take care, and be vigilant.

Siri



Restaurant Review, Cannes

We all like to visit new restaurants in the area and we are inviting you to write a short review for our newsletter next time you have a nice meal locally. Please take a photo as well if possible and send it to Tricia together with a few words.

I had lunch with a friend in Cannes recently. We chose Da Laura on the corner of Rue Hoch and Rue du 24 Août, close to Galerie Lafayette. They still had the ceiling festooned with Christmas decorations and there was not another table to be had - inside or outside. I always think that is a very good sign.

We were warmly welcomed by the cheerful Italian staff and were given some bread sticks and parmesan to nibble whilst we looked at the menu.

We both chose the Raviolini Ai Tartufo and declared it the best pasta we had ever eaten! The delicious small pasta pillows were covered in a creamy sauce, laden with garlic and truffle. The bread was delicious and fresh, and I had a large glass of very good house wine, whilst Gunilla stayed with the Pelegrino having signed the pledge for January. We did not partake of the tiramisu or fruit tarts offered, but left after an hour and a half, very happy and ready for some more window shopping.

The bill came to just under 50 euros and we gave them a good tip. You really should book as this is a very popular, authentic Italian restaurant in the middle of town. The telephone number is 04 93 38 40 51 and email dalaurabella@hotmail.fr

Siri



News and Views from our Members

We welcome contributions to our newsletter from you all. It could be a restaurant review, news about a concert or film coming up, an exhibition you can recommend or a lovely garden you have seen. Please send contributions to Siri at siriknott@gmail.com



***Deadline for the March newsletter is 25th February. Thank you.**

It would be great if all coordinators could send dates for social activities as much in advance as possible. It won't matter if there is a change at any time, as we can announce it in advance.

IWCV Frejus /St Raphael

The coordinator is Inger Flodfalt. 04 83 12 40 82/06 19 71 21 08 inger.flodfalt@sfr.fr

Coffee Mornings

Every other Wednesday at St Aygulf hotel at 10.30am We'll meet on February 14th & 28th. We often have lunch afterwards if you have time. Contact Inger Flodfalt: 04 83 12 40 82 or inger.flodfalt@sfr

Book Group

We meet on the second Tuesday of the month at 1.00pm, starting with a light lunch followed by a discussion of our chosen book. The next meeting is on 13th February at Norma's home, reading 'Ripples of War' by Rosemary Johnson. Please call Jasmine for more details on 04 94 83 64 67

French Conversation

On February 14th and 28th at 9.30am at the St Aygulf hotel - one hour before the coffee morning begins. Contact Jacqueline or Chris.

Knit & Stitch

We will meet on February 16th, at Bjorg's house. Bring your own lunch. Please call Rosie for details on: 04 9419 48 43

Cookery Demonstration

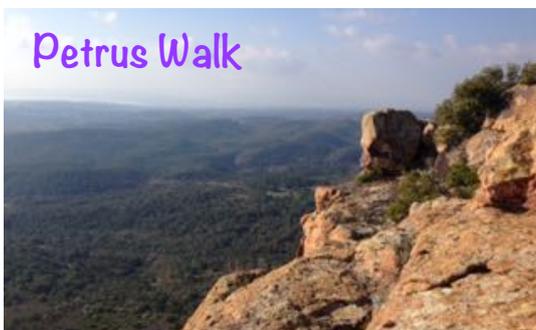
We'll have our next cooking demonstration on 23rd February at Carole's. Topic to be announced. If you are interested, please let Carole know 04 94 51 67 94

Walking Group

Walk dates are 7th & 21st February, meeting at 10.00am at the Casino car park. Partners are welcome to attend. In case of rain the walk is usually cancelled, if in any doubt please contact Bjorg Barth: 06 89 98 34 15 or barth.bjorg@wanadoo.fr Flat walks on corresponding dates. Please let Carole know the night before to know where to meet. 04 94 51 67 94

Sunday Lunch

There will be no Sunday lunch in February. If you would like to host a lunch, please let Carole know. marcercarole@gmail.com or call on number opposite.



Everyone needs a rest on the way to the top!

Visit to Aups Truffle Market

We will be visiting the Truffle Market in Aups with lunch on Thursday 22nd February. It is the last official day of the Market. We'll meet at the car park in Taradeau at 10am and car pool from there.

Please email Sheila on sheandme@orange.fr if interested



Some photos from the Knit and Stitch group

