

STROUD FRENCH CONNECTIONS

NEWSLETTER No. 5

MAY 2007

PAST EVENTS: Everyone who came to the meal at the Star Anise in February seemed to enjoy the evening. It was, as usual, a delicious meal, in a very welcoming venue. It was a pity that only a couple of members came for the drop-in session, but it made a very pleasant aperitif for those staying for the meal. Thank you to Debbie for organising this event, and to Côté Maison, in Gloucester Street, for giving a very attractive raffle prize.

The French Conversation classes went off well, and we had some very positive feed-back from some new members, which is always good to receive. We are very grateful to Elizabeth Stanley for organising these, and we hope there may be more in the future.

IMMINENT EVENT: The visit to St. Ismier will take place from 31st May to 5th June, 2007, and 16 members will be staying with families there. A wonderful programme has been planned for us - a visit to the Château at Vizille, the Laffrey Lakes, the Caves at Choranche, as well as a concert, Reception, and a meal provided by AJIR, their twinning association. There will also be time spent with host families exploring the neighbourhood, and a Boules match to play for the Stroud/St. Ismier Trophy. AJIR have an excellent website:

www.ajir-saint-ismier.com

where you can see the programme for the visit, as well as information about their other activities.

I am delighted that the Stroud Junior Rugby Club has responded to our suggestion, and has given us a SRC rugby shirt to present to the Club in St. Ismier, along with some programmes. They are keen to establish contact between the Clubs, and we very much hope that this will flourish. We hope that everyone taking part in the visit will enjoy their stay. Certainly the visit in 2005 was one to remember for the welcome, the hospitality and the generosity of the people of St. Ismier, and this visit promises to be just as successful.

FUTURE EVENTS: we will be having quarterly, informal meetings for ALL members, starting in July. We felt this was a good point to start, as those who have been on the visit will have a chance to meet up again, as well as those who might be involved in next year's visit. The venue will be The Little Vick, in the courtyard of The Queen Victoria pub, in Gloucester Street, Stroud. The date is Monday, 23rd July, at 7.30pm. We will have exclusive use of the Little Vic for the evening, and drinks can be bought from the bar in the main pub. Please bring along photos, film, etc. of the visit. I will bring the multi-media projector so that DVDs can be shown - here's a chance to show off your photography/cinematographic talents!! We hope very much that as many members as possible will come along and enjoy this evening - we are very aware of the limited social contact we have been able to have up to now. This has been mainly due to cost, but if this format works, it should be a simple and cost effective way of meeting up. We hope that it will help people to get to know fellow members, and - who knows - maybe produce some volunteers to help to organise activities?! We will have a suggestion box there!

Our AGM will be held in August, so please keep a watch for the date & venue email/letter. New faces on the Committee are always welcome, so please consider if you have a little time to spare to make your contribution.

If you have any queries or suggestions, please do not hesitate to contact us via the website:

www.stroudconnect.org.uk

or telephone Laurence Carmichael on 01453 757990

Pat Olsen
Hon. Secretary, SFC

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

31st. May, 2007 - 5th June, 2007 - Visit to St. Ismier

Monday, 23rd. July - Summer Meeting of SFC at The Little Vick, 7.30pm.