

IWCV NEWSLETTER DECEMBER 2011



Dear All,

What's on your menu for Christmas dinner? Turkey and all the trimmings for the English? Pork roast and red cabbage for the Danes? *Kerstkrans* for the Dutch? Familiar traditions are comforting, perhaps especially so when we are not on our home ground. They are often anchored in rituals first experienced in childhood, and the Christmas meal is beloved not just because it's something we like to eat, but

because it represents a link to the past. And it is a symbolic anchor to family life, our culture of origin and our sense of belonging.

My first Christmas in France put me squarely up against a gastronomic culture so foreign that it might as well have been from Mars, or nearly. Fresh oysters, *blinis* with salmon and sour cream, and roast beef so rare it could have walked to the table by itself. None of those menu items were anything I associated with Christmas dinner, and my longing for turkey and Brussels sprouts wasn't assuaged by copious amounts of champagne, either.

Since then, I've learned to appreciate all kinds of diverse Christmas dinners. One of the best festive meals I've ever had was roast venison accompanied by baked apples stuffed with red currant jelly, with no Christmas pud in sight!. I've been exposed to some delicious alternatives to my culture's usual Yule fare, and frankly, it feels good to have broadened my gastronomic horizons. Just don't ask me to embrace the Norwegian tradition of *rakfisk* (fermented trout) that, it is warned, pregnant women and those with less-than-robust immune systems should also avoid!

No matter what might be on your table this Christmas, I hope you find joy in the company of those who share it with you. To all IWCV members, my best wishes are for a

Happy Christmas, Joyeux Noël, Prettig Kerstfeest, Gledlig jul og godt Nytt Aar, Frohe Weihnachten, Il-Milied It-tajjeb, Nollaig Shona Dhuit, Nollaig Chridheil, Feliz Navidad and Maligayang Pasko!

~Deborah Sudul debsudul@gmail.com

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From Our President

With all the festivities coming up I wanted to remind you of this before you write your New Year's Resolutions! Every June the IWCV holds its Annual General Meeting, and at this time a committee is chosen to carry the club forward for another year.

In the past we have asked for volunteers to join this committee and to help in the running of the club. This year I am asking you all to take this as a personal invitation to either volunteer, or to talk to a friend and nominate her, to either stand for the committee or to offer to help with events, coordinate an activity or otherwise get involved. Committee members must be paid-up members of the club and willing to give approximately 90 minutes a month for committee meetings plus time to do whichever job they take on, i.e. membership, social ticket bookings, etc. All nationalities are most welcome because even though the committee meetings are in English - they are not fast and furious!

Nominations do not have to be in until the middle of May - but they can always be received early. If you know of anyone who might be interested in committee work, or helping with the committee or an activity, and they would like to know more of what is involved do please ask them to contact me at 04 94 47 03 96 or lynniwcv@gmail.com

Wishing you all a very happy Christmas and peaceful New Year wherever you may be.

~Lynn Fisher



We are delighted to welcome the following new members:

Min Cowling (British) from Tourrettes
Sandie Docherty (British) from Montauroux

UACOMING EVENTS

Quiz Nights

The Quiz nights seem to be a great success and we are raising close to €100 per time for charity, which is GREAT. The dates for December are Thursday 8 and Thursday 22 December, at the Hotel Les Oliviers in Fayence, starting at 6 for 6.30 pm.

IT IS VITAL you book your place as seating is limited. Please email Gill at gill@mywaterskiemail.com to reserve your space. For sure you will get confirmation that your place is booked. We hope to see you there!. *~Gill and Jill*

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Lunches



As always, the Pot Luck Lunches that were organised were very well attended, says *Evelien Van der Sluis*. In October we had a big crowd of nearly 50 people in the home of Wilma and Albert Zwart. We were very lucky with the weather, it was warm and sunny. All the tables and chairs that had been put indoors the day before, were carried out again.

We all enjoyed the stunning view, the good company and the good food of course.

In November Christiane van Noten was our hostess; this also was a very nice lunch. Quite a different setting, but it shows that even a small home is suitable for a Pot Luck Lunch. The next lunch will probably be in February or March of next year, and the most important part is to find the right home. Please contact Evelien at evelienvandersluis@wanadoo.fr if you'd like to host a pot luck lunch.

Eliane advises that the lunches at La Camandoule will be suspended for December and January due to other festivities, but will resume in February.

CONTINUING ACTIVITIES

Bridge

We play every other week on Tuesdays at 14:30. After Christmas the bridge group starts up again on January 10. Please contact Aurora for further details at aurora.hille@hotmail.com

English Book Group

We next meet in January. For further information please call Louise Critchley at 04 94 70 86 11.

French Book Group

If you would like to know more, or to join this group please contact Jacqueline on 04 94 40 32 78 or by email: j.raiet@free.fr

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Tennis

Join us every Monday at 10:00 at the Fayence tennis courts. Please contact Anette Black on 06 74 74 00 27 or by e-mail: anette.black@wanadoo.fr for more information.

Scottish Country Dancing

Scottish Country Dancing happens on the first and third Tuesdays of the month from 17:00 to 19h00 in the Foyer Rural de Fayence. All levels of ability are welcome. Partners are not a necessity to participate..... but a sense of humour helps!! The last class for this year will be 6 December, with classes resuming on 17 January. For further enquiries call Margaret Hoskins at 04 94.68.72.01

Walking Group – Fayence

Come and join us for a morning of good company and pleasant local walks! We meet at 09:30 every second Tuesday at the car park of the Fayence swimming pool. The next walk will be on 6 December and led by Barbara Bone. For those who live in the Callian/Montauroux area, you can meet the group for this walk only at 09:45 at the Callian tennis club – Espace Bourgain.

After that, the last walk before Christmas will be on 20 December. For more information please contact Astrid Weenink at 04 94.50.29.74 or at schimmel.weenink@free.fr

Coffee Mornings

The **Bargemon** area coffee mornings are held on the second and fourth Thursday of every month at the **Côté Terrasse in Claviers** from 10.30 to 12 noon. Local co-ordinator is Marion Maguire coxhill@btinternet.com

The **Fayence** coffee mornings at La Camandoule restaurant (on the left just after leaving Fayence, direction Seillans) will continue every Tuesday, from 10:30 to noon. Bring your houseguests!

Skat Club



Popular in Europe and parts of the USA, Skat is one of the oldest and most enjoyable card games for 3 - 4 players. We play Skat once or twice a month, usually on Sunday afternoons (16.00 or 17.00) in one of our homes. If you'd like to join us, please contact Katla Heidrich on 0494.76.11.32.

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Beginners are also welcome, but should come half an hour earlier or on an extra day to get an individual introduction. We hope you'll join our group and look forward to having a pleasant time together.

Bulletin Board

If you have anything you'd like to be posted in the January Bulletin Board, please email Gill Miller at gill@mywaterskiemail.com prior to 21 December. Guidelines for the Bulletin Board are as follows:

- Items for Sale
- Lessons – including language, yoga, Pilates and well- being (massage etc).
- Up-coming concerts, plays, events that are not club activities but good to know about.
- Discount offers for Club members from spas etc – just giving web site information.
- Recommendations – e.g. the plumber – but with only member's contact number. These may **only** be placed by club members

Monika Karcher, weaving and Francesca Megnet photographs creations invite you to visit the Exposition de Noël – 13 desserts et Crèche animée d'André Philip

For three weeks, from December 14th to January 1st, there will be a beautiful animated crèche at the "salle du Couvent" in Seillans. In the same place you can taste the thirteen desserts and visit the exhibition and sale of handicrafts of local artists.

We are waiting to welcome you every day from 2.30 pm to 6 pm.

Christmas Concert

The Phoenix Singers' Christmas concerts will be held on Friday 16 December at 19:00 in the Callian church (Notre Dame de l'Assomption) and on Saturday 17 December in St. Raphael at the Eglise des Templiers at 20:30.

Tickets are 12€, and children under 12 are free. Reservations can be made in advance by calling Françoise Dupeuble at 06 77 22 29 17

INDIAN COOKERY DEMONSTRATION

Some of us shared a wonderful Indian lunch on 30th November when Stella Reynolds kindly showed us how to make onion bhajis, mango chutney, raita, vegetable curry, chicken curry and dhal! Mmmmmmm. We realised how much we've missed these wonderful dishes and are now looking forward to having a go ourselves. A huge thank you to Stella and her sister Chrissy for their very kind hospitality and a most enjoyable time.