



La Gazette

de l'Alliance Française de la Côte Centrale

ISSUE SPRING 2018

RENDEZVOUS DATES 2018

8th Dec.

TIPS ON LEARNING FRENCH-see inside

DVDS- Contact Maree Burtenshaw for the list of French movies

FRENCH LANGUAGE RESOURCES

- SBS-French news-8.40am daily
- TV5monde.com
- Culturethèque-Online website which has magazines, papers, books, music and study material in French.

Important message!

Please confirm on the Meetup site (Central Coast French Conversation Meetup Group) when attending the 'Meetups' on the 4th Saturday of every month.

THE PRESIDENT'S REPORT - SPRING 2018

As I reflect on this year, it strikes me that - thanks to the stewardship of our Trésorier Quentin - our club has never run out of money-certainly not in my time. But it does appear to have been the case in earlier years. Whilst we are not the last of the big spenders, there are unavoidable expenses, such as 3rd Party insurance (which does not come cheaply). And, as membership fees go, ours are certainly not high.

It also strikes me that we have had a lot of stability in the membership of the Committee. Actually AF Head Office encourages a regular change-over in the people running the show. The reason is simple; new people will have new ideas and in a changing world one needs to adapt on a regular basis.

With the AGM and the elections for membership of the Committee coming up in February, it may be a good time to contemplate if *you* would like to be a candidate for a position on the Committee. I, having been in the job for 5 years in February would welcome someone raising his or her hand to volunteer for a year (or more) at the tiller, steering the good ship AFCC. The income is purely psychic, but at least it is not taxable....

Anyway, as always, details of what is involved in the various positions will be sent to everyone in January.

Quite apart from this, if anyone has any bright ideas, please let me, or someone else on the Committee know....

In years past there must have been a lot of interest in playing 'Jeu de boules', or bocce.

I have 3 boxes of the balls sitting at home waiting for some enthusiasts to come along and start a regular game. There used to be people having a game before the club opened at 10am. Any takers???

Just a reminder that the regular Club meeting will be held in January, although many people may be away on vacation.

On behalf of the Committee I wish everyone a happy Christmas and a save and studious New Year.

Ary Kleiberg

Président

Alliance Française de la Côte Centrale.

HONFLEUR



I was born in Pont-Audemer in Normandy but it felt like I was born in Honfleur instead. Every year or every few years I needed to see Honfleur. Jacques Brel in 1968 was singing “T’as voulu voir Honfleur Et on a vu Honfleur”... Yes Honfleur is a must-for all visitors to France.

It has pretty much everything, apart from a decent beach maybe. But you don’t go there for the beach really. You are too busy doing other things. You go for the atmosphere of the middle ages, for the boats, for the restaurants, for the museums and galleries, and of course you go for the paintings.

I’ve seen Honfleur in the sun, in the rain and covered in snow. I’ve seen it in early crisp mornings, at busy lunchtimes, in the afternoon, in the evening when the restaurants are buzzing, by night. I’ve seen it overcrowded with tourists, or empty on a winter day when the weather is miserable. I have so many childhood memories there.

Last time I went with my husband we were walking in the city at night and trying to count the artists’ studios we were walking by. We gave up, there were too many of them! Honfleur is home to so many artists. It is an amazing community. In the old days it was mainly traditional oil paintings and over the years more contemporary exhibitions started to appear, and also more sculptures, and some odd creations. You get so much inspiration and you can talk with so many artists.

I highly recommend spending a few days there or even a week. There are several museums and lots of galleries to discover. People are always happy to have a chat.

It is known for its picturesque port painted many times by artists like [Gustave Courbet](#), [Eugène Boudin](#) or [Claude Monet](#). I also recommend the following galleries and museums:

Maison Satie <http://www.musees-honfleur.fr/maison-satie.html>

Musee Eugene Boudin <http://www.musees-honfleur.fr/musee-eugene-boudin.html>

Musee de la marine <http://www.musees-honfleur.fr/musee-de-la-marine>

Over the years there is a tacky touristic side that has been developed but still, Honfleur remains inimitable and has the unmistakable charm and a rich tradition that will never die.

Dominique Macartney

THE FRENCH INFLUENCE IN INDIA.

French India, formally the *Établissements Français dans l'Inde*^[a] ("French establishments in India"), was a [French](#) colony comprising geographically separate enclaves on the [Indian subcontinent](#). The possessions were originally acquired by the [French East India Company](#) beginning in the second half of the 17th century, and were *de facto* incorporated into the [Dominion of India](#) in 1950 and 1954. The French establishments included [Pondichéry](#), [Karikal](#) and [Yanaon](#) on the [Coromandel Coast](#), [Mahé](#) on the [Malabar Coast](#) and [Chandernagor](#) in [Bengal](#). (see Wikipedia)

France was the last of the major European maritime powers of the 17th century to enter the East India trade. Six decades after the foundation of the [English](#) and [Dutch East India](#) companies (in 1600 and 1602 respectively), and at a time when both companies were multiplying factories on the shores of India, the French still did not have a viable trading company or a single permanent establishment in the East.

Pondicherry had been passed on to multiple colonial powers of Dutch, Portuguese, English, but predominantly French. Even now there's a huge French influence in Pondicherry, now a Union Territory of India. When Pondicherry was handed over to India, the residents were given an option to maintain their French passports. The residents (Indians and non-Indians originally) in Pondicherry are French citizens, the streets have retained their French names, the residents speak French, there are restaurants and cafes serving French food with menus in the French language, the villas in French architectural styles prevail.

Architecture in Pondicherry

The colonial style French villas have huge compounds, grand walls and majestic doors. This defines the unique French lifestyle in the past of the French residents when they were in India.



Sachez qu'à partir du XVII^{ème} siècle, Pondicherry est devenu un comptoir pour la « Compagnie française des Indes orientales », et la présence française a perduré jusqu'au milieu du XX^{ème} siècle dans ce petit bout de l'Inde. A quelques kilomètres au Nord de la ville, se trouve **Auroville**, « le lieu d'une vie communautaire universelle, où hommes et femmes apprennent à vivre en paix, dans une parfaite harmonie, au-delà de toutes croyances, opinions politiques et nationalités. » (See Wikipedia.)

LE PICNIQUE A HEAZLETT PARK



The day of the picnic was perfect with sunny warm air and so people were able to relax and enjoy the natural environment next to the water at Avoca.

The variety of food was wonderful and included quiches, frittatas, salads of many kinds, fruit salad and cakes. There was also a variety of wines and champagne to go with the excellent food. It was a time for members to get together and relax without the constraints of a room or building.

New members had a chance to get to know other people in the club and discover the activities that the Alliance is involved in on the Central Coast.

LEARNING FRENCH IN CLASS

What Ary said in the Winter Gazette and at the September Conversation meeting was quite correct, structure (grammar) is extremely important. I would like however to add a few other points to think about:

- It is easy to forget the finer points of structure of the language and get lazy
- If the same mistakes are constantly made and not corrected, they become set in your brain and are then extremely hard to change
- Everyone learns differently, a good teacher will recognise your preferred “learning style” and give you tips to help progress efficiently and effectively
- Language is about interaction, dealing with the unexpected. Learners benefit from the incidental and planned interactions that take place in class.
- Effective language learning involves five major skills: reading, writing, speaking and listening and interacting. Our teachers plan their lessons to give you practice in all of these and to help you bring the weaker skills up to the level of your stronger ones.
- You also gain cultural and contextual awareness – which words or phrases are most appropriate to use in a given context - as well as how non-verbal cues can differ between languages
- Finally, people learn best when they are relaxed, so we aim to provide a non-threatening, supportive atmosphere for all our students so they can progress at their own rate and to their own satisfaction. Learning in our small, personalised classes can be FUN

Below is some amusing footage from Rosie, an expat New Zealander who is living in Paris and gives us some insights into French ways of using gestures and facial expressions when speaking to one another.

"It's pretty hard to see the French culture shocks when you're starting more and more to resemble a French person-ha! ha! In this video I cover those famous french sounds, french facial expressions and other quirky habits that come from expat life in Paris."



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yxx8zVjToGI>