New FBN Memberships launched
Importing cars to France
FBN Member stories
And more …
Exclusively for FBN Members

Getting you connected when arriving, settling, and making friends in the Dordogne & beyond

Email helpline

1-1 Consultation

Warm Introductions*

Email us at askfbn@francobritishnetwork.fr

* after being introduced to a Service Provider, additional fees will be charged for their services

www.francobritishnetwork.fr
Editor’s welcome

Our aim is to make the newsletter informative and engaging. We enjoy receiving any suggestions from you for future editions and feedback is always welcome too. I would like to thank everyone who contributed to this edition – the largest yet. If you ever feel the urge to get involved, you know where to find us.

- Articles that may interest you in this edition include:
- The Launching of the ‘new’ FBN.
- The importance of filing a tax return.
- French Easter traditions.

There is lots of information about the new FBN and its many benefits.

I hope you enjoy reading the April Newsletter.

Carolyn

Carolyn Chamberlain, Editor.
In this month’s edition

- The FBN is growing by Roger Haigh
- Vesunna social event review
- Events highlights for 2022
- Exchanging your UK driver’s licence
- UK FCDO thanks FBN
- Sleeping Beauty’s Castle
- A Translator’s Bijoux
- Review of our Inheritance Webinar
- Being an FBN member has just become even more valuable
- Lost or stolen Residency cards
- Welcome to new members
- You must adapt when relocating to France
- Bergerac-Périgord FC past, present and future
- The Pen Nib International Writing Competitions 2021
- Easter in France, more similar than different
- Importing cars into France
- Les Cornuelles
- Vote for Life
- All WARP holders must submit their annual tax return
The FBN is Growing

Ever since the FBN was established in 2019 by myself and a few colleagues, this not-for-profit association has continued to evolve to meet the changing needs of our members. This was very clearly demonstrated through our work with the UKNSF project that helped thousands to apply for their French residency cards.

Our ongoing commitment is to provide our members with accurate and up-to-date information and access to a team of reliable and experienced agents and Service Providers that can meet their individual needs quickly and effectively.

As there are a growing number of English-speaking people from around the world who currently live, work, and visit France, or wish to do so, the FBN Board of Directors have unanimously voted to commence a period of expansion. Our aim is to be the leader in providing support services to assist our members in building their new lives here in the Dordogne and beyond.

We now have the personnel and the support structure to fulfil our aim, and with your on-going support and the support of those new members who join our ranks in the months and years to come, we are excited about our future.

We need YOU!

Enjoying your life in France? Have some spare time? Want to get involved in something? Feel that you have something to offer/share? In which case we need you.

We are particularly interested in hearing from anyone who has the skills and time to help us with the digital production of this newsletter. If you have software experience to manipulate text and images please do get in touch, please email sasha@francobritishnetwork.fr
Vessuna, the Gallo-Roman Museum site, followed by a meal at Planete Grill in Tréllisac

On 22nd February 2022 we had our latest social networking event, in Perigueux. As usual, we had a good mix of FBN Members and non members.

Pierre, an enthusiastic and knowledgeable curatorial archaeologist who spoke excellent English, introduced us to the site and escorted us around the museum.

The tour began with a model of Vessuna, (named after an indigenous protective deity) which depicts Perigueux as it would have been when Emperor Augustus created the province of Aquitaine around 16 BC. There was a lively discussion on the description of all the buildings and their roles in the Gallo-Romano society and the fact that the Gauls lived in harmony here with the Romans was evidenced by the lack of fortifications in the model.

The museum is built over the archaeological site discovered in the 50s by chance, as the area was designated for development. After unearthing ancient remains during the preliminary surveys the decision was made to halt the development and continue with archaeological excavations.

The tour concluded looking at a wall fresco which, to this day, is as vivid as ever; astonishing considering its age and provenance.

We then moved to have a great value Chinese buffet at Planete Grill, in Trelissac, at our specially reserved table. There was a wide selection of fresh dishes catering for all tastes. During the meal it was also a nice opportunity to chat to old and new members and friends.

Watch out for our next advertised social networking event, as always FBN Members benefit from special rates.
Highlights for 2022

- Lascaux Caves
- Inheritance Law in France Webinar
- Les Jardin d'Eau
- Health & Pensions Webinar
- Societe Nouvelle Socra
- Vesunna & Planete Wok
- CMA support for entrepreneurs
- Boat cruise
- Christmas Lunch

FBN Membership gives you priority booking and discounted entry to you and your partner to all events
As part of the paid service my FBN Service Provider uploaded all the necessary documents on to the ANTS website for me and on February 1st I received an email from ANTS informing me that they had received and were processing my application.

Great news. I have been waiting patiently ever since for La Poste to deliver my new licence, but I have been warned that I must continue to be patient as it can take between 3 and 4 months for a licence to be issued.

Thanks to my friendly FBN Service Provider it was all stress free, and another useful tip from him was that I need to keep a copy of the receipt issued by ANTS in my car in case I am ever stopped by the Gendarmerie.

Hopefully, by the time of the June issue of ‘Keeping in Touch’ I will be able to report that I am now in possession of my French driver’s licence.

Simon Crerie, Tharwat Mansour and Sasha Smit-Marcadier, represented the Franco British Network at the reception to formally thank the various Implementing Partners across Europe in assisting UK Nationals to obtain their Withdrawal Agreement Residency Permits.

This project was unique in France and across Europe, in that never before has such widespread and valuable support been offered to UK Nationals, via an innovative way by Government departments and private enterprises.

The Franco British Network is committed to assisting UK Nationals in Dordogne and beyond. See more [here](#)
Warm introductions to Service Providers*

Driving, Paying tax, Residency, Visas, Insurance, Setting up a business, Inheritance, Legal, Healthcare, Notary, Translations and General administration

* after being introduced to a Service Provider, additional fees will be charged for their services

www.francobritishnetwork.fr
Eleven years ago, on a torrential February morning we pulled up in Bourdeilles, ready to knock yet another property off our list. David volunteered to get drenched, leaving me with our four little children. Ten minutes later he returned, grinning like a Cheshire cat. The next day, the agent gave us a torch and told us to pull the gate shut on our way out.

It was dark and damp, piles of stuff everywhere, things even the bailiffs weren't interested in, ivy inside, water stains everywhere, puddles, ceilings sagging, wallpaper peeling, thick cobwebs, tall weeds on the stone terrace, and a garden untouched for years. Disney's Sleeping Beauty would have been very much at home. Such a challenge could not be refused, and at the end of May 2011, we signed on the dotted line.

With David's work in Asia and the States, our time in France was usually chaotic, but productive, and we saw our ideas slowly taking shape. It took two years of behind-the-scenes work to make the property safe and habitable.

We had our first breakthrough of acceptance into the community when, having painted 76 pairs of shutters "gris olive" instead of white (RAL7002 for those who are curious), the locals started thanking us for bringing the property alive and for rescuing the patrimoine from ruin.

Eleven years down the road, the projects continue, and the maintenance will always keep us busy, but now, more than ever, we feel we are known and appreciated, our three rental properties have four stars to their names, and the property is looking beautiful.

So come and knock on our door for a coffee and cake, and we would be delighted to show you around.

www.chateaudessenechaux.com
06 47 38 68 34

Bourdeilles is definitely worth a day out.
If you are expecting friends, families or paying guests to arrive some time in 2022 it might be best to warn them of some significant changes that are being planned that may well affect their travel plans. If you are expecting friends, family or paying guests to arrive to visit you this year it might be best to warn them of changes to the entry and exit process of the Schengen area’s external boarders that is due to come into effect in the first half of 2022.

I am sure we are all horrified by what is happening in the Ukraine and the plight of its citizens. I have received a few emails asking if the FBN can assist in this humanitarian crisis. I know many of us will have done something individually, donated money/necessities or offered accommodation, but the FBN is not equipped to organise this. If you are wondering what else you can, please contact your local Marie or Prefecture. In many areas they are the ones that are co-ordinating the relief programme.

A Translator’s Bijoux by Carolyn Chamberlain

I have more time these days to look at what comes into my inbox, being in the Clinique du Quercy, awaiting an operation.

I enjoy cooking so click onto photos and recipes, in particular one the other day on an avocado pear salad and cream

I usually read the recipes in French but this one had a translation. This said: Take 3 eggs, 6 lawyers, ……

I thought what the heck is this, then realised avocado in French is avocat and being a computer translation the usual translation of avocat had clicked up as lawyer (a member of the legal profession!). Correct but not in this context!

Thought I’d share the joke with you all. And always read through computer translations! As a sworn (assermentée) translator for years I collect these “bijoux”. 
On March 3rd 2022, the FBN organised a highly successful Webinar about the changes in *French inheritance laws* that came into effect on 1st November 2021.

**Summary by Marie-Claude Bessout**

1°) Christophe DUTERTRE, expert in International Private law, spoke about:

- Changes to European rules since August 2015
- Creation of a new compensatory deduction on the assets in France for the benefit of the children
- Conditions of application
- How compensation is calculated
- Practical examples

2°) Simon DECEUNINCK, avocat, spoke about:

- The changes the new law brought about
- Concrete examples where the reform will apply
- Major uncertainties of the reform
- How the compensatory deduction be applied
- Some preliminary ideas and possible solutions to avoid or minimize the risk

Christophe Dutertre and Simon Deceuninck answered questions asked by the members of FBN prior to the webinar.

After having thanked the speakers for their clear explanations, I mentioned that we would advise you to consult a specialised lawyer to prepare your future succession or adapt your existing wills to the new law.

**Members FBN members and paying guests received a video of the webinar. However, it is still available to purchase for €5, just CLICK HERE**

FBN Members have privileged access to our network of expert Service Providers, who are fluent in French and English. According to your needs we can introduce you to a Service Provider who is ready to assist you; additional fees may apply.

info@francobritishnetwork.fr
Being an FBN member has just become even more valuable

FBN Members now have exclusive access to an email helpline, to assist them in getting answers to a wide range of topics about arriving, settling and expanding in the Dordogne and beyond.

Many questions can be answered swiftly via email, if not they can benefit from what we call "warm introductions".

After listening to their needs, the most suited Service Provider is identified, who then will contact them to assist*. All Service Providers speak English and are accustomed to dealing with Franco British issues.

*additional fees may apply

The FBN network of Service Providers cover Driving, Paying tax, Residency, Visas, Insurance, Setting up a business, Inheritance, Legal, Healthcare, Notary, Translations and General administration. Click here to read more about Ask FBN and Service Providers

Whenever you need assistance all you have to do is email us at askfbn@francobritishnetwork.fr

FBN Members always benefit from special rates for all events and free access to webinars

We have also launched an FBN Business Membership package, dedicated to the specific needs of small businesses, in the Dordogne and beyond, whether they are just setting up or have been trading for sometime.

You can convert your Personal Membership to a Business Membership, contact David Whatson at davidw@francobritishnetwork.fr

FBN Personal Membership €79 ttc.

Read more about all the benefits of FBN Personal membership

FBN Business Membership €179 ttc.

Read more about all the benefits of FBN Business membership

Of course we will be keeping you updated of all new developments, and you can also keep abreast of everything at www.francobritishnetwork.fr
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Since our last newsletter we have had several new members joining our growing family and many have renewed their membership and continue to enjoy the benefits of being a member of the FBN. Please look at the list as you may well find friends or neighbours who are also members of the Franco British Network (Name, Post Code, Profession/Activity). Thank you all for joining/renewing your membership.

David Whatson

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info@francobritishnetwork.fr

Lost or Stolen Residency Cards (update)

The online étrangers administration portal has finally been updated so that you can create an account using the number on your WA card. The link to the page is here.

You will be asked to create an account: to do so, you need to use your numéro personnel which you'll find it on the front of your card just above your signature, NOT the alphanumeric number at the top right OR the six figures in bold in the bottom right corner. You need to create a password and verify your account via an email link.
Ian lives with his husband Hugh in Saint Privat des Prés, close to Saint Aulaye, in the western tip of the Dordogne.

With the project of setting up a gîte business in mind, the couple knew they wanted to relocate to the Dordogne, as it is a popular place with tourists. After much searching, they chose a property ideally located for their guests, within easy reach of Saint Emilion and the Bordeaux wine area.

The renovation project, a challenge which lasted much longer than planned, has turned out to be a huge success: their gîte has a 5-star rating with the Dordogne Tourist Board.

Ian and Hugh chose Southwest France for the climate, seeking somewhere with different seasons and temperatures, and since they are keen gardeners, somewhere they could grow the range of plants they wanted. They have also found that the Dordogne is well positioned to explore both France and Spain.

The couple have no regrets at all about relocating to Southwest France. It has taken them some time to integrate, as the cultural differences were greater than expected. One of the biggest challenges has been the communication barrier, and both continue to take French lessons.

Today, Ian and Hugh have started to make more French friends, as their language skills have grown, along with the confidence of speaking a foreign language around a dinner table. Ian meets up once a week with a French neighbour to practise Franglais!

“It’s best to accept the slow pace of life, it is peaceful and gentle here, there is no need to fight against it”

Battling with administration was a frustration initially, setting off moments of panic; today they know they can handle it.

As early retirees, Ian and Hugh certainly feel that France is now their forever home.
The Bergerac Périgord Football Club is a historic club of the city of Bergerac since 1916, which used to be called "Enfants de France". Training is a major element in the club’s future development so that it can improve its performance in the highest level of various championships.

The club has set up a middle school section, which allows students to come and train during their school period in addition to their training with their teams the rest of the week. A new feature of the 2021/22 season was the creation of a training centre for high school students, which will be a continuation of the secondary school section.

This focus on growing home talent is evident in the men’s national team. Most of the players are from the region, such as Sam Ducros, who is a child of the club and played in the youth categories up to amateur level.

Another area of development is the women’s section. Our women's football school is growing, with young players coming to the Bergerac club earlier and earlier.

Improvements are planned for the club's training centre and the N2 team's competition stadium.

Thanks to the partnership with the Bergerac Football Club, all FBN members are entitled to watch the club matches for free till end of season, May 2022. One ticket only per membership.
This is our first year of encouraging people to put pen to paper and we were particularly proud of our ‘Amuse Bouche’ initiative where we encouraged people to come out of their comfort zone and enter a competition for the first time.

We had a good entry for our poetry section with some excellent thought-provoking and heart-stirring poems. It was very challenging for Katherine Gallagher, our experienced adjudicator to judge the winners. Liv Rowland from ‘The Connexion’ was the adjudicator for the essay section (as opposed to story) where there was a smaller number of entries. None of this would have been possible without the support of our sponsors: Le Patio, Les Stables Triathlon, Bookstop Café and La Maison des Couleurs. International artists, Rebecca Merry and Sarah Hambly who donated original works.

- Essay Prize.: Liz Bevan "You'll Never Save the World Like That.....Except"
- Poetry Prize: Mary Gillon "How To Leave"
- Amuse Bouche: John Green "Peeling Onions"

All these can be read on the Pen Nib website

Thank you Franco British Network for your support and to those of your members who entered. If you would like more information or be involved in our 2022 project please contact us at pennibwritingcomp@gmail.com

Les Châteaux en fête

Tourisme Dordogne is promoting this year’s fabulous “Les Châteaux en fête” from 16th April until 1st May. To access the pictures and opening-time details of many “local” châteaux go onto this site

You can look up a château near you or scroll through until you see an unfamiliar one that attracts you. If you find one you really like, let us know, we would be pleased to hear about it.
Exclusive member offer
Free entry to Bergerac Périgord Football Club
home matches (2021/22 season)

Contact davidw@francobritishnetwork.fr if you would like to advertise in “Keeping in Touch”

La Maison des Couleurs
established 2009, 24800 Cognac sur l’Isle
Gold/silver rings repaired, enlarged / reduced to size, no alloys please. From 15€

Original kiln-fired fused glass & solid silver pieces by commission. Some ready-made pieces

Contact brenda.henderson12@gmail.com for a quotation, no obligation

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Contact davidw@francobritishnetwork.fr if you would like to advertise in “Keeping in Touch”

"Don't feel alone, pick up the phone.."

Call – 0800 240 200

Cancer Support France for English-speaking help and support
Easter Sunday is April 17th, in France only Monday is a Bank Holiday, Friday is an ordinary workday. So, it is less of a holiday weekend than we enjoyed when living in the UK.

Chocolate seems to play a central part in Easter celebrations both in France and the UK. Everybody I asked mentioned one thing which takes place on Easter Sunday, and that is a «chasse aux œufs». The sale of chocolate eggs must be enormous before Easter. Parents, or more often grandparents these days, organise this in their garden or perhaps in a nearby wood or area known to them all. The egg hunt is always followed by a big family lunch, usually a gigot d’agneau. So, lamb for lunch is also common to both countries. With Monday a holiday people often stay the night if they have come far.

Apart from eggs, chocolate bells and rabbits are popular, or chocolate chickens with small eggs round them. In years gone by in France they made chocolate fishes which had little fishes inside them. When my family spent part of April every year in Paris in the fifties these fishes fascinated me. Sadly, this habit has faded out, this was confirmed by my local boulanger. She also said there is no real Easter cake which surprised me. But the sale of all their products goes up due to family entertaining. If you had to write about an English Easter I am sure hot-cross buns would feature, and lovely decorated cakes.
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Importing cars into France
by Gerald Humphrys

Since Brexit the procedures for importing and registering a UK vehicle in France have changed. You now need to know about customs fees, supporting documents, reception procedure and registration.

Customs fees represent 10% of the value of your car, 0% for classic cars over 30 years old.

VAT remains at 20%, 5.5% for classic cars over 30 years old, but when importing a vehicle it is now calculated on the value of your vehicle, plus customs fees.
Cars produced after Brexit must comply with a specific acceptance procedure unless the professional seller has issued you with a certificate of conformity.

This is only the beginning of the process as you will also have to register the car in your name, but more of that in the next issue.
Beat the butter and sugar together without turning the mixture white. Add the eggs, one after the other.

Add the Pastis and vanilla extract.

In another bowl, mix the flour, baking powder and the sugar then add them to the previous mixture with your fingertips until you get a smooth ball.

Wrap in cling film and leave to rest for an hour in a cool place. Pre-heat the oven to 180°.

Roll out the pastry to 5mm thick then make the triangle shapes (15cm for the base and 18cm for the sides). Use a serrated pastry wheel to give a zigzag shape to the sides.

Place on a baking paper covered tray.

Use the back of a fork to make a striped pattern on the 'cornuelles' joining all the angles together. Then baste the biscuits with a mix of egg yolk and a few drops of milk.

Make a 3cm wide hole in the centre of each triangle and sprinkle a few aniseed sugar balls on the corners.

Put into the oven and bake for about 12 minutes.
The UK Government’s Elections Bill passed the Report Stage and its Third Reading in the House of Commons on Monday 17 January and returned to the House of Lords for its Second Reading on Wednesday 23 February. It is now at the Committee Stage.

Measures within the Bill will scrap the 15-year limit on expats’ right to vote in UK Parliamentary elections and enfranchise British citizens overseas who were previously registered or resident in the UK.

The Bill must still pass through the Report Stage and the Third Reading in the House of Lords, but as the Elections Bill also covers other contentious elements such as vote ID for voters in polling stations, it is in receipt of some opposition. On 13 December 2021, the Public Administration and Constitutional Affairs Committee were critical of the lack of pre-legislative scrutiny of the Bill and the added complexity to electoral law that would result from it.

As usual, when we know more we will inform you and in the meantime we remain hopeful that we will get a vote for life.

We have recently made new board appointments. Elena Djeil and Romain Rousseau in helping to maintain a steady ship and keep us pointing in the right direction, upwards and onwards. I am sure you would like to join the rest of the board in welcoming them into their new positions.
All WARP holders must submit their annual tax return

Over the past year, many of you have successfully secured a French residence permit under the Withdrawal Agreement.

Please, do remember to file an annual income tax return in France. As a French resident, you have a fiscal obligation.

Whether or not your income and/or financial resources originate or are in France, you must submit an annual income tax return. Please note that filing a tax return does not necessarily imply paying income taxes in France.

Spring is the time of year to file your online tax return. If you are submitting your first income tax return, you will need to first register with the French tax authorities via their dedicated website, and then submit a paper application. The following years, you will be able to file your annual tax return online.

If you need assistance with this process, please get in touch.

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info@francobritishnetwork.fr
Paying for FBN services with cards from French bank accounts helps us keep the price of our services to you at a minimum.

Paying for FBN Membership or FBN Events?

Recently the costs of accepting payments via cards from UK banks has increased.

It now costs us twice the amount to receive payment from UK bank cards compared to French bank cards.
Join The Franco British Network Today

For individuals (living or having a holiday home) and small businesses in Dordogne & beyond

**For individuals [CLICK HERE](#) to join today, only €79 TTC**

**For small businesses [CLICK HERE](#) to join today, from €179 TTC**

Membership Benefits Include:

- A free first contact (email / telephone) session, to discuss your situation and needs (individual or business), and direct assistance given
- If you require more specific assistance you will be introduced to an FBN Service Provider, (Accountants, Lawyers, Tax, Insurance, Governmental, Translators, etc), assistance provided in both English and French, when subsequent fees may become payable
- Priority invitation to all Franco British Network events
- Free or discounted invitations to Franco British Network social/networking events
- Free invitations to Franco British Network speaker events
- Our regular newsletter