



HELP IN FRANCE

Assistance for British people moving to or living in France

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The FROG's NEWSLETTER #11 July/August 2008



SUMMER AT LAST ! We thought we'd begin this issue of our newsletter with a photograph Nadège took as we were driving through the Gers. It was good to see the sunflowers enjoying the warm sun as temperatures soar. ☺

THE BRITISH IN FRANCE : HOW WE CAN HELP EACH OTHER

Two examples of how useful networking can be.



We were asked by a customer of ours to find an answer to a problem. She and her husband have a wood from which they normally cut down their supply of winter fuel. Sad to say, her husband's health had taken a turn for the worse and he was unable to carry out his usual tasks of tree felling and logging. We sent out a call to those we knew in the area and found someone who needed winter fuel. Our customers have agreed that he does the logging and that they share the logs between them. In this way, not only our customer is happy but also the man we didn't previously know is happy.

We were asked by a French customer to find an English family in France that he could stay with in order to improve his level of English. We found just the right one and they have made an arrangement that he helps out with the chores and, in return, he gets to stay with an English family.

Can you help us to help you? Schools

When our British customers who have children are thinking of moving to France, they often ask us for recommendations for schools. There is no way that we here can know all the schools in France and therefore your opinion and personal experience can prove invaluable. Please let us know if you can recommend a school in your area.

British run businesses in France

Individuals can help each other but we are also trying to help those who run businesses in France. As Help in France has grown, we have gradually built up a list of both British run and English speaking businesses here: tradesmen, B&B's and other professionals. Some of these are listed on the links page of our website but we wish to expand our network as much as possible.

English Speaking Doctors and Dentists

Doctors and dentists are not allowed to advertise. It would therefore be a great help to all concerned that should you know of a doctor or dentist who has a reasonable level of English, we would be very happy to add them to our list.

Please do then let us know if you have any contacts or can recommend any services in your area that we can keep in our list for future use. Or if you yourself are in need of a service, we may well be able to help you find what you are looking for. We will, as always, be looking forward to hearing from you.

Properties and Utilities

If you are looking for a property to buy or rent we can certainly help you.

Here is a shortlist of what we'll need you to tell us.

- Which department(s) in France ?
- Buying or renting ?
- House or flat ?
- Number of bedrooms ?
- With garden or land ?

- Town, village or countryside ?
- Old or new building ?
- Close to amenities ?
- Close to schools ?

(You will need an address in France in order to enrol your children in a French school. Please also note that we cannot help you register your children during the summer holidays.)

If you have just bought or rented a property and need to connect to the utilities, please let us know the following.

From the previous owner :

- Their name.
- The numbers of the accounts. (Water, Electricity, Gas, Phone...)
- The last meter reading(s).

From you :

- Do you need to increase the power supply ? (wattage)
- Do you need the French equivalent of an 'Economy 7' meter ?
- EDF will ask for a list of the electrical devices you will be using. (Electric heating, emersion tank, swimming pool.)
- Do you want to pay by direct debit ?
- Your RIB or IBAN (international bank account number)

Do you have a story to tell?

We are always interested in stories from you about moving to France, living in France or running a business here. If you feel you would like to write an article of half an A4 page we would be very happy to receive it and we will do our best to include it in a future newsletter.

THE HELP IN FRANCE NEWSLETTER

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