



VOISINS VOICES

A BRITISH EMBASSY NEWSLETTER



WELCOME

BY ED LLEWELLYN, BRITISH AMBASSADOR TO FRANCE



Welcome to the third edition of *Voisins Voices*, the newsletter from the British Embassy. As I approach the end of my first year here, I look back on a busy and fascinating time. My highlights include launching our [Les Voisins campaign](#), the visit of the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge, getting to meet so many of you on my travels around the country – and Emmanuel

Macron's election as President in one of the most dramatic elections I can remember. Looking ahead, the future looks no less busy. Getting the Brexit deal done on citizens' rights will be a priority. Also, I see my role as building the relationship with France for the longer term – a bilateral Summit coming up in early 2018 will be an important step towards this.

British Embassy on tour

Over the last few months our Embassy team have really enjoyed meeting British citizens around France. We recently went to Strasbourg and met Brits working for the Council of Europe. We went south to Toulouse where we visited Airbus and met with British employees and other local expats. We have been in Angers, Tours and we went back to Lyon.



We know how important this outreach is and we want to be able to meet as many of you as possible – to update on the negotiations and to listen to your queries and concerns.

This is why the Ambassador recently announced on [our Facebook page](#) a further series of events at a range of locations, between now and Christmas, which will be "open forum". This means that anyone can register via the links below. Space is limited so please do sign up as soon as possible.

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| 7 November | Nice |
| 23 November | St Raphael (Var) |
| 27 November | Brittany |
| 6 December | Paris |
| 11 December | Poitou Charentes |

We have worked closely with the local British Associations and are very grateful for their support. We will be announcing more locations next year. If you are a local group that would like to hear from the Embassy, then please get in touch at France.Enquiries@fco.gov.uk.

Brexit update

The European Council in Brussels on 19-20 October was an important moment in the negotiations on the UK's exit from the EU. The other 27 EU leaders acknowledged progress made. While they did not give the green light to move to discussions of the future relationship, they agreed to begin preparing for these. We now look forward to further negotiations with our EU partners and to another discussion among leaders at the December European Council.



This progress was built on a new dynamism created by Prime Minister Theresa May's speech in Florence on 22 September, which you can read [here](#). At the European Council, the Prime Minister said that she was "ambitious and positive for Britain's future and for these negotiations", although she acknowledged that "we still have some way to go". She set out what has been achieved in the negotiations so far – on citizens' rights, on Northern Ireland and on the financial settlement – and called for both sides "taking a step forward together" on the basis of "joint effort and endeavour". You can read her statement [here](#).

Food is GREAT!

On 23 October the Embassy hosted an event to raise the profile of British contemporary organic food, an increasingly large and exciting export. The event, attended by over 100 guests, showcased 27 British companies representing 41 brands, including Pip Organic fruit juices, Wyke Farms cheddar cheese, Yeo Valley yoghurts, Mornflake porridge and many others.



Then Gelf Alderson, head chef from the famous River Cottage founded by Hugh Fearnley-Whittingstall, prepared a contemporary organic British dinner in the kitchens of the Ambassador's Residence. Among the lucky diners were the director of the acclaimed restaurant guide Lebey and the Chief Executive of the celebrated school of cuisine Le Cordon bleu. The seasonal menu included an array of British organic meat, cheeses, chocolate and sparkling wine.

The best of British organic cuisine brought to the heart of France!

The UK and France: innovating together for a better future!



Some say science has no borders, and that it has only one frontier: knowledge. British and French scientists have a long history of working together to reach that frontier. From Isaac Newton's election to the French Académie des Sciences in 1699, to more recent projects on antimicrobial resistance or space exploration, French and British scientists working together remind us that science is an endeavour based on cooperation.

The Embassy strongly backs cooperation between British and French scientists and innovators. Only last month, at a dinner hosted by the Ambassador, French and British life sciences experts discussed the common challenges our countries face and agreed to work even more closely together, in particular on genomics, a cutting edge area that is set to transform global healthcare. Earlier this month, the Ambassador was at the French Space Agency, CNES, in Toulouse to celebrate ongoing Franco-British space collaboration. Further events next month will look at the challenges of cyber security and low emission vehicles.

In August, the UK Government published a paper presenting options for the future partnership between the UK and EU on science and innovation. It underlined that the surest way to tackle global challenges such as climate change or infectious diseases is through international scientific collaboration. It sets out how much the UK values its scientific links with EU member states, and our ambition to further strengthen research collaboration post-Brexit – you can read the paper [here](#).

CITIZENS' RIGHTS

On 19 October the Prime Minister wrote an open letter to EU citizens living in the UK, which you can read [here](#).

She recalled that citizens' rights are her first priority in the negotiations - both the rights of EU nationals living in the UK and of UK nationals living in the EU – and that we are now “within touching distance of an agreement”, with only a small number of outstanding issues. We have complete agreement on the broad framework which will be used to grant residence. On key areas such as social security coordination and ensuring access to healthcare, we have agreed the bulk of issues.

Consular Corner:

Some of you have asked about registering as a resident in France and applying for French nationality. Whilst EU nationals do not need to apply for a residence card (carte de séjour), if you are eligible you can request one at your local prefecture. The French government website [service-public.fr](#) has full details [here](#). If you encounter local difficulties please [let us know](#).

Decisions on nationality are very personal and up to the individual concerned. But France and the UK recognise dual nationality and if you apply for French nationality you will keep your British nationality. Full details on applying for French nationality can be found [here](#).

For information on British citizenship please visit [GOV.UK here](#).



British citizenship ceremony at the British Embassy in Paris.