



Connect Continental

The New Northern and Western European Consular
Newsletter

Welcome from your Consular Regional Director



Hello everyone and welcome to the first edition of Connect Continental. My name is John Lindfield, Consular Regional Director and I manage teams within our Embassies and Consulates in Northern and Western Europe that deal with all aspects of Consular Assistance work.

The Foreign and Commonwealth Office's (FCO) consular operation provides assistance to thousands of British nationals around the world every year. From people who have lost their passport on holiday, to people facing the death penalty far from home. In 2009/10, the FCO received over 1.9 million consular enquiries. We dealt with almost 20,000 serious consular assistance cases, including approximately 6,000 deaths, 3,600 hospitalisations, 6,000 detentions of British nationals, 443 cases of child abduction and 377 cases of forced marriage. And we have helped British nationals affected by crises around the world, from the Mumbai bombings in 2008 to Volcanic Ash in 2010.

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We are a vital public service, and we are proud to provide this support to British nationals, wherever they may be in the world. We're also proud of the greater professionalism, quality, consistency and efficiency we've achieved through our 2007-10 Consular Strategy. But there will always be new challenges to overcome, and things that we can improve. The Strategy is about how we plan to do just that.

In addition to the Strategy, consular work is one of the FCO's three strategic objectives which states "Support British nationals around the world through modern and efficient consular services".

As part of our strategy to improve outreach to our many stakeholders, Simon Taylor, our Consul in Marseille, has developed this first issue of Connect Continental. I hope you will enjoy reading it as much as he enjoyed writing and compiling the content. We hope to ensure you have correct and up to date information on issues that may affect you, whether you are resident abroad, a business visitor or just on holiday. We very much look forward to receiving feedback in due course.

All the very best for the festive season.

John Lindfield MBE | Consular Regional Director, Northern and Western Europe | British Consulate-General Amsterdam | Koningslaan 44, 1075 AE Amsterdam

In Case of Emergency Information

Have you got ICE on your **mobile** and **passport**?

Store the word "I C E" in your mobile phone address book, and against it enter the number of the person you would want to be contacted "In Case of Emergency".

Fill in details of your next of kin at the back of your passport. In an emergency situation ambulance and hospital staff will then be able to quickly find out who your next of kin are and how to contact them.





Help in the Community

Mary Hughes, of the **Elizabeth Finn Charity**, writes about living in France and providing welfare support to the Community

In 2001 my husband and I purchased our home in South West France. Initially it was to be used as our holiday home until our younger son reached 18 years of age. We felt at that stage we could move to our French house permanently. This we were able to do in August 2006.

At the time I was working for a major United Kingdom charity assisting United Kingdom Civil Servants when they experienced financial problems. Having moved to France it soon became obvious that not everyone moving there permanently lived the idyllic existence that is portrayed by some UK television programmes. I felt that we should offer those who experienced problems, financial or emotional, the same assistance as those living in the UK. Although we were able to assist them financially I believed that we should also be able to offer a visiting service and have an in depth knowledge of the problems and possible solutions.

Having set up the service for this charity I then moved on to work for Elizabeth Finn Care who are able to assist a broader client base. Elizabeth Finn was a Victorian philanthropist who founded the charity in 1897 to help professional people who had fallen on hard times Today, we assist people, and their dependants, who find themselves in need for various reasons not of their making, for instance when careers are interrupted or ended through health problems, loss of work or family breakdown, or those struggling on an inadequate income in retirement.

There has been a popular misconception in the United Kingdom that all expats living in France are wealthy, live in spacious, luxurious properties and do not experience problems of any description. We at Elizabeth Finn Care have become increasingly aware that there are now many people living overseas, especially in France, who are suffering in silence as they find it more and more

difficult to make ends meet. Increasing food and fuel prices, combined with the collapse of the pound against the euro are making life extremely difficult.

To those who qualify we may be able to offer financial support. Beneficiaries must be British or Irish passport holders and should be over 18 years old, be on a low income, from a professional background and have less than 5000 euros in savings. It is also worth adding that we can also help with other items such as white goods or repairs to the home as well as advising on French state benefits that may be applicable to the client. Additionally, we know through experience that the assistance needed can take many forms, not just financial and we firmly believe that the advice and moral support that we can provide are greatly appreciated by many, especially those living alone. We often work with other charities, and almonise with them, this can also increase the benefits to eligible clients.

We have found over the years that once-independent people do not feel comfortable approaching charities for assistance, and frequently wait until things become unmanageable before they take that first step. We would encourage expats who find themselves in financial difficulty to visit our website at www.elizabethfinncare.org.uk and see whether they qualify for our help. They can also telephone Mary Hughes, our representative in France, on 0468 23 43 79 who will be pleased to discuss their needs and see how we are best able to assist them.

We must emphasise that we may not be able to help, but taking that first step could mean that life becomes just that little bit easier.



ACCESS – serving the needs of the international community

Access in the Netherlands

Among the definitions in the Webster dictionary, for community, is “...a group of people with a common characteristic or interest living together within a larger society.” That is what the community of ACCESS volunteers, counsellors, trainers, partners and associates are all about. There is a shared characteristic, namely, being part of or serving the needs of a group of expatriate individuals finding their feet, their home in the Netherlands.

Established in 1986 the Administrative Committee to Coordinate English Speaking Services –ACCESS- in short, was the grass root initiative of the members of the international community in the Netherlands who felt the pressing need for an organisation that would answer their needs, provide peer support and help cope with the challenges of expatriate living.

Today ACCESS has evolved into a dynamic volunteer, not for profit organisation that serves the needs and interests of the international community, namely by:

- providing guidance, advice, information to help individuals with settling, and/or living and working in the Netherlands,
- promoting friendship, understanding and well-being of the members of the international community in the Netherlands
- contributing to community development through skill training schemes and courses

serving as a bridge between local and international communities

Well into its 25th year ACCESS has become synonymous with outstanding personalised service, empathy and insight. All ACCESS volunteers, trainers, counsellors, Dutch or international, have been expatriates themselves and know first hand what the extra hurdles are to living away from a familiar environment. They add value to what we do, and how we do it. Just as importantly, they do so voluntarily – generously giving their time, sharing their unique skills, experience and diverse cultural backgrounds.

Looking forward to the New Year

Just like for you all a New Year is the time for renewed energy at ACCESS. In 2012 we hit 25! An occasion to take stock and celebrate as well look ahead and plan for the next quarter century!

So what’s new? Sharper focus on serving the needs and interests of the international community, our primary raison d’etre. Internal re-organisation and restructuring to streamline and enhance our performance. And a brand new website www.access-nl.org. It is modern, interactive, informative with a wealth of relevant information and carefully curated contents meant to help those who plan to move or already live and work in the Netherlands.

The trusted ACCESS magazine is migrating to the web and will reappear in the spring of 2012 as an eZine, continuing to highlight and share in-

formation to support a positive adjustment to living far from home.

Whether you are struggling to find your feet in this new country, need guidance, advice, information or look for a rewarding experience to put to good use your skills and expertise, ACCESS is there for you. After all ACCESS is a vibrant diverse colourful family of volunteers, each with unique talents and experiences. At this time volunteering opportunities are only available in The Hague region, the information we provide however, is applicable nation wide.

Reach out, we are here to serve your interests!09002222377/
helpdesk@access-nl.org



Choosing the Best Overseas School for your Child

Choosing where to educate your children is a big decision. And, when moving abroad, the decision becomes even more complex.

Many expats conclude that international schools will provide their children with the best educational opportunities. They can offer a curriculum similar to your home country, as well as the chance to mix with a range of nationalities.

The way schools are run and what they offer varies greatly so, how do you find the right one? Research is vital, so start by considering the following:

- Search the internet for international schools in the area you're moving to and review their websites
- Contact those of interest and arrange a visit
- Ask the principal any questions you may still have
- Does a recognised overseas educational body accredit the school?

What is its reputation and academic track record? Advice and tips from other parents in the expat community will be invaluable too.

International or local?

While international schools have their advantages, some parents prefer local. International schools can provide a degree of consistency, if it's likely that you'll be moving again. But if you're making a permanent move, local schooling will immerse children in the local culture, customs and language. Becoming bilingual at an early age can be a great advantage for their future.

Budget is a consideration too, as international schools can be expensive, whereas local schools tend to be free. Some companies will pay or contribute to school fees. However if you're paying, it's advisable to calculate the costs. It is also worth bearing in mind that paid education is not necessarily better education.

An international school environment is likely to be reasonably familiar to your children. Another plus is that international schools are used to entrants from around the world and seek to make the transition as stress-free as possible. But, attending an international school means it's less likely that children will integrate into the local culture.

Local schools have their disadvantages too. Class sizes are likely to be larger and the quality of education provided can be variable, depending on the host country. Also, children may experience an initial 'culture shock' from attending a school where they cannot speak the language.

Fees

Local schools are likely to be free, or require only small costs such as schoolbooks. But, international schools can be expensive. You may have to pay for:

- Tuition fees
- Schoolbooks
- Materials
- Extra-curricular activities
- Transport
- Lunch
- Uniforms
- Security

Boarding

Some schools will require payment prior to the academic year starting. If your child is joining later, payment may be requested within a few weeks of joining, although some schools will be flexible.

Tuition fees are generally indicative of how prestigious an international school and the better its reputation, the higher the fees.

Opportunities do exist to help reduce the cost of an international school education. It could be worth asking about available scholarships, especially if your child is gifted. And if you are enrolling more than one child at the school, you might ne-

gotiate a reduced fee.

Some expats are fortunate to receive employer assistance in paying their children's educational expenses. Even so, you should make contingency plans in case your circumstances change.

Terms

A calendar is often available on the school's website outlining both academic and extra-curricular activities. It is invaluable for planning when to enroll at the school and is particularly helpful for arranging family holiday and child-care.

Consider

- When the academic year starts and ends as dates can vary from country to country and school to school
 - When each term starts and ends as schools have varying holidays
 - The start and end of the school day, which varies depending on the school and country
 - Days of the week that will children be in school as some countries have classes on Saturday mornings
- Any holidays that fall within term time

Curriculum

International schools tend to work to a curriculum based on the school's home country, or one designed for international schools, such as the International Baccalaureate (IB) or the International General Certificate of Secondary Education (IGCSE).

It's worth finding out the details of the school's curriculum, when initially compiling a list of possible schools.

Some areas to enquire about include:

- Values the school promotes
- Style of teaching
- Subjects taught
- Languages taught
- How children are assessed

Whether there is an induction programme

It's worth checking the school's website or requesting the curriculum handbook to compare against your child's current school. Also speak to the principal if you are able to visit.

The quality of teaching will be crucial to your child's educational development, so you should also ask about the teaching staff's credentials including:

- Their qualifications and experience

- Teacher tenure at the school
- Organising or streaming of pupils

The amount of homework they assign
Choosing a school that has an affiliation with your home country and which follows its education system will help ease your child's transition to the new school. It will also make it easier for your child to re-enter the education system at home, should you return before they graduate. If they graduate abroad, will their diploma be recognised at home? It's never too early to consider graduation, so find out about the school's track record for children gaining entrance to university.

Application process

International schools require background information about your child as part of the application process. This varies between schools, but can include details on your child's academic history, such as reports and exam results.

Once at the application stage, find out timings and get yours in early. The most sought after schools are likely to have waiting lists, so the sooner you apply, the better.

Lloyds TSB International have created a helpful new International Schools infographic tool to compare fees, terms and curriculum at International Schools across the world at www.lloydstsbexpat.com/schools



Victim of Crime in Ireland? Help is at Hand

Harry Carberry, Vice-Consul at the British Embassy in Dublin writes about the work of Irish Tourist Assistance Service

I sit on the board of Directors for ITAS and am heavily involved in all decisions made. If they did not provide this service Dublin would be a far busier post than it is and ITAS'S assistance in providing help to British Nationals is invaluable

This year they have assisted 65 British nationals who were victims of crime who otherwise would have been assisted by our Consular section

The Irish Tourist Assistance Service (ITAS) is a free nationwide service offering support and assistance to tourists who are victimised while visiting Ireland. They are a charitable organisation and need to generate about 50% of the funds required to function from donations. The service is run by staff and volunteers who speak a variety of languages. ITAS acts as a base where problems facing a tourist in the aftermath of a crime can be addressed promptly with the view to getting holiday plans back on track.

The trauma of being a victim of crime can be compounded by language, culture and environmental differences. Tourists in unfamiliar surroundings can feel alone and vulnerable. By dealing with the practical issues associated with a crime a more positive emotional state can be restored.

ITAS offers comfort, support and hope to tourists who otherwise may leave Ireland and never wish to return.

There are only two other similar services in Europe to Victims of Crime.

The effectiveness of the service is evident from the following statistics.

96% of victimised tourists would still recommend Ireland

as a holiday destination.

88% on average elect to continue their holidays each year.

96% said the help provided by the service was sufficient for their needs.

ITAS provides the following services:

Emotional support and practical assistance

Offer use of telephone/fax/email facilities

Assist with language difficulties

Liaise with embassies, Gardaí (Police) and other agencies

Assist with organising money transfers

Re-issue stolen travel tickets

Assist with the cancellation of credit cards

Arrange accommodation/meals if needed

Organise transport for stranded tourists

Address medical needs

ITAS does not offer:

Financial assistance

Replacement of lost items

Insurance or legal advice

What to do if you are a Tourist Crime Victim:

Even with the best advice and planning, things can sometimes go wrong.

If you are a tourist victim of crime, report the incident in person to the nearest Garda Station (Police Station), who will contact the Irish Tourist Assistance Service (ITAS).



Being A Brit Abroad

Christopher Chantrey, Chairman of the British Community Committee gives his take on being a Brit abroad

Over five and a half million Brits live in a foreign country, according to the IPPR – over 13 million if you take the estimates the FCO gave to Parliament in March 2006. So, clearly, the Brits abroad can't be ignored. But who are we exactly? What is it about the expat experience that makes people decide to up sticks and live overseas? Is living abroad beneficial, or is there a cost? How *British* are the Brits abroad? Christopher Chantrey,



cqcq

Chairman of France's British Community Committee, gives us his take on a widespread modern phenomenon.

The British mainly go to live abroad to work, study or retire. 55% of Brits living abroad in 2008 were there for work-related reasons, often being transferred abroad by their employer. More than 9% of all British pensioners live abroad.

And we're here for varying periods of time. Many, especially students and young professionals, will

probably return to the UK after a relatively short period abroad. Others may marry someone from the host country, and decide to stay on. On the other hand, I know of many who have eventually returned to the UK after quite a prolonged period abroad. After all, home is home.

But however long they remain abroad, one thing strikes me very strongly: the tremendous loyalty that British abroad show to their native country. You see this in the kind of associations that make up the membership of the British Community Committee in France – the ex-service organizations such as the Royal British Legion, the Royal Naval Association and the Royal Air Force Association,

the Scottish country dancing groups, Toc H, the British cricket and rugby clubs, the British theatre groups, the British arts and cultural clubs, the British choirs and musical groups, the British churches, schools, libraries and hospitals. This is not only true all over France, but in every British expat community of any size everywhere in the world.

British expats express their Britishness and their loyalty to Britain by taking part in British activities, by following the news from the home country on satellite TV and radio, and by keeping up with British newspapers on the Internet. This isn't to say they don't integrate with their host country communities as well; indeed, the happiest expat Brits that I have met positively revel in the bi-cultural existence that living abroad gives them, especially in non-English-speaking countries. In France, new arrivals quickly learn about the rituals of the *apéritif* and the surprisingly complicated etiquette of kissing on both cheeks. Culturally, they (and their bi-cultural, bilingual children) have a foot in both camps, something that living in Britain would not enable them to have.

This bi-cultural existence is surely a benefit, but it does take courage and perseverance to succeed as an expat. Most of us arrive without much of a grasp of the language, and unprepared for the very different way many things are done in the host country. Local practices often seem ridiculously bureaucratic, crazily inefficient or even blatantly corrupt. Host country political systems often seem forbiddingly complex to the outsider – just look at Belgium – and in most cases, as non-nationals we aren't allowed to vote there anyway.

Yes, there is a cost to being an expat Brit: the fact that one day you will be stripped of the right to vote in national elections back home, which is actually where British expats *want* to vote. Disenfranchisement kicks in after only 15 years, or about three general elections, and it usually comes as quite a shock, especially when, for example, French politicians campaign ostentatiously to London's 400,000-strong French community, and French expats' unlimited voting rights are splashed all over our television screens.

Despite this institutionalised slap in the face, British expats represent a valuable resource for the UK. Because



not only do we understand better how other countries work, we have a privileged vantage point for looking more clearly at our own country. This is useful not only in business, but in government too. Legislators looking for solutions to a particular problem, such as commonhold or how better to recognize the family through the income tax system, ought to ask the British abroad how things are done where they live.

In a very real sense, Brits living abroad represent Britain and its values to the people of their host country. For centuries, British professionals such as accountants, lawyers, engineers, managers and entrepreneurs have been taking the British way of getting things done thoroughly and efficiently to the many countries of the world where they end up living. When Marks & Spencer announced its return to France after ten years' absence, French shoppers expect their British friends to tell them every detail of the planned opening. When the Prime Minister takes an individual stand against all the other member states at an EU summit, we Brits abroad are called upon by our host-country friends and colleagues to explain why.

And above all, we *feel* British. We do British things. We play or watch cricket, Alan Bennett and pantomime. We debate, we make cakes and jam for jumble sales, we play bridge, darts or polo. Invitations to Queens' Birthday Parties at British Embassies across the world are cherished favours, proudly displayed on mantelpieces. Every Christmas, British Carol Services with mince pies and mulled wine pack British churches across France and across the world. And the British Community is proud to be able to fill Notre Dame Cathedral in Paris every 11th November for the annual British Service of Remembrance, held there since 192100; It all leads in the same in the same direction: whatever else we are, we're proud of our Britishness.

About France's British Community Committee

The British Community Committee represents British expats in France through the 80+ member organisations to which they belong, or which cater to their needs. It publishes the annual Official Directory of Member Organisations and the monthly Diary of Events, and runs the www.britishinfrance.com and www.votes-for-expat-brits.com websites. It speaks on behalf of the British abroad at international meetings called to discuss issues affecting expat populations, and welcomes contacts with similar bodies representing the British abroad in other countries.

For more on the Britishness of British expats, see the publications of the Institute for Public Policy and Research (IPPR, www.ippr.org) "Brits Abroad" (2005) and "Global Brit" (2010)





Ski-ing this Christmas

Ski-ing in the Alps at Christmas is a great way to see the year out but there are a few pitfalls to watch out for. Vice-Consul, Jeanie Labaye, advises how to avoid them.

From the moment the final school bell rings on the last day of term before Christmas, and until around Easter time, some 700,000 of you will be heading for an alpine holiday, leaving hard work, dismal skies and budget restrictions behind you for a while.

This is the beginning of the busiest times for British Consulates, near the ski resorts. Although less than 1% of you will get into some sort of trouble and ask for help, this is still a lot of people. Problems range from lost passports (of which there are an inordinate amount), arrests, hospitalisations and fatal accidents. Winter holidays in the Alps are all about sunshine on snow, log fires, sleigh rides and Father Christmas and lots of nice food and wine, with some pretty strenuous exercise on the slopes in between.

But one of the sadder aspects of our job at Consulates is helping the families of people who die on skiing holidays. Not everyone gets themselves up to an adequate level of fitness for all that strenuous activity, and last year we dealt with several deaths from heart attacks on the slopes.

We've also had to help in cases that aren't fatal but still destroy people's holidays. For example, on the slopes there's a highway code just as there is on the roads. We've seen cases where people have not only been hurt themselves but also been held responsible for someone else's injuries, and there is still an ongoing court case against a Brit for allegedly refusing a right of way on the slopes. And we often have to assist someone who's been hurt because they've ignored warnings on weather conditions or avalanche threats. We also regularly get involved in cases where people have not realised that their travel insurance won't cover them off piste; so if they've skied off piste, especially without a trained guide or instructor, or even just lost control and ended up off piste, they've found themselves saddled with bills of several thousand pounds that their insurance won't help with.

And every winter we have to help out a dozen or so people who get hurt or arrested because they've been lurching or letting down their hair *après-ski* and haven't taken account of the fact

that alcohol affects you more quickly at altitude: your reactions are slower, you don't feel the cold, your behavioural patterns are modified.

Losing valuables or a passport on the slopes can ruin people's holidays – we always advise people to put them in a secure place like an hotel safe. For items that may be mislaid or stolen, we suggest that people make sure they have all receipts available even for items they have brought with them from home.

Due to high incidences of insurance fraud, the police have several times refused to take statements of theft if ownership of stolen property cannot be proven.

Winter sports in the Alps are absolutely fabulous, and most people have a wonderful time. I hope any of you reading this who are planning to come skiing or snowboarding will have a great time, with nothing to spoil your holiday.

When you raise your glass of *vin chaud* at the traditional Christmas Eve vigil, waiting for the presents to arrive at midnight, give us a fleeting thought and hope we don't meet soon!

Wishing you a Happy Christmas and a prosperous and trouble free year 2012.





Carnival is here!

Richard Chapman, Consular Director for Germany, on the Carnival season



Each year a large part of Germany is gripped by carnival fever. And it is not done by halves. Running from mid-November, the Carnival festivities go right up until Ash Wednesday and are amongst the longest carnival celebrations in Europe.

The real celebrations don't, however, really get going until forty days before Lent starts when people take every chance to indulge. The plans for 2012 will be no different. Carnivals will stretch from the west of the country - mainly in the states of North Rhine-Westphalia, Baden Württemberg and Rhineland Palatinate - to the southern state of Bavaria. While celebrations can be found all over this area, including in Mainz, Aachen, Bonn, and Düsseldorf as well as in Baden and Swabia, the carnival in Cologne is the largest and most famous.

The first written record of the Cologne carnival was in



1341 and over the centuries, has become a huge affair which now includes hundreds of street and pub parties where people come in all manners of costumes to join in on the celebrations. The *Tolle Tage* (crazy days) start with the *Weiberfastnacht* (women's carnival night) where tradition decrees that women are allowed to cut off the tie of any man within reach and to kiss any man they want to; a nod to the 1824 revolt by the city's washer-women.

The high point of the celebrations is on *Rosenmontag*. Cologne sees over a million people on the streets to cheer on the last, and most impressive, of the week's 50 parades. As the floats pass by, participants throw sweets to the crowds while singing traditional carnival songs.

Carnival in Germany is something that can only be appreciated once experienced. If people are considering joining in with the festivities, there are a few things that can be done to make sure that your visit goes as well as possible:

- Make sure you have a European Health Insurance Card for free or reduced emergency care, as well as taking out any additional travel insurance;
- Keep your passport with you at all times. It is a requirement under law in Germany to show ID if requested by the local authorities;
- Large crowds can attract pick pockets so take care of your valuables;
- If you're travelling to carnival by car, be sure to have a valid driving licence, car logbook or





Travelling abroad this Christmas

Visiting Friends and Family Abroad?

When travelling overseas to visit friends and family, it's all too easy to feel you're simply going 'home' because you feel familiar with your destination.

You may have been there many times before - you may have even lived there. But things can still go wrong whatever country you are in and it is important to make sure you take the right precautions before you leave the UK.

DUAL NATIONALS

If you're a dual national of both Britain and the country you are visiting, it is important to know that the British government can only help you in exceptional circumstances.

GET COMPREHENSIVE TRAVEL INSURANCE

You'll still need comprehensive insurance even if you are staying with family or friends. If you are a dual national, seek advice from your insurer on whether this affects your cover.

VISIT YOUR GP

Even if you have lived in a country in the past, you may no longer be immune to diseases common in that region, and your children definitely won't be.

Make an appointment with your GP as soon as possible to discuss your travel plans and to find out which vaccinations or medication you might need.

Malaria is a particularly serious problem - around 2000 British travellers return home with the

disease each year. Make sure you protect yourself if you are returning to a malarious region.

See [travel health](#) for more information.

GET THE LATEST INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DESTINATION

Although you may be familiar with your destination, the situation of a country can change very quickly - check our [travel advice by country](#) before you travel and whilst you're there.

GET YOUR DOCUMENTS IN ORDER

Check the entry requirements for a country - how much validity you need on your passport - and what visas you'll need. You'll find this information in our [travel advice by country](#), or by contacting the [relevant embassy](#).

KNOW WHAT YOU CAN AND CAN'T BRING BACK INTO THE UK

It is illegal to bring meat and dairy products into the UK from countries outside of European Union.

There are also restrictions on importing plants and some animal products and you could face strict penalties for failing to declare restricted items.

Check what you can and can't [bring back](#).

See Also

[Travel Health](#)

[Travel Insurance](#)

Useful Links

[Food Import Regulations](#) - information on what you can and can't bring back into the country.





FEEDBACK TIME

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU
WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU
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Connect Continental is a collaborative newsletter for British nationals in the Northern and Western Europe Consular region. We hope it will go from strength to strength and develop as a means for getting your views and experiences either as an expat living on the continent or as a traveller to the region. But for that to happen we need to hear from YOU! So let us have your feedback and if you have a story to tell let us have that as well.

If you would like to give feedback which we can publish or contribute to the next issue of Connect Continental then please email me at editor.connect@orange.fr



