



# Minutes of the ACFAA Annual General Meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> May 2024 at Jardin de Cadix, Eymet

## Present

Bureau: Mme RILEY, Claire (President); M MOREAU, Michel (Vice President) ; Mme CLOUGH, Nicole (Treasurer) ; Mme WATKINS-YOUNG, Elizabeth (Secretary)

Committee: Mme LACK, Nicola; Mme BLACKMAN, Sally; Mme O'MEARA, Wendy; Mme SUMNER Christine; Mme MCCATHY, Tina

Apologies: John Simmonds, Bob & Ann Lark, Colin Goodall, Ainslie & Barie Green, Vèronique Schleich, Bertrand Wuiame, John Fenningworth, Anna & Martin Kevill, Liz & Brian Berks, Diane Moore

Total Attendance including committee - 54

## Welcome by President

The President Claire Riley welcomed everyone to the 2024 AGM, and explained that the formalities of the meeting would be conducted in English with the Vice President Michel Moreau translating when necessary.

## Minutes of last AGM

The Minutes of the 2023 AGM were published to members on the ACFAA web site, and approved by the meeting.

## Matters Arising

There were no matters arising

## Presidents Report

The President reported that ACFAA is now one of the largest associations registered with the Eymet Mairie. with over 700 members enjoying an increasing selection of activity groups, our language learning opportunities, and the social events and trips. The visits by French College and Lycée students, and French Adult Learners, who come and practice their English in Eymet was a resounding success and Claire thanked our language tutors, the animateurs who volunteered with the conversation meetings, Nicola, our Head Tutor and Sally, our Language Group Coordinator. Claire also welcomed Michele Durant to the Language department. ACFAA currently have 18 different Group Activities to offer our members, Claire thanked all of our Group Leaders for their commitment to ACFAA. The new ACFAA Website is in the final stages. Dean Clamp is providing expert advice on the new design and Maxine Walter has joined the Website Refresh team. We hope to launch this for the start of the September term. On behalf of all our members, Claire also thanked Monsieur le Maire, Jerome Bataille and his team at the Mairie for their ongoing support and offering ACFAA the use of various local buildings. Claire gave a big thank you to her team for their support and commitment and lastly, she thanked the members, for their continued support.

## Language Class Coordinators Report

The report of the Language Class Coordinator was displayed to members on information boards in the meeting room. There were no questions arising from the report.

## Finance 2023

The Financial report for the period January 2023 to December 2023 was presented to the meeting by the Treasurer. Mme Clough explained that the Association's financial situation continues to be robust. She explained that good governance requires voluntary associations to have a reserves policy to support unforeseen circumstances, the reserve policy of ACFAA is to hold a balance of between 12-18 months of total expenditure. Membership and costs cannot be precisely predicted each year, some years income exceeds expenditure and some years expenditure exceeds income, as such we maintain a robust reserves policy, we continue to be able to support projects within ACFAA and the community. There were no questions arising from the report.

## Social Committee Report

The report of the Social Committee was displayed to members on information boards in the meeting room. There were no questions arising from the report.

## Membership Secretary's Report

The report of the Membership Secretary was displayed to members on information boards in the meeting room. Mme O'Meara explained that the ACFAA Membership had grown to an all-time record of 738 members and includes members from over 26 Countries which include Australia, Barbados, Belgium, Canada, Costa Rica, Czech Rep, Denmark, France, Germany, Hungary, Ireland, Israel, Japan, Mexico, Morocco, Netherlands, New Zealand, Poland, Romania, South Africa, Sweden, Switzerland and the UK. ACFAA attracts members not only from the Dordogne, but from the Lot et Garonne and the Gironde. Over half the membership paid for their fees online this year and it is hoped that many more will choose this as their preferred payment method. Mme O'Meara thanked everyone for joining ACFAA and for supporting the many activities that the association hosts. There were no questions arising from the report.

## Election of Secretary

The President informed the meeting that Liz Watkins-Young was standing down as Secretary. She thanked Liz for the contribution she had made to the Association. Angela Brace was proposed by Nicola Lack and seconded by Claire Riley as the Associations new Secretary. Members voted to approve this appointment. **Mme Brace approved as Secretary.**

## Election of Committee Places

In accordance with Clause 5 of Internal Rules nominations for Committee, nominations were invited from the membership. Maxine Walter was nominated for the Committee, proposed by Andy Walter and seconded by Caro Blitz. Maxine was welcomed onto the Committee. The president informed the meeting that Christine Sumner had completed her term of office and was standing down after 15 years of service, she thanked her for her contribution to the Association, Christine will continue on the Social Committee. Michel Moreau and Wendy O'Meara have also completed their term of office this year and are standing for re-election. Michel Moreau's re-election is proposed by Nicole Clough and seconded by Claire Riley. Wendy O'Meara's re-election is proposed by Nicola Lack and seconded by Nicole Clough. Under Article 9 of the statutes, as there are 4 vacancies and 3 nominations, no vote is required. **Mme WALTER Maxine elected to the committee, M MOREAU, Michel, Mme O'MEARA, Wendy re-elected to the committee**

## Group Leaders Reports

Reports of Group activities had been published to the website. Other reports were provided verbally to the meeting by Glenys Morgan-Curtis on the Afternoon Drop-in, Tim Richardson on the Atelier, Polly Fellows and Caro Hartridge on Line Dancing, Florence Simmonds on Meditation and Claire Riley read out a report by John Simmonds on the Photography Group in his absence.

## Any Other Business

Alan Godfrey asked how many people qualified for free membership, Wendy answered that at the moment 90 people qualified for it. Meeting closed at 18h 09.

The evening concluded with refreshments and members being invited to view the board/table displays showing the activity from the previous year and the ACFAA offering.

Mme RILEY, Claire Présidente	Mme BRACE. Angela Secrètaire
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