



# BULLETIN

## Welcome

Claire Riley, President

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### Dear Members

Welcome to the Summer edition of the ACFAA Bulletin. Our language classes and Group activities began operating regularly again in early Spring and ACFAA was able to host several social events and the support from our members has enabled us to resume our fundraising activities with confidence.

In May we held the ACFAA Association Annual General Meeting and in June we held a summer fête in collaboration with the Félibrée Committee and the Eymet Rugby Club. More recently, the Eymet Mairie played host to the fabulous three day celebration of the 101<sup>st</sup> Félibrée, an event postponed from July 2020. A huge amount of effort by volunteers ensured the success of these events and congratulations go to all of those who were involved.

Plans are now under way for the celebrations in October, to mark the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the ACFAA Association and this edition of the Bulletin also highlights other social activities due to take place during the summer, in addition to a programme of events, once we resume group activities in September.

When term begins in September, we will be offering additional group activities and our Language Tutors will be providing an enhanced programme of courses for our members. ACFAA Tutors and Group Leaders will be available to talk to new and existing members at the Inscription evening on Friday, 2<sup>nd</sup> September at 18h30 at Salle des Fêtes in Agnac.

Lastly, I would like to thank the Committee, Group Leaders and Language Tutors for their dedication and hard work on behalf of the Association and I wish you all an enjoyable summer and look forward to seeing you in the Autumn when group activities and classes resume.

Claire Riley, President, ACFAA Association, July 2022



## Annual General Meeting

Following two years during which we could not convene an Annual General Meeting, it was wonderful to be able to hold our AGM in person this year.

Members present were invited to vote on a series of motions proposed by the Officers and Committee of the Association. In summary:

- ◆ Mme Clough was elected as Treasurer (until 2026)
- ◆ The Financial Accounts for 2021 were approved
- ◆ Confirmation that Mme Blackman replace Mme Jeffrey on Committee (until 2023)
- ◆ Mme McCarthy was re-elected to Committee and Mme Britton's membership of Committee was confirmed (until 2026)
- ◆ Revised Internal Rules were approved

More details of the proceedings are available on our web site [here](#).



Officers and Committee (L to R): Michel Moreau, Wendy O'Meara, Nicole Clough, Sally Blackman, Claire Riley, Alan Godfree, Christine Sumner, Nicola Lack, Abbey Britton & Colin Goodall.



## News Shorts

### English students visit Eymet

Members of the ACFAA Committee were on hand to host students from the lycée d'Arsonval à Brive la Gaillarde who visited Eymet during the Easter break. Emmeline Dinéty, professeur de SVT, SVT en anglais en section européenne co-ordinated the trip and the aim was to meet and speak English with the people from Eymet.

The visit began at the weekly market and then on to a café where the students could spend time talking with members of the ACFAA team and local residents. It was a great success and Emmeline sent her thanks and appreciation to Claire Riley, President of ACFAA. It is hoped that this will become an annual event.



### Atelier Group working with La Félibrée



Tim Richardson and his team of volunteers were asked to make a number of Notice Boards with Easels and a sink stand for use at the Félibrée . Chris King, Alan Godfree, Graham Massey and Ron O'Meara supported by Ron Tillyer worked hard to make the stands and these were put to good use around the Bastide displaying the events over the three days. Well done team.



## News from the Groups

### New Group – Meditation with Florence Simmonds

My name is Florence Simmonds. I am a dual national living in Eymet.

I am a Pranic healer and was trained at The Institute of Pranic Healing in the UK. Pranic healing combines ancient healing methods with modern science, to help with physical, emotional, and mental ailments.

I am delighted to announce that I will be starting a weekly “Relaxation and Meditation Twin Heart” class from September 2022. Come along to the ACFAA registration event on the 2<sup>nd</sup> September and find out more about the class. They will be held on a Thursday morning at 11.30 a.m. in Eymet.



What is the Meditation of Twin Hearts?

Meditation on Twin Hearts is an active meditation that has been scientifically validated to:

- ◆ substantially reduce stress and anxiety
- ◆ increase cognitive behaviour and memory recall
- ◆ increase mental clarity and concentration
- ◆ improve overall physical and emotional wellbeing

By regular practice of this meditation one can achieve inner peace and stillness in less than 30 minutes.

It is practiced in 126 countries with testimonials of positive life transformations. Organisations, including hospitals, are now doing the Meditation on Twin Hearts as a part of their well-being programs for staff.

What do we do during the sessions?

- ◆ We learn powerful breathing techniques
- ◆ We do gentle specific exercises
- ◆ We practice the meditation of the Twin Hearts

I am looking forward to meeting you on the 2<sup>nd</sup> September and discussing more about this new class and its benefits.



## BRIDGE – CHRISTINE RICH

On the last day of March, ACFAA Bridge Club members were delighted to resume their weekly meetings after a break of over 3 months.

Meetings had been on hold since the New Year: first of all due to the worsening covid situation and then because their regular venue was closed following a change of ownership.

An added bonus for our restart was the 5 new bridge tables provided by ACFAA. Previously, the club had been using a variety of borrowed tables in various stages of repair.

The club meets at 2pm every Thursday at the Bar/café in La Sauvetat du Dropt high street. We are a friendly group of varied bridge abilities. We play duplicate bridge usually between 21 to 28 boards, with between 3 and 5 tables of players. Nothing too serious and, of course, drinks/coffee are available for purchase from the bar throughout the afternoon.



We are also very grateful to the cafe for allowing us to store our tables, cards and bidding boxes on the premises.

Weekly costs (in addition to ACFAA) membership are a modest €2 per person per session which goes towards replenishing supplies and a small weekly contribution to the café for the room hire.

Further information can be obtained from [Christine Rich](#)

## Recent Events



### Jubilee Fête

ACFAA joined up with the Félibrée organising committee and the Rugby Club to host a Fête Celebration on the 4<sup>th</sup> June 2022.

Hosted at the Stade de Rugby de la Gravette in Eymet, the associations put together a fun event for families with the Rugby Club hosting a Rugby discovery and training session for the children.

It really was a great team effort with ACFAA celebrating the Queen's Platinum Jubilee with an Afternoon Tea being enjoyed in the afternoon. The Agnac Crazy Stompers (Line Dancing) group performed a number of dances with members of the public taking part too.



The ACFAA art and craft group tables were busy providing the opportunity for the children to colour Jubilee related posters and the winners of the three categories were Marco, Ellie and Xander. Many children made crowns of sparkly jewels and it was fun seeing the children parading around with them on.



The Atelier Group had been working hard to provide a number of games to keep families entertained and it is fair to say that this area became very competitive.

The Gardening Group sold plants and Miriam Hammond made a number of flower ar-

rangements which were raffled. 400 € was raised by the Gardening and Atelier group. This money will be donated to the Alzheimer's France association.



Finally, despite the rain, the afternoon ended with the group - Barber Eymet/Beuller—which certainly lifted the spirits. All in all, a fabulous event to celebrate 70 years reign of Queen Elizabeth II, The Rugby Club School and the Félibrée.



## Pest Control

Jim Bromley hosted a talk on “Pest Con-



trol – A Sensible Approach” on the 4<sup>th</sup> March. The afternoon was well attended with much interaction regarding this interesting subject, as Jim described the difference between Asian and European Hornets and advised how to protect yourselves and your property from invading rodents using a variety of interesting pipes and materials. Jim waived any fee and ACFAA were able to make a good donation to Resto du Coeur.

## Quiz Evening

On the 9<sup>th</sup> April, ACFAA held a Quiz night at the Salle de Fete in Agnac. Our first big event in some time proved very popular, with fifteen tables competing good-naturedly to win. Our thanks to Matthew, the quiz-master and to Claire for being splendid hosts. Many members commented on



how good it was to be able to meet up once more for social events such as this, after many months of restrictions. A charity raffle raised over 400 € shared between the UNICEF and RED CROSS Ukraine Appeals.

Congratulations to the winning team!

## Le Saviez-Vous? Did You Know?

**This piece is contributed by Charles Bethune, who leads our ACFAA groups studying French Civilisation and Literature.**

At a time when Europe faces growing uncertainty, France in 2022 has entered a period of unprecedented political uncertainty. In the presidential election in April, the people returned Emmanuel Macron for a five-year term. The first President of the Fifth Republic to win a second term since 2002, his position should be secure (the only President who did not serve a full term died in office in 1974). As his Prime Minister, he appointed Élisabeth Borne, the first woman to hold the post since 1992. She formed a government of deputies from the majority in the National Assembly (the lower house of Parliament) who support the President.

At the legislative elections in June for all 577 seats in the National Assembly, the President's supporters lost their majority. His coalition, called Ensemble (“Together”), won only 245 seats, which is 44 seats short of an absolute majority.



Since the foundation of the Fifth Republic in 1958, France has not known such uncertainty. There have been periods when the President's supporters did not have a majority in the lower house, but in each case a single party held most seats and could control legislation. Now there are three incompatible groupings.

To pass each law through the lower house, the government will have to find at least 44 supporters from other parties. On the left there is the possibly fragile alliance called NUPES with 131 seats, on the right there are Les Républicains with 61 seats, and on the far right there is the Rassemblement National with 89 seats. Rather than support the government, any one of these groups can, by holding more than 10% of the seats, move a vote of no confidence in the government.



Once a law passes the lower house, it then comes before the upper house, called the Senate. Here, since the senatorial elections of 2020, the government does not have a majority. With 146 of the 348 seats, the right-wing Les Républicains are the largest party. If the Senate rejects a law passed by the lower house, it can however be overruled.

If the Prime Minister cannot form a permanent coalition, she will have to rely on temporary alliances to get legislation through the lower house. If this proves unworkable, the President could dissolve the lower house and call fresh elections. This has happened before under the Fifth Republic, but carries considerable risks.

## Future Events

The Social Committee has been busy preparing a programme of events. Here are just some of the events planned for the next six months.

Please save the dates and look at for more details on how to book. The events will be sent to all members by email and will be uplifted to the ACFAA [Facebook page](#) and the ACFAA [web site](#) Events Page.

- ◆ **August:** Bat Walk – L'Escourou Lac - 26<sup>th</sup> August. Booking Form available [here](#)
- ◆ **September:** Inscription Evening – Salle des Fetes, Agnac – 2<sup>nd</sup> September from 18h30. Your opportunity to learn more about the many groups on offer and speak to the English and French language class tutors
- ◆ Walking Tour - Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> September – Discover the history of Allemans-du-Dropt
- ◆ **October:** Annual Bowling Event – Bergerac. 2<sup>nd</sup> October. Prepare a team to take on the current holders of the President's Cup



## Future Events

- ◆ October Rose: ACFAA will once again support the Mairie by hosting an event in October
- ◆ **October:** ACFAA 30<sup>th</sup> Year Anniversary – 16<sup>th</sup> October at the Salle des Fetes, Agnac. A delicious meal and entertainment from Dianne Moore
- ◆ **November:** Duck Race Night. Come along and have some fun on the 26<sup>th</sup> November taking part in a Duck Race evening
- ◆ **November:** Christmas Craft Demonstration – Join Christine to find out how to make your Christmas decorations
- ◆ **December:** Coach Trip to the beautiful Perigueux town and Christmas Market
- ◆ **January:** Coach Trip to Bordeaux for the sales

Date(s) to be confirmed: Come and join us for a talk from Charles Bethune as he explains the history behind the Bastides to learn more about Eymet and this area of France.



The poster features a wooden background with coffee beans scattered on the left side. At the top right is the ACFAA logo. The text reads: "COFFEE MORNING", "Come and meet other ACFAA members", "Starting Monday 12th September 2022 @ 10.30", "Cafe Le Tortoni, 3 Avenue de St Foy, Eymet". Below this is the phrase "Good Morning" in a cursive font. At the bottom left, it says "For more information contact Wendy O'Meara: wendy.omeara@hotmail.co.uk". At the bottom right is an image of a white coffee cup on a saucer. The ACFAA logo is also present at the bottom left.

Why not take time out and enjoy a coffee with some other ACFAA members

If you would like to contribute to the Bulletin, contact the editor [Wendy O'Meara](#).



For more information on ACFAA and details if you wish to join visit the web site: [acfaa.com](http://acfaa.com)

