



# **LEARNING TOGETHER**

## **MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

### **31 OCTOBER 2019**

The meeting opened at 7.30 pm.

The meeting was attended by 7 members of the Association and 6 Committee members.

Apologies for Absence: Pauline & Peter Maskell; Sylvie Kaylar; Tony & Carole Brown; June & Roger Owen.

#### **Notes of the 2018 AGM were considered.**

No matters arising.

Proposed as a true and accurate record: Steve Fox.

Seconded: John Harley

#### **President's Address – Alan Bretman**

- It has been a successful year and more members have been recruited. Last year, there were just under 80 members on the mailing list and there are now 92 members.
- The Committee agreed in May that the Association should open a Paypal account so that members can pay their membership subscriptions and tuition fees by card if they wish to. Banque Tarneaud has been asked to give online access to our account so that a PayPal account may be opened.
- There has been lots of support from the Mairie and we received 400 euros subvention. We are providing a service to the community and the Mairie is pleased about this.
- We had a presence at the Forum des Associations and three new members were recruited as a result.
- The Salon de Thé raised 175 euros for the Telethon. This was less than we had hoped for but it was probably due to traffic complications in the town owing to Gilet Jaune activity.
- Co-opted on to the Committee during the year: Jessica Summers and Susan Ratcliffe. However, Jessica and Sue Andrews have since resigned from the Committee.
- Alan thanked the committee for all their hard work.
- Alan gave notice that this year would be the last that he and Teresa wished to serve on the Committee and so a new President and a new Secretary would need to take on their roles for next September.
- We therefore need to have more people on the Committee to be involved in the administration.
- It was suggested that in the New Year, John Harley could take on the responsibility for membership lists.

#### **Social Secretary's Report – Barbara Downing**

There have been 15 events this year.

8 Lunches

2 Cinema Visits

2 Coffee Mornings – Le Campagnard

Picnic was held in Steve and Margaret Fox's garden in July

Afternoon Tea – Le Campagnard

**Future events:**

Next Lunch will be held in Marval – Curry – 11 November

Christmas Lunch – L'Azur, Chirac, 6 December

Salon de Thé for the Telethon – Capitol, Rochechouart – 7 December

Margaret Fox – vote of thanks for Barbara for the visit to Chateau de Rochebrune.

Celine suggested visits to Crozon Chateau and Pompadour Chateau.

Alan thanked Barbara for her report and all her hard work.

**Treasurer's report – Lisa Austin**

Lisa provided a treasurer's report, year ending 31 August 2019.

Teachers have now moved on to self-employed status so there should not be any fees due to URSSAF next year.

The new website has been set up.

Coffee Mornings have brought in new members.

Membership fees are being raised by 1 euro to 16 euros per annum per household.

Proposer Accounts: John Harley proposed that the Accounts were full and valid.

Seconded: Tim Rogers

The Accounts were approved.

Alan thanked Lisa for all her hard work.

**Language Lessons – Patsy Wilmott**

Patsy has taken on the role of being the point of contact for people enquiring about lessons.

Two teachers left last Summer and Jessica Summers was recruited. We need to recruit one more teacher.

13 language classes take place each week – 9 in Rochechouart and 4 in Brigeuil.

French Language lessons; English Language lessons; Life and Culture in France – covers what is required for citizenship.

There is a new registration system and we must monitor the demand for lessons in order to meet that need.

The numbers dropped in September but this was because people were going on holiday. Perhaps in future, the term should start in October, when people are back from holiday.

John Harley proposed a vote of thanks to Alan Bretman and the Committee – approved by all.

The meeting ended at 21.07 pm