



# **EUROMAYENNE**

Association Départementale  
pour une coopération Européenne en Mayenne

**DRAFT**

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**  
on **SATURDAY, 6<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2021**

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**ACTIVITY REPORT 2020-2021**

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## 1 – MEMBERSHIP

### Number of members (Sept. 2006 – Aug. 2021)

Years	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Members	400	440	396	380	364	408	340	311	312	321	345	335	306	279	260	213

On 31<sup>st</sup> August 2021, our association mustered **213 members from 126 households (79 families et 47 single members)**. This is a **significant decrease** in comparison with last year (260), probably due to the health crisis and the Covid-19 confinements.

We wish to thank **Roselyne SPEYER**, our treasurer, who manages the membership, as well as **Gloria KENNERLEY** who gives information in English to potential members. During the year, please let **Roselyne SPEYER** know of any change in address, telephone number or email address, so that she may update our membership list.

## 2 – LANGUAGE ACTIVITIES

### a) French Courses

From September 2020 to July 2021, we organised our usual three termly sessions in Mayenne, at **four levels** (Beginners, Intermediate, Advanced & Advanced Plus), with our teacher, **Alain FAUCON**.

#### Number of participants per level and per session

	Beginners	Intermediate	Advanced	Advanced Plus	TOTAL
09–12/2020	6	11	11	8	36
01–03/2021	8	12	11	6	37
04–06/2021	9	12	10	6	32

Years	2005 / 2006	2006 / 2007	2007 / 2008	2008 / 2009	2009 / 2010	2010 / 2011	2011 / 2012	2012 / 2013	2013 / 2014	2014 / 2015	2015 / 2016	2016 / 2017	2017 / 2018	2018 / 2019	2019 / 2020	2020 / 2021
Registrations	161	176	177	193	169	124	102	87	89	111	86	112	83	92	100	105

We noticed a **higher attendance** at our French Courses again this year.

In September 2020, we created a **new «Advanced Plus» Group**, which made it possible for some participants to access a higher level and has led to the integration of new beginners.

In September 2020 and October 2020, our courses were held face-to-face and in half-groups.

From November 2020 to June 2021, due to the Covid-19 pandemic and the Government's national lockdown measures, our courses could continue via videoconferences on **Zoom**.

**The Executive Committee would like to address their thanks to the Town of Mayenne which offers us free rooms in order to organise our courses.**

**In addition, we thank most warmly Alain FAUCON, our teacher, for his collaboration with our association, and notably this year for accepting to continue his lessons in videoconference in a difficult context of health crisis.**

**Finally, we are also very grateful to Lynn CHESTERS for her hard work as our French Course Coordinator from March 2020 to April 2021, and to Simon KING who has succeeded her in this role.**

### b) Conversation Workshops

From September 2020, due to the Covid-19 pandemic and the Government's national lockdown measures, the workshops were held via **Skype or Zoom videoconferences** in groups of 3-4 people (12 participants for the Mayenne workshop and 6 for the Laval workshop). Some groups even prolonged their conversations in this way during the summer holidays.

Our Mayenne workshop will be maintained in 2021-2022.

Our Laval workshop may also be maintained, subject to the participation of 2 or 3 additional native English speakers.

**We address our thanks to *Maison de Quartier des Fourches* in Laval and *Lycée Don Bosco* in Mayenne, for offering us free rooms during the year.**

**We are very grateful to *Armelle JAMELOT* (Laval), *Colette BERRON* and *Lynn CHESTERS* (Mayenne) for their hard work on coordinating our conversation workshops.**

### **c) School Interventions**

One intervention planned for December 2020 at the Private Primary School in Chailland had to be cancelled. In April 2021, we received a request from a teacher at “*Collège St Joseph*” in Cossé le Vivien, but no action was taken due to the national lockdown in May 2021. On 28 and 29 June 2021, we carried out an intervention at St Martin's Primary School in Mayenne, which was much appreciated by the students. We are also in contact with “*Collège des Sept Fontaines*” in Andouillé for resuming our interventions in this school.

We still have two agreements with the *Direction des Services Départementaux de l'Education en Mayenne* (Departmental Education Authority) and the *Direction départementale de l'Enseignement catholique en Mayenne* (Departmental Catholic Education Authority). These agreements stipulate the terms and conditions of our interventions in state and catholic schools of the Mayenne Department.

**We would like to address our warmest thanks to *Paul Climance* who has been coordinating our school interventions for many years. He would now like to step down from this role, but he has kindly offered to continue while we are looking for a new coordinator.**

**Furthermore, we thank all the schools that have approached us and all our native English-speaking volunteers who have given their time during the school year to carry out these interventions.**

## **3 – VOLUNTEER ASSISTANCE NETWORK**

The aim of this group is to bring help to the members of EuroMayenne, should they encounter problems or feel isolated and unable to face up to certain situations.

**We address our warmest thanks to *Lynn CHESTERS* and *Sylvie QUINTON* for coordinating this network.**

## **4 – LEISURE ACTIVITIES**

### **a) Outings**

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic and the government's national lockdown measures, we were only able to organise **two outings, in September 2020 and August 2021**, the first and last ones in our programme:

**Attendance at our outings & activities (September 2020 - August 2021)**

DATE	ACTIVITY / VENUE	PARTICIPANTS	Anglophones	Francophones
26/09/20	Visit to village and Fishing Farm (Parné/Roc)	13	9	4
14/08/21	Riverboat Cruise & Lunch on river Mayenne (Ch.Gontier)	25	15	10

### **b) Monthly Teas**

This year, our Monthly Teas were held either in the *EuroMayenne* office at La **Visitation** or via **Zoom**, depending on Covid-19 regulations. All members are most welcome to come and borrow a large selection of books and over 200 DVDs. The Teas usually take place on the first Thursday of the month and there are **between 12 and 20 members attending**. Numbers have dropped this year due to the health crisis and also as a number of former regular participants have left the Mayenne Department.

**We address our warmest thanks to *Eileen CLIMANCE* for coordinating these meetings.**

## **c) Interest Groups**

### **Craft Group**

**Only one meeting** was held on 18/09/2020 (Cards) and meetings from October 2020 to June 2021 had to be cancelled due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

#### **Meetings planned for September 2021 to June 2022**

17/09/21	Jewellery making Session
15/10/21	Angel Bookmark/Keyring
19/11/21	Christmas cards
10/12/20	Christmas decorations
21/01/22	Decorated boxes/Wine boxes
18/02/22	Scrapbooking page
18/03/22	Easter gifts/cards
15/04/22	Glass painting
13/05/22	Card making session
17/06/22	Floral for garden

*NB All these activities subject to change.*

### **Gardening Group**

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, no meetings were held by this group from September 2020 to August 2021.

**We address our warmest thanks to Fred and Janet GREATOREX who have been leaders of this group since 2013 and wished to step down from this role. Gilbert POULEYN has kindly accepted to take over from them, many thanks to him.**

### **Photography Group**

During lockdown periods, members of this group used to post their photos on the group's **Facebook page**. Since the easing of the Pandemic, there were **two face-to-face meetings** in July and August 2021. As their meetings, the members of the group are judging and discussing their monthly Photographic competition and then present a photographic topic.

It is planned to hold a *Zoom* presentation on the 5<sup>th</sup> October 2021 by Wildlife Photographer *Tracy Lund*. If this is successful then we will investigate further presentations using *Zoom* as a medium.

Visits will be planned to give the group opportunities for for taking photographs, the participants intending to follow their standard meeting practice of Photo Comp, Tea/Cakes and discussion, Photographic topic. The topics will be decided depending upon weather and members wishes.

### **Walking Group**

**One walk** was organised on 21<sup>st</sup> July 2021 at Montaudin with a Bring your own Picnic at *Malcolm Casson's* home, respecting Covid regulations. There was no walk in August 2021.

The walks for 2021- 2022 start in September 2021 and are published on our website.

### **Card Games Group**

The group has not met at all this year due to Covid restrictions.

**We address our warmest thanks to Liz MALLINSON who has coordinated this group since 2017 and wished to step down from this role as she leaves the Mayenne. Josiane HOUESNARD has kindly accepted to take over this responsibility, many thanks to her.**

### **Reading Group**

The Reading Group met on the last Wednesday of September 2020 at La Visitation, then in October, November 2020 and the last Wednesdays of January, February, March, April, May (virtually via *ZOOM*) and finally in July 2021 (in a group member's garden).

This group's meetings are attended by between 9 and 14 members both french and english speaking.

The Reading Group will continue to meet in the home of one of our members in the centre of Mayenne on the last Wednesday of each month except December 2021, dependent on the health situation and government advice.

Next year the members of this group are again reading a range of novels, biographies and short stories selected by them, details of which can be found on our website.

**We address our warmest thanks to Lynn CHESTERS, Chair of our Activities Committee, and to all our interest groups leaders (Pam BRITTON, Fred & Janet GREATOREX, Gilbert POULEYN, John LIDDIARD, Lynn CHESTERS, Liz MALLINSON, Josiane HOUESNARD, Pam DAVIES), for their involvement and hard work in organising our leisure activities.**

#### **d) Project Group «Families with young children»**

**We are actively looking for native English-speaking couples with young children living in Mayenne**, so as to create a new interest group allowing French and English-speaking families with young children in Mayenne to participate in appropriate activities, **If you know any, please feel free to tell them!**

A first meeting will then be organised in Laval or Mayenne with a few French-speaking families with young children, in order to define this group's management and future activities.

## **5 – EUROMAYENNE FAIR**

After we celebrated the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of our *EuroMayenne* Craft Fair on Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> October 2019 at Mayenne Exhibition Hall, this building was destroyed by fire and we could not organise our big annual event in 2020.

In April 2021, we collected our members' views via a survey and received 50 responses to our three questions:

*Do you think EuroMayenne should continue to organise a major annual event?*

<b>Yes</b>	<b>39</b>
No	11

*If yes, in which format?*

<b>Fair</b>	<b>25</b>
Show	6
Cinema Festival	1
Other	7

*Would you be willing to help organise such an event?*

<b>11</b> would join the organising committee
<b>28</b> would be volunteers

Furthermore, *Nicole Devel-Laigle*, after having been in charge of the Fair Committee since 2002, has decided to step down from this role and hand it over to another volunteering member.

## **6 – COMMUNICATIONS**

### **a) General Communications**

*Ian WATSON* is responsible for our Communications Committee.

### **b) Website**

Our website's pages are regularly updated by *Ian and Julie WATSON*.

### **c) Facebook public page & private group**

Our **Facebook public page** now has **296 «Friends»** and is regularly updated.

Our **“Adhérents-Members EuroMayenne” private group** reserved for our members has **23 members** and we encourage all our members to join this group.

#### **d) Project of bilingual guide for medical emergencies**

As a result of the Covid-19 pandemic and lockdown, our draft bilingual guide was put on stand-by. This guide is designed to help native Anglophones make phone calls to medical emergency services. It is drafted in partnership with SAMU 53, Laval Hospital, Agence Régionale de Santé des Pays de la Loire and Ordre des Médecins de la Mayenne. The Departmental Council have agreed to help us in distributing this guide online. We now have to look for funding to print a number of copies for those without Internet access. We hope to soon be able to distribute this guide on a large scale in our department.

**The Executive Committee warmly thanks *Ian et Julie WATSON* for their involvement and their hard work for the communications of our association.**

## **7 – CONCLUSION**

**The Executive Committee warmly thanks all our members who have devoted so much of their time to organise voluntarily the different activities of our association in 2020-2021.**

We constantly need to find **motivated members having some free time** to carry out the association's administration.

**If you would like to take on more responsibility in our association, please do feel free to let us know!**

Nicole DEVEL-LAIGLE  
President