



**Association Départementale
pour une coopération Européenne en Mayenne**

DRAFT

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
on SATURDAY, 17th OCTOBER 2026**

ACTIVITY REPORT 2025-2026

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1 – MEMBERSHIP

Number of members (Sept. 2011 - August 2026)

Year	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
Members	408	340	311	312	321	345	335	306	279	260	213	209	204	235	241	230

On 31st August 2026 the association had **230** members (241 as of 31/08/2025).

21.7% new members.

25.7% professionally active members.

60.0% native English speakers / 34.8% native French speakers / 5.2% other nationalities.

57.8% women and 42.2% men.

The **average age** of members is **65** years old.

We wish to thank *Simon KING*, who has managed the membership this year. During the year, please let *Simon* know of any **change** in address, telephone number or email address, so that he may update our membership list. Furthermore, we would be grateful if you could make your **payments by bank transfer**.

2 – LANGUAGE ACTIVITIES

a) French Courses

From September 2025 to July 2026, we organized our usual three termly sessions in Mayenne at **four levels** (Beginners, Intermediate, Intermediate Plus/Advanced & Advanced Plus), with our teacher, *Alain FAUCON*.

Number of registrations per level and per session

	Beginners	Intermediate	Intermediate Plus/Advanced	Advanced Plus	TOTAL
Autumn 2025	12	12	11	10	45
Spring 2026	12	11	10	8	41
Summer 2026	11	10	9	10	40

Year	2011 / 2012	2012 / 2013	2013 / 2014	2014 / 2015	2015 / 2016	2016 / 2017	2017 / 2018	2018 / 2019	2019 / 2020	2020 / 2021	2021 / 2022	2022 / 2023	2023 / 2024	2024 / 2025	2025 / 2026
Registrations	102	87	89	111	86	112	83	92	100	105	126	131	129	129	126

Over the course of the 2025/2026 year the French classes attracted a **total of 58 members** to EuroMayenne, all of whom attended and paid for at least a half term, and most of whom attended and paid for significantly more than that.

We thank most warmly *Alain FAUCON*, our teacher, for his renewed collaboration with our association since 2004. Finally, we are very grateful to *Simon King* for his role as Chair of our Languages Committee and to *Peter Woods* for his continuing hard work as our French Course Co-ordinator.

As *Simon King* wished to step down as chair, *Peter Woods* has taken over on an interim basis, and a new Chair of our Languages Committee is being sought.

b) English-French Conversation Workshops

Our **Mayenne** workshops continue to have good participation. There were **15 afternoon workshops** held with an average of **9 participants**, including on average **5 French speakers and 4 English speakers**. These sessions are held in the *Old Mairie* at 2pm on alternating Mondays. There were also **14 evening workshops** held with an average of **15 participants**, including on average **10 French speakers and 5 English speakers**. One of the evening workshops had to be cancelled due to weather. The evening workshops are held at **Lycée Don Bosco** at 8pm on alternating Mondays.

In **Laval 17 workshops** were held throughout the year, with an average of **6 participants**, including on average **4 French speakers and 2 English speakers**. These sessions are held at *Maison de Quartier des Fourches* at 8pm every other Wednesday.

In **Lassay-les-Châteaux** between September 5th 2025 and February 18th 2026, this group was led by *Paul-Henri PROUST*. During this time **24 workshops** were held with an average of **8 participants**, including on average **4 French speakers and 4 English speakers**. These workshops are held at *Parc Albert Chevrier* at 6pm every Friday. Between February 25th and June 17th 2026, *Sara BLYTHIN* took on the leadership role, and during this time **12 workshops** were held with an average of **12 participants** including on average **4 French speakers and 8 English speakers**. These workshops are also held at *Parc Albert Chevrier* but now at 4pm every Wednesday.

We are very grateful to Armelle JAMELOT (Laval), Colette BERRON (Mayenne), Paul-Henri PROUST and Sara & Tony BLYTHIN (Lassay-les-Châteaux) for their hard work on coordinating our conversation workshops.

c) English Linguistic Support

A group of **15 native French-speaking EuroMayenne members** took part in this English support programme. These are small-group conversations led by native English-speaking EuroMayenne members. The French members really enjoyed these discussions, which were highly enriching from both linguistic and cultural perspectives. All of them renewed their wish to participate for 2026-2027.

Many thanks to our English volunteers, Sandra & Jeffrey BISHOP, Sara BLYTHIN, Stephen BOSTOCK, Susan & Michael JAMESON, Alison KEHAYA, and Simon KING for their availability and the relevance of the topics prepared for discussion. A special thank-you to Stephen BOSTOCK whose responsibility was the organization of the volunteers. Susan JAMESON will be taking over this role for the 2026/2027 season.

d) School Interventions

This academic year we have worked exclusively with the *Lycée Rochefeuille* in Mayenne. We have supported classes in the Seconde, Terminale and BTS groups run by *Olivier Blanchard* and *Mickaëlle Fradin*. In total **11 interventions** took place as we supported students' preparation for end of year examinations, work placements and end of year visits. We have a very good working relationship with the school and their students, and it is always a pleasure to work with them.

We were also approached by *Lycée Don Bosco* in Mayenne to support a non-examination English group. Following a meeting with the Deputy Head, a programme was arranged and volunteers found. Sadly only 2 students volunteered for the course which did not make this a viable option for our volunteers. We have left the door open here.

We were also approached by the Centre Manager of the *Chateau Beaumont* in Chailland. Despite contacting them on several occasions they did not return our e mails.

We would like to thank the following EuroMayenne volunteers for giving up their time and for helping with the school interventions: Sheelagh ABBOTS, Jeff & Sandra BISHOP, Stephen BOSTOCK, Lorraine CHAMEN, Jane EDWARDS, Andrew HICKIN, Simon KING, and Diep & Peter SHOEMAKER. Thank-you, all. We would like to address our warmest thanks to Alison KEHAYA who plans and co-ordinates school interventions.

3 – VOLUNTEER ASSISTANCE NETWORK

The goal of this group is to provide assistance to EuroMayenne members if they encounter difficulties or feel isolated and unable to cope with certain situations.

This year, we were able to help a EuroMayenne member who needed to be driven to an ophthalmologist in Fougères. We also received requests from the hospital in Villaines-la-Juhel regarding potential visits to English patients, and there was a request from the *Maison France Services* in Ambrières to help English people who do not speak French.

We extend our warmest thanks to Sylvie QUINTON for coordinating this network, as well as to all the group's volunteers: Fred and Janet GREATOREX, Carol ENSOR, Patrice BOMPAIS, and Fabienne GARNIER.

4 – LEISURE ACTIVITIES

a) Outings and Events

From September 2025 to July 2026, we organized 14 outings and events with 27 participants on average.

Attendance at our outings and events (September 2024 - July 2025)

DATE	ACTIVITY / VENUE	PARTICIPANTS	Anglophones	Francophones
06/09/25	EuroMayenne at the 'FORUMS OF ASSOCIATIONS' (Mayenne and Laval)	17	6	11
27/09/25	Visit to "AUX GRENIER & JARDINS DU TURET"	5	0	5
11/10/25	EUROMAYENNE AGM	47	17	30
22/10/25	VISIT TO "LA COUTELLERIE DU MAINE-ANJOU"	15	10	5
07/11/25	QUIZ EVENING	23	13	7
05/12/25	ANNUAL DINNER – <i>Beau Rivage</i> (Moulay)	67	38	29
20/12/25	CHRISTMAS CAROLS AFTERNOON	49 members (99 total)	24	25
08/01/26	EUROMAYENNE "GALETTE DES ROIS"	32	20	12
24/01/26	Visit to "LE QUARANTE" CULTURAL CENTRE and "LE ZOOM" SCIENCE MUSEUM	23	12	11
28/02/26	10 PIN BOWLING AFTERNOON	18	10	8
21/03/26	Visit to "CHAMPIGNONNIERE LOU"	28	18	10
17/04/26	Visit to "SERAP INDUSTRIES"	22	14	8
23/05/26	Guided Tour of the Bay Around MONT-SAINT-MICHEL	22	14	8
20/06/26	Visit to CHATEAU GONTIER via SMALL TRAIN and RIVERBOAT CRUISE	21	19	2

Our warmest thanks to all the members of our Activities Committee (*Pam DAVIES, Nicole DEVEL-LAIGLE, Armelle JAMELOT, Susan JAMESON, Valérie MASSEROT, and Paul PUNCHARD*) for their time spent organising these outings and events.

We invite all our members to take part, as these are always very convivial moments that promote linguistic exchanges between English and French speakers.

b) Monthly Teas

Monthly Teas were held in the EuroMayenne office at La Visitation in Mayenne, on the first Thursday of each month from September to June. The format of these monthly gatherings changed part-way through the year. Between September and December the original format attracted an **average of 10 participants**. The "New Style Monthly Tea" which started in February and includes playing boardgames attracted an **average of 20 participants**. The January monthly tea is always replaced by the EuroMayenne *Galette des Rois* (see above). As always, books, DVDs, audiobooks and jigsaw puzzles are available to borrow during these gatherings.

We address our warmest thanks to *Eileen CLIMANCE* who co-ordinated the monthly teas up to December 2025 as well as the *Galette des Rois* event. We also address our warmest thanks to the volunteers that pitched in to keep our monthly tea alive including: *Sara & Tony BLYTHIN, Dianne DELOREN, Nicole DEVEL-LAIGLE, Susan & Michael JAMESON and Lauren MADDISON* amongst others. We have created a rotation of responsibility to keep this activity alive. If you would like to help out please speak to *Sara BLYTHIN* or *Nicole DEVEL-LAIGLE*.

c) Interest Groups

Cinema Group

8 sessions were held from September 2025 to June 2026

One was cancelled due to a programming error with *Le Vox*.

EuroMayenne attendance was 91/158 tickets sold, representing 58% of the audience, an **average of 12 participants** per séance (4 French speakers and 8 English speakers).

43 different members attended at least one of the sessions, 3 less than last year.

The balance sheet of participations being satisfactory, the members of the cinema group decided to renew the screenings on the 3rd Friday of each month at 2 PM including the school holidays period in order to create regularity in

this activity.

The programming period will extend from September 2026 to May 2027. Films are usually presented in English with French subtitles, though we continue ask *Le Vox* for French films with English/French subtitles. This year we were able to present one film *Le Conte de Monte Cristo* in the original French with English subtitles.

Craft Group

This group is a fun monthly get-together and some great crafts were made over the year. **9 sessions** were held over the course of the year with an average of **7 participants**. Costs were largely met by the group with a monthly contribution of around €3 each dependent upon the materials required.

Susan CHARNOCK would like to thank all the participants for their great crafting and input to ideas. Unfortunately, she has decided to step back from organizing this activity. We thank her for all her efforts over the years. Stay tuned for the new Creativity Group that started in October 2026 replacing the Craft Group.

Gardening and Nature Group

The Gardening and Nature Group met last year for three meetings at La Visitation as follows:

10/10/25	A review of our gardening year – successes and failures (<i>Stephen BOSTOCK</i>) The Wild Flora of Mayenne (<i>Mic DUFRASNE</i>) Making a Garden Pond (<i>Tony & Sara BLYTHIN</i>)
13/02/26	Gardening Tools: Care and Sharpening (<i>Stephen BOSTOCK</i>) Asian Hornets (<i>Tony BLYTHIN</i>) Seed swap
13/03/26	Reptiles and Snakes (<i>Pierre LAFRANCE</i>) Companion Planting (<i>Janet GREATOREX</i>) Compositing (<i>Sara BLYTHIN & Julia BOSTOCK</i>)

On **average 15 members** attended these meetings including 12 English speakers and 3 French speakers.

The annual plant swap was hosted by *Stephen & Julia BOSTOCK* on April 25th 2026. **30 members** were in attendance including 22 English speakers and 8 French speakers.

On June 13th 2026 the group visited '*Le Jardin Intérieur à Ciel Ouvert*' in the Orne region. **11 members** attended this event, 9 English speakers and 2 French speakers. Two other gardening visits were cancelled. 1 due to illness and the other due to extreme heat.

Walking Group

9 walks were organized during the year, all with an optional lunch. On average there were **10 participants**, including on average **4 French speakers and 6 English speakers**. Walks are held on the third Wednesday of every month at 10am at various locations centring around Mayenne.

Reading Group

The Reading Group met on the last Wednesday of each month except December in the home of one of our members in Evron. There were **10 participants on average**, 6 English speakers and 4 French speakers. The books read were all suggestions from group members.

We extend our warmest thanks to Chris WICKS for her generous hospitality and to all members of the group for their unfailing enthusiasm.

More generally, our warmest thanks go to *Susan JAMESON*, who has acted as leader of our Activities Committee for the past year and is also a member of our Cinema Group. Also many thanks to our other Group Leaders (*Colette BERRON, Patrice & Martine BOMPAIS, Stephen BOSTOCK, Gérard BOURSIER, Susan CHARNOCK, Mic DUFRASNE, Pam DAVIES, Alison KEHAYA*) for their commitment and hard work in organising our leisure activities.

5 – COMMUNICATION

a) Bilingual guide for medical emergencies

3,500 copies of this guide were printed in June 2025 by students from *Lycée Léonard de Vinci* in Mayenne. It is designed to help native English speakers call the medical emergency services. The Communications and Events Committee has worked hard this year to distribute it widely throughout our department (hospitals, Civil Protection, doctors, pharmacies, care homes, tourist information centres, etc.). Contact has been made with SDIS 53 (the fire service), the Red Cross 53, and further contacts are planned with notaries and estate agents. To date, 2,148 guides have been distributed in the Mayenne. We would like to thank Crédit Agricole, our bank, for printing free of charge the explanatory leaflets attached to this guide. If you have not yet received it, we invite you to request a copy by email at contact@euromayenne.org.

b) Internal Communications

In September 2025, our Executive Committee launched a wide-ranging reflection process aimed at improving the way we welcome new members. A questionnaire was circulated to all members to find out their expectations. A Welcome Charter was written. The duration and format of the monthly teas were revised to include games and quizzes. In addition, *Sara BLYTHIN* and *Peter SHOEMAKER* worked on a monthly newsletter, the first edition of which was sent out to all members in September 2026.

c) Website

Simon KING, our webmaster, ensured that our website was kept up to date throughout 2025–2026, and we would like to thank him warmly for his hard work.

d) Facebook pages

Our public page, 'Association EuroMayenne', has 722 followers (598 in 2025) thanks to *Sara BLYTHIN*'s hard work. She has regularly posted updates on our association's many activities, our bilingual guide to medical emergencies and EuroMayenne's 35th Anniversary. We encourage all our members to check this page regularly.

The Executive Committee would like to extend their warmest thanks to the members of this Committee (*Sara BLYTHIN, Patrice BOMPAIS, Nicole DEVEL-LAIGLE, Simon KING, Christian LAIGLE, Nick ONYANGO, Paul PUNCHARD, and Peter SHOEMAKER*) for their commitment and the significant work they have done in support of our association's internal and external communications.

6 – CONCLUSION

The Executive Committee would like to thank all our members who have given a lot of their free time to organise the different activities of our association during the year 2025-2026, as well as all those who have participated in our outings and events.

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!** (president@euromayenne.org)

Nicole DEVEL-LAIGLE
Co-President
Administration
& Communications

Georges PLESSIS
Co-President
Finances
& Membership

Peter WOODS
Co-President
Activities

Colette BERRON
Secretary of the
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Susan JAMESON
Chair of the
Activities Committee