



BRITISH COMMUNITY COMMITTEE OF FRANCE
Quarterly Meeting
Wednesday 13th October, 2021 6.30 p.m.
St George's Church, 7 rue Auguste Vacquerie, 75116 Paris.

MINUTES

1. The meeting began with a warm welcome to everyone from Louise, to our first hybrid meeting with a special welcome to Pam Deegan from the British Embassy.

Presence Please see Annex 1, pages 6-7

2. Apologies for absence Please see Annex 2, page 8

3. Minutes of the Quarterly Meeting held on 23rd June 2021 Approved

4. No matters arising

5. Report from the Chair

a. Pandemic

As vaccination coverage has increased in both France and the UK, activities have cautiously been picking up over the quarter. We are thrilled that the BCC is able to meet again in person.

However, we would like to continue one key advantage presented by virtual meetings over the past 18 months. Such meetings have enabled more member associations to attend our quarterly meetings. We are now testing hybrid meetings with some members physically present and others at distance to try to keep some of the flexibility afforded by virtual meetings and cut travel time and cost for members.

b. BCC support fund

We have received some questions about the support fund and whether any further awards are planned.

As a reminder, in 2020 with the twin impact of Brexit and the Covid-19 pandemic, the BCC Executive Committee provided financial support to member organisations providing direct assistance to British nationals with problems arising from

- A major change in their situation due to loss of rights as a result of Brexit or the need to be assisted in the registration process for a titre de séjour
- The loss of a partner, serious illness, changes in circumstances due to Covid or any other serious life changing issues arising as a result of Brexit, Covid or both.

The support fund is dormant at the moment but could be reinstated in the future if similar widespread exceptional life changing issues are encountered in France.

c. Embassy

We welcome Pam Deegan who has kindly agreed to represent the British Embassy at today's meeting.

Mrs Menna Rawlings CMG has been appointed Her Majesty's Ambassador to France in succession to The Right Honorable Lord Llewellyn of Steep OBE.

On behalf the BCC Executive Committee and our members, during the last quarter I thanked the outgoing ambassador for his support and received a very kind response thanking us for our work.

With our Vice-Chair and Registrar, I had the privilege of meeting our new Ambassador on 29th September during a meeting concerning citizen's rights. We also presented the BCC organisation to the Ambassador and deputy ambassador – Theo Rycroft. Our directory was greatly appreciated. The Ambassador indicated it would be very useful to her as she moves around France and reaches out to the British community. After our meeting she travelled to Marseille and she had recently returned from Bordeaux.

d. Updated website

The website is now up and running and the what's on / diary section has gone live now meetings are starting again. We encourage all associations to share regular updates. The origin of BCC what's on / diary section is to prevent clashes of dates. A template for adding events has been sent to all members

6. Report from the Vice-Chair and Brexit Update

a) Brexit:

- (i)** The date by which UK nationals must be in possession of a WARP has been changed from October 1st to January 1st 2022. The online application process is now closed, and applications must now be made directly to the Prefecture of the département in which applicants live, and a good reason for the late application must be given. Young Britons who turn 18, and family members coming to join WARP-holding family members should also apply at the local Préfecture. In mid September 93% of 162,000 applications had been processed, but there were still 11,340 applications (7%) in the pipeline. We have not received updates of these numbers. The International Organisation for Migration in St. Brieuc can help individuals with registration but that will close mid October. This has been updated on our website.

- ii) Applicants who have not yet received their WARP card can prove their status under the WA by showing the email received from the on-line application site confirming receipt of their application. Such applicants are encouraged to contact their Préfecture if they have heard nothing about their application for a long time and have still not been summoned to provide fingerprints and an ID photograph. Applicants may also contact the central email address: contact-demandeenligne-brexit-dgeff@interieur.gouv.fr The Embassy says it is important to be able to show a paper trail of attempts to contact Préfectures by email and it could be useful to write a registered letter to the Préfecture attaching details of all the attempts which had been made to contact them. Some people who have not yet received their card are having trouble with employers or the CAF.
 - iii) Border guards should not stamp the British passports of people who have a WARP card but there are many cases where this is happening.
 - iv) Those who have applied for French nationality but have not yet received it, and who have not got a WARP card may possibly have difficulties with the authorities in coming months or until they have been granted nationality. It is not always the fault of the Préfecture - some applicants have not sent all the documents or attended an appointment to leave fingerprints.
- b) **Votes for life:** The bill is at present at committee stage in the House of Commons.
- c) **British in Europe** is winding down its activities and has released a statement which appears on their website as well as on our BCC website. The association is not being liquidated but dormant. They will stop asking for donations and will change banks so that future donations are refused.
- d) Pam Deegan thanked Louise for her warm welcome to Menna Rawlings and her and Deputy Theo Rycroft. The Embassy hopes to host the BCC's AGM in April. Regarding the applications for the WARP cards there are around 10,000 pending applications. Those who have not heard back are encouraged to make contact with Préfecture as mentioned above (see point 6a ii). The Embassy has direct contact with Préfectures, CPAM and other French official bodies and is passing on messages, hoping to reach out to the most vulnerable. It is currently not possible to update WARP cards although it is hoped an update process, for example for change of address, will be available soon. The Embassy is aware of issues around passport stamping. British citizens are encouraged to look at the Embassy's 'Living in France' guide (<https://www.gov.uk/world/living-in-france>). Travel advice during the pandemic can also be found on the same site.

7. Treasurer's report

Compared to the position prepared for the June QM, there are a small number of updates to the accounts:

- The donation was paid out in June to St George's and one final advertiser came in for the directory.
- There are some incremental updates to administrative and website costs, the largest of which was to implement the new events diary on the website which came in slightly under the remaining projected website budget.

- The main difference is the payment in September for the directory printing costs, which came in around €200 lower than budgeted due to fewer copies being ordered. Remaining delivery costs are included in the “to come” column.

This brings a total reserves figure of a little under €17,240 at 30th September, as compared with a little over €19,820 at the May update. The projected end-2021 surplus is slightly increased, at €1,349 vs. €1,106 previously.

The reserves are therefore expected to reduce, with projected future costs, to just over €16,740 by the end of the year.

8. Reports from the Executive Committee (events diary, website)

Serena indicated that the 2021-2 Directories were available. Hard copies can be collected and the pdf version was sent to members with notification of this meeting. Thanks were extended to the proofreaders Muriel Langle and Peter Terrell.

Claire reported that the template for the Diary from January 2022 was being sent out on the 14th October. Events prior to January will be listed on the website.

The BCC website is up and running and includes useful information, for example, regarding the WARP deadline, about UK requirements when travelling to the UK.

9. Regional reports

a) Lyon region see Annex 3, pages 9-11

In addition, on 5th November there will be a lunch with the British Ambassador and on 3rd December a joint Christmas lunch with all members.

b) Normandy

Tom Hegarty reported on the three associations in Normandy; Anglophone Association of Coutances, Amicale Culturelle Européenne, Connect, all of whom have recently advanced in their methods of communication with hybrid meetings and websites.

Activities are wide ranging: relaxation activities – dancing, walks, games; cultural - visits, French language classes, photographic competition, historical e.g. medieval evenings, visits to historic sites, garden visits, lectures plants exchanges; fundraising.

c) North please see Annex 4, p.12

d) South-west

The Pheonix Book Fair, the biggest social event in the area, will be held on Saturday 16th October. There is currently no other news from this area.

10. News from member organisations

RBL/RAFA Colin Cameron noted the launch of the annual Poppy Appeal at the Embassy on 27th October as well as the annual Service of Remembrance on 11th November. The service will be at Les Invalides and people should contact Janet Warby (details in the directory) for tickets.

Jane Maurin spoke on behalf of the Association for Wallace Fountains. Barbara Lambesis is very active organising the 150th anniversary celebrations on 24th and 25th September 2022 with a gala dinner, public exhibitions and conferences. The focus will be on clean water. The guidebook to the fountains commissioned and inaugurated by Sir Richard Wallace, can be purchased on-line from the Society of the Wallace Fountains with a donation of 20 Euros or more. www.wallacefountains.org.

Marcus Moore reported that there was a Royal Scottish Country Dance Society ball recently. Scottish Dancing takes place every week in Paris.

Tower Bridge theatre hopes to bring Shakespeare back to the Bois de Boulogne in 2022. It has not yet been decided which play will be presented. Details can be found on the Tower Bridge website. <https://towerbridgeparis.org/>

11. Applications for membership

The Ecumenical Church of Occitanie is registered as « Eglise Oecumenique d'Occitanie » but uses the abbreviation 'ECO'. It is an English-speaking Ecumenical Church, which provides non-denominational English language worship online intended for the 25,000 people with a connection to the Occitanie. Their Management Committee is composed entirely of British subjects resident in France and their primary audience is British visitors and British residents of France. The online worship in English is to provide contact in a geographically dispersed region. There are 3 Services a week. Their website is www.ourchurch.fr
Accepted as a new Member. Details will appear in the Members' Section of the website.

12. The next Quarterly Meeting will be held on Wednesday January 19th, 2022.

This will be a hybrid meeting again.

13. Any other business

There was no other business.

Wine and soft drinks were offered to those present.

Meeting closed 19h15

Louise Cossey

Janet Hadley

Chair

Secretary

PRESENCE

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Louise Cossey
Christopher Chantrey
Tony Banton
Penny Girinsky
Claire Godfrey
Janet Hadley
Rodney Harper
Matthew Kay
Muriel Langle
Serena Stern
Bridget Terrell

GUESTS

Pam Deegan	British Embassy
Chris Fewkes	Independent Accounts Examiner

IEMs

Carol Amouyel Kent
Julie Knapp
Margaret Marret
Jane Maurin
Howard Norman

REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVES

Auvergne-Rhône Alpes	Margaret Marret
Hauts de France	Tony Banton
Normandy	Tom Hegarty
S-W France	Claire Godfrey

ASSOCIATIONS

ASSOCIATION FRANCE- GRANDE BRETAGNE	G�rard Hocmard
ANGLICAN CHAPLAINCY MIDI-PYRENNES	Clive Billeness
BRITISH CHARITABLE FUND	Richard Hallows
BCCI Lille	Norman Smith
BCWA	Muriel Langle
ENGLISH SPEAKING UNION	Catherine Gaudin
CHANTILLY CRICKET CLUB	Eddie Hoyle
CHARENTE LIMOUSIN EXCHANGE	Dave Brown
CHRIST CHURCH LILLE	Rosemary Ulyett
CIMA France	Hilary Parker
DLCI	Kathy John
ENGLISH SPEAKING UNION	Luce Loussouarn
E.N.VOL	Jane Maurin
HERTFORD BRITISH HOSPITAL CHARITY	Iain Hutton
INSTITUTE OF DIRECTORS FRANCE	Ijjou Belkacem
INTERNATIONAL SINGERS	Tony Banton
OXFORD UNIVERSITY SOCIETY	Carol Amouyel Kent
PADFAS	Carol Amouyel Kent
PARIS WELSH SOCIETY	Sue Lindsay
PHOENIX	Peter McAuslan
RAFA	Colin Cameron
RNVR	Colin Cameron
ROYAL SOCIETY OF ST GEORGE	Andrew Simpkin
R.S.C.D.S.	Marcus Moore
SOS Help	Christine Payne
SCOT'S KIRK	Alison Tardivel
SPRINT	Rachel Hazel Roux
Toch	Valerie Chemama
TOWER BRIDGE	Marcus Moore

APOLOGIES

HONOURY MEMBER

Arthur Hohler

IEMs

Susan Cheyne
George Murray

ASSOCIATION FRANCE-GRANDE BRETAGNE Lyon

Mike Smith

ASSOCIATION FRANCO-ECCOSSAISE

George Mutch

CALEDONIAN SOCIETY

George Mutch

ENGLISH CATHEDRAL CHOIR OF PARIS

Odile and Christopher Wells

LEGGIES

Patricia Richardson

SSAFA

Lesley Blake

STANDARD ATHLETIC CLUB

Georgina Marrison

CANCER SUPPORT FRANCE

Pam Lockett

SOCIETY of WALLACE FOUNTAINS

Barbara Lambesis

THOIRY CRICKET CLUB

John Hardy, Helen Mace

REGIONAL REPORT LYON

Association France – Grande-Bretagne, Lyon & Rhône

Following on from the last BCC quarterly meeting in June 2021 AFGB took its normal summer break in July and August although some groups had informal time together.

We started the new season in September as normal each year; Margaret Marret organized a club social which was quite well attended with about 30 people having a good time. We also had a pretty full programme with the conversation groups, Ciné Club, Poet's Corner, Book Circle and Scrabble all meeting together rather than using zoom, taking into account rules and recommendations relating to Covid.

In October are having the same groups meeting again plus an English-speaking lunch and a Lugdunen event at the Musée des Beaux Arts.

We are already starting our planning for a Beaujolais Nouveau lunch and talk in November, and a joint Christmas lunch in December with the RBL and other regional BCC member associations.

Mike Smith President AFGB

Royal British Legion Lyon Liberation Branch

Following the easing of Covid restrictions our branch has attended various commemorations in the Auvergne Rhône-Alpes and Bourgogne Franche-Comté regions:

-20th August: our Standard bearer Michel Perrin attended the ceremony at Fort Côte Lorette in memory of the 120 victims of the massacre of French prisoners from Montluc prison by the Gestapo at St. Genis Laval on the southern edge of Lyon

-1st September: anniversary of the liberation of Vienne in 1944: attended by our Standard bearer Michel Perrin

-3rd September: anniversary of the liberation of Lyon in 1944: Our Chair, Simon Wesley, and our two Standard bearers, Michel Perrin and Garth Drury, attended with our committee members Mike and Joan Skelton-Smith, at Lyon Town Hall and then at the Veilleur de Pierre monument in Place Bellecour where we laid a wreath in memory of the 5 members of the French resistance who were shot by the Nazis at this spot a few days before the liberation of the City. The memorial bears the inscription: « *Passant, va dire au monde qu'ils sont morts pour la liberté* »...

-4th September: anniversary of the battle at Sennecey le Grand in 1944 when one of the SAS French brigades attacked retreating German troops. The SAS memorial at Ruffey just outside Sennecey le Grand also contains a list of all members of the SAS who gave their lives in France. The ceremony in their memory is attended every year by the SAS association including Scots piper and representatives of the French and Belgian SAS brigades also active in France at that time. Our Chair, Simon Wesley, and Standard bearer Garth Drury attended (also at the cemetery and the memorial to 16 French civilian hostages assassinated by the nazis at Laives). A wreath was laid by our Chair and Pierre-Jean Cabut one of our French members (former French armed forces) at the SAS memorial.

For those interested, there are various web sites with the history:

Web site <https://www.senneceylegrand.fr/musee-du-special-air-service>

<https://mon-site-internet.ternum-bfc.fr/documents/portal584/links/20200918-1139--HISTOIRE-depliant-musee-.pdf>

-4th September: commemoration of the liberation of Lyon by French forces commanded by General Diego Brosset attended by our Standard bearer Michel Perrin

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-5th September: Ouroux en Morvan – cimetière franco-britannique du maquis (Maquis Bernard and British SAS were active in this area from August 1944). Our Secretary Mary Vince attended and laid a wreath. https://www.mairieourouxenmorvan.fr/maquis_bernard_ouroux_en_morvan.Y.htm

-21st October: our branch will be attending ceremonies at the Military Cemetery at le Doua just outside Lyon where there are graves of soldiers and airmen of all nationalities who gave their lives during WWII.

-11th November: we are expecting commemorations in Lyon to be proceeding normally this year with our branch participating, unless Covid restrictions are reintroduced.

We are also maintaining active links with the Royal Air Force Association and the French branch of SSAFA The Armed Forces Charity headed by Keith Cima, with whom we coordinate for welfare of UK ex-service members in France; as well as the Association France Grande Bretagne and FIBA in Lyon.

For the moment we continue to hold our committee meetings by Zoom but our AGM will be held in presence of the committee and members at the Maison du Combattant, 7 rue Polycarpe Lyon 1er on Saturday 23rd October at 1500 hrs. Anyone interested in attending is welcome but should let us know beforehand as there is limited space.

A joint Christmas lunch with the Association France Grande Bretagne is planned for 3rd December.

We do hope that other British organisations are now able to resume activities.

Simon Wesley

Royal Scottish Country Dancing Society, Lyon Branch

Scottish Country Dancing classes have resumed for real, at last! Back to parquet flooring and dancing shoes on Friday evenings, albeit with face masks and plenty of hydro alcoholic gel. It feels fantastic to be actually dancing, rather than moving about in trainers, and to be back to our old dancing venue. Let's hope the health situation will not worsen with autumn.

We have been cautious when planning coming events. We will have two half-day workshops on Saturday mornings, in October and January, as well as a Burns' Night on 29 January, and a full-day workshop, again on a Saturday, in April. No broad-scale international weekend schools this year, but still plenty of "fun, fitness and friendship", as the RSCDS motto goes.

Laure Gardelle

Trinity Church Lyon

We are back to in-person worship at 50 rue Bancel most Sundays and the service is also streamed via Zoom. One Sunday per month, morning worship will be via Zoom only (10:30 for 10:45), with in-person worship at 18:30. Dates with this format are listed on our website lyonchurch.org.

Our children's ministry has started up again with Messy Church and Kingdom United, where the children meet in smaller groups during the service.

We have been able to provide refreshments again after the service by having people bring their own mug! We do always have some cups to spare for newcomers though.

As an English-speaking mission outpost in Lyon, we continue to welcome unprecedented numbers of migrants from Africa and the Middle East. They contact us for help because they do not speak French and English is more accessible. We have shared some of their stories in bimonthly newsletters, in an effort to communicate more effectively on what we are doing. As this exciting ministry grows, it has become necessary to actively look for overseas mission support to continue to fulfil our calling, since our church is financially self supporting.

<https://lyonchurch.org/Wordpress/category/newsletter/>

Future events:

18th November - Confirmation service in Grenoble

12th December @17:30 - Christmas Carol Service in partnership with other churches and the Fanfare of the Armee du Salut.

25th December - Christmas Day service

Emilie Clauet, Trinity Church Lyon

REGIONAL REPORT HAUTS DE FRANCE

BCC member associations in the Hauts de France

An update of recent activities of the five member Associations in the North of France is as follows:

International Singers

With the easing of restrictions earlier this year, The International Singers Lille Métropole were able to meet up in person, hold our AGM and sing together on the 19th June. This was our first get together since the first lockdown early in 2020. The occasion was made even more enjoyable as we were able to sing and also have lunch at Tony Banton's house. A big thank you to Tony and Helen for their hospitality. Regular rehearsals have resumed and the choir has got down to the serious work of preparing for the annual Remembrance Sunday service and two Christmas carol concerts, one of which will be to help raise funds for Enfance et Vie, a children's charity.

Christ Church Lille

While we are happy to see more people returning to church, and some of our regular activities are starting again, finances are still a huge concern. It is clear that a new approach and new ideas are needed for a post-pandemic world, but for the moment, the direction is not clear and some of our projects are on hold.

Meanwhile, the church is open for a service every Sunday morning, and at least for the moment, services on video continue, as do our weekly podcasts.

British Chamber of Commerce & Industry

Usual monthly lunches are back on with the next on 5 November and then 3 December. Speeches at the lunches are now filmed and available on the BCCI YouTube channel.

Informal early evening drinks are being planned, as are visits for first half of 2022.

Anglican Chaplaincy in the Pas de Calais

A once-monthly communion service is now held in one of our three centres of worship on the third service of the month, led by Revd Sara MacVane who comes from Paris. On the first Sunday of every month each of the three worship centres holds a layed service and on the second and fourth Sundays there is a zoom service. Brexit and covid have resulted in numbers falling in some centres thus placing an ever-growing workload on the shoulders of the lay members.

British Association Côte d'Opale

British Association Côte d'Opale events:

- Monthly book clubs with British authors living in the region
- 12 September cheese and wine event
- 24 August annual walk
- 14 July annual end of year barbecue