

THE FRENCH CONNECTION

Minutes of committee meeting held on 4th January 2019 at 10.30 am at The Plough

Present: Annabel Scott, John Adams, Janet Walters, Frank Finn, Anthony Hancock

1. **Apologies:** Colville Greaves
2. **Minutes of meeting on 2nd November 2018:** These were agreed and there were no matters arising.
3. **Mailing list:** It was agreed that people should remain on the mailing list and continue to receive communications even if they have not paid their subscriptions but that the next newsletter should repeat the invitation to those who do not wish to remain on the list to ask to be removed from it. JW will keep up to date the password protected list prepared by AS so that anybody with access to the password can use it.

ACTION: AH to put a piece in the next newsletter to record the above but to circulate it to the committee beforehand for comment. JW to keep the mailing list and the 'Google' list up to date.

4. **Redhillbillies' visit to VLB:** JA reported that he has met the Redhillbillies and they are keen to go ahead with the visit, provided funds are available towards their expenses. VLB have agreed to provide 3 nights lodging and 1 dinner. It was agreed that we should try to arrange a Redhillbillies concert in Wrigton at the Memorial Hall in March (if possible the 16th) to raise funds towards the expenses of the visit and that the Association should recover its costs in putting on the concert out of the proceeds and donate any surplus towards the Redhillbillies' costs. When the Redhillbillies have booked their transport and sent to JW copies of the booking confirmations she will transfer to them the balance of the £750. If the bookings are made and the £750 paid over before the concert the entire proceeds of the concert will accrue to the Association. The aim should be to publicise the forthcoming Wrigton concert in the February newsletter.

ACTION: JA to liaise with Redhillbillies over the above arrangements and to check availability of the Memorial Hall.

5. **Play-reading:** Discussion of this was postponed to the next meeting.
6. **Film evening:** This will be held on 6th February and the film will be 'La vie en rose' which should appeal to a younger audience.

ACTION: FF to confirm that his DVD of this film has English sub-titles (otherwise AS will obtain a copy that has). AS to notify her younger contacts and to invite them. AH to confirm availability of the Reading Room, or failing that the Bowls Club.

7. **Speaker evening:** AS had obtained details of 2 possible speakers who live in the vicinity. It was agreed that the preferred one is the one who speaks on French engineering achievements, especially those of Brunel and Eiffel. The price for each of them would be

around £50. The possibility of holding the event in Winscombe on 3rd was discussed.

ACTION: AS to follow this up and to investigate the possible use of the Winscombe venue so that the event can be published in the February newsletter.

7. Any other business:

- It was agreed that we should continue to send communications to those on the circulation list, even if they have not renewed their membership (unless they have requested otherwise). The usual admission fee for events will be £5 for members and £10 for non-members (which will include a subscription fee for the current year). As an exception the entry price for students will be £5. Where drinks etc. are provided by the Association those participating will be invited to make a donation.
- FF asked for ideas on how to 'vitalise' the Association's website. It was agreed that the newsletter should be published on the website and that FF should keep a check on how frequently the website is visited.
- Phil Parker will be invited by FF to the next meeting to discuss his idea about organising an event around the rugby international in October.

8. Date of next meeting: 4th February 2019 at 6.00 pm at 5 Lawders Orchard.