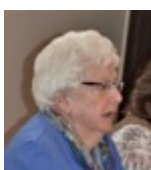


# APRIL 2019

Club International  
du Quercy

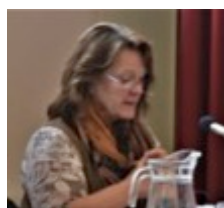


## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

19<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2019



This year the AGM was held at the Salle des Fêtes in Roquecor. The meeting, attended by 82 Club members, was in the presence of the village's mayor, M. le Maire Jean-Pierre Villeneuve. A slide show of the variety of activities the Club offers was created by Ed van Weerd and Peter Gauntlett, and was shown in a continuous loop before and after the meeting. Colette Guichard marked the opening of the meeting with a eulogy for Maroussia Romanoff, a founder of the Club, who died last year.



Chris Barrington, President, delivered the annual report highlighting the Club's accomplishments and noting the rise in French members - now over 25% of the total - with overall membership being up by 6% from 2017. As a supplement to his report, he spoke about the Committee's plans to spend the considerable reserves accumulated by the Club as a result of the generous support of the Caisse d'Allocations Familiales from 2012 to 2014 and to do so in a manner that furthers the CAF's aims. It was planned to allocate these funds to deserving causes in the local community during the period 2019-2021. Julia Jones spoke in detail about the various causes to be supported, including Trem Plein d'Espoir 82, a local charity.



It was proposed, and the members approved, that the committee has authority to raise the subscription to no more than 25€ in 2020. This decision will be reviewed in late summer in the light of our finances at that time, and an announcement made before autumn.



With two committee members standing down this year, the resources of the remaining members will be stretched to their limits. The committee made a special appeal to members asking them to volunteer for different activities, both recurring and ad hoc, in order to ensure the Club continues to run smoothly.

To seek clarification, members posed a number of questions before passing all motions unanimously.

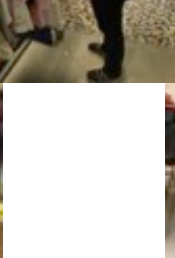
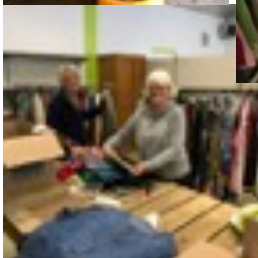
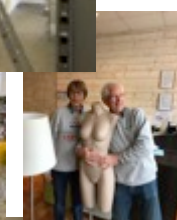
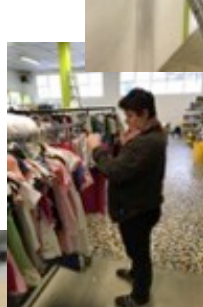
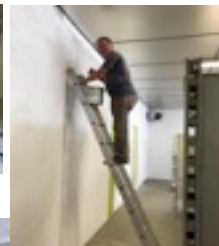
The morning ended with a Vin d'Honneur followed by a superb buffet lunch produced, once again, by Viv Woffinden and team.

## BESSIÈRES'S GIANT EASTER OMELETTE FESTIVAL



Bessières, in Haute Garonne, has always had a tradition of making omelettes for Easter. Each year, as more people took part, the omelettes got bigger and finally an association was formed in the '70s with the sole purpose of creating a giant omelette. Around 15,000 eggs are used and cooked on a 4-metre frying pan. So if you're looking for an alternative to chocolate eggs this Easter...

**TREM-PLEIN D'ESPOIR 82**, the charity shop, has moved, with the help, enthusiasm and elbow grease of many Club members who assisted, Corinne, the manageress, and her other local volunteers. The new premises are vast and situated in Avenue Louis Resses, Montaigu.



Transforming this huge space into an inviting shop involved many people in many hours/weeks of work – clearing, cleaning, painting, sorting clothes etc. A number of dedicated Club members were involved including: Julia and Phil Jones, Carol Fenn, Val Martin, Betty Lilly, Robin Walsh and Kathryn Castle. **The shop opens its doors at 2pm on April 2nd** and it's well worth a browse. Quality donations are always welcome.

## APRIL FOOLS DAY = LE POISSON D'AVRIL

### A possible origin of the 'April Fish' in France

Up to the mid-sixteenth century, the New Year began on the 1st April but Charles 1X, King of France, wanted the year to start on the 1st January. Legend has it that people unhappy with this enforced change, continued to celebrate the New Year around the 1st April. Those citizens who accepted the new calendar mocked the reluctant ones, giving them false presents and playing tricks on them.

At that time, the 1st April coincided with the end of Lent, during which time the Church forbade Christians to eat meat. Fish was acceptable and was frequently given as a gift for New Year. Jokes against the traditionalists became more common, and fake fish were frequently used to trick the victim, with paper ones being stuck on the back of those unwilling to accept change.

*On the 1<sup>st</sup> April,  
beware if anyone  
creeps up behind  
you*



*you've been warned...*

## COMPULSORY DUTCH CLASSES

Inspired by the success of all the other language classes, Jan van der Heijden is running obligatory lessons for all non-Dutch members

Montaigu Salle des Fêtes 10h – 12h

Classes start April 1<sup>st</sup>.



## TUESDAY 14<sup>th</sup> May at 19h00



### CHORAL CONCERT

Salle des Fêtes, Tournon d'Agenais

Featuring

LA JOIE DU CHANT

and

TERA (French choir)

Everyone welcome

Housework can't kill you, but  
why take a chance?

Phyllis Diller

### ACTIVITIES FOR YOUR VISITORS

For the next bulletin, we plan to put together a list of things to keep your visitors, young and old, entertained. Do you have any favourite crowd pleasers that we could add to the list?

suggestions please to: [rosemary.howat@clubintquercy.fr](mailto:rosemary.howat@clubintquercy.fr)

### NEW MEMBERS

SHERMAN	Victoria	BR
COUVE	Huguette	FR
GRANDRY	Georges	B
DODDS	Michele	BR
ROUQUET	Monique	FR

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

To book, please sign up at the Club on Saturday 10h00 – 12h00 or by email : [clubintquercy@gmail.com](mailto:clubintquercy@gmail.com)

### PETITE RANDONNÉE

Date : 2<sup>nd</sup> April

Time : 14h00

Where : Ste Cécile

### PETITES RANDONNÉES

Date : 7th May

Date : 4th June

Date : 2nd July

Details to follow

### RANDONNÉE

Date : 19th April

Time : 09h30

Where : Puy l'Evêque

Details to follow

### RANDONNÉE

Date : 17th May

Time : 09h30

Where : Albas

Details to follow

### APERITIF

Date : 20th April

Time : 11h30

Where : Club Room

### BOURSE AUX PLANTES

Date : 27th April

Time : 10h-12h

Lieu : Club

### CHORAL CONCERT

Date : 14th May

Time : 19h00

Where : Salle des Fêtes,  
Tournon d'Agenais

### AQUARELLES

Date : May/June

Where : Lilly Studio

### CLUB MEAL

Date : 18th May

Where : Club

Details to follow

### CHATEAUX DE LA LOIRE

Dates : 4 – 7 June

### NON-CLUB ACTIVITY

OPEN GARDEN – see page 5

Date : 28th April

Time : 14h-18h



## LINDA PRESTON – DANCEFIT ANIMATRICE

### *Can you tell us why you enjoy teaching?*

For me, teaching is about helping people have fun whilst exercising and keeping fit. My "reward" is seeing everyone improve in so many ways from learning steps like mambos/salsas/grapevine and many more, to becoming more coordinated, with improved posture and better overall body fitness. At Dancefit, I have a good mix of nationalities and I teach in French (well my own version of it.....and thank you, Michel, for all the corrections!!) It's a great bunch of dancefitters and we not only "workout" but we laugh (or groan) together. So it's thanks to you all that I can continue to do something I really love.



### *Do you teach elsewhere?*

Yes, I teach another similar class at Castelsarrasin.

### *How did your dance career begin?*

I started dancing at the age of 10 when my school introduced ballet lessons. From the first plié, I was hooked! I auditioned for the Arts Educational Schools and became a boarder until the age of 16 when I was accepted for the Royal Ballet School in London. My first "proper" dance job was in Klagenfurt in Austria.

### *I understand you ran a fitness company in the UK. Would you tell us a bit about it?*

After teaching for about a year, I set up my own company called "Linda's Workouts". Most of my classes were in the Croydon area and I employed 2 other teachers. I was one of the first teachers to introduce step classes into England and they were so successful that I had waiting lists for every class!! To keep and update my skills, I went to an annual 4-day conference in the USA, which was an amazing experience.

### *What brought you to this part of France originally and how long have you been here?*

Graham and I have lived in France for 18 years now. Without knowing much about this area, we chose the Tarn et Garonne largely because Toulouse gave us quick access to the UK as we lived near Gatwick Airport. But it wasn't just the travelling that influenced us; it was the wonderful countryside and the weather that confirmed we'd definitely made the right choice.



PS

If you've never been to one of Linda's classes, you've missed a treat!

The lessons are really enjoyable and Linda's super encouraging which makes it fun to get fit. Her classes are for everybody - any age, any fitness level, even those who are convinced they have two left feet and near zero sense of rhythm. And I know – I speak from personal experience.



## National " Open Gardens" scheme.

John Massey and Val Martin, who have both created stunning gardens, in very different styles, invite you to visit them on:

**Sunday 28th April, between 2 and 6 pm.**

There will be teas/cakes/plants for sale.  
5€ per couple gives you entrance to both gardens. All proceeds go to charity.

For details of this and other gardens open throughout France see [www.opengardens.eu](http://www.opengardens.eu)

### DIAMOND

#### APRIL BIRTHSTONE



Diamonds are said to bring all kinds of benefits to their owners, supposedly leading the wearer to experience better relationships and an increase in inner strength. They are symbolic of eternal love and not forgetting, of course, the bringer of wealth to six centuries of the diamond trade.

While **white** diamonds are most common, **yellow, blue, pink** diamonds can also be found.

### FUTURE BULLETINS

After April, we plan to publish quarterly bulletins, unless, of course, you're tempted create some yourself.

Alternatively, perhaps you'd prefer to contribute interesting articles etc?

If creative writing is your 'thing' and you'd like to be involved in producing the bulletin, please contact

Rosemary.howat@clubintquercy.fr

### REVISED COMMITTEE STRUCTURE

President	<b>Colette Guichard</b>	colette-guichard@orange.fr
Vice-President & Hospitality	<b>Julia Jones</b>	julia.jones@clubintquercy.fr
Vice-President & Communications	<b>Jan Van der Heijden</b>	j.heijden12@gmail.com
Treasurer	<b>Jo Ryan</b>	jo.ryan@clubintquercy.fr
Secretary	<b>Lesley Townley</b>	lesley.townley@clubintquercy.fr
Assistant Treasurer & Voyages	<b>Sarah Pegg</b>	pegg.sarah@orange.fr
Assistant Secretary	<b>Monique Morlier</b>	claudemorliermonique@laposte.net
Meals	<b>Shirley Sears Black</b>	sasb.chouettes@wanadoo.fr



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