

**Open Door Association**  
**Minutes of the Ordinary General Assembly of 6 March 2023**  
**Agora, Bourganeuf, 2pm**

Present: Gisèle Bouysse, Christine Thiébot, Dany Tresmontan, Joëlle Comencini, Alain Comencini, Doug Craig, Sylvie Aubert, Josiane Caty.

Represented: Bernard Bonnavaud, Philippe Andrieu.

Excused: Jean-Louis Caty, Ferenc and Noelle Monier, Alan Whitten.

Approval of the minutes of the Ordinary General Meeting of 16 May 2022

Approval of the minutes of the Extraordinary General Meeting of 15 November 2022

Approval of the minutes of the meeting held in place of the Ordinary General Assembly of 14 February 2022

### Moral report

After 2 years of Covid (2020-2021) we hoped, like many associations, that 2022 would allow us a gradual recovery of our activities. Unfortunately the year 2022 was marked by the death of two of our members: Tracy Lake and Peter Edmondson. They had contributed a lot to the animation and success of our activities. Peter was our founding president. We needed to join forces to face these difficulties. Our interim president Gordon Williams, who until then had said that he would do everything possible to ensure the continuity of the Association, even if he did not wish to remain president, had a sudden change of heart: without any consultation, he proposed a merger of Open Door with the Association pour les Rencontres Franco-Britanniques. Gordon did not respect any of the rules of operation laid down in the statutes of the two associations. Finally he resigned on 14 February 2023 after leaving the meeting room 10 minutes before the start of the GA scheduled for that day. On the same day, Heather Norman, our secretary, also resigned.

### Background to the Association

The Open Door Association was founded on 25 August 2015 with the following objectives:

- To promote cultural exchanges between French and foreign peoples. To promote integration, sharing of cultures and leisure activities. To listen to information and make it available to residents and visitors of the region. To network with other associations.
- To run an English language library for all audiences.

### Activities :

Annual events:

Burn's Night, Afternoon Tea, Beaujolais nouveau, bilingual readings around "Aubusson weaves Tolkien", ornithological outings.

Numerous partnerships:

Commune de Saint-Pardoux-Morterolles, Groupe Partage de lecture(s), commune de Bourganeuf, Bibliothèque de Bourganeuf, Médiathèque de Royère de Vassivière, Cité de la Tapisserie d'Aubusson, Archives départementales de la Creuse, Association Lou Patroun (Francis Fowke and his bagpipes), Conseil Départemental de la Creuse and its president Valérie Simonet.

We would like to thank all our partners and, of course, all the volunteers and participants who contributed to the success of our events, as well as Guilhem Carbon for his articles in La Montagne.

#### The library :

It opened in Morterolles on 5 July 2017. Not many readers, premises not very suitable for receiving the public.

It opened at the Centre Alain Gouzes from 3 April 2019 on Wednesday mornings in a room kindly made available by the municipality of Bourganeuf. At the beginning, there was a certain interest with new members, some children, but little by little the attendance decreased. Then it was closed for health reasons. The new timetable, between 4 and 5.30 p.m. on Wednesdays, since April 2022, is not very conclusive.

There are several people working in the library but no one is really in charge, which makes it difficult to put in place procedures that are known and validated by all.

#### Evolution of the number of members :

2016-2017:	35 members	2020 /2021:	41 members
2018:	37 members	2022/2023:	36 members
2019:	52 members		1/3 FRENCH 2/3 ENGLISH

\* The moral report was approved by the General Assembly.

#### Financial report 2022

Situation at 01/01/2022 : 1133,54 €

Expenditure		Income	
Insurance MAIF	157,95 €	Grant from the town hall	300,00 €
OT membership	35,00 €	Memberships	369,00 €
Reception expenses	23,75 €	Donations	24,00 €
Account management	22,00 €		
TOTAL	<u>238,70 €</u>		<u>693,00 €</u>

Balance: 454,30 €.

Situation on 31/12/2022 € : 1133,54 € + 454,30 € = 1587,84 €

Memberships : As there was very little activity in 2022, the 2022 memberships will be valid in 2023.

\* The financial report was approved by the General Assembly.

#### Report on activities in 2022

##### Visits to the Chabaud Farm in Chatenet en Dognon :

Saturday 28 May 2022: 11 present including 4 Open Door members. Picking of strawberries accompanied by Hanoum Champroy, the horticulturist, then visit to the shop where strawberry and raspberry nectars are sold.

Saturday 25 June 2022: 13 present, including 10 Open Door members. Picking of raspberries.

[Visit to the Creuse Departmental Archives:](#)

17 November 2022: 13 registered. With Bénédicte de La Brosse, we were able to explore the Archives backstage, to have details on the modes of classification of the documents and their accessibility. Afterwards we shared a meal in a cafeteria.

## [Elections to the Board](#)

Three members of the Board resigned: Gordon Williams, Alan Whitten and Heather Norman. Two members applied to join the Board: Sylvie Aubert and Alain Comencini. They were elected unanimously.

The Board is composed of : Dany Tresmontan, Gisèle Bouysse, Bernard Bonnavaud, Doug Craig, Sylvie Aubert and Alain Comencini.

## [Modification of the Association's registered office](#)

It was proposed that the Association's registered office, which is currently at the former Morterolles town hall, be transferred to the Saint-Pardoux-Morterolles town hall. The change was unanimously approved. The mayor of Saint-Pardoux-Morterolles gave his agreement.

## [Modification of the Association's management address](#)

The management address is now c/o Dany Tresmontan, 8 rue de l'Eglise, 23430 Saint Martin Sainte Catherine

## [Proposed activities for 2023](#)

[April :](#)

Visit to the Domaine des Gabies, a vineyard in Verneuil sur Vienne. The visit followed by a tasting lasts 1h30. It will be followed by a meal in a restaurant and a walk. A choice will be offered to the owner between the dates of 3, 4 or 6 April. A preliminary visit is planned.

[May :](#)

Afternoon get-together over a cup of tea, a slice of cake and games at the village hall in Saint Pardoux. Suggested date: Tuesday 9 or Thursday 11 May. The hall will need to be booked.

[May-June :](#)

Berry picking at the Chabaud farm. Contact the horticulturist.

[June:](#)

Visit to Margaret Grainger's garden at Saint Michel de Veysse.

[September or October:](#)

Discovery of ancient musical instruments with Félix Perron followed by a medieval snack. Proposed dates: Saturday or Sunday of the weekends of 2 and 3 September, 30 September and 1 October or 7 and 8 October.

[18 November :](#)

Festive Beaujolais Nouveau evening.

## Other business

### Future of the library:

Alan Whitten agreed to continue to welcome readers on Wednesday afternoons. He will be absent several times, so it would be necessary to find someone to replace him.

It was proposed to the Bourganeuf librarian to have a shelf of English books. He agreed in principle. We now need to talk to Mme Pouget-Chauvat, deputy mayor for culture at the town hall. If we have her agreement, we will have to organise the loans and returns with the librarian. This would allow readers to have more time to borrow books and increase the number of readers.

Until now, the library has been open only to members of the association. If the books are available in the Bourganeuf library, they would be available to everyone.

Arguments to put forward:

- Possible project of readings ?
- Highlighting children's books in English
- The visit of English readers would increase the number of people using the library.

Possible problem: English readers may not speak French.

A visit to the library in Morterolles will take place on Saturday 11 March to take stock of the situation and think about a possible organisation.

## Changes to the statutes

The question arose of making changes to the association's statutes.

1 - Quorum at the ordinary general meeting

The idea was abandoned because a quorum could block the taking of decisions.

2 - Quorum at the extraordinary general meeting

Seems necessary so that important decisions are not taken only by a small group of members.

3 – Proxy votes

Proxy votes may be given to a named person. In the absence of a name, they are given to the members present at the GA.

4 - Compliance with the statutes

Specify in the statutes that by joining the association, each member approves the statutes.

The argument was raised that membership implies compliance with the statutes.

The statutes will be sent by email to each member.

## Election of the Bureau

The Board of Directors met to elect the officers, who are as follows:

Dany Tresmontan, President; Sylvie Aubert, Secretary; Doug Craig, Treasurer.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:30 pm. It was followed by a drink.

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