



**A Newsletter with a difference, which was delayed awaiting to see if the ever increasing Coronavirus was about to pull the curtains down again. Sadly it's cast its nets even further .**

**Let us hope we will be able to defeat it STAY SAFE !!**

**Past & Present Rotarians Fellowship Club,**

**( An English Conversation Luncheon Club )**

**Bergerac Dordogne. France**

**Belated October Newsletter**

**Apologies: Eric & Carolyne Nagel. David R Smith John & Branka Perry. Robin & Minou Maile. Bernard & Jean Griffiths Tony & Linda Scutt. Claire Le Monnier. Kate Mailfert Ken & Sue Dickinson Alastair & Aileen Masson. Frank & Vanessa Ansell. Brian & Jean Walton. Paul & Nicky Lambert Judith Crowe. Tony & Suzanne Shillingford Leslie & Norma Ecketts**

There were 17 in attendance . All members no guests.

The President welcomed all the members and once again commented on the excellent turn out considering the situation , there were originally 19 booked in but due to a virus related situation one couple felt it best to cancel.

Continuing the President wished to take the opportunity of welcoming back into the fold Miss Piggy who had been in lockdown with Robin & Minou. She has changed her residency to our new treasurer Maurice , who on her arrival had to carry out some emergency operation on her bottom as he discovered Robin had pushed the plug in rather than out.

Moving on the President indicated that there were several members of our club keen supporters of the Phoenix book fair and reminded them that this year the organisers not only had to contend with Coronavirus but also the worst weather conditions ever experienced . The President had asked Peter McAusland, not only their treasurer but also on the fair organiser team, to give the members a brief on the day's events.

Peter

" We had finally received word from the Mayor of Campsegret and the Prefecture at Périgueux that we could hold this October's Book Fair on the 3rd.

There were however certain provisos which meant some things would have to be altered. The really difficult restriction was that we could not use the Main Hall at Campsegret for the public and could only use it for storage etc, by the volunteers.

We had to beg, borrow or rent tents and tonnelles from all sources. We had donations of tents from as far afield as Buzet sur Baise in the south and close to home with the Mairie at Vergt loaning us some lovely big tents to house the fiction books and volunteers and Fair stall holders searched their garages and found all sorts of structures to help us. However, it was very difficult when we came to erect them for the Fair as it was pouring with rain and the volunteers had trouble hanging on to them.

Sadly, on the day of the Fair when we arrived we discovered strong winds had blown down several of the structures, we could have wept . We had to make quickly other alternative options. In the afternoon the sun came out for a short break.

We had the innovation of the Click and Collect system for buying books where people sent in their lists and these were picked by volunteers on the

Thursday and Friday and most picked up on the day of the Fair or will be picked up from our sorting facility in Bergerac at a later date.

Our sales generated about €8500 profit which is just about half of our normal figures but in the circumstances it was far more than we dared hope for."

**The President thanked Peter for his presentation and personally took his hat off to his team for their fantastic results over so many difficulties. He asked members if there were any questions , which Peter responded to. Jill asked if books could be purchased from their Bergerac warehouse on a Friday afternoon ? Peter replied , that not at the moment as they were sorting and will probably be open February but books could still be donated. Colin wanted to know why the virus was contagious in the hall but not in the tent !!!!**

The President reminded members where the treasurer was sitting for those still to pay their subs,

There being no other business the President wished members a safe journey and hoped we would still be able to meet in November

**p.s. I can now confirm Maurice is our genuine Treasurer , in the eye of our bank.**

**Obviously !! No November luncheon meeting**



**STAY SAFE**