



Association Départementale
pour une coopération Européenne en Mayenne

DRAFT

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
on SATURDAY, 19th OCTOBER 2024**

ACTIVITY REPORT 2023-2024

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1 – MEMBERSHIP

Number of members (Sept. 2009 - August 2024)

Years	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Members	380	364	408	340	311	312	321	345	335	306	279	260	213	209	204	235

On 31st August 2024 the association had **235** members (204 as of 31/08/2023).

39% new members (highest renewal rate for several years).

29% of professionally active members.

57% native English speakers / 34% native French speakers / 9% other nationalities.

57% women and 43% men.

The **average age** of members is **58** years old.

We wish to thank Roselyne SPEYER, our treasurer, who has managed the membership so far, as well as Gloria KENNERLEY who has given information in English to potential members for many years.

With Roselyne SPEYER wishing to leave this role, Simon KING has offered to take over from her for managing the membership and giving information in English. During the year, please let Simon know of any **change** in address, telephone number or email address, so that he may update our membership list. Furthermore, we would be grateful if you could make your **payments by bank transfer**.

2 – LANGUAGE ACTIVITIES

a) French Courses

From September 2023 to July 2024, we organised our usual three termly sessions in Mayenne, at **four levels** (Beginners, Intermediate, Intermediate Plus/Advanced & Advanced Plus), with our teacher, *Alain FAUCON*.

Number of registrations per level and per session

	Beginners	Intermediate	Intermediate Plus/Advanced	Advanced Plus	TOTAL
09–12/2023	8	12	11	12	43
01–03/2024	12	12	11	9	44
04–07/2024	12	12	9	9	42

Years	2008 / 2009	2009 / 2010	2010 / 2011	2011 / 2012	2012 / 2013	2013 / 2014	2014 / 2015	2015 / 2016	2016 / 2017	2017 / 2018	2018 / 2019	2019 / 2020	2020 / 2021	2021 / 2022	2022 / 2023	2023 / 2024
Registrations	193	169	124	102	87	89	111	86	112	83	92	100	105	126	131	129

The Executive Committee would like to address their thanks to the *Town of Mayenne* which offers us a free room at the Old Mairie in order to organise our courses.

In addition, we thank most warmly *Alain FAUCON*, our teacher, for his collaboration with our association.

Finally, we are very grateful to *Simon King* for his role as Chair of our Languages Committee and to *Peter Woods* for his continuing hard work as our French Course Co-ordinator.

b) English-French Conversation Workshops

Our **Mayenne** workshops had good participation with an **average** over the year of **14 participants**, including 9 French speakers and 5 English speakers). A greater presence of French people was noted for both the Monday evening workshop (12 French speakers and 6 English speakers) or the afternoon workshop (6 French speakers and 4 English speakers). On several occasions there was a participation of more than 20 participants on the Monday evening workshop, going up to 27 people in February 2024.

Our workshop in **Laval** was held throughout the year, with an average of **9 participants** (6 French speakers and 3 English speakers).

Our **new workshop** in **Lassay-les-Châteaux** started last April and meets every Friday at 6.30pm at Parc Albert Chevrier, 2 rue de Couterne. There was on **average 16 participants** (9 French speakers and 7 English speakers).

We address our thanks to Mayenne Mairie, Lycée Don Bosco in Mayenne, Maison de Quartier des Fourches in Laval and Lassay Mairie for offering us free rooms during the year.

We are very grateful to Armelle JAMELOT (Laval), Colette BERRON and Lynn CHESTERS (Mayenne) and Paul-Henri PROUST (Lassay-les-Châteaux) for their hard work on coordinating our conversation workshops.

c) English Linguistic Support

A group of **14** native French-speaking Euromayenne members took part in this English support programme. These are small-group conversations led by native English-speaking EuroMayenne members. The French members really enjoyed these discussions and have all renewed their participation for 2024-2025. One additional person has joined the group.

Many thanks to the 3 English volunteers, Stephen BOSTOCK, Simon KING and Sarah SMITH for their availability and the relevance of the topics prepared for discussion.

One or two other English-speaking volunteers will join the group in September 2024.

d) School Interventions

There were no school interventions in the last year. However, we do have a request to assist *Les Mille Mots* Public Primary School, which is based in le Bourgneuf-la-Forêt. Each year the school organises a field trip to Sainte-Suzanne for a few days in the spring where the pupils immerse themselves in the Middle Ages. The teacher who contacted the Association would like to include some activities in English. The exact dates and activities are to be confirmed.

We would like to address our warmest thanks to Simon KING who plans and co-ordinates school interventions.

3 – VOLUNTEER ASSISTANCE NETWORK

The aim of this group is to bring help to the members of EuroMayenne, should they encounter problems or feel isolated and unable to face up to certain situations. This year, there was no particular request.

We address our warmest thanks to Lynn CHESTERS and Sylvie QUINTON for co-ordinating this network, and to all the volunteers of this group.

4 – LEISURE ACTIVITIES

a) Outings and Events

From September 2023 to July 2024, we organised 13 outings and events with 24 participants on average (outings).

Attendance at our outings and events (September 2023 - July 2024)

DATE	ACTIVITY / VENUE	PARTICIPANTS	Anglophones	Francophones
09/09/23	EuroMayenne Open Day - La Visitation (Mayenne)			
14/10/23	EuroMayenne AGM (Mayenne)	49	20	19
21/10/23	Lunch and Guided Visit to Bagnoles de L'Orne	25	19	6
18/11/23	Lunch & Guided Visit to Micro Brewery (Ambrières)	17	13	4
02/12/23	Christmas Carols at <i>La Maison d'Hercule</i> (Mayenne)	100		
08/12/23	Annual Dinner at Restaurant <i>La Marjolaine</i> (Moulay)	55	26	29
04/01/24	<i>Galette des Rois</i> (Mayenne)	27		
13/01/24	Pub Lunch and Games Afternoon (Mayenne)	39	24	15
23/02/24	Cheese Factory and Indian Restaurant (Laval)	36	24	12
23/03/24	Lunch and visit to the Sanctuary (Pontmain)	20	15	5
13/04/24	Environmental visit and Lunch (Martigné)	16	9	7
19/05/24	Plant Swap & BBQ (Mayenne)		<i>Event cancelled</i>	
15/06/24	Visit to Laval Old Castle and Dinner (Laval)	18	11	7
27/07/24	Ploughman's Lunch and Games Afternoon (St Jul. T.)	20		

Our warmest thanks to all the members of our Activities Committee (Lynn CHESTERS, Pam DAVIES, Nicole DEVELLAIGLE, Armelle JAMELOT, Valérie MASSEROT, Paul PUNCHARD) for their time spent organising these outings and events. We invite all our members to take part, as these are always very convivial moments that promote linguistic exchanges between English and French speakers.

b) Monthly Teas

Monthly Teas were held in the EuroMayenne office at La Visitation, Mayenne, on the first Thursday of the months from September to June. There were usually **between 10 and 14 members present**. This year 27 members booked for the *Galette des Rois* in January. Books, DVDs, Audiobooks and Jigsaw Puzzles are available to borrow.

We address our warmest thanks to Eileen CLIMANCE for coordinating these meetings.

c) Interest Groups

Cinema Group

9 sessions were held from September 2023 to June 2024.

79 EuroMayenne members attended these sessions out of a total of 149 attendees, representing 53% of the participants. The number of participants in EuroMayenne over the past year (39 different people, that's pretty good), and the average number of people participating in the **discussion** after the film was **8 to 10** (the last sessions were at zero, especially because the film ends at 10pm, the bar is closed then). The screenings in May and June were not very successful. Is it due to the period or the choice of films called "Heritage"? The programming of some sessions at other times and especially in the evening (20h00) to satisfy members still active, did not allow to attract a larger audience.

After analysis of the balance sheet, the members of the cinema group decided to renew the sessions on the 3rd Friday of each month at 2pm including the school holidays period to allow active members to participate.

The programming period will run from September 2024 to May 2025, with an alternation of an English film, subtitled in French, and a French film, subtitled in English.

Craft Group

This group is a happy fun monthly get-together and some great crafts were made over the year. There are usually around **7-10 participants** and there are a couple of additional enquiries for the next term starting in September.

Costs are largely met by the group with a monthly contribution of €3 each.

A few boxes of craft materials have been built up which participants can dip into when required.

Susan CHARNOCK would like to thank *Diane JOHNSON* for assisting her with the group and some great ideas,

Lynn CHESTERS for her support and making the tea/coffee and biscuits at each session and all the attendees for making it such a fun monthly meeting.

Gardening Group

The Gardening Group met last year for an outdoor garden visit (*Ferme Ornée* - 61) on 24/09/2023 and then two indoor meetings on 27/10/2023 (our successes and failures; gardens we visited in the summer) and 25/11/2023 (pruning and seed swap). They had a March indoor meeting on 22/03/2024 (Hidden biodiversity in the garden - Moths) and then planned garden visits to *Jardin de Rollon* in Ernée, and *Château du Champ de la Pierre* - 61. Planned visits that were postponed (through lack of availability or weather) were to *Jardin de la Pellerine* and to *La Mansonnière* - 61. The EM plant swap was cancelled on 19/05/2024, but some plant swapping was done from car boots at *Jardin de Rollon* on 26/05/2024.

Walking Group

Walks in 2023-2024 went ahead as usual, with an optional lunch available, although the weather was very unreliable. The walks had to be cut short twice due to heavy rain, and participants went for a coffee in the nearest café.

Reading Group

The reading group met on the last Wednesday of each month except December in the home of one of our members in Evron. There were **12 participants** (maximum number agreed by group members), both English and French speakers. The books read were all suggestions from group members and this year have included *Brodeck's Report* by *Philippe Claudel* and *The Dictionary of Lost Words* by *Pip Williams*.

More generally, our warmest thanks go to Lynn CHESTERS, who has been in charge of our Activities Committee for over 20 years and will still manage our Walking Group. Also many thanks to our other Group Leaders (Patrice et Martine BOMPAIS, Stephen BOSTOCK, Gérard BOURSIER, Susan CHARNOCK, Pam DAVIES, Susan JAMESON), for their commitment and hard work in organising our leisure activities.

d) Project of «Families with young children» Group

We are still looking for native English-speaking couples with young children living in Mayenne, so as to create a new

interest group allowing French and English-speaking families with young children in Mayenne to participate in appropriate activities. **If you know any, please feel free to tell them and to give us their details with their agreement!**

A first meeting will then be organised in Laval or Mayenne with a few French-speaking families with young children, in order to define this group's management and future activities.

5 – EUROMAYENNE FAIR

Our Executive Committee is considering the future orientations of this major event for our association.

However, *Nicole Devel-Laigle*, after having been in charge of the Fair Committee since 2002, has decided to step down from this role, but no one has volunteered so far.

6 – COMMUNICATIONS

a) General Communications

Ian WATSON has been responsible for our Communications Committee until December 2023 when he resigned from this position. *Nicole DEVEL-LAIGLE* has then been appointed as leader by interim, until a new leader is found for this Committee.

b) Website

Our website's pages are regularly updated by *Julie WATSON*.

c) Facebook pages

Our «*Association EuroMayenne*» public page has 581 «followers» (506 in 2023) and is regularly updated.

Our «*Adhérents-Members EuroMayenne*» private group has 19 members.

Our «*EuroMayenne Members Gardening Group*» private group has 13 members.

Our «*EuroMayenne Members Craft Group*» private group has 8 members.

Our «*EuroMayenne Members Walking Group*» private group has 7 members.

We encourage all our members to check our *Facebook* pages regularly and sign up!

d) Project of bilingual guide for medical emergencies

This guide would be designed to help native anglophones make phone calls to medical emergency services. This year we obtained a €1000 funding from *FDVA (Fonds de Développement de la Vie associative)* to print a number of copies for people who do not have access to the Internet, so that we could distribute this guide widely in our department.

For the moment, we have ordered copies of the latest edition of the French-English health booklet published by the French Government and *Santé Publique France* for distribution to our members. They are available in our office at La Visitation at our Monthly Teas.

The Executive Committee warmly thanks *Ian WATSON* and *Julie WATSON* for their involvement and their hard work for the communications of our association.

7 – CONCLUSION

The Executive Committee would like to thank all our members who have given a lot of their free time to organise the different activities of our association during the year 2023-2024, as well as all those who have participated in our outings and events.

The volunteers' commitment is essential to the implementation of the association's activities. For this reason, the Euromayenne Executive Committee has decided to initiate a process for recording the time spent in order to put a value on it. We do not yet have enough data to present it, but we hope to be able to quantify it next year and thus show the important role played by volunteers to make it possible for everyone to enjoy the activities organised.

We constantly need to find **motivated members having some free time** to carry out the association's administration.

If you would like to take on more responsibility in our association, please do feel free to let us know! (president@euromayenne.org)

Nicole DEVEL-LAIGLE
President