



# Bulletin



**Bonjour à toutes et à tous, at last we are able to share really good news!**

Last week in the wake of announcements from the President of the Republic, Sylvie Pfefer and I had a meeting with the Maire, M Alazard, who is now able to permit our **reopening with effect from the 1st of July!** Let us hope that with the amount of vaccinations that will be in place by the autumn we can look forward to a full programme of activities and finally say goodbye to the Covid era.

**CELEBRATION :** The Committee felt that this deserved a celebration after all these months of confinement so **please come along on Saturday 3rd July, from 9h - 12.30h**, remake old acquaintances and meet new ones, and **share a coffee/tea (or an apéro from 11h)** with us - we shall be also opening the garden area for those who may prefer to be outside. So please take the opportunity to come along otherwise you won't know what you're missing!

## COMMITTEE NEWS

Message from the President & a spotlight on the Committee

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## ACTIVITIES & EXPO

News from the groups and an Expo of Spring Photos

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## STAYING IN TOUCH

Contact details for the Club and for our Activity Organisers

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Great news that the Club can reopen again. (See more details on this page)



The sunshine has returned ! Best wishes to everyone for a lovely summer.



If you are British, and resident in France before 2021, don't forget the deadline to apply for the new residency card is 30 June 2021.

Members of **your committee** will be readily identifiable, so help us to get to know each other and share any **thoughts you may have** on how you'd like your Club to look in the future, because in addition to celebrating our reopening, the Committee will also be seeking **new ideas** for the re-establishment of activities that had to be put on hold for so long. We'll certainly be very open to new ones and may even be happy to hear some wacky ones. Who knows they might even be accepted providing they entertain or instruct!



And if you really, really can't make it on the 3rd but would still like to make contact with us don't hesitate to make yourselves known to the committee, the Club's contact details are on Page 8. For those who ran workshops or activities before the pandemic we shall of course try to track you down and see whether we can tempt you back! The wider our range of activities, the greater the possibilities for the Club to be a really significant force for good in the area. And if you believe in these aims, do **please talk to your friends and neighbours** and encourage them to join us. For as long as I am involved, we shall continue to encourage any members from the local community, whether they've lived here all their lives or only just arrived, and no matter what language they speak. And remember for those who only have one language we shall always have lessons available (for **French** and **English**) to which we currently can add a super **Spanish** course.

Perhaps in large part because of the pandemic and the frustration of not being able to continue as normal, your Club has seen **several changes in personnel** over the past few months. As your incoming President, I would like to pay tribute and give warm thanks to all those who have served the Club by giving their time during this period. It hasn't been easy but their contribution has been greatly appreciated.

Although we have considered celebrating our 'freedom' by trying to continue Saturday mornings, **the Club's activity year has always run from September to end June and we have decided to keep it this way for 2021 despite the temptation to do otherwise.** This is because there are inevitably absences for holidays, long distance visitors and other demands on one's time. But perhaps more importantly the committee's work over the coming months will be to plan as much as possible for the new season, to recruit, to prepare and to promote. If we succeed, as I hope, the future will look very bright indeed.

I realise I haven't really introduced myself. My name is Ben Lenthall, my biography was in the last bulletin but, in brief, I have lived in France for twenty-one years mostly here in the South West, but also in Normandy. After a working life in the media I still keep myself busy by doing translations from French into English mostly for subtitling and exhibition catalogues.

I look forward to meeting as many of you as possible in person - *Ben Lenthall.*



# INTRODUCING

## Présentation de

Recently we were pleased to welcome new members onto our Committee.

We shone the spotlight on Sylvie Pfefer and Ben Lenthall in our last two Bulletins and would now like to introduce Marie-José Botter and Paula Barber.

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### MARIE-JOSÉ BOTTER

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I was born in Luzech, a town in the Lot region of France, and I have spent all my professional life in Paris and the Paris region.

I was a trilingual executive assistant (English, Spanish) and I was lucky enough to work during the "30 glorious years", years of full employment, which made it possible to change companies almost as often as one wished! An unimaginable situation for our young people today! I therefore contributed to various companies, from urban planning firms to Lafarge cement, via legal training and even ATARI! My last professional activity was with my best friend, we created a small business selling seasonal fruit and vegetable baskets by subscription, a very rich experience, I loved it! I was president of the shopkeepers' association in my town (25,000 inhabitants) and vice-president of the hiking club.

I've been back in the South-West for 4 years now and I live in a lovely house in a rather isolated area, I'm very happy to be back in nature. I love

to travel, I went backpacking for a month in Cuba and two months in Argentina, unforgettable experiences that I hope to repeat soon!

I have three sons, three daughters-in-law, four grandchildren, from 9 to 17 years old, unfortunately, they are all rather far from our region, long live the WhatsApp network, which makes it easy to get closer to them, and above all, long live the holidays, which see them all join me!

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### PAULA BARBER

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I have been a member of the Club since September 2019 when my husband and I moved to France and bought a house near Montcuq.

The Club has been invaluable to us as our French was extremely limited when we arrived with not even a GCSE in French between us. We have benefitted enormously from the beginners French classes, firstly with Sue Gauntlett and now via Zoom with Viki Sherman.

Our time is mainly taken up with our house renovation and battling the wilderness that is our garden. The first thing our neighbour said when we met her was, 'So you are the crazy people who have bought that house.' That quite adequately sums up the amount of work ahead !

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## GROUP NEWS

### *Cheers!*

From members of the walking group who recently enjoyed a randonnée around Anthé.

This randonnée was planned for April but the lockdown got in the way. When lockdown was lifted the rules had changed, allowing up to 10 people in each group, which made the organiser's life easier.

On the 21st May, the good weather was particularly welcome as everyone had brought a picnic. Richard and Janet Comber, who'd organised this walk, invited the three groups of walkers (socially distanced, of course) to have lunch in their beautiful garden.

Leaving this oasis was a bit of a struggle but room had to be made for the next group. At least it was mostly downhill to get back to the cars !



## LADIES WHO LUNCH

Nothing stops members of the **STITCH** group from keeping in touch !

During lockdown weekly emails allowed members to share their news.

Now that restaurants are open again it didn't take Rosemary and Ann very long to organise a lunch so that, within the rules, a group of friends could meet in person once again.

A great time was had by all.



## Anyone for tennis ?

Great to hear that the tennis group managed some play during the confinement and enjoyed it very much.

It's been a great way to exercise during this difficult year. Members want to thank the village and the club for giving them the opportunity.



### DANCEFIT

We're pleased to let you know that Dancefit starts up again on 7th July. If you want any further details or would like to join the group, please contact Linda Preston [linda.preston@clubintquercy.fr](mailto:linda.preston@clubintquercy.fr)



### TABLE TENNIS / TENNIS DE TABLE

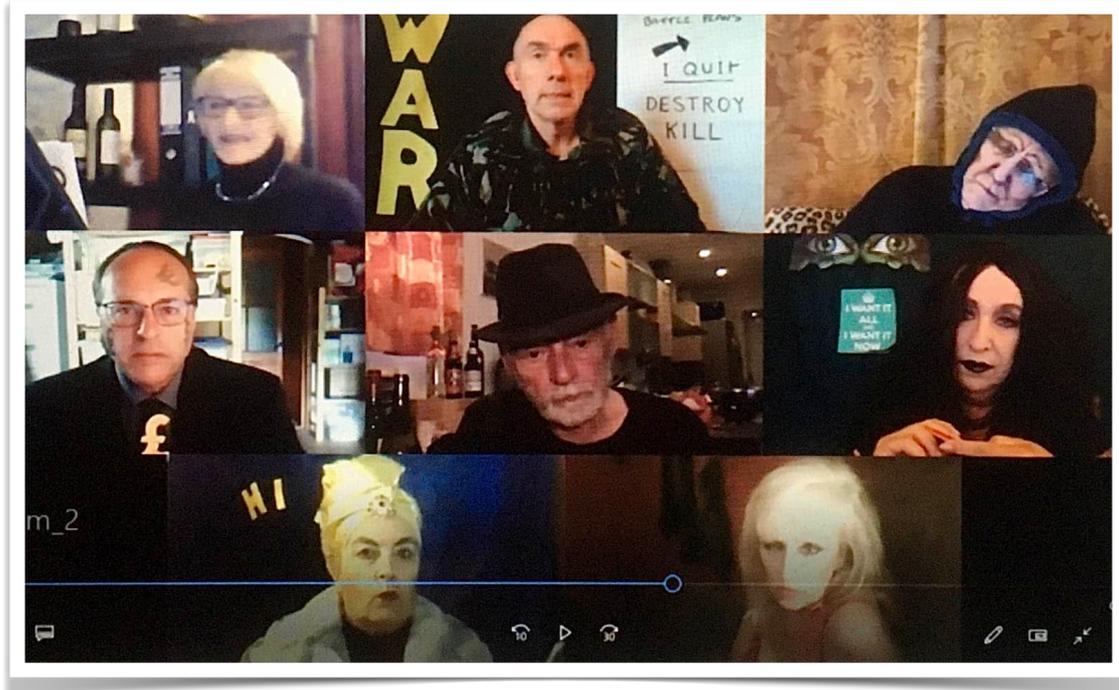
Table tennis also starts up again on 1st July.

Come along to the Salle de Fêtes 15h - 17h to join in.



### WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS OF THE CLUB :

Véronique Escoubet (FR), Anne Shephard (BR) and Roy Shephard (BR).



## La Troupe d'Acteurs du Quercy

never allowed the pandemic to dampen their enthusiasm for entertaining. Throughout last year, the President of the Troupe organised regular Zoom social events for the members and was always on the lookout for new ideas to bolster everyone's spirits.

Then, jackpot - they discovered a British playwright, Heather Sealey, who'd recently written short plays specifically for Zoom, including, of course, [deadlysins.com](https://www.deadlysins.com). A brilliant idea and what a perfect title for the Troupe!

So with Heather Sealey's blessing, the Troupe launched into rehearsals. Although they were old hands with Zoom, this was a completely new way of acting and the first time they'd attempted a theatre piece while coping with the vagaries of the internet, battling with technical timing issues and rehearsing alone at home in their pyjamas. And they succeeded. Big time.

The cast, well matched to their roles, obviously enjoyed the humour and the subject matter and clearly relished being able to tread the virtual boards again. They pulled out all the stops to make believable 'sets' at home, creating costumes and make-up, some of which were

pretty elaborate. If the cast missed the participation and enthusiasm of a 'real' audience it didn't show.

On May 18th, the Troupe's Zoom audience tuned in from their homes in France and the UK and while the atmosphere of live theatre couldn't be replicated, the performance was live on screen - so the next best thing.

Following the show, members of the audience sent congratulatory emails with comments such as "good fun and the casting was spot on"; such a talented bunch'; 'great to push out the boundaries'; 'a technical challenge which worked perfectly'; 'it brightened a very soggy day'; 'all the characters were great fun and I loved the ending'; 'jolly good show, fabulous darlings' and from Heather, the author, watching from her sofa in Wales, 'I really enjoyed it. A great cast who brought out the humour and I think it was very well produced, especially for a first try'. High praise indeed.

**This success has led La Troupe d'Acteurs to plan more Zoom performances so if you'd like to be notified of the next production, just let us know.**

*We hope you like these images of Spring.*

*We are aware however that there was a problem with emails getting through, so if you submitted photos and don't see any of them published, please accept our apologies.*

*If you forward them to [karen.perry@clubintquercy.fr](mailto:karen.perry@clubintquercy.fr) we will showcase them next time.*



## Contact -

### Activity Organisers

#### French / Français débutants :

Viki Sherman

[victoria.sherman@clubintquercy.fr](mailto:victoria.sherman@clubintquercy.fr)

#### French / Français intermédiaire :

Véronique Goubard-Touzac

[veronique.touzac@clubquercy.fr](mailto:veronique.touzac@clubquercy.fr)

#### English / Anglais intermédiaire :

Ben Lenthall

[ben.lenthall@clubintquercy.fr](mailto:ben.lenthall@clubintquercy.fr)

#### Book Club / Groupe Lecture Français :

Lesley Townley

[lesley.townley@clubintquercy.fr](mailto:lesley.townley@clubintquercy.fr)

#### Table Tennis / Tennis de Table :

Kannan Mahadevan

[kannan.mahadevan@clubintquercy.fr](mailto:kannan.mahadevan@clubintquercy.fr)

#### Stitch / Travaux d'aiguilles :

Ann Golesworthy / Rosemary Keeley

[travaux.aiguilles@clubintquercy.fr](mailto:travaux.aiguilles@clubintquercy.fr)

#### Dancefit :

Linda Preston

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#### Apéro :

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#### Tennis :

Lia van de Sande

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#### Grandes Randonnées :

David Howat

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#### Petites Randonnées :

Richard & Janet Comber

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#### Bulletin du Club :

Karen Perry

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#### MEMBRES DU BUREAU ET DU COMITÉ :

Ben Lenthall - Président

Paula Barber - Trésorière

Lesley Townley - Secrétaire

Marie-José Botter - Secrétaire Adjointe

Jef Groby - Membre

Sylvie Pfefer - Membre

Viki Sherman - Membre



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