

Autumn Open Meeting - Wednesday 13 October 2021

Maggie Longworth opened our meeting by welcoming our speaker Dr Charles Van Oudenhove from the Palliative Care mobile team operating from Perpignan Hospital.

She said a few words about the death of our own Brian Thomas who served as our Treasurer for five years and took over as President in January this year.

Maggie continued:

For those of you who do not know CSF Sud. De France is made up of five departments. The Aude, Ariège, Pyrénées Orientales, Tarn-et-Garonne (E)

CSF PO started in 2009 and it has grown into a flourishing region within Sud CSF.

At last Covid-19 has enabled us to hold this meeting which should have been held last year. You will see in front of you my report from our Zoom CSF Sud A.G.M held on the 27th of January 2021.

I will give you an update on what has happened so far in 2021. I will start by saying that we have a very good team here in the PO for many of our activities, which certainly is a blessing to help share the work load. I was joined last year by Frankie Ward who shares the responsibilities as representatives of the PO.

The numbers of members in the PO stands at 54. We have 13 active listeners giving support by telephone or as face to face with our clients. The clients are not only in the PO but also nationally within France. Penny will later give you an idea of how the help line works within CSF. We have four persons who are able to give language support by translating documents or accompanying a client to hospital at consultations.

Our update training has managed to continue in spite of Covid -19. We had a zoom meeting earlier in the year and in July we held an informal training day held at the home of Penny and Frank Parkinson. It was so good to start to meet with people face to face, to share any problems we had and to discuss many topics. A very informative talk was presented by Frank Parkinson on 'Surfing safely ' on the internet.

Our working relationship with La ligue in the PO continues. Our representative Philomena O'Neil keeps in regular contact with them. We support them in whatever way we can. One example is by sharing donations from some of our events. La Ligue kindly enables us to have a stand to sell our merchandise at the vide grenier in St Cyprien each year. This helps us to raise money for our organisation.

In July we started our once monthly Coffee morning drop ins, while of course following the government guidelines. They are held in three places in the PO they are Pablo's bar in Céret, Villa Lafabregue, Prades and we have a very successful English and French book exchange held in the Cafe des Artistes, Laroque des Albères.

The Cycle for Life took place in September. This is one of the main fund raisers for CSF nationally. The event was over four days from Carbonne to Fronsac. Two of our members participated in this event.

The annual Walk for Life was held in the village of Maureillas on the 9th of September. Thanks go to a great team of our CSF members for making it such a great success. The Mairie of Maureillas kindly allows us to use Prat de la Fargue for this annual event. This event consists of two walks, one of 8kms and another much shorter. Petanque was played for those less energetic. This was followed by a picnic lunch and convivial exchanges.

Hopefully there will be a Christmas market in December but the venue has not yet been decided.

What does the future hold for CSF in the PO for 2022:- We still will have our friend the Covid virus with us which may affect what we are able to do.

Several Vide Greniers may be held in Canet and elsewhere, courtesy of La Ligue, who will provide us with a stall.

An event in Eus is on the cards for spring next year. It could be another quiz night if the gallant team are willing to organise it once again.

Our monthly Newsletter written by Diana Eastaff keeps our members up date with all that is happening here in the PO. Thank you Diana for all your hard work.

The coffee mornings and book exchange will certainly be on going.

Lastly, thanks to all who help in the PO. There are too many to name individually. Thanks too to our speaker for giving up his valuable time to talk about the Palliative Care Mobile Unit in the PO, to the manager, M Laborde and staff, for making us so welcome in his establishment once again.

All that remains for me to say is that I hope you enjoy the rest of the morning.