



**Cancer Support France – Sud de France
Aude, Ariège, Pyrénées-Orientales, Tarn with Tarn-et-Garonne**

Report to AGM 26 January 2022

Pyrénées-Orientales

Introduction

Well, here we are again, trying to write a report with the elephant in the room, Covid-19. Where should I start to give you a flavour of a still not normal year for CSF in the PO?

Frankie Ward, who joined me last year as co-Departmental Representative, has not had a great deal of opportunity to spread her wings, so to speak. Frankie is our liaison with CAUS 66 (Collectif Associatif des Usagers de la Santé)

Maybe 2022 will enable us in the PO to promote CSF in renewed activities.

Our membership has increased to 62 which is good news.

We have 14 trained Active Listeners. Once again in 2021 our training days were affected by the virus, with only one being able to take place in July. A CSF Sud Joint Training Day was held in the Aude and this was very well received by all those who attended. Thanks to all those that made it such a success.

Local support

Our two informal drop-in/coffee mornings recommenced in July, at Pablo's bar in Ceret and Villa Lafabregue, a chambre d'hôte in Prades. The book exchange in the Cafe des Artistes in Laroque des Alberes was also able to restart. Pass sanitaire, masks etc were required in all the venues. Those who came along to these events were happy to see us.

Events

Walk for Life - Thanks to the Mayor and Conseil of the village of Maureillas, who waived their fee, we could again use the area El Farga. The weather was forecast to be horrible with rain, thunder and wind. However, the gods smiled on us and gave us a beautiful day. Thirty-five people of different nationalities joined in, along with a number of dogs on two walks of varying distances. The less energetic played pétanque. After all the activities a picnic lunch followed. We sold cakes made by our members. Beverages of various sorts were also sold. A profit of 600 euros was made. Half the registration fee was donated to La Ligue. The gallant team who organised this event have said they are happy to organise another one next year.

On 13 October we were able, at last, to hold our open meeting at the Hotel Le Mas des Arcades in Perpignan. Only 14 people attended this event. Our speaker was Doctor Charles Van Oudenhove who has worked in the Palliative Mobile Care Team in Perpignan for many years. We were concerned that because there were so few there to listen to this interesting view on palliative care, not only in the PO but nationally, he would be disappointed. I think in fact that he warmed to the intimate gathering and a very interesting discussion followed his talk. Penny

Parkinson also gave a talk on CSF National and a brief rundown on how the National Helpline works, plus the Hope project and the European Cancer Patient Coalition. Lunch followed, which is always a convivial affair.

On 28 December there was a Christmas craft fair in the salle de sport in Trouillas. Our thanks to one of our members, Morag Todd, who donated to CSF Sud the money (260 Euros) from the craft items she had made during the various lockdown. Some of our members supported her and we were able to display our leaflets promoting CSF.

La Ligue contre le cancer (la Ligue) - Philomena O'Neill is our liaison with La Ligue. Due to Covid-19 no activities took place through 2021 for our organisation to be involved with.

Publicity

Our Association is advertised four times a year in PO Life Magazine, and also in their weekly newsletter. We have a Facebook page and a CSF Sud website. Diana Eastaff writes our monthly newsletter to all our members.

2022 - What can we expect from the PO?

We hope that the drop-ins/coffee mornings and book exchange can continue without any new restrictions.

In addition we are planning to hold a quiz night in Eus in May, a walk for life in September, hold our annual Open Meeting some time in October, and organise a Bien-Etre event at the Villa La Fabregue in Prades on the 16th of November. There will also be additional events throughout the year.

Thanks

Last but certainly not least a big 'thank you' to all the Active Listeners who have provided support to clients, those who came to the coffee mornings/drop-ins and the book exchanges. Thanks also to Diana Eastaff for her interesting monthly newsletter. Thanks to Gill Harrison for doing the monthly availability list, Penny Parkinson for organising our training days. Thanks Phil for your continued liaison with La Ligue. A huge thanks to all the various teams at the events through 2021.

We are very fortunate in the PO to have such dedication by our members to CSF Sud. We could not achieve half of what we do without you.

Again **thank you** all.

Maggie Longworth and Frankie Ward
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January 2022