



AFMS NEWS

Autumn 2020

AFMS
www.anglofrenchmedical.org

Issue number 88
Charity Number 327706

Le Covid Dix - Neuf

A Word From Our President

Covid -19 has been devastating for societies like ours. At an early stage we cancelled our medical French weekend in Lille, and shortly afterwards, took the difficult decision to postpone the autumn meeting in



Manchester. With the benefit of hindsight, these decisions were clearly correct. There remains considerable uncertainty regarding the on-going pandemic, and at the meeting of the committee, held by video link-up on 19th September, we decided that the risks remain too high to attempt to run our medical French weekend in spring 2021, so that has been shelved to 2022.

We are rather more optimistic regarding the 2021 autumn meeting. The various venues in Manchester have all allowed us to roll over our bookings to next year, and it remains our plan that this will take place between 22nd and 25th September 2021. We very much hope to have the same first-class array of guest speakers who had agreed to come this year. Fingers crossed...

Those members who enjoy the annual winter meeting in Chamonix may be wondering what our plans are with that. It is difficult to know currently whether this can go ahead- but the management of the hotel has been extraordinarily generous and have suggested that they will keep our block booking of rooms open until the last minute. Therefore we shall only need to make a "go or no-go" decision at the end of December. There is a booking form for the Chamonix meeting enclosed with this newsletter and if you would like to come, please complete it, and send it and your cheque to Tony Ridge as normal. We shall not, however, cash those cheques until it is clear that the meeting is going ahead. Presently I fear that there is only a 50% likelihood that it will happen.

(continued)



AFMS -Instagram.

We now have an Instagram account. Please visit us at

<https://www.instagram.com/anglofrenchmedicalsociety/>

In This Issue

A message from our President.

Chamonix meeting
Booking form

Covid 19. A postcard from Cheshire. Part two

Committee Update.

Petites Annonces

Meeting and Events

• January 2021

Winter Conference Chamonix.
28th of January to the 31st of January 2021.

• September 2021

Scientific Conference Manchester, UK.
22nd of September to the 25th September 2021.

AFMS NEWS

Societies like ours should have an annual general meeting. This would have happened in Manchester, but clearly is not going to take place. The UK Government has recognized this difficulty, and have advised that in view of the current pandemic, trustees of charities “may decide to cancel or postpone any meeting” but if so, “the decision to do so should be formally recorded to demonstrate good governance”.

The Committee decided that we should not insist on an AGM this year, and so the next AGM will be in Manchester. That decision is recorded in the minutes of the Committee meeting, and I present it here to you all, as members. If anyone is uncomfortable with this somewhat unsatisfactory compromise, or if there is any burning issue which you would have raised at this year's AGM, then please let me know. Meanwhile for those committee members who were due to step down, or to seek re-election this year, I thought it reasonable to let their tenure run for another 12 months. I hope that is acceptable to everyone.

Prenez bien soin de vous et de vos proches!

Best wishes to all.

Dr Colin Mumford.

A brief note from Our Treasurer; Izhar Khan

The Covid 19 pandemic has affected our finances for the year 2020 and we have had to cancel both the Manchester Meeting and Lille Medical French Course.

We had as usual made payments in advance for the course to various vendors prior to the restrictions and the Committee has agreed to try and carry these forwards for the 2022 meeting.

I expect our deposit towards the Manchester meeting to be carried forward. It is, however, impossible to predict how the situation will evolve over time.

The pandemic has also resulted in a slight delay in finalising the Society's accounts ending 30 June 2020 but we are confident that they will be ready for the Trustees to review in the near future.

If any member has any questions or queries regarding our accounts, please contact me via our administrative secretary and I will respond accordingly.

Best wishes to all.

Dr Izhar Khan.

AFMS NEWS

Chamonix Winter Conference January 28th to January 31st 2021

The 21st AFMS Winter meeting will be held in Chamonix, Haute Savoie, France at the Hotel Aiguille du Midi from the 28th of January to the 31st January 2021. The family run hotel is recommended for value and comfort and is 3km from the centre of Chamonix. It has 40 comfortable rooms and a restaurant, offering a traditional quality cuisine, a wide variety of dishes and Savoy specialities. Travelling to Chamonix is very easy. Geneva is the closest airport and various companies offer transfers with a drop off and collection to and from the hotel. If anyone would like to give a presentation at the meeting, please let the admin secretary know when returning the booking form, enclosed.



French Medical Weekend 2022

Our next French medical weekend will be in Lille from the 8th to the 9th April 2022. The course venue became Lille, France, as a celebration of the silver anniversary in 2017. Delegates have the opportunity to be immersed in French during meals and free time and to experience the beautiful centre of 'vieux' Lille. This course provides an invaluable foundation for those planning to work or undertake student electives in French-speaking countries, or to work with organisations such as Médecins sans Frontières. Full details are on our website.



A brief message from Caroline Tran Van

My name is Caroline Tran Van and I have been a member of the AMFB for eight years. I have just started a doctoral thesis on a comparative history of medical training and practices in France and the UK from 1945 onwards. I will look more specifically at the relationship between universities and university hospitals in the training of medical students.

My dissertation supervisor is Ms Clarisse Berthezene, a professor in Modern British history and the current Vice-Chancellor of the Université de Paris. She would like me to have a co-supervisor in England to supervise this research. If you have any contact in this field, I would be very grateful if you could put me in touch with them.



Regards

Dr Caroline Tran Van (caroline.tranvan@gmail.com)

The Sequel: A postcard from Cheshire - Part 2

One of the problems of advanced years (and there are many) is the loss of one's short term memory. Forgetting where things are (glasses, keys, wife etc.) is at times frustrating but, on the plus side, searching consumes a great deal of time, of which we have plenty.

Living within an 800 acre Country Park helps and having a dog ensures that we are outside for a significant portion of the day whatever the weather. My contribution to defeating the pandemic is a canine testing service. I am training the poodle to sniff out positive cases just like her airport cousins. The methodology is that the poodle approaches the person (or couple - she can multi-task) and delivers a negative result by a vigorous tail-wag. For this service, she returns to her master for a well-earned treat. She can spot Covid positive people from a significant distance with no tail wag and no reward. I accept that there may be a flaw since all the positives appear to be owners of Dobermans, Rottweilers and Bullmastiffs. Work in progress perhaps.

Long term memory should be intact at our age or so they say. We remember 1968 for the assassination of Bobby Kennedy and Martin Luther King, and the Vietnam war. However we have absolutely no recollection of the second most deadly pandemic of the 20th Century. It was the year I turned 18, took my A-levels, holidayed in France with my BTB (bride to be) at Easter, spent the summer in France and started at Med. School in the autumn. At no time were we aware of "Hong Kong Flu" or the 30,000 deaths it caused in the UK. No schools closed, no exams were disrupted and the only social distancing was under parental supervision between the hours of 10pm and 8am. The Health Minister said little and it was left to local medical officers to decide on appropriate action*.

Humour and hygge helps us cope. In the USA a typo on a police order in Harris County instructing all to wear face masks recommending homemade masks, scarves or *bananas* - one of your five-a-day perhaps?

The best summary was a billboard seen on the Peace Lutheran Church in Canada that read: "Can we uninstall 2020 and install it again? This version has a virus."

* *Revisiting the 1957 and 1968 Influenza Pandemics by Mark Honigsbaum. The Lancet. May 25th 2020.*



Committee

Dr Colin Mumford
(President)
Dr Izhar Khan
(Treasurer)
Dr John Altrip
(Hon Secretary)
Dr Tim Reilly
Dr Zara Bieler
(Webmaster)
Dr Mark Cottrill
(co-opted member)
Dr Andrew Hassan
Dr Carol Barton
Dr Nick Mc Carthy
Dr James Mc Donald
Dr Clara Farque
Dr Bryan Dunsmore
Dr Jacqueline Emery

Did you know?

France could make up for its financial losses amid the pandemic by selling the Mona Lisa, a tech CEO has suggested.

Stephane Distinguin, a company CEO, believes that France should "sell the family jewellery" for at least €50 billion (£44.7 billion).

He believes that France should sell this valuable asset at the highest price possible to help pay for any economic losses caused by the pandemic.

Mark and Liz Cottrill (once 18)