

Tetbury & District U3A French Conversation Group

The Leader

An ex-English as a Foreign Language teacher whose French has at times been fluent. I am not an expert on French grammar (although don't get me started on English!) and will not be your teacher. My aim will be to enable the group(s) to take place and, using my language teaching and workshop leader experience, facilitate decision making on how the group(s) should progress.

When and where do we meet?

Each group will meet once a month for a two hour session, including set up and clear up. The first ever sessions in the **autumn of 2019 will be 26th September and 24th October.**

The venue for September and October is yet to be confirmed but will be a hired hall somewhere in Tetbury. It may be that the groups will meet in members' homes after that. Details will be sent to group members.

What do we do?

Over a bring and share lunch, we imagine we're in France for an hour or two, having done a bit of preparation beforehand for a topic, if needed, and try our French out in a friendly, supportive atmosphere.

The larger part of each session will be in French only, with no English spoken. There will be feedback and discussion at the end of each session, in English, to talk about how it went and how the group wants to continue.

The topic for our first meeting on September 26th 2019 is 'Getting to Know You over Food'. Subsequent topics will be decided by the group.

Depending on your level of fluency, you might like to do some preparation before the meeting. There are free language learning sites online. I'm going to brush up with the BBC French Site which has sections for beginners and above <http://www.bbc.co.uk/languages/french/>.

You might like to use other language learning sites or printed book courses or the online free translation services, (although be aware of "false friends", here and in dictionaries, that are direct translations but don't fit the context.

Don't worry too much about this however, some preparation will be advisable if you aren't confident but the aim is to communicate, even if it's franglais and sign language at first - it's what you would have to do if you were in France and eventually, with bit of preparation each time, you'll increase your communication skills and get more confident, which may be all you need. You can bring a dictionary if you want it to refer to in sessions.

The September and October 2019 sessions will be exploratory, with a large group of mixed fluency members. As a result of these first two sessions, the group may decide to divide into two and meet separately. This would be on the second and fourth Thursdays of the month. The way the group develops will be decided by the members as a result of the September and October sessions.

What does it cost?

Members will bring food and drink to share and take away anything of theirs that isn't used. When a hired venue is needed, the cost will be shared equally between all who attend. The fee is unlikely to be more than £5 each, per meeting. Please bring your contribution in cash, we cannot accept cheques.

Attendance

We may decide to meet even if we only have 3 members available for a session but, if we are using a hall with a charge, there will need to be an agreed minimum number to cover costs and you will need to let the group leader know if you can't attend so a decision about venue can be made.

Please try not to arrive late for the September session. I will start each session on time.

Who can attend?

All members of Tetbury U3A are welcome to join the group(s), until the point where we might have to declare the group 'full' and put applicants on a waiting list. A guest (non member) may attend for one or two meetings to see if they would like to join.

Transport

Parking is difficult anywhere in Tetbury, and with the environment in mind, please, if you can, walk to the meeting. Your individual food contribution only needs to be for one person, so bring it in a back pack?

Group Code of Behaviour

We'll decide as a group what we need from each other but may I suggest initially: a friendly, accepting, tolerant, respectful attitude, helping each other be confident to communicate to the best of our abilities, especially in mixed fluency sessions. None of us should be in the role of teacher or pupil but, if we can help out with a word or phrase to understand each other, let's do it.

Want to Join Us?

Submit your details to the Tetbury & District U3A Membership Secretary on this website.