

## Tetbury & District U3A French Conversation Group

The first ever session of this group was in the autumn of 2019, on 26th September. The Covid epidemic interrupted briefly until we discovered Zoom and we had a joyful reunion in the garden of the Close Hotel when restrictions eased.

### The Leader

An ex-English as a Foreign Language teacher whose French is reasonably 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 to take place and, using my language teaching and workshop leader experience, devise activities to practice French and facilitate decision making on how the group should progress.

### When and where do we meet?

The group meets twice a month in Tetbury for a two hour session at local hotels: first Monday at 3pm at the Royal Oak for a Conversation session on a topic chosen by the group and third Thursday 10am at the Priory for songs and games.

### What do we do?

We are a friendly, welcoming group. We imagine we're in France for an hour or two in the company of other French speakers who will forgive any mistakes. This allows us to try out our French in a friendly, supportive atmosphere.

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

All levels of French are welcome. You might like, or be asked, to do some preparation before the meetings. Some preparation will be advisable for the conversation sessions, 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. In the Thursday sessions, we sing a French song, great for building vocabulary and working on pronunciation and fluency and we play games to make the repetition needed in practising the language entertaining and less daunting.

### What does it cost?

The venues allow us to meet there for the price of a drink. Occasionally you will be asked to contribute towards the costs of new game materials.