

Newsletter

Summer 2024



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Report from Andrew Swift - President - Cancer Support France Haute-Vienne

Being the newbie and World Cancer Day Report

Hello to all. As I write my first report for you as President of our association I have to admit it has certainly been a steep learning curve for me since January. However, I am enjoying the challenge even though I seem to think about something that I need to do or to discuss with someone about Cancer Support France most days. Note pads are good for this!

We, as an association, have had a very good start to the year. During the first few months we have received some generous fundraised amounts and I have been very humbled by the wonderful people that wish to hold fundraising events for us.

Importantly we have also completed the major official changes to our association by registering a change in our headquarters address. In addition myself, our treasurer and our secretary registered officially with the French Associations Journal ([JOAFE](#)) and registered the changes in our already excellent statutes. All this was also registered with the prefecture of the Haute-Vienne.

I attended the AGM and Development Day for Cancer Support France National in Cahors, in April. It was good to meet other presidents and representatives from other associations to make friends and contacts and talk about how we do things so differently in each of our associations.

Andrew Swift (President – Cancer Support France Haute-Vienne)

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Events Report

World Cancer Day

Sunday 4th February this year was World Cancer Day. We wanted to create awareness about the work of Cancer Support France Haute-Vienne and all our associations around the country

At our first event, in the north of the Haute-Vienne on 3rd February, we hosted a fundraising lunch at Chloébelle's restaurant in Oradour-Saint-Genest. Those who attended gave generously by paying for their meal, buying raffle tickets, donating raffle prizes freely and giving unsolicited donations. The staff at Chloébelle's worked for free to serve us on the day and mine hosts, Dee and Stef, donated a generous 50€ because we were all good boys and girls and kept the same cutlery for the starters and main courses. The restaurant had been beautifully set out with napkins in our colours of blue and purple and flowers were placed on the tables.

Our volunteers for Cancer Support France Haute-Vienne also worked tirelessly to make sure that everything worked like clockwork. Thank you to our Active Listeners who attended the lunch, Sue, Liz, Karen, Sharron, Barbara and Michele and helped organise the raffles and prepared the tables with personalised cards.



On the following day, 4th February, in the south of our area; close to Brive, two of our Active Listeners, Karen and Shirley, organised a fundraising lunch at Shirley's house and gardens.

They had beautiful sunny weather. Perfect for an outdoor lunch. It was an unqualified success and over 50 people attended to enjoy a home cooked lunch, listen to an invited choir and leave money 'au chapeau'.

Karen and Shirley were well supported by a team of enthusiastic volunteers to help them on the day.

They raised another enormous amount.



Swap Shop

There has also been a generous amount donated to us by the Swap Shop organisation who hold their events at La Ribiere Sud campsite in Pageas. I attended, and I would like to thank Gwen, Harry and Ann for inviting me, organising the event and being so generous in their donation. It was good to meet and talk to those who attended and supported us



Maple Tree Yoga

Another business supporting us, Maple Tree Yoga, have organised delicious afternoon tea events and organised raffles where the proceeds are donated to our association.

They have been so generous in their support, not only by collecting for us but also taking our leaflets and talking about our work. If you get a chance to go to one of their Afternoon Teas they are usually once a month. Take a look at their Facebook page

Thank you to Jo and Dean and Fiona for all their hard work. We will see you again soon for another delicious tea.



A Big Thank You

We would like to take this opportunity again to thank all of our Supporting Members for their continued support. You are an enormous benefit to our association and help not only with subscriptions but by talking to others about our work. Also to those who supported and attended our events, the money you donate, as Supporting Member or an event attendee, helps us raise awareness of our organisation through advertising, our website, publicity materials and our Facebook page. We also use the funds to continually train new Active Listeners and carry out on-going training with our existing team. We are also looking at new ways to reach clients and to do this we have formed a team from our Active Listeners to investigate the possibility of hospital liaison work with English speaking patients in the hospitals in our area.

Lastly, and most importantly, another big thank you all members of our team in the Haute-Vienne for their support over the last few months. Thank you team.

Future Events

We have several events planned for the second half of the year and we will advertise these on our website and our Facebook page in the very near future. Keep watching them.

How is Cancer Support France Haute-Vienne Organised and Managed?

On the 4th June we held our second Training Day of the year at the Salle de Fêtes in Chéronnac in the south of the Haute-Vienne. A beautiful village that has the source of the Charente river running through it. At the Training Day we discussed ideas for the future of our association and how we should continue helping our clients in different ways.

With the above in mind, we would like to give you a short insight and reminder of how our association works and how your membership fees are used.

Cancer Support France Haute-Vienne (CSF H-V) is registered as an association in France under the 1901 Law of Associations. This law 'Loi de 1901' is designed to allow a group of two or more people to meet and to raise funds as well as having the advantage of being a legal entity. The law allows any group of individuals to set up a legally-recognised association without incurring too much red tape or expensive cotisations. Associations can make profits, but only for re-investment or to cover costs. In our case a charitable non-profit organisation.

Our association has an Administration Council, which meets online three times a year to discuss the operation, management and decisions of the association. We are allowed by our statutes to have up to 7 people on the council. At the moment there are 6 members of the council at this time. They are the members of the Bureau of the association, the president, the treasurer (both legally responsible under law for the correct operation of the association), and the secretary and the other members are the Acting Deputy President, the Team Trainer and the Active Listener Coordinator.

The Acting Deputy President will act on behalf of the president.

The Active Listener Coordinator liaises with our President and the national helpline staff to deal with calls and emails directed to our association from potential clients.

The Team Trainer liaises with the President and Administration Council to determine the on-going training needs of the association. We have at least three training days a year. These are done in a classroom situation.

Most importantly we have our Active Listeners who liaise with the President and the Administration Council and are our first line of contact with our clients. They interact with clients over the telephone and their role is to be just listeners. We do not give medical advice or make recommendations. We are simply there to listen.

Lastly, an important role for some of our Active Listeners is their other role as Language Supporters. They will provide support for medical meetings (normally in person or, occasionally, over the phone), help fill in forms or offer translation suggestions.

We use our resources and funds to raise awareness, for publicity and publicity materials, travel expenses and sometimes to help with expenses for fundraising events.

So that is us, helping English speakers, of any nationality, who are touched by cancer in France.

Our Volunteers Talk About What They Do For Cancer Support France

In this edition of the newsletter we feature Karen, one of our Administration Council members and one of the founders of CSF Haute-Vienne, who is also National Secretary of Cancer Support France National. We are proud to have her as part of our association. Here she talks about her role as National Secretary.

I was invited to become Secretary in 2023. A new role created as part of Cancer Support France national bureau, as previously CSF had a paid administrator.

I must confess that I do prefer Mathematics over English, but I decided to accept, and so became part of National at their AGM.

In this role I work closely with the National bureau, as the secretary is part of the bureau, and with the Presidents and officials of the various associations. I keep them informed of information pertaining to the national organisation and have a responsibility to attend national meetings and take minutes and offer advice according to my role.

It has been so much more rewarding than I anticipated and I am really enjoying the new challenge. I have dealings with most of our fourteen associations for so many different reasons.

Last year I was privileged to attend the Presidents conference at the British Embassy in Paris, and was invited by British Ambassador to France Dame Mena to the visit of King Charles and Queen Camilla at Bordeaux.

I feel very honoured to be part of the team Cancer Support France National as their Secretary.

Training Day

As mentioned above on the 4th June we held our second Training Day of the year at the Salle de Fêtes in Chéronnac. We had a very productive and positive training day and after our usual 'baggage check' for Active Listeners, and as indicated, we discussed ideas for the future of our association and how we should continue helping our clients in different ways. We were all extremely grateful to everyone for bringing to the table many fresh and interesting ideas to be explored. Some may not work and some may but they at least were discussed and points put forward for and against.

In the afternoon we listened to our Patron, Cornelia Wilson, a senior scientist working on two types of cancer -lung cancer and uveal melanoma cancer, about how Artificial Intelligence is changing the way medicine research studies these two types of cancer. It was truly fascinating and there was much discussion and gathering of information. Thank you to Cornelia. We hope she will keep us updated for the future.



Do you know someone who would like to become a Supporting Member?

Please talk to them about it and give them the following information
Annual fees are 15€ . Contact secretary@cshautevienne.org or visit our website: <https://www.cshautevienne.org/contact-us/>

This newsletter was designed and written by Andrew Swift for Cancer Support France Haute Vienne (RNA No.: W873000485)

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