

CONSTITUTION OF *GET TOGETHER*

- a friendly association of residents with English as their mother tongue

ARTICLE 1 - STATUS

It is founded between members under the current statutes as an association governed by the laws of 1st July 1901, and 16th August 1901, having the title of GET TOGETHER.

ARTICLE 2 – AIMS AND STRUCTURE

This Association aims to set up a structure to welcome, promote networking and arrange meetings & events, principally for those having English as their mother tongue, thereby enabling them to integrate well and to participate in social life within France. Also to assist members to participate in their local communities through a better understanding of the language and culture of the country in which they have chosen to live.

The Association may organise, patronise or contribute to activities or social events, public or private, appropriate to the nature of the membership and the country of origin of the members.

ARTICLE 3 – REGISTERED OFFICE

The registered office is at Bois de Messé, 79120 Messé. It may be changed by a simple decision of the Management Committee. Ratification by the Annual General Meeting is required.

ARTICLE 4 – COMPOSITION

The Association comprises:

- a. Honorary members
- b. Members, active or otherwise
- c. Guest members
- d. Annual benefactors

ARTICLE 5 - ADMISSION

To be a part of the association it is necessary to have the agreement of the committee, which makes rulings at its normal meetings to any request for membership.

ARTICLE 6 - MEMBERS

Honorary members who have rendered significant service to the association. They are exempt from payment of the annual subscription.

Members, active or otherwise, anyone of any age, whose mother tongue is English.

Members who are neighbours and/or friends of mother tongue English speakers and live locally but do not have English as their mother tongue. Subject to the condition that there is at all times a majority of mother tongue English speakers in membership of the association and of its committee.

Guest members. All persons having paid to participate on one or several occasions in the periodic events of the association: The Management Committee will fix the amount to be paid according to the activity.

Annual benefactors. People who have made a significant donation and have paid a reduced subscription, which gives them access to some of the association's activities.

Members will agree to pay an annual subscription set by the committee and submitted to the General Assembly for approval.

The annual subscription year for the association is 1st January to 31st December. Any persons joining on or after the 1st October of the subscription year will pay the full annual subscription, but be deemed to have paid for the following year also

ARTICLE 7 - STRIKING OFF

Qualification for membership is lost by:

- a. Resignation
- b. Death
- c. Serious Misconduct that is likely to bring the association into disrepute, the person concerned having been invited by registered letter to appear before the committee to present his or her case.
- d. For the non-payment of annual subscriptions:

The procedure is; subscriptions are due by the end of December. At the end of the following January, an e-mail/ letter will be sent giving non-payers 14 days notice of the termination of their membership. If the association receives no response, 2 months after the annual anniversary/ subscription date of the association [see article 6] the membership of the non-payer will be terminated.

ARTICLE 8 - FUNDS

The funds of the association comprise:

- a. The sum of subscriptions and fees for individual events.
- b. Grants from the state, the department or communes, and public or private organisations.
- c. The product of activities leading to the fulfilment of its statutory objectives.

ARTICLE 9 - MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

- a. The Association is managed by a Committee consisting of six members, elected for a minimum of 2 years at the AGM.
- b. Committee structure:
 1. President - Voted into Office by the Membership
 2. Secretary - Voted into Office by the Membership
 3. Treasurer - Voted into Office by the Membership
 - 4, 5 & 6. Committee Members, functions to be defined and selected from within by the committee members. The Vice-President will be selected from within by the committee members.

c. At the end of their 2-year period, committee members are eligible for re-election at the annual general meeting, if they wish to continue in office. They are re-elected by a show of hands of the members present at that annual general meeting. Or by a secret ballot at the AGM, if more than one person is standing for the following positions: President, Secretary and Treasurer.

d. Any member of the Association wishing to seek election to the committee shall complete a Proposed Nomination Form and return it to the current secretary. This form must be delivered to the current secretary's address, not less than 28 days before the next annual general meeting of the Association.

e. If the Association receives more requests for committee membership than there are current vacancies, then there will be a secret ballot at the AGM. Voting will take place at the AGM by the members present at that annual general meeting. Proxy votes will be included.

f. If the Committee or more than 20 current members has a matter or a proposal which it wishes to make or bring, an Extraordinary General Meeting can be convened. At least 21 days notice to the members of this matter or proposal in writing or by e-mail will be needed.

g. In the case of unexpected committee vacancies, the committee has the power to co-opt a provisional replacement to replace the vacancy left by the committee member leaving. To make this provisional replacement permanent it must be ratified and agreed at the next AGM. If the ratification does not take place at the AGM then any powers that person held will expire.

h. The Committee can co-opt at any time, any such other persons to help the committee to run the association more efficiently and effectively. These co-opted members will have no voting rights.

i. Other Powers of Management Committee Members:

Bank Accounts - the President, who will immediately inform the Treasurer, may open one or more bank accounts in the name of the Association. Two signatures are required on all cheques. These will be two of the following: the President, Treasurer or Secretary. In general, it is the Treasurer who will retain the Association's cheque books.

j. In the case of indisposition of the President, the Vice President will replace him or her for the current operation of the Association. All special operations such as loans or financial investments must be signed by the President and a second committee member [Treasurer or Secretary], after being previously agreed at a committee meeting.

ARTICLE 10 - COMMITTEE MEETINGS

The committee meets at least every three months, convened by the President or at the request of a quarter of its members
Decisions are taken by majority vote, the President having a casting vote in the event of a tie.

Any committee member who, without apology, has not attended three consecutive meetings may be considered to have resigned.
Only adults may be elected to the committee.

ARTICLE 11 - GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The General Assembly comprises all members. It meets once a year, in January or February. At least 56 days before the date fixed, the members of the association must be notified by the secretary of the meeting date and of the agenda.

The President, supported by members of the committee, presides over the Assembly and reports on the situation of the association.

The Treasurer gives his or her report and submits the accounts for approval by the Assembly.

As part of the AGM agenda, the Assembly replaces, by secret ballot, if appropriate, any retiring members to the committee.

Only matters contained in the agenda can be dealt with by the General Assembly. It is legitimate for the meeting to proceed whatever the number of members present.

ARTICLE 12 - INTERNAL REGULATION

An internal regulation may be established by the committee, and which must later be submitted to the General Assembly for approval. Any such regulation deals with points not foreseen by the statutes, notably concerning internal management of the association.

Article 13 Non existent

ARTICLE 14 - DISSOLUTION

In case of dissolution, pronounced by at least two thirds of the members present at the General Assembly, one or several liquidators are nominated by the assembly and the assets, if any, are allocated in accordance with Article 9 of the law of 1st July 1901 and the decree of 16th August 1901

Note *The above document incorporates all previous amendments to the Get Together Constitution including those agreed at the Extraordinary General Meeting of 14th November 2008.*