



**CENTENARY OF
SOCIETE FRANCO-BRITANNIQUE DE CARDIFF
1906 - 2006**

Arlette Ragody-Hughes and John Martin



ENGLISH VERSION

SOCIETE FRANCO-BRITANNIQUE DE CARDIFF

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Part 1: History of the Société Franco-Anglaise de Cardiff from its Foundation in 1906 until 1995

Part 2: Recent Activities of the Society

Part 3: Appendices

Acknowledgements. All illustrations, except where explicitly stated otherwise, are from the archives of the Society or its members. The generous help given by the staff of Cardiff Central Library, the Glamorgan Records Office and the National Museum of Wales is gratefully acknowledged.

Cover illustrations: top left, original artwork from the programme for a meeting of the Society on 2 December 1911 drawn by Marcel Ragody, president of the Society in 1912; bottom right, photograph of members of the Society at Mont-Saint-Michel during the trip to France in June 1999.

Part 1: The History of the Société Franco-Anglaise de Cardiff from its Foundation in 1906 until 1995

by Arlette Ragody-Hughes

This is the text of a talk given to the Society in February 1999 by Arlette Ragody-Hughes, with contributions from Russell Jones. Arlette has had a long connection with the Society. She became a member of the Society in 1938, and served in many capacities including president in 1981-82 and 1982-83. Before that, her parents were closely associated with the Society. Her father, Marcel Ragody, was president as early as 1912 and again in 1947-49 and her mother was president in 1961-63. Russell Jones also had a long association, becoming a member in 1939 and president in 1949-51.

This talk was illustrated with slides when it was first given. With the help of Arlette and her husband Grenville, I have scanned a number of the original documents and pictures used on that occasion and added them to the text below. The original talk was in French; English translation by Judy Martin

John Martin

For some years Annick [Moseley] and Claire [Davies] have been trying to convince me that I should talk to you about the history of the Société Franco-Anglaise de Cardiff and I have always said no because that would not interest you. Finally I have given in, on condition that Russell Jones, a long-standing friend and former president of the Society, would give me his support. He knows more than I do of certain aspects. The archives of the Society have provided heaps of information, as have those of my family. I have searched and sifted and trusted to my memory to do the rest.

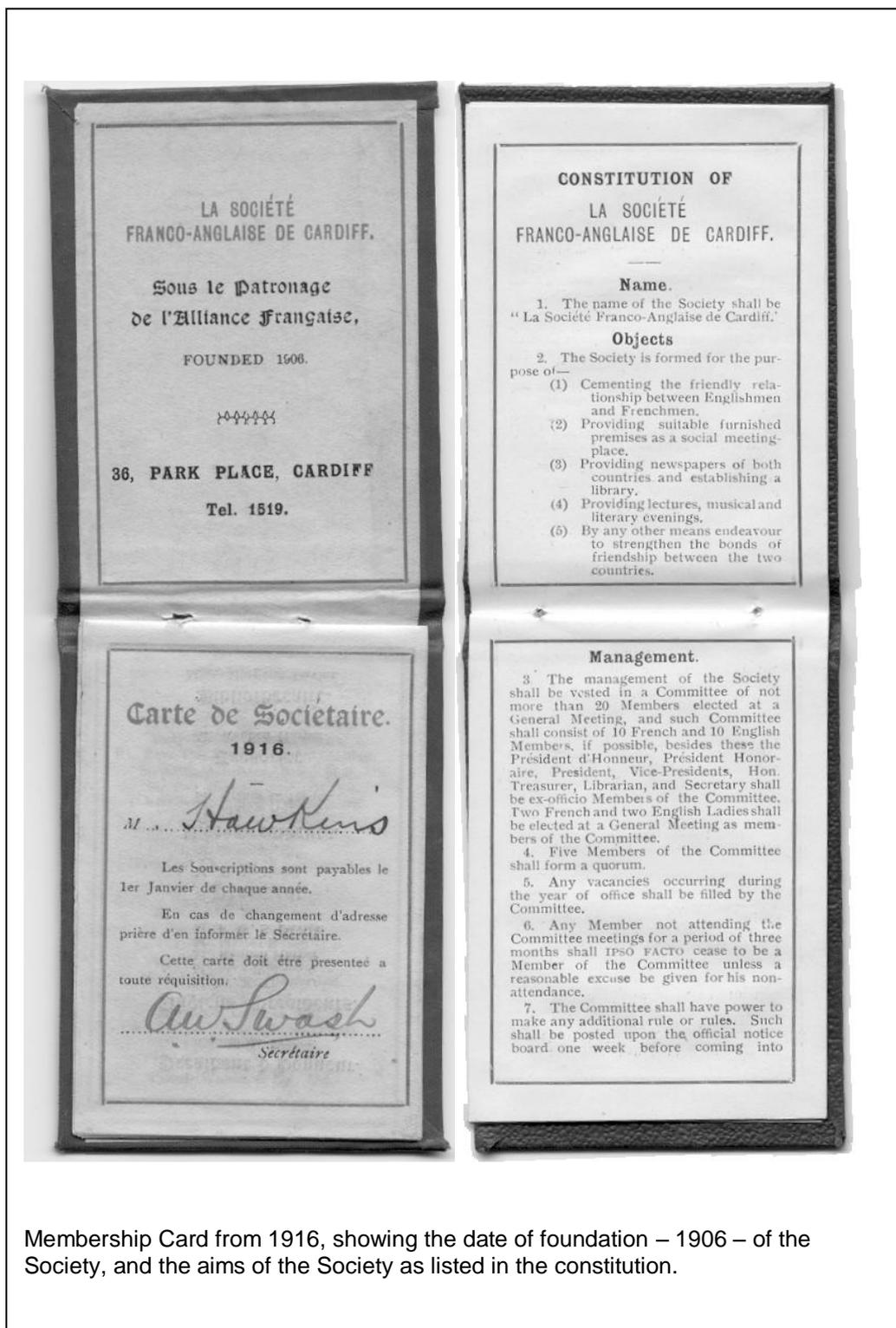
Before continuing I must apologize if the name of Ragody appears several times in the course of my talk. It is inevitable; my parents were closely tied up with the life of the Society.

I must also apologize for the quality of the slides. It is difficult to photograph old photos, cuttings from newspapers, programmes, etc.... Despite the good advice of expert photographer Bill Bryan, my husband, unfortunately, could not work miracles. I thank them both. [For this printed version the original documents have been re-scanned.]

Long lists of dates and names would bore you. I have decided to minimise this information in favour of recounting amusing anecdotes that I have come across, but in the context of the history of the Society.

The first questions posed are WHEN, WHY and HOW was the Society started. If you look at your programmes you will find the answer to the first question – in 1906. In answer to the second question, WHY, I will quote, in English, from what was written on the back of one of the first programmes: “For the promotion of friendly relations and mutual understanding between the peoples of France and Great Britain, primarily by encouraging the study of the French language and culture”.

It was the time of the Entente Cordiale, the year when this entente was cemented. It was also the time when the export of coal from Wales was at its height and when the ports of the Bristol Channel were very busy trading with France. These same ships returned loaded with iron ore and props for the mines, mostly from the area of Landes where there are many pine forests. A ship did not have to sail with ballast.



Membership Card from 1916, showing the date of foundation – 1906 – of the Society, and the aims of the Society as listed in the constitution.

As a result of the trade a number of French people came to the ports of Wales in order to learn English, the shipping business and the coal trade. You may not be aware that before the First War there was no need for a passport, or any permit, to settle in Britain. It is fair to say that it was “La Belle Epoque”.

*Société
Franco-Anglaise
de Cardiff*

*30 Décembre
1910*

*Romance Perceuse de Saurage,
Reno et Mandoline H. Lambert & Saint.*

*L'anglais tel qu'on le parle.
Sketch*

*La musique des trottoirs.
Air populaire H. Faguet*

*Frais sourire.
Mandoline H. Lambert & Saint.*

*C'est J'dion.
Abondance H. Marnois*

*J'ai un petit français.
Sketch*

*La fille à sa mère.
Histoire Napol H. Faguet*

La Marseillaise.

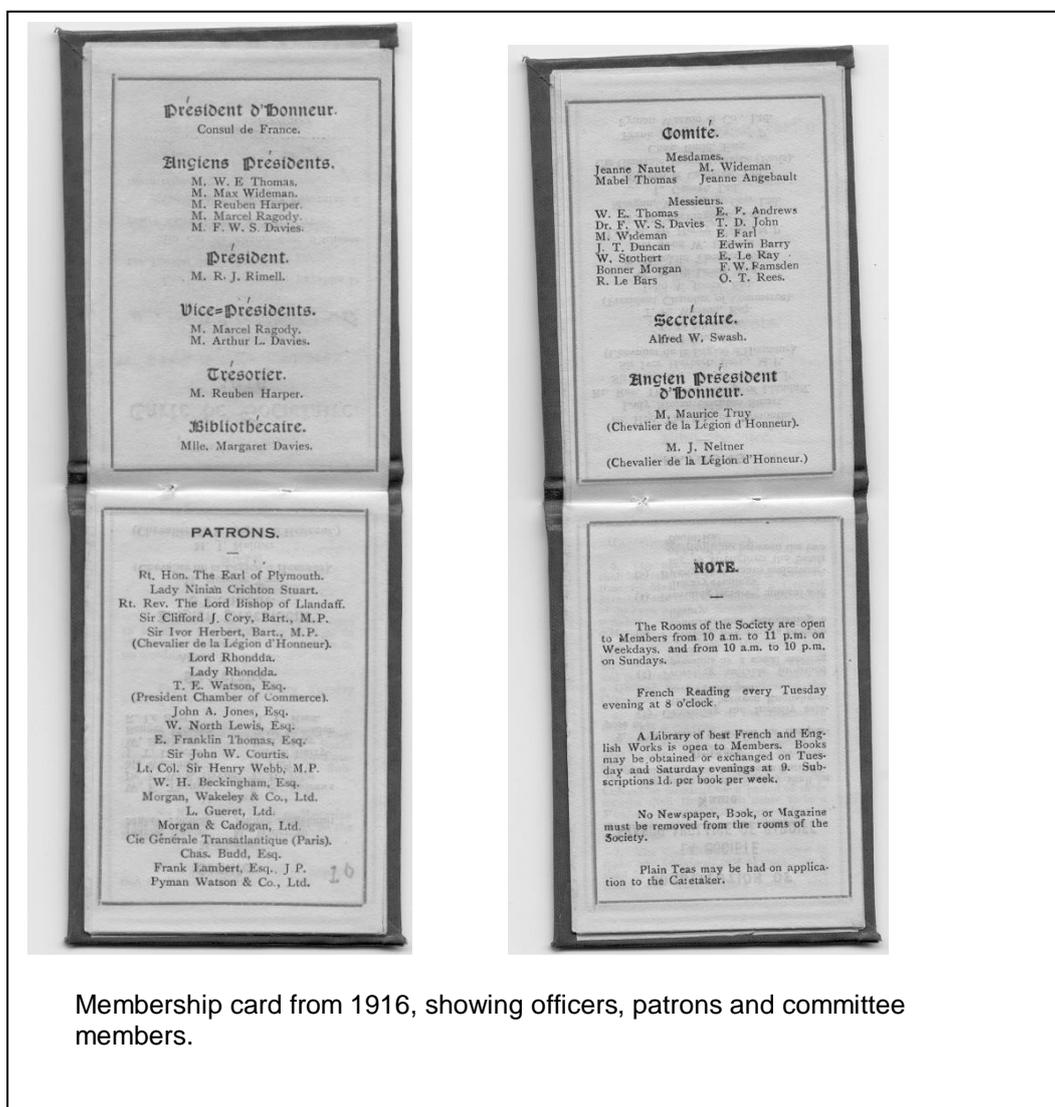
God Save the King

*P.S. Les organisateurs se réservent le droit de
modifier le programme ci-dessus, si besoin est.*

Programme for a musical evening of the Society on 30 December 1910.

So, the WHY, which is our second question is answered. It was in part because of the commercial rapport between France and Britain that brought a number of French here.

The answer to the third question, which is the HOW, is as follows. Professor Barbier was the first person to hold the chair of French at the University of Cardiff; Mr Max Wideman was a docksman, originally from France, an important man, very well respected and a Francophile; Mr W. E. Thomas was also a docksman and also a Francophile and was an eminent man. It was these three people who founded the Society. Prof. Barbier was the first president, Mr Thomas the vice-president. Among the early members we have found 58 names, of which 26 are French! Among the 26 I have noticed the name of Paul Aicard (Pauline [Thompson's] grand-father). We will return to that name soon.



Membership card from 1916, showing officers, patrons and committee members.

In its early days the Society rented premises at 3 Park Place. Would you believe that among the archives there are several books which have, on the covers, the Society's stamp, with the address, crisp and clear? The minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the first years of the Society have unfortunately disappeared. Without these stamped books we would know nothing about it. Later the Society rented 31 Park Place. This house belonged to Mr Vatchell (an old Cardiff family).

In 1911 a third move led the Society to 36 Park Place where it remained until 1948. A copper plaque was put up. It still exists in the Society's archives.

Three locations in 5 years!



Before talking about the activities of the Society before the First War, between the wars and during and after the Second World War, I want to tell you the story of how this famous house at 36 Park Place was bought and sold.

In 1918 immediately after the end of the First War the committee considered buying the house. They entered into negotiations. The sum involved was £1,200. Messrs W. Thomas, M. Wideman, and R. Harper stood as guarantors and offered to advance the money free of interest.

In January 1919 a General Meeting was convened to consider the purchase of the property. In 1920, more precisely on 1 January 1920, the house was bought by the guarantors for £1,200. On 4 November 1920 (that is to say ten months later) the house was sold to Judge Kirkhouse Jenkins for double that amount, £2,400. The guarantors were reimbursed and the "House Account" was opened with the rest of the money. The Society reached an agreement

with the new owner that they could remain there for 21 years, the rent to rise by £5 every three years.

The guarantors had done well! The Society began by paying £50 a year and had in addition the interest on their investment of £1,200.



French members of the Society – 14 November 1910

Lambert Sentuc Bordier Mauvoisin
Orf Maynan undeciphered Forgues Ragody

Now I will go back. I have said to you that the reports of the first meetings of the Society between 1906 and 1916 are missing BUT I do have membership cards, one dated 1911, one 1912 and one 1916.

Among the list of patrons are the Earl of Plymouth and the Marquis of Bute. The subscription was one guinea for men and 12/6 for ladies.

The Président d'Honneur was the French consul. The Président Honoraire was Mr Wideman – one of the founders. The president was Mr Harper.

What I do know is that my father was president in 1912. I have a watercolour painted by an artist of the time, a member of the "Welsh Watercolour Association", Parker Hagarty. This watercolour was given to my parents, by the Society, on the occasion of their marriage in 1912. A label on the back of the frame states this.

I also have several photos and programmes which depict the activities of the Society during the years when the written archives have been lost.

In August 1914 young Frenchmen were called up to serve their country. The French members of the Society, including my father, returned to France without delay. Of twenty committee members ten were French and ten were British.



South Wales Daily News – 4 August 1914



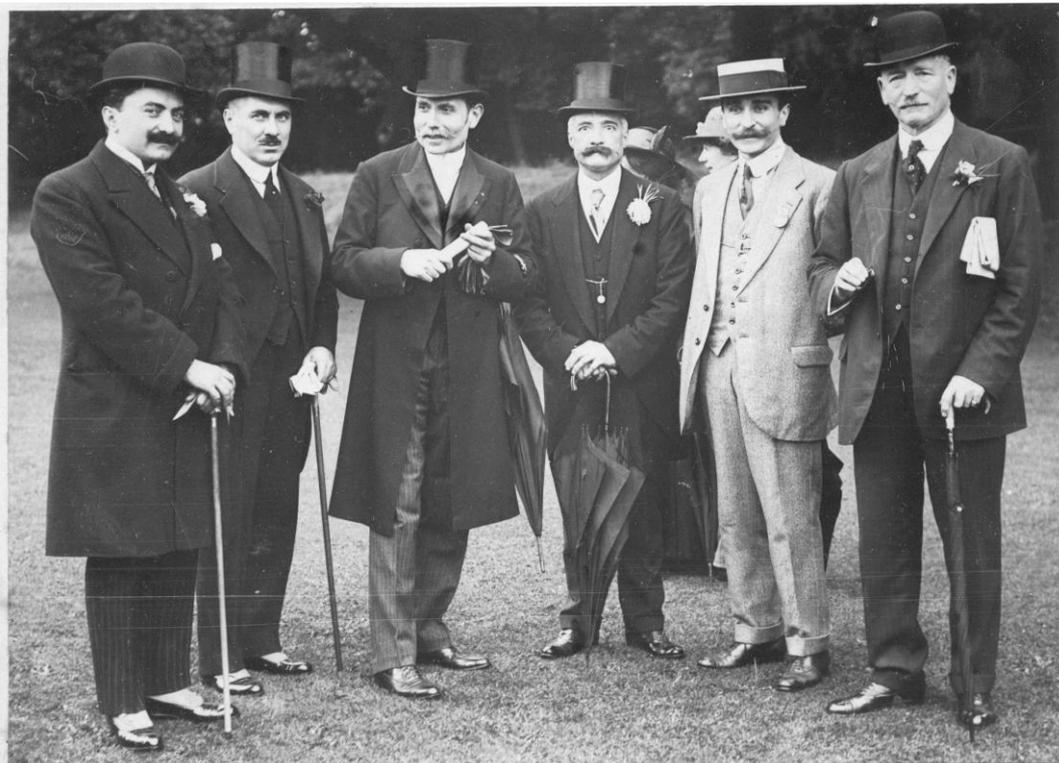
South Wales Daily News – Professor Barbier, a founder of the Society, sees his sons leave for the French Army.



In 1915, the Fête Nationale was celebrated in style in the grounds of Cardiff Castle.

Left: Programme of the event.

Below: Distinguished members of the Society were in attendance. Those identified include: M. Monnet, French Consul (2nd left), Max Wideman (4th left), Marcel Ragody (5th left), A. W. Travis (extreme right).



The Archives stop in 1907 and begin again in 1916 and I take up my talk again in 1916. I have noticed that in that year the Society contributed to the "Belgian Refugee Fund". A significant number of Belgian refugees had settled in Cardiff.



A Mardi Gras evening before World War 1.

In 1917 Mr P. Aicard, already mentioned as a founding member, was in Paris and he sent ten guineas to cover his arrears of subscription. Also in 1917 Lord Merthyr became a member and there were 270 members!

The garage of the building was rented at £15 per annum thanks to Mrs Jones, the caretaker, the wife of a policeman. They lived in the basement. She was paid 10/- as thanks for having negotiated this business. Payment of a bill for coal was authorised (for heating).

In 1918 at the Annual General Meeting, the President remarked on the growth of the Society and remarked that French was being taught more. The speakers were becoming more expensive but the subscriptions originating from the docks companies had, in some cases, doubled. The ladies of the Society had made a huge effort and contributed to the "French Wounded Emergency Fund". In April of that year the financial situation was satisfactory and it was suggested that the boy and girl at the top of their class in the Cardiff secondary schools should be honorary members for twelve months. All the schools accepted this offer with thanks except Canton High which was waiting for the return from France of the French teacher Mr Godin.

I hand over to Russell Jones.

Mr J. S. Godin

Originally from Lille, after working in business in France and then in England (in Sheffield I think), he became a teacher of French, first at Brecon County School and then at Canton High School, Cardiff, where he was appointed in 1908.

In 1914 he responded to the mobilisation call and found himself in France where he passed several years before being hospitalised. He recounted to me how he had spent several days in a cellar, incapable of moving, but thanks to a knowledge of first aid he was able to stop the flow of blood. He passed several months in hospital but he suffered from his wounds for the rest of his life.

He was a wonderful teacher. His pupils and even his colleagues profited from his mastery of both French and English. For many years he ran courses for adults under the auspices of the WEA and here also he made a reputation for himself.

He was a charming man, liked and respected by all who knew him. He was greatly missed when he left the High School in 1944 on his retirement.

Unfortunately several years later he fell ill while on holiday in Nantes, where he owned a small property, and he died in his native land.

In 1918 Mr Lloyd George agreed to become honorary president of the Society.

The Society must have acquired a piano because it was declared an encumbrance and was sold for £22 in January 1918.

A list of members who died in the war was compiled.

In May 1919 Miss Bunting, a member of the committee, loaned a piano BUT in December of the same year a complaint was made about the attitude of the caretaker, Mrs Jones, towards certain members. She is reported to have declared, "Undue bawling and noisy singing has been indulged in and that dancing was a common occurrence to the annoyance of herself and Mr Jones." Miss Bunting declared that her piano had been misused!

Also in 1919 the second floor had been successfully rented. The Ladies Committee organised a stall at the Fete in Sophia Gardens after which £100 was donated to the "St Dunstan's Blind Institute".

The annual ball at the White Rooms, Park Hotel made a profit of £15.16s.0d.

On 16 March 1920 the floor of No 36 was declared safe for dancing which raises the question of THE PIANO. A fund was launched to buy a piano. Mr Wideman gave £5 – remember that he was one of the founders. Whist drives and dances were organised to procure the necessary funds.

In 1921 the programme offered:

- 6 talks
- 2 dances with not more than 40 people (because of the floor)
- 2 whist drives
- 2 concerts

Every Tuesday there was a reading group. L'Alliance Française in London regularly sent books for the library. A dinner took place to mark the Armistice.

In 1922

1. It was unanimously decided that a telephone should be installed for the Secretary.
2. A committee was formed to organise tea once a week from 4.30 to 7.30 p.m. so that members could meet and play cards. Once a month there was a dance.
3. Once a year members put on a play.
4. A catalogue of books was drawn up.
5. Note this: There was a question of a visit by a French ladies football team. It was decided that they would visit the Society on the morning of the match. Arrangements for receiving them were put in hand.

That same year Professor Morgan Watkins of the Department of French at the University was elected to the committee. He hoped that he would be able to have reciprocal arrangements between the Society and the students for the speakers – (he was the uncle of Olwen South, a current member of the Society).

In 1923 I have noted a 'Flannel Dance and Picnic' for 14 July. Departure at 2 p.m. in 'charabancs' to Southerndown. The members had to take their own tea. At 6 p.m. depart for Cowbridge for a 'Flannel Dance and Sit-Down Supper'. Men wore flannels and sports coats.

In 1923 it was decided to purchase 18 chairs cheap.

In 1924 the committee decided that young French people "de court passage" should be admitted as honorary members.

In 1925 the secretary had to communicate with the gas company over the poor lighting. Expenses exceeded revenues but the Society was in good shape despite the financial depression elsewhere. Do not forget the "House Account", which helped out thanks to the interest which it earned.

In 1926 they had to withdraw £30 from the "House Account" to make ends meet.

In 1927 the Ambassador presided at the Annual Conference of the Alliance Française which took place in Cardiff. The dinner was at the Park Hotel. Twenty-seven delegates of the Alliance Française were entertained that evening at the premises of the Society. Professor M. Watkins invited the members of the Society to the university to hear a speech to be given by the Ambassador to the students and teaching staff.

Electric lighting was installed at No 36 as well as a gas fire (advancing from coal to gas).

In 1928 a unanimous decision was taken that on Armistice Day a notice should be inserted in the local newspapers in memory of members of the Society who had fallen on the battlefield.

On 14 July there was a visit to St. Fagans, the castle belonging to the Earl of Plymouth who was a patron of the Society in 1916.

In 1929 it was suggested that a telephone should be installed as well as a cigarette machine and a machine to dispense chocolate.

The reading circle had begun again in 1919 and in 1929 it was led by Madame Godin. The Thursday social evenings were under the aegis of Madame Ragody.

In 1931 the first soirée of the winter took place with no less than the Marchioness of Bute as the principal guest and free coffee and biscuits provided by the Society...very generous!!

The committee decided to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the Society with a dinner on October 19.

In 1932 the reading circle was so large that two classes were organised, each one hour long (elementary and advanced).

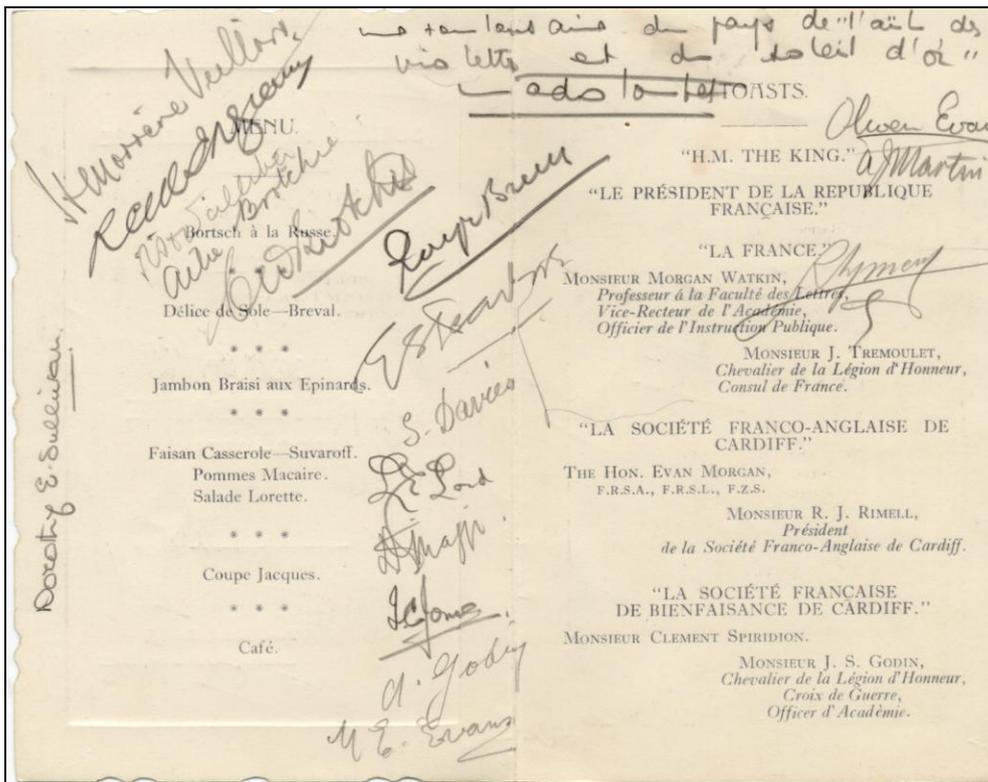
I hand over to Russell Jones

Madame A. Godin

Madame Godin gave French lessons to students of all ages. In addition she took on the reading circle of the Society. There she amused herself by often conjuring up one of the roles of the divine Sarah. She was the author of several books, including "Pomme d'Api" in which she recounts stories from her childhood.

A telephone for members' use was installed in a booth, the key of which was with the caretaker. Very practical when you were in a hurry.

In 1931 the Society celebrated its 25th anniversary with a dinner in the Park Hotel. This menu card was signed by many of those present on that occasion.



In 1933 the meeting rooms had to be redecorated. A "House Committee" was formed. No more than £30 was to be spent. The social evenings were very successful and, I quote, "amuse and interest the young members. They give them the opportunity to improve their French." The revenue from the two annual whist drives added greatly to the funds of the Society. Each week the Society sent a report of its activities to the Western Mail:

Some members suggested that a modest sum be paid by the Society to become associated to the Ramblers Association of Glamorgan. The president stated that the Society should not become a club for walkers!

In 1934 it was suggested that a projector should be purchased.

In 1935 the Consul obtained a grant from the French government for the Society. The celebration of July 14 took place at Neville Hall and cost 3/6d. This was an old country house which became a hotel, and today is a hospital. A series of postal directories was donated by the committee of the Coal Exchange of Cardiff docks. Madame Godin put on a play, *L'Attalie*, with the help of her reading circle and gave £1.5s.0d to the treasurer.

In 1936 an epidiascope was given to the Society by the French government.



The Mardi Gras party in 1936.

In 1937 the first annual dinner with musical entertainment and short speeches took place! Receipts from this dinner were £38.

A trolley and a cupboard were ordered for the epidiascope at a cost of £6.10s.0d. A screen was ordered also.

A radiogram and a piano (again!) were acquired. The latter was worn and the shop reduced it from £30 to £26.10s.0d.

On the back of a programme of that date it says, "A modest proficiency in French will suffice to enable members to take full advantage of the programme."

In 1938 a group of members repaired the chairs with deckchair material. A new insurance policy was taken out to cover the radiogram, the piano, the epidiascope and also in case of accidents to members or visitors.

It was also proposed that the dock companies working with French business should receive circulars indicating that the captains and officers of ships would be very welcome at the Society, especially the conversation evenings! Would that they would have a ready tongue without wine!

A bagatelle game was bought.

In the 1930s I remember the title of a talk given by a Professor from Strasbourg, "An hour with gay authors". A bit advanced for its time!

I shall ask Russell to explain how he came to join the Society.

My first visit to 36 Park Place was in January 1939. At that time I was secretary of the French Society at the University. Usually at that time we put on a French play in February and that year we had chosen "Le Voyage de M. Perrichon" by Labiche. Naturally I was anxious to sell tickets for this and one of my friends told me about an Anglo-French Society which met at 36 Park Place. I sent them a circular. The secretary, Mr Lord, invited me to the next meeting which would allow me to sell my tickets! There I found several of my fellow students who profited by talking French to the members of the French colony in Cardiff and the surrounding area. As for me, I met friends that evening with whom I have stayed in contact over many years. I was warmly welcomed and I learned that they had a library, a reading circle, a social evening and a meeting every Saturday evening! Several members came to see our version of Perrichon so I was very happy with my first visit to the Society. Ten years later I became the president.

On 4 March 1939 a special committee was called to discuss the Annual Conference of the Alliance Française in Cardiff in 1940. (The last one took place if you remember in 1927.)

Three societies were to take part – Cardiff, Newport and the Modern Languages Association.

It was decided to approach Lord Tredegar with a view to arranging a visit to Tredegar House. Naturally the Annual General meeting never took place, for obvious reasons.

On 1 May, by the intervention of the consul, the Society received a donation of 5,000 francs from the French Government – equivalent to £28.5s.5d.

Messrs Cartier (jewellers) supplied a quotation for designing and making, at a reasonable price, a badge for a Presidential chain.

The details were to be discussed at the next meeting of the committee.

Here is some news – The carpets were to be cleaned with a vacuum cleaner and a new cleaning preparation!

23 October 1939 War had been declared on 3 September. The Alliance Française was ready to help the Society in what ever way it could through the forthcoming difficulties. It was decided that the meetings would take place every fortnight at 3 p.m. due to the difficulties of transport and lighting. There would be no printed programmes. The "In Memoriam" notice would appear in the Western Mail on 11 November as usual. The treasurer remarked that there would be no ball and, with the problems which would result from the war, it would be necessary to monitor expenditure and revenues carefully. Collaboration with the Modern Languages Association was suggested to share the expenses of speakers.

In November 1939 the president, at the Annual General Meeting, declared that the unshakeable alliance between France and Great Britain completely justified the existence of the Society.

We arrive at 1940

On the declaration of war on 3 September 1939, the "British Section of the French Red Cross" restarted the activities undertaken during the war of 1914-18. Also the Cardiff Committee was reformed as it was 25 years before, and 36 Park Place became the centre for work once again organised by Madame Ragody. The ladies of the Society started to make clothes for the soldiers at the front. On the fall of France in June 1940, the Cardiff Committee of the

French Red Cross was changed to the Friends of Free France and the ladies of the Society, who formed the main work-party, continued to work for the Free French.

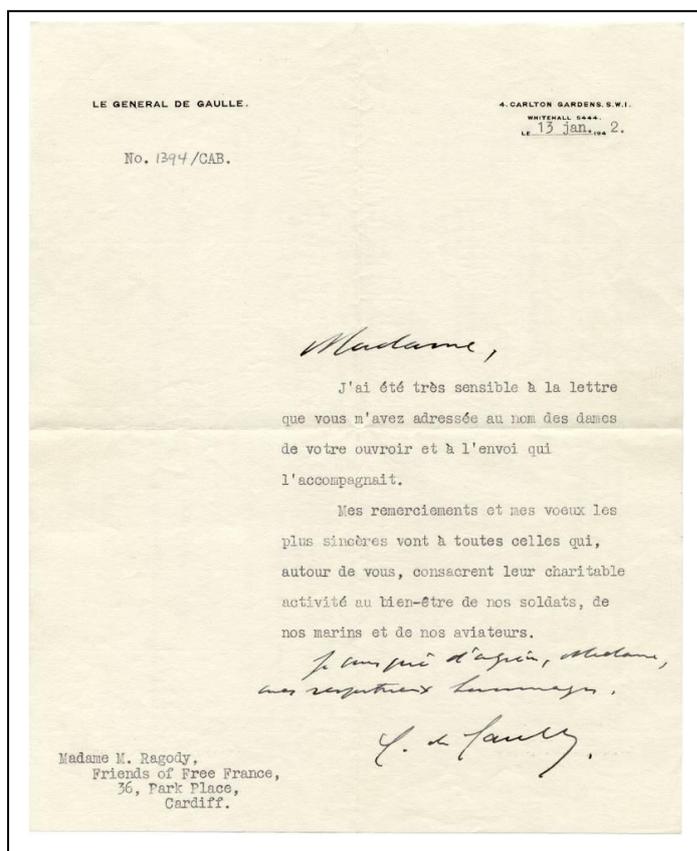
I hand over to Russell for his memories, because he was on the committee of the Friends of Free France and later secretary, from 1944 until its official closure in 1946.

Friends of Free France

From March 1940 there existed in Cardiff a branch of the British Committee of the French Red Cross. This branch sent a sum of £500 to the committee in London; the rest was given to the "Ladies Knitting Committee" which knitted clothes for members of the Free French Army.

After the sad events of June, the Cardiff committee was registered under the title "Friends of Free France", a charitable society. The first meeting of the committee took place at 36 Park Place on 20 November 1940 under the presidency of Mon. P. Aicard.

Meetings of the committee took place regularly at 36 Park Place and the Ladies Committee, under the presidency of Madame Ragody (the mother of our speaker), met regularly in order to organise their work. The quantity of clothes knitted demonstrates an incredible devotion. They sent, at regular intervals, a trunk full of clothes to the headquarters of General de Gaulle in London. To give you an idea of the work, they sent on one occasion: 5 pairs of pyjamas, 8 pullovers, a pair of gloves, 5 scarves and 50 pairs of socks. They even sent a pullover to General de Gaulle who acknowledged its receipt with a very kind letter of thanks.



As a charitable society, the Friends of Free France organised 3 "flag days", which were very successful from a financial point of view. An exhibition at James Howells concerning Free France and several concerts augmented the funds and in September 1944 a flag was presented to the military attaché. This flag later became the property of the "premier régiment d'Artillerie Coloniale", the first to join General de Gaulle in 1940.

On the liberation of Paris in 1940 the work of the charity ceased, and the Friends of Free France organised several lectures given by members of the resistance who recounted their activities during the occupation. There were also receptions for members of the French forces who were in the Cardiff area.

You know all about the debacle of June 1940 and I am not going to give you a history lesson. What you may not know is that French citizens in Britain, ourselves included, were, for a fortnight, considered to be "Enemy Aliens", until General de Gaulle was recognised as the representative of the French who were continuing the fight. Their bank accounts were blocked!

Some days after the famous call by General de Gaulle on 18 June 1940, a member of our Society, Squadron-Leader T. Edwards at St Athans RAF. Station, informed my father that there were French of all three services at the camp. Following that telephone conversation Tregellis Edwards brought several of them to the Society. This allowed members to meet them. Other meetings were arranged as a result of which certain Free French were "adopted" by the ladies who became their wartime "godmothers". In the early days these young men had only what they stood up in. St Athans became one of the centres to which the French, who had escaped from just about anywhere, were sent. Subsequently they spent their leave with these generous families. The "adoptees" were lucky! The majority were trainee pilots. Sadly many did not survive the war. Some of these young men remained at St Athans for several months in order to learn English before going on to pilot schools or elsewhere. During this time, if they wanted, they could attend the Society.

Many books have been written on the subject of the Free French Forces and it is not my job to elaborate on that subject. Suffice it to say that the members of the Society made a big contribution to their well-being during those dark days of our history. Some remained in contact with their British friends but, inevitably, over the years the numbers have diminished.

I want to read you an extract from a letter from Mr Le Dily, dated 28 December 1998. This is what he wrote to me: "I, myself, benefited from the warm and admirable knitted garments, socks, etc. What wonderful and unforgettable memories we have of the marvellous British, not forgetting the French who were among them."

Among the first volunteers for General de Gaulle was Christian Fouchet, later a minister in the General's government. He gave a talk to the Society. Through him, contact was made with the General's representative in Detroit (the USA was not yet in the war). Thanks to this lady, bundles of wool and miles of fabric were sent to 36 Park Place. During the time of the hostilities more than 5,330 garments were made for the Free French. The Committee organised fêtes of all sorts, sales and flag days to raise funds for the Association.

In October 1940 the Cardiff Cooptimists offered to give a concert in aid of the Free French under the auspices of the Anglo-French Society. Needless to say the offer was accepted. Eventually a flag was offered to General de Gaulle, embroidered by the Royal School of Needlework. General Flipo came to Cardiff to receive it and, later, it was given to the Second Armoured Division of General Leclerc.

A certain Lt. Raymond Fassin gave a talk to the Society on the subject of "The Maginot Line". After leaving St. Athans he had corresponded with my parents and then we had heard nothing of him. After the war we learned that he had died in a POW camp just days before the camp was liberated. He had volunteered to go to work with the resistance in France and was captured by the Gestapo.

Lt. Fred Scamaroni (a Corsican), who was known in the Society in June 1940, left St Athans in August. Subsequently we corresponded with him but we lost touch with him...for a very good reason. After the war we learned that he had gone to Corsica to organise the coordination of various groups of Maquis, in the name of General de Gaulle. Unfortunately he was captured by the O.R.U.A. (the Italian Gestapo). Finally, so that he would not betray the names of his comrades under torture, he committed suicide in his cell. He was 29 years old

and was the youngest Prefect of France and a friend of Jean Moulin. He was one of the heroes of the resistance.

Bernard Lefebvre wrote a book, after the war, entitled 'With de Gaulle in Africa'. He recounts his odyssey, from his departure, in June 1940, from Saint-Jean-de-Luz, on a Polish ship, right up until his return to his native town – Rouen – in 1945, passing through French Equatorial Africa, now Chad, and St Athans. Here is an extract from his book:

“Before continuing this account, I must thank the English and the Anglo-French for all the kindnesses they gave to me in those sad days. A first meeting was organised at the Anglo-French Society in Cardiff. Madame Godin was a kind god-mother to me. I remained in touch throughout the war and, after the war, with the Ragody family and also the Webber family. These families showed great devotion to us. These “second mothers” made us pyjamas, a princely luxury. I say thank you to these families in the name of my comrades.”

Having spoken about some of the Free French known to the Society, I shall go back to October 1940. The president of the Society, Mr. Rimmel, proposed that, in view of the situation between France and England, a public declaration should be made by the Society in order to confirm its objective, this declaration to be published in the local papers and in “France Libre” the official newspaper of General de Gaulle. The following paragraph was drawn up:

“Au cours d’une réunion tenue le lundi 7 octobre 1940 le Bureau de la Société Franco-Anglaise de Cardiff a passé à l’unanimité la résolution suivante: Ayant enregistré les déclarations faites devant le Parlement par le Premier Ministre de G.B. et pris acte également du haut idéal des buts du Général de Gaulle, la Société Franco-Anglaise de Cardiff confirme sa position tacite précédemment prise et décide de soutenir l’active collaboration qui existe entre le Gouvernement de sa Majesté et le Chef de la France Libre ainsi qu’avec tous ceux qui considèrent être pour eux un devoir patriotique de continuer la lutte aux côtés des Alliés.”

[“At a meeting held on 7 October 1940 the office of the Société Franco-Anglaise de Cardiff passed unanimously the following resolution: Having noted the statements made by the Prime Minister of Great Britain before Parliament and also recognising the high ideal of the aims of General de Gaulle, the Anglo-French Society of Cardiff confirms its previously tacit position and has decided to actively support the collaboration which exists between His Majesty’s Government and the Chief of the Free French as well as all those who consider it a patriotic duty to continue the fight alongside the Allies.”]

3 November 1940 The president spoke of the work being done by the Friends of Free France. He spoke of the difficulties of getting speakers. The revenues had fallen because, of course, there were fewer members and there were not so many social evenings. The revenue from the invested capital had fallen because taxation had risen. Nevertheless the House Account had contributed £48 towards covering the deficit of £52.11s.1d. The Friends of the French Volunteers in London had launched an appeal; the committee voted to donate the sum of £3.3s.0d.

May 1941 No 36 had recently been damaged by air raids, and temporary repairs were made: the damaged windows were replaced by sheets of asbestos....at the owner’s expense.

Also that month an extraordinary meeting was urgently called to discuss the finances. As a result of the war the revenues had diminished because of the reasons already discussed. The resolution was taken to sell a maximum of £100 of War Stock to cover the finances of the Society.

9 September 1943 Judge Kirkhouse (the owner) agreed to renew the lease on the house on the same conditions as before – until May 1944 – that is for a year.

With the end of hostilities in 1945 the activities of the Society resumed little by little. The basic format of talks and the reading circle remained, with social evenings from time to time.

In 1946 a dinner was offered to the consul, M. Langlais, by the Friends of Free France and the Anglo-French Society.

3 August 1948 It became necessary to change the location. Expenses were greatly exceeding revenue by more than double!

Once more I shall ask Russell to contribute and recount to you how a new location was found where the house-warming party took place. He was president from 1949 to 1951.

In August 1949 I found myself president of a society without a home. I went round all the hotels in town but none of them could offer a room every Saturday. I had heard about the Friends' Meeting House in Charles Street – I went there and it was just what I needed. Later we left Charles Street to go to the Cardiff Blind Institute and, later still, to the Catholic Chaplaincy before arriving at University College.

I found in the archives that the Society celebrated its 50th anniversary in 1956 with a dinner at the Park hotel.

In 1967 the Alliance Française held its Annual Conference in Cardiff. (The last Annual Conference in Cardiff was in 1927, you will remember). There was an evening event called "Around the World in 80 Days"; Michelle Giles and Russell took part.

In 1981 the Society celebrated its 75th anniversary with a dinner and entertainment at Cardiff Castle, in the presence of the consul, the secretary of the Alliance Française, and the chairman of the Welsh Development Board, Douglas Badham.

During the 50s Douglas Trussler was the librarian. He set aside a room in his house in order to accommodate all the Society's books.

In the 1970s the committee gave these books to the University (few people used this facility and it was not very practical). Douglas was also in possession of the ancient epidiascope but in 1995 this instrument was accepted as a gift by the St Fagans Folk Museum – go and see it! The piano – the famous piano – remained at the Friends' Meeting House when we "emigrated" to the Chaplaincy.

Finally in 1995, 50 years after the end of the Second World War, commemorative ceremonies took place everywhere, in France and elsewhere. The committee of the Society agreed to put a commemorative plaque at the entrance of 36 Park Place, today a bank. It reads:

"This plaque has been presented by the Société Franco-Anglaise de Cardiff who occupied this building from 1911-1948 in memory of the Free French Forces welcomed here during World War II"

It was unveiled by the Lord Mayor, and the standard-bearer of the Association of the Free French in London came. Go and see this plaque!

Imagine, quite recently, in re-reading the minutes of the meeting of the Friends of the Free French for 5 July 1945 I found the following note: "Mr Lord suggested the placing of a plaque of some kind on the wall of the clubroom to commemorate the work of the Friends of Free France from 1940-1945."



So you see, well before it was placed there, there had been a question of a commemorative plaque 50 years previously.



SOCIÉTÉ FRANCO ANGLAISE
DE CARDIFF

1906 - 1956

BANQUET DE CINQUANTAIRE

le 13 octobre, 1956

PARK HOTEL CARDIFF

19h.30

In 1956 the Society celebrated its 50th anniversary with a dinner at the Park Hotel.

Menu

CONSOMMÉ JULIENNI

ou

POTAGE DES AMBASSADEUR

TURBOT MAÎTRE D'HÔTEL

POULARDE BOURGEOISE

PETITS POIS

POMMES DE TERRE PERSILLÉES

ANANAS A LA CHINOIS

PETITS FOUR

CAFÉ

Toasts

A REINE

LA PRINCIPAUTÉ

LE PRÉSIDENT DE LA RÉPUBLIQUE

LA CITÉ DE CARDIFF

Monsieur LE COMTE DE WARREN,
Chevalier de la Légion d'Honneur,
Consul de France à Cardiff.

Réponse: Alderman D. T. WILLIAMS, O.B.E. D
Lord Maire de Cardiff.

A SOCIÉTÉ FRANCO-ANGLAISE DE CARDIFF.

Monsieur DENIS GIRARD,
Conseiller Culturel Adjoint près l'Ambassade de
France à Londres.

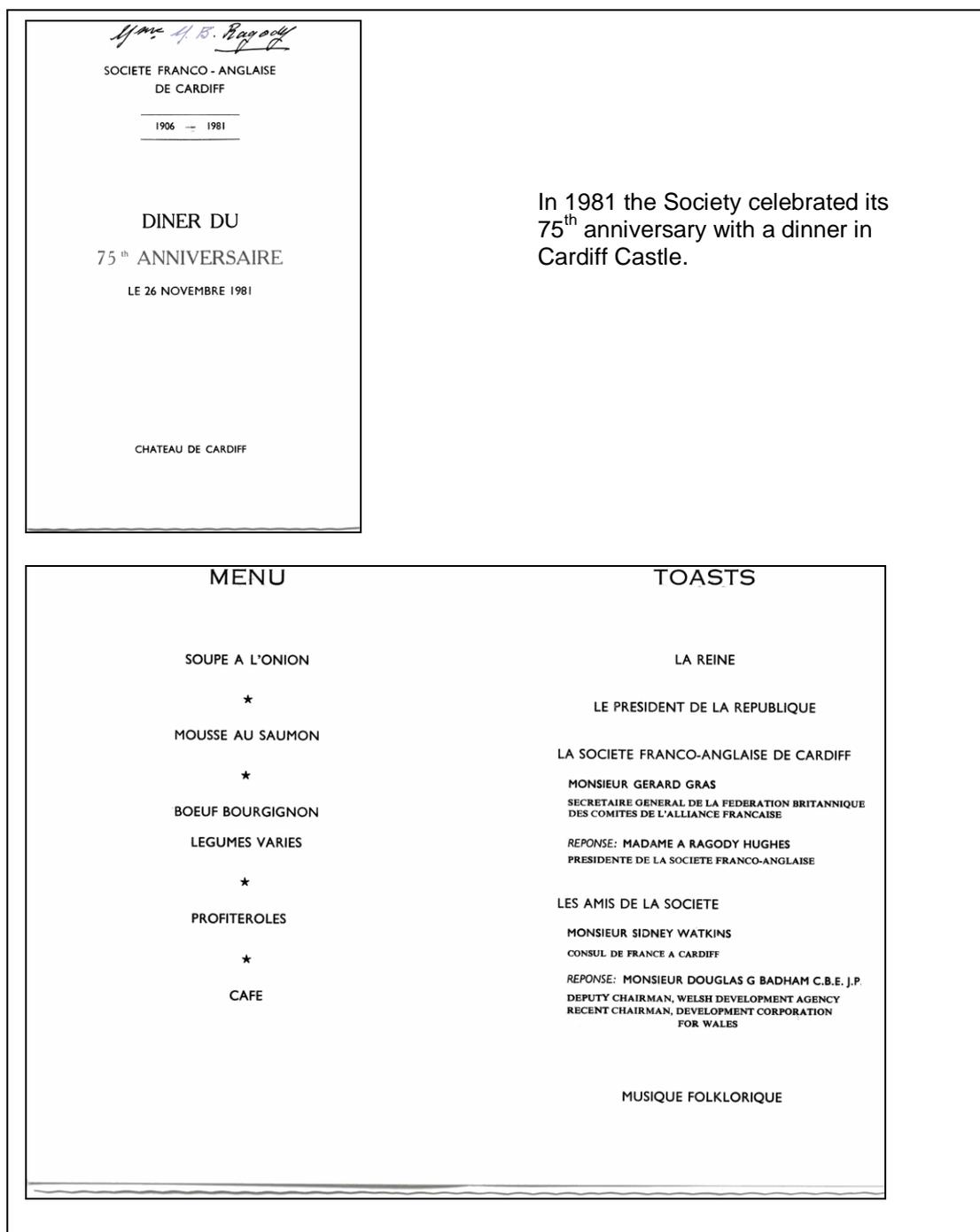
Réponse: Monsieur W. HAVARD GREGORY,
Président de la Société Franco-Anglaise

LES INVITÉS D'HONNEUR.

Monsieur HEDLEY MORTEO,
Vice-Président de la Société Franco-Anglaise

Réponse: Monsieur ROBERT E. PRESSWOOD,
Directeur de l'Enseignement Public de Cardiff

et
Monsieur le Professeur J. HEYWOOD THOMAS,
Chef de la Section de Français au Collège
Universitaire, Cardiff.



In 1981 the Society celebrated its 75th anniversary with a dinner in Cardiff Castle.

You can see from my talk that, even during two World Wars, our Society has never ceased to function. It is the only one in Britain that can say this and it is without doubt due to the "House Account"! It is also the oldest one apart from Bristol, which was founded in 1905 but which stopped during the war, beginning again afterwards.

In 1993 a bequest from one of our members, Trixie Ford from Newport, allowed many Associations Françaises in Great Britain to become charities. She left £1,500,000. She left £1,000,000 for the RSPCA, the rest for the Anglo-French Societies of the country. The eternal financial problem was partly solved. It is interesting to learn that Trixie had been the driver for General de Gaulle in London.

One last word – at the European summit in June 1998 which took place in Cardiff, President J. Chirac held a press conference. The following is an extract:

“Je voudrais aussi rappeler que Cardiff, on l’ignore parfois, fut pendant les heures les plus sombres de notre histoire contemporaine, c’est-à-dire, dans les années 40, un point très important de ralliement pour de nombreux Français qui venaient d’un peu partout et notamment de France pour rejoindre le Général de Gaulle. Cardiff où immédiatement, dès juin 1940, s’était créée une Association qui a survécu d’ailleurs, une Association qui s’appelaient “les Amis des Volontaires Français” et qui était composée de Britanniques et de Français qui participaient à l’accueil et à l’aide pour les Français Libres qui arrivaient ici et qui ne s’étaient pas résignés à la défaite. C’est un souvenir que l’on peut naturellement évoquer.”

[“ I would also like to recall the fact, not always recognised, that Cardiff was during the darkest days of our recent history, that is to say in the 1940s, a very important rallying point for the many French who came from all over, especially from France, to join General de Gaulle. Cardiff where, immediately, in June 1940, an Association was created which moreover survived, an Association which was called “The Friends of the French Volunteers” and which was composed of British and French who worked to welcome and help the Free French who arrived here and who were not resigned to defeat. It is a memory that one naturally recalls.”]

I must explain that the Friends of the French Volunteers was formed in London in June 1940. In Cardiff, as I have explained, the Committee of the French Red Cross was transformed into the Friends of Free France. It was in fact two societies with one aim. The President confused the Friends of the French Volunteers of London with the Friends of the Free French of Cardiff - that is not so extraordinary!!

On that note I shall finish my history of the Anglo-French Society of Cardiff from its foundation in 1906 until 1995 – the date at which it changed its name.

FIN.

Recent Activities of the Society

by John Martin

Shortly after I became a member of the committee, there was a discussion of the celebration of the Society's centenary in 2006. I volunteered to produce a leaflet giving a brief history of the Society, an offer which was accepted. At that time I was unaware of Arlette's talk, but, when Elwyn Moseley showed me the archives of the Society a few weeks later, it was clear my work was already practically complete! Arlette's 1999 talk, which forms the first part of this centenary history, gives a wonderful account of the foundation of the Society, its history from the Entente Cordiale on, and the involvement of its members in the two world wars. However, as her talk covers the history of the Society up to the change of name in 1995, it appeared necessary to add to it in order to have a complete record of its first one hundred years. The first addition is to give a survey of the Programme of Lectures, which is the cornerstone of the Society's activities. This survey looks at first at programmes from more recent times (post World War Two) and then at some earlier programmes from 1916 and 1926. This is followed by an overview of the Society's social activities, focusing on the last ten years, 1995-2006. Overall, the main intention is to give a picture of the Society as it finds itself in 2006, its centenary year.

The Programme of Lectures

The archives of the Society contain a complete run of the annual programmes from 1958-59 until the present day. I have therefore selected a few programmes from that period (in fact, just three) to illustrate the typical activities of the Society and how they have changed to some extent over the past 50 years. The three programmes I have chosen are for 1958-59, 1981-2, and 2005-06.

The first of these, for 1958-59 is shown below. This was in fact only the second year in which the annual programme had been arranged and published as a whole. Prior to 1957, the year had been divided into two sessions, October-December and January-April, and two separate programmes had been printed for each. But, during the discussion of the forth-coming programme at the committee meeting in June 1957, Mr Ford proposed that the programme for the whole year should be drawn up and this was carried. It has been the practice ever since.

The venue for the meetings in 1958-59 was Cardiff Blind Institute in Newport Road. You will recall, from Arlette's talk, that in 1949 the Society had moved its venue for meetings to the Friends' Meeting House at 43 Charles Street. In 1957 they had been forced to move again, the reason being that the Society could no longer make bookings at 43 Charles Street for Saturday evenings. They considered a number of alternative venues, including both the Blind Institute and the University Catholic Chaplaincy in Park Place. The Blind Institute was somewhat expensive (11/6 per hour), but it was decided that, if the Annual General Meeting approved a proposal that meetings should be held fortnightly, then it should be taken for their regular meetings.

Normally, the first meeting of each session took the form of a social event. In this particular year, the committee had been informed that two members of the Society, Mr Morteo and Mr Lennox, had recently been decorated with the Palmes Académiques and they decided that a dinner in their honour should be held on the first evening.

The core of the programme - as it has been throughout the Society's history - was some ten lectures, given in French, on a variety of topics - travel, literature, gastronomy and others. Seven of the ten lecturers came through the good offices of the Alliance Française. This organisation produced annually (and still produces) a list of lecturers (and their offered lectures) who could be approached by the affiliated societies. From the committee minutes over several decades, it is clear that the normal practice was that, in advance of each session, the committee would ask the Treasurer how many Alliance Française lectures could be afforded (the Alliance Française lecturers received a fee plus expenses). He would

invariably answer four or five (i.e. eight-ten in the full year). The committee would then decide which Alliance Française lecturers to approach, whilst a number of other lecturers would come from local contacts. One of these in 1958-59 was M. le Comte R de Warren (15 November), who was the French consul in Cardiff, Président d'Honneur of the Society, and had spoken at the 50th anniversary dinner held two years previously. Another was the Professor Stewart (18 October), professor of French at Bristol University.

Président :
Monsieur Gérard Carpentier.

Vice-Présidents :
Monsieur E. Killmister.
Monsieur Hedley Morteo.
Mademoiselle Dorothy Bourlay.

Secrétaires :
Mademoiselle Dorothy Bourlay.
59, Platurton Avenue, Cardiff.
Mademoiselle June Pasley,
44, Princes Street, Cardiff.

Secrétaire Adjointe :
Mademoiselle Coralie E. Bush.

Trésorier :
Monsieur J. M. Ford,
5, Dyfrig Street, Cardiff.

Bibliothécaire : Mademoiselle Coralie Bush.

Comité :

Mesdames : A. Ragody-Hughes. N. Jones. E. John. J. Thomas. C. Prinn. B. Price. D. A. Trussler.	Messieurs : E. Higgins. A. Josephson. E. D. Davies. G. Hughes. D. A. Trussler. A. L. Harrison. W. K. Bernfield.
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et
Les Anciens Présidents.

Cotisation : £1 1s. 0d.

SOCIÉTÉ FRANCO-ANGLAISE DE CARDIFF

Fondée 1906.

PROGRAMME 1958/1959 (OCTOBRE-AVRIL)

Président d'Honneur :
Monsieur le Comte R. de Warren.
Chevalier de la Légion d'Honneur.
Consul de France.

Vice-Présidents d'Honneur :
Madame Iorwerth Clark.
Mademoiselle M. M. Collins.
Monsieur Clément Spiridion.
Monsieur J. M. Ford,
Monsieur Marcel Mériot.

Prière de prendre note que toutes les Conférences auront lieu au Cardiff Blind Institute, Newport Road.

Programme—Octobre—Décembre, 1958.

Octobre.

Samedi 11 Dîner d' Honneur, offert à
(19h.15.) Messieurs Hedley Morteo, et J. W. Lennox.
Chevaliers dans l'Ordre des Palmes Académiques,
au Mayfair Restaurant, High Street.

Samedi 18 Le Professeur W. Mc C. Stewart,
(19h.30.) Professeur de Français à l'Université de Bristol.
"Relations entre Bristol et Bordeaux"

Novembre.

Samedi 1 Mademoiselle Hélène Tasartey *
(19h.30.) " La Bourgogne et la Joie de Vivre."
(Avec Projections).

Samedi 15 Monsieur le Comte R. de Warren,
(19h.30.) Consul de France.
" La Resurrection du Sahara."
(Avec Film).

Samedi 29 Monsieur Jean Nery *
(19h.30.) Directeur de " Unifrance Film "
" Panorama du Cinéma Français."
(Avec Film).

Décembre.

Samedi 13 Madame Félix Boillot *
(19h.30.) "Jours de Fête — et Cuisine."

Programme — Janvier—Avril, 1959.

Janvier.

Samedi 3 Soirée Sociale.
(19h.15.) University Catholic Chaplaincy, Park Place.

Samedi 10 Monsieur Claude Simon *
(19h.30.) "Deux Frères des Contrées Infernales: Poë et Baudelaire."

Vendredi 16 Bal Franco-Anglais, sous les auspices du Comité Cardiff-Nantes.

Samedi 24 Mademoiselle E. Müller.
(19h.30.) " Bavardage."

Février.

Samedi 7 Monsieur Michel Guerin *
(19h.30.) " A Travers La Bretagne Pittoresque."

Mardi 10 Célébration du Mardi Gras.
Détails à Annoncer.

Samedi 21 Madame Gabrielle Latour *
(19h.30.) " La Vie Etrange de Jean de la Fontaine, et ses Fables."

Mars.

Samedi 7 Monsieur Guy Fournier *
(19h.30.) " Le Petit Prince' de Saint-Exupéry, un Conte pour Adultes."
(Avec Disque).

Samedi 21 Film Français.
(19h.30.) Dans la Salle du Wales Gas Board, St. John Square. Sujet à Annoncer.

Avril.

Samedi 18 Assemblée Générale.
* Sous les auspices de L'Alliance Française.

Cercle de Conversation et de Lecture.

Tous les mercredis à partir du 22 Octobre, 1958, à 19h.30, à 43, Charles Street.
Sous la présidence de Monsieur Gérard Carpentier.

Programme card for 1958-59

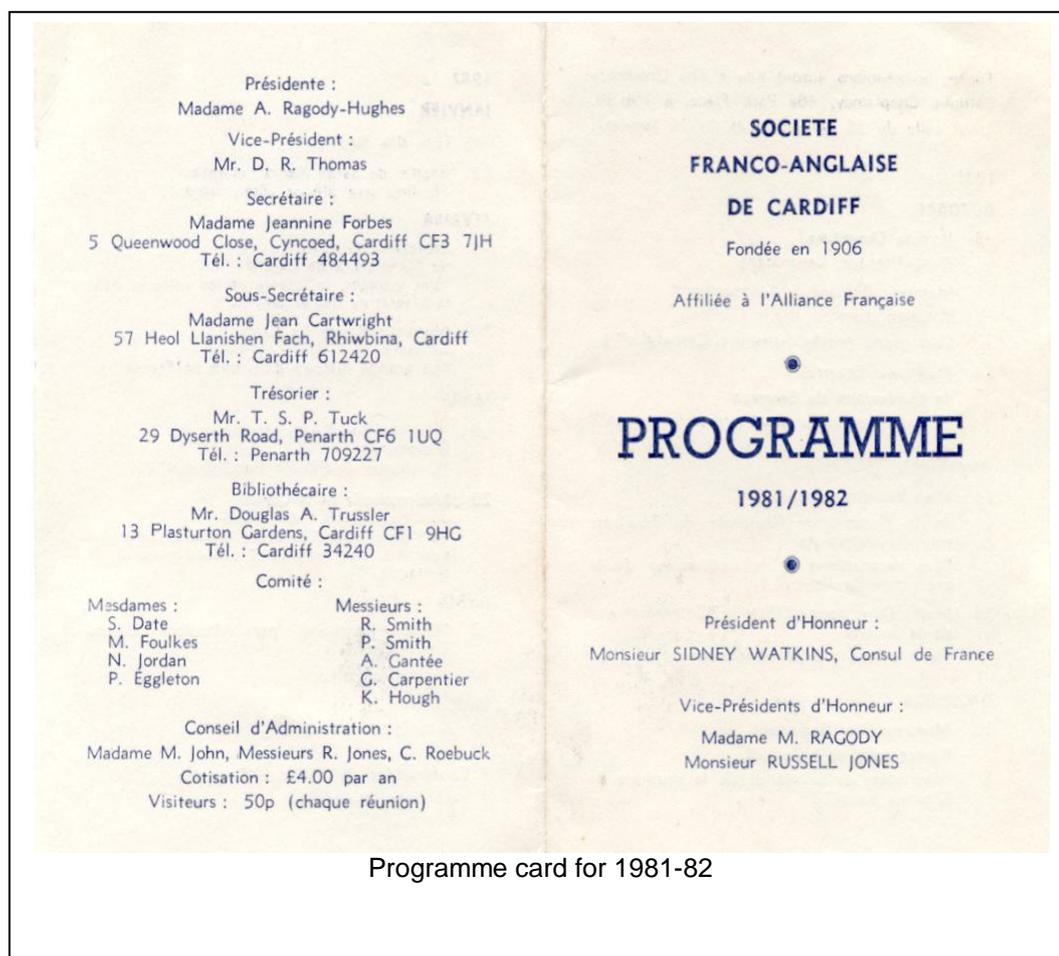
There were also films shown at a number of the lectures and a film evening at the rooms of the Wales Gas Board. The Gas Board featured quite frequently around these years – a “Soirée Intime au Gas Board Showrooms” was mentioned in the minutes.

The programme also advertised the reading circle of the Society, renamed the previous year as “Cercle de Conversation et de Lecture”, which goes back to the earliest days, and was always well attended. This year it was organised by the president, Gérard Carpentier. It could continue to meet at 43 Charles Street, because it was held on a Wednesday.

There were also some social events on the programme. The second half of the year opened with the Soirée Sociale at the University Catholic Chaplaincy, 46 Park Place, which was later to become the venue for the main meetings as well. There was also the ball for the Cardiff-Nantes association, and Mardi Gras was celebrated on Tuesday 10 February

It is also interesting to note that the annual subscription (£1.1s.0d for 1958-59) had remained unchanged for *fifty* years. A membership card for 1908 gives the subscriptions as one guinea for gentlemen and half a guinea for ladies. In the name of equality, the subscription for ladies was later raised in stages to the same as the men’s.

I will turn now to the programme for 1981-82, chosen because this is approximately half-way between 1958 and the present day and also because this was the year in which the Society celebrated its 75th anniversary.



Programme card for 1981-82

The first thing to notice is that the meetings were now to take place in the University Catholic Chaplaincy at 46 Park Place. Yet another change of venue! In fact the Society met at the Blind Institute from 1957 to 1966, then at the Catholic Chaplaincy from 1966 to 1982. So in fact this was the last year at the Chaplaincy before moving on to the University. This year the programme contained only 8 lectures plus a recital, partly due to there being the anniversary dinner in October. In addition, the modern tradition of the Joyeuse Ouverture had by now become established. Other social occasions were the celebration of the Fête des Rois in January, the Quiz evening and the treasure hunt. Treasure hunts have been an occasional feature of the Society's programme – the first recorded was in 1962, and the most recent in 2003.

Toutes les réunions auront lieu à The University Catholic Chaplaincy, 46a Park Place, à 19h.30. (sauf celle du 26 Novembre et du 23 Janvier).

1981

OCTOBRE

3 Joyeuse Ouverture
(vin, fromage, bavardage)

17 Monsieur Bernard de Montgolfier *
historien d'art
"Un grand musée parisien : Carnavalet" †

31 Professeur Diverres
de l'Université de Swansea
"Y a-t-il jamais eu un roi Arthur historique?"

NOVEMBRE

14 Monsieur Octave Leroy *
de la Commission Régionale de Tourisme pour la Normandie
"Les destructions et la restauration de la cathédrale de Rouen" †

26 (Jeudi) Dîner pour célébrer le 75e anniversaire de la Société
(le lieu sera précisé ultérieurement)

DECEMBRE

12 Monsieur Ray Beaumont-Craggs *
Photographe et historien
"Evocation de la vie et de la musique de Maurice Ravel" †

1982

JANVIER

9 Fête des Rois

23 Récital de Serge Kerval, chanteur
(le lieu sera précisé ultérieurement)

FEVRIER

6 Professeur Griffiths
de l'Université de Cardiff
"Les voyages, la vitesse et les voitures dans la littérature des années 20"

20 Monsieur Ronan Le Grand *
Cinéaste
"La grande histoire d'un film en France" †

MARS

6 Monsieur Joe Booth Wright
Diplomate
"L'Afrique de l'Ouest francophone" †

20 Mademoiselle M-N Gérard
du "Polytechnic" de Bristol
"L'industrie touristique peut-elle apporter des solutions aux problèmes économiques de la Bretagne?" †

AVRIL

3 "Quiz", organisé par Monsieur Gérard Carpentier

17 Course au trésor

MAI

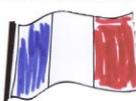
8 Assemblée Générale

* Conférencier de l'Alliance Française
† avec diapositives

Programme card for 1981-82

Finally let us come right up to date with a look at the 2005-06 programme. Once again, there was a change of venue! Between 1982 and 2005 the meetings were held in the Main Building of Cardiff University in Park Place, and this is the venue given on the programme. However, by the end of 2005 the University decided that it could no longer offer the Society this arrangement, and a fresh location had to be found. A good room was found in Aberdare Hall (also part of the University) in nearby Column Drive, and this was used from January 2006 onwards.

As in previous years, the core of the programme was made up of lectures in French and in this year, exceptionally, all nine were given by conférenciers from the Alliance Française. The social programme is also seen to have expanded a lot – not only is there a Joyeuse Ouverture and the Fête des Rois, but Mardi Gras and the Fête de Noël have joined them.

<p>Secrétaire Madame Annick Moseley 19 Hardwicke Court, Llandaff, Cardiff CF5 2LB. Tel: (029) 2056 8641</p> <p>Trésorier Monsieur Brian Jones, 17 Cwrt-y-Vil Road, Penarth CF64 3HN Tel: (029) 2070 1573</p> <p>Comité</p> <p><i>Mesdames:</i> Wendy Gruffydd Valerie Hill Yvette Roblin Kate Scarratt Jane Sims Françoise Stephens Pauline Thompson</p> <p><i>Messieurs:</i> John Martin Elwyn Moseley Steve O'Regan Alan Ryley Dyfrig Thomas</p> <p>Conseil d'Administration Mesdames Nancy Jordan et Joan Meredith Monsieur Dyfrig Thomas</p>	<p>Les réunions auront lieu dans le Main College Refectory, Main Building, University College, Cardiff, le samedi à 19hr 15, sauf où indiqué. Parking et entrée dans Museum Avenue ou Park Place.</p> <p>Cotisations</p> <p>£12 par an £10 pour retraités et étudiants</p> <p>Visiteurs: £2 par réunion £1 pour étudiants</p> <p>http://www.francais-a-cardiff.org.uk</p>	<p>SOCIÉTÉ FRANCO-BRITANNIQUE DE CARDIFF</p> <p>Fondée en 1906</p> <p>Affiliée à l'Alliance Française (www.alliancefrancaise.org.uk)</p>  <p>Registered Charity No.1056433</p> <p>Programme 2005-2006</p>	<p>La Société est placée sous le patronage du Rt. Hon. the Lord Mayor of the City and County of Cardiff</p> <p>Présidente d'Honneur Madame Claude Rapport</p> <p>Vice-Présidente d'Honneur Madame Arlette Ragody-Hughes</p> <p>Président Monsieur Paul Stephens</p> <p>Vice-Présidente Madame Patricia Thomas</p>																		
<p>2005</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>*conférenciers de l'Alliance Française</td> <td>7 janvier: Fête des Rois Galette, divertissements</td> <td>25 mars: Mme. Elizabeth Le Doze-Wakefield* "Desserts et douceurs de France"</td> </tr> <tr> <td>8 octobre: Joyeuse Ouverture (Vin, pain, fromage et bavardage)</td> <td>21 janvier: Mme. Saïda Goutel* "L'art déco en France"</td> <td>8 avril: Mme. Sheila Perry* "Les mots et les femmes"</td> </tr> <tr> <td>22 octobre: M.Fabrice Vié* "La troisième république française" (1871-1914)</td> <td>4 février: Mme. Germaine Jones* "L'esprit français - Spirit and wit"</td> <td>13 mai: Visite surprise - détails à suivre</td> </tr> <tr> <td>12 novembre: M. Frederic du Laurens* "Histoire et légendes de la ville de Marseille"</td> <td>11 février: Mardi Gras Crêpes, jeux</td> <td>18 juin: Jeux de Boules à Penarth (dimanche)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>26 novembre: M. Tony Callen* "Chansons Françaises"</td> <td>25 février: M. Guy Richeux* "Astérix"</td> <td>1er juillet: Assemblée Générale Annuelle</td> </tr> <tr> <td>10 décembre: Fête de Noël</td> <td>1 mars: M. Alister Cox* "Pétain et de Gaulle"</td> <td>14 juillet: Fête Nationale</td> </tr> </table> <p>N.B. Notre voyage annuel en France aura lieu en mai - Demander détails.</p>				*conférenciers de l'Alliance Française	7 janvier: Fête des Rois Galette, divertissements	25 mars: Mme. Elizabeth Le Doze-Wakefield* "Desserts et douceurs de France"	8 octobre: Joyeuse Ouverture (Vin, pain, fromage et bavardage)	21 janvier: Mme. Saïda Goutel* "L'art déco en France"	8 avril: Mme. Sheila Perry* "Les mots et les femmes"	22 octobre: M.Fabrice Vié* "La troisième république française" (1871-1914)	4 février: Mme. Germaine Jones* "L'esprit français - Spirit and wit"	13 mai: Visite surprise - détails à suivre	12 novembre: M. Frederic du Laurens* "Histoire et légendes de la ville de Marseille"	11 février: Mardi Gras Crêpes, jeux	18 juin: Jeux de Boules à Penarth (dimanche)	26 novembre: M. Tony Callen* "Chansons Françaises"	25 février: M. Guy Richeux* "Astérix"	1er juillet: Assemblée Générale Annuelle	10 décembre: Fête de Noël	1 mars: M. Alister Cox* "Pétain et de Gaulle"	14 juillet: Fête Nationale
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<p>Programme card for 2005-6</p>																					

Further, the programme announces a visite surprise, a boules match, and the Fête Nationale, and these are worth looking at in more detail. The jeux de boules, in fact, is a regular fixture which started in 1991 and is still going strong. It is a friendly encounter between the Society and the Club de Pétanque of Penarth. In Penarth, we are fortunate in that the council has laid out an excellent set of boules pitches in the grounds of the Kymin, with a very favourable microclimate and views over the Bristol Channel. This is the setting for this annual event, which is as much enjoyed by the members of the Club de Pétanque as by those of the Society.



The boules matches at the Kymin, June 2006; the winners receive their prizes

The visite surprise and the Fête Nationale in 2005-06 were, in fact, joined into a single outing on 9 July to Waddesdon Manor near Oxford.

The other arrangement to note is the voyage annuel in France – but this deserves a separate section on its own.

The Society's Programme in Earlier Times

I have said that the Society's archives have a complete run of programme cards from 1958 onwards. But how does the modern programme compare with that, say, before the Second World War? Here there is much less material in the archives. There are of course some references to the planning of the programme in the committee minutes. Also, the archives contain four early programme cards. Two of these cover the complete 1924-25 year; the other two cover the second part of the 1915-16 year and the first part of the 1916-17 year, i.e. the whole of calendar year 1916.

First let us look at programme for October-December 1916. Already at this early date the programme is based on a number of lectures in French, and from the committee minutes we know that one or two of these were arranged through the Alliance Française. There are 10 such lectures in all and, bearing in mind that this is for just a half-year, this is an impressive number. In the preceding spring session there had again been 10 lecturers, but one of these, exceptionally, appears to have been given in English. This was on the subject of the "British Red Cross Society", chaired by the Lord Mayor, and it is possible that the inclusion of a lecture in English may have been permitted because of its patriotic nature at the time of the Great War. In addition to the lectures, we note some social occasions, such as the whist drive and the soirée musicale.

However, the biggest difference between the Society at this time and at later times can be seen from the front of the programme. The Society had permanent rooms (in 36 Park Place) and these were open to members from 10 a.m. until 11 p.m. on weekdays and until 10 p.m. at week-ends. Thus the Society functioned like a club, and undoubtedly (see Arlette's talk) was the centre of a thriving social scene.

The reading circle was well established. As we saw, this was still on the programme in 1958, and in fact persisted as a programme entry until 1975. Although there are still small reading circles in Cardiff, to which members belong, this is a side of the Society's activities which was stronger in earlier times. Similarly, the possession of permanent rooms made possible the provision of a library with French books which members could borrow and magazines which members could drop in and enjoy. The maintenance of a library eventually became impracticable in the 1970s.

Let us turn now to the programme for the second half of the 1924-25 year. There are seven lectures in French, of which two are noted as "under the auspices of the Alliance Française". The first lecture of the session (12 January) is headed 'BROADCASTING' and we may assume that this was in fact a live broadcast by the BBC. Some twelve months previously, a request from Major Corbett Smith, chief of the British Broadcasting staff in Cardiff for "the Society to participate in the arrangements for a French night for listeners-in" had been reported at the Annual General Meeting, to which the meeting had declared its willingness to assist.

The names on the programme, both of local speakers and of the presidents for the various lectures, reflect the strong French presence in Cardiff at the time. In fact the local press often referred to the "French colony" when reporting on events such as the Fête Nationale.

Finally we see that it was planned to arrange a seven-day trip to France to visit the châteaux of the Loire, with a stop-over in Paris. It is clearly stated that the tour will only go ahead if enough people sign up, but I cannot say for certain whether it did or not. The minutes of the committee and of the Annual General Meeting for the year are very business-like and are notoriously free of references to the activities of the Society. The only reference to the tour is in the minutes of the committee meeting on 8 January 1925, as follows: "Mr Ellis read the itinerary for the projected Easter tour and it was agreed to recommend the shorter and rather more expensive sea route. It was suggested that an enquiry re cost of admission to the various Chateaux should be made." In any case, there are no further references in the Society's archives to any trips to France until the 1990s, when the current series of annual visits started.



Tous les mardis soirs de 8 à 9 heures lecture en français d'auteurs classiques, etc.

Des Conférences auront lieu suivant le programme.

La Société est ouverte aux membres les jours de semaine de 10 heures du matin à onze heures du soir et les Dimanches et jours fériés jusqu'à 10 heures du soir seulement. Ils y trouveront des journaux anglais, français, artistiques et littéraires, ainsi que, des cartes, damiers, échecs, etc.

La bibliothèque est ouverte tous les mardis non fériés à 9 heures du soir.

Les personnes ne faisant pas partie de la Société seront admises aux Conférences moyennant le paiement d'un schelling, aux Soirées, lectures spéciales, etc., suivant les prix indiqués sur le programme.



Les Cotisations sont payables dès maintenant—
Messieurs, Une guinée. Dames 12/6.

SOCIÉTÉ FRANCO-ANGLAISE
DE CARDIFF,
36, PARK PLACE, CARDIFF.

**Programme de
l'hiver**
1916 - 1917.

Première Partie 1916.


OCTOBRE - DÉCEMBRE.

TELEPHONE 1519.
Western Mail, Ltd., Cardiff.

Programme—Octobre-Décembre, 1916.

<p>Septembre.</p> <p>Mardi 19. Re-ouverture du Cercle de Lecture (8 h.) (Sous la présidence de M. STIENON.) Livre Choisi—“Le Crime de Sylvestre Bonnard” (Anatole France.) Chez Dyer 1/-</p> <p>Octobre.</p> <p>Lundi 2. Mlle. MARIE DE NYS (8½ h.) (des Théâtres Antoine et Sarah Bernhardt). Les Fables de La Fontaine.</p> <p>Judi 12. Soirée de Re-ouverture (Whitehall Rooms, (8 h.) Park Hotel) Discours par Monsieur T. E. Watson, (Président de la Chambre de Commerce.) Membre de la Société.</p> <p>Judi 19. M. PIERRE MOCAËR, H.E.C. (8 h.) “Un Breton à l'Eisteddfod d'Aberystwith Impressions et Souvenirs.”</p> <p>Samedi 28. Séance Musicale—Madame TURCK. (8 h.) Selection d'œuvres de Massenet accompagnée d'une causerie par M. J. de Smedt.</p> <p>Novembre.</p> <p>Mercredi 1. Monsieur L. BAERT (Professeur de diction), (8½ h.) “Les Poètes de la Guerre” (Les Etoiles éteintes.) (avec Auditions).</p>	<p>Novembre.</p> <p>Samedi 11. Profr. A. SALMON (Président de la (8 h.) Fédération Britannique de l'Alliance française). “Les femmes de France à la culture de la Terre.” (avec projections).</p> <p>Judi 16. Prof. P. DIVERRÈS, D. Litt., M.A. (8 h.) “Influence de la littérature galloise sur la littérature française au Moyen—Age.”</p> <p>Judi 23. WHIST DRIVE. (7½ h.) Messieurs 2/-. Dames 1/6. Invités 6d. extra.</p> <p>Samedi 25. Monsieur F. le BARS (L ès L) (8 h.) (Conseiller du Commerce Extérieur de la France). “Les journaux anglais et français pendant la Guerre.”</p> <p>Décembre.</p> <p>Vendredi 1. Prof. POLDERMAN (de l'Université de (8 h.) Birmingham). “La Poesie française en Belgique.”</p> <p>Mercredi 6. Monsieur MAURICE THIERY (de la (8½ h.) Société des Auteurs). “Mme. Sarah Bernhardt: la femme, l'artiste, l'écrivain.”</p> <p>Judi 14. M. RENÉ TURCK. (8 h.) “Les Prisonniers anglais de Napoléon en France.”</p> <p>Lundi 18. Soirée Musicale. (8 h.)</p>
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Programme card for first part of 1916-17

AVIS IMPORTANT.

Tous les mardis soirs de 8 à 9 heures lecture en français d'auteurs classiques, etc.

Des Conférences auront lieu suivant le programme.

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TOUR TO THE CHATEAUX DISTRICT ON THE LOIRE.

Members will kindly specially note that the projected tour to the Loire district is tentatively—not definitely—fixed to commence on the Saturday preceding Easter Sunday. It is probable that the cost from Saturday to Saturday, including the journey from and to Cardiff, will be approximately £12. This is a very cheap rate. There will be a brief stay in Paris on the return, and everything will be arranged for the convenience of the party.

It is quite impossible to make definite arrangements unless those who contemplate going will be good enough to notify the Secretary as soon as possible. If this is not done, the tour must be relinquished. As so many requests have been made, there should be no hesitancy in sending a preliminary word. Notification at this juncture will not necessarily mean definite acceptance.

A.W.S.

LES COTISATIONS SONT PAYABLES LE 1 JANVIER.

Messieurs, Une guinée.

Dames, 12/6.

WESTERN MAIL LIMITED, 138866

SOCIÉTÉ FRANCO-ANGLAISE

DE CARDIFF, 38, PARK PLACE,
CARDIFF.

President :

CLEMENT SPIRIDION, Esq.

Hon. Secretary :

A. W. SWASH, Esq. (OFFICIER D'ACADÉMIE).

Assistant Hon. Secretary :

J. M. FORD, Esq.

1925.

**PROGRAMME
DE L'HIVER**

SECONDE PARTIE 1925.

JANVIER—AVRIL.

Telephone 1519.

PROGRAMME—Janvier—Avril 1925.

Janvier.

Samedi 10. RÉOUVERTURE—SOIRÉE MUSICALE.
(8 h.)

Lundi 12. BROADCASTING.
"Fais ce que doit."
(MESDAMES LE GOUSSARD & MAGGI et
MONSIEUR A. W. SWASH).

Mardi 13. RÉOUVERTURE DU CERCLE DE
LECTURE. (Sous la Présidence de
Mlle. E. LE GOUSSARD).
Livre choisi : "La robe de Laine."

Samedi 17. Mlle. SALMON (Reading University).
(8 h.)
"Les gorges du Tarn."—Avec projections.
Président - R. HARPER, Esq.

Mercredi 21. BAL MASQUÉ.—COX'S, QUEEN STREET.
(Billets - 10/6).

Samedi 24. ASSEMBLÉE GÉNÉRALE.
(8 h.)

Samedi 31. MONSIEUR ANDRÉ MAUROIS (Paris).
(Auteur des "Silences du Colonel
Bramble," &c.)

Sujet : "L'Esprit et l'Humour."
Sous les auspices de l'Alliance Française.
Président - M. PIERRE VALET
(Consul de France à Cardiff).

Février.

Samedi 7. WHIST DRIVE.
(7½ h.)
Billets, 2/6. Invités, 1/- extra.
S'adresser à Mlle. BANTING.

Samedi 14. MONSIEUR F. LE BARS (Chevalier de la
Légion d'Honneur).
(8 h.)
"A quoi servent les Conférences."
Président - Monsieur M. RAGODY.

Samedi 21. CAPTAIN D. B. ANTHONY, M.A. (Uni-
versité du pays de Galles).
(8 h.)
"Vieilles chansons de la Bretagne."
Président - Monsieur C. SPIRIDION.

Samedi 28. BRIDGE DRIVE.
(7½ h.)
Billets, 2/6. Invités, 1/- extra.
S'adresser à Mlle. N. JAMES.

Mars.

Samedi 7. MONSIEUR F. H. BARTER, M.A.
(8 h.)
Sujet : "La femme au XVIII^e Siècle."
Président - Monsieur H. GONNEVILLE,
D.S.O.

Samedi 14. MONSIEUR ÉMILE SOREL (Paris).
(8 h.)
"Les poètes que j'ai connus"—avec
récitations de Mlle. TAVERNIER, de Paris.
Président - Monsieur W. E. THOMAS.
Sous les auspices de l'Alliance Française.

Samedi 21. CONCERT.

Samedi 28. SOIRÉE DRAMATIQUE.
(Par les Membres de la Société).

Programme card for the second part of 1924-25

French or English?

As we have seen, the practice of the Society throughout its history has been to put on a series of varied lectures each year exclusively in French. (We can take the 1916 lecture on the British Red Cross Society as the exception that proves the rule.) Further we can see that the Society fostered the use of French, for example, in the printed programmes, and there are many references through the years in the committee minutes to the desirability that members should use the meetings as an opportunity to practice their French conversation. Clearly not all did, or we should not have had such comments.

At a later date we find that this principle, that all lectures should be in French, was explicitly recognised by the Society. At the committee meeting on 12 January 1952, it was minuted:

“A letter was read from Miss Coate suggesting a lecture in English by Col. Rutherford on 26 January. Miss Bourlay reported that, in accordance with a resolution passed at a meeting last year to the effect that lectures be in French only, she had, after consultation with Mr Lennox and Mr Morteo, refused the offer. Her action was approved by the committee.”

This appears to be connected with the Society's affiliation to the Franco-British Society. This first appears in the minutes of the meeting on 17 May 1945 as follows:

“A letter was read from Mr H. Leonard Porcher drawing the attention of the committee to the existence of this newly-formed society. The secretaries were instructed to communicate with the director, Capt. B. S. Tourrol, with a view to affiliation”.

It appears from subsequent references that affiliation took place, and in May 1946 Mon. Spiridion was nominated as the Society's representative on the Council of the Franco-British Society. After that there are occasional references; the French consul was a keen supporter and was instrumental in setting up the Welsh Council of the Franco-British Society. However, the Society seemed more lukewarm and when Mon. Spiridion resigned as the Society's representative on the Council he does not appear to have been replaced.

We can speculate that the reason for this coolness might have been that the Franco-British Society offered talks in English, whilst the Society wanted to maintain a programme of talks only in French. This seems to be confirmed by the following minute from the committee meeting on 29 March 1960:

“The president had had a talk with Miss Marion Coate who had urged us to renew our association with the Franco-British Society; they were now prepared to give lectures in French. Mr Morteo proposed that we should link up with them again. Miss Bourlay seconded this and it was agreed.”

In putting together this history of the Society, the minute books of the committee meetings have proved to be an invaluable source of information. However, these records are not complete; the surviving minute books cover the following periods:

1916 – 1960
1967 – 1969
1983 onwards

The absence of the pre-1916 records is a big loss. The later gaps, from 1960 to 1967 and from 1969 to 1983, are less serious in that we have the minutes of the Annual General Meeting from 1959 to 1974 and a complete set of programme cards from 1958 onwards.

However, there is one fact which immediately strikes anyone who refers to these minute books. Prior to 1969 they are written almost exclusively in English; from 1983 onwards they are written almost exclusively in French. In fact, in the earlier period, the only piece in French which I found was the declaration of 7 October 1940 in support of de Gaulle and the Free French Forces, referred to by Arlette in her talk, and proposed by her father, Marcel Ragody.

Since this had been intended for publication in both French and English it is unsurprising that the Society had been asked to endorse the actual French text.

It is natural to assume that until the change-over, sometime between 1969 and 1983, the business of the committee had been for the most part conducted in English. Similarly, it appears from the minutes of the Annual General Meeting that these meetings had also been conducted in English. The minutes of the Annual General Meeting held in October 1947 seem to confirm this. The report of the presidential address starts as follows: "Speaking in French, Monsieur Ragody thanked Dr Paterson for his good wishes, and spoke in turn of the loyal support which the latter had always given to the Society and to France during the war..." The fact that this was minuted suggests that it was exceptional.

Thus the Society seems to have gone through a quantum leap. After some 70 years in which all the public meetings were in French and the private business in English, the established pattern has become one in which both public and private business is in French. Quite remarkable, when one considers that, in general, the knowledge of foreign languages is declining in Britain.

The Annual Trip to France

One of the highlights of recent years has been the series of trips to France, usually around the end of May. All of these trips have been organised by Annick Moseley and have been greatly appreciated by those taking part. The following is a list of trips since the first one in 1997:

- 1997 Vallée de la Loire (Rouen – Tours – Compiègne)
- 1998 Paris
- 1999 Bretagne/Normandie
- 2000 Picardie (Douai)
- 2001 Alsace (Charleville – Colmar – Reims)
- 2002 Ile de France (Chantilly)
- 2003 Champagne (Reims – Châlons-en-Champagne)
- 2004 Vallée de la Loire (Angers)
- 2005 no trip
- 2006 Bourgogne (Dijon – Arras – Lille)



1999 – Mont St Michel

The trips are by coach, from a local firm, and are six-seven days long. Accommodation is in hotels, for several nights at the main destination and with one or two nights in other towns en route. A different region is chosen each year, so that as much of France as possible can be covered, although of course all the destinations have to be within a reasonable driving distance of the Channel.



en route by coach



2001 - Place Stanislas, Nancy

The programme for the 2006 trip to Dijon is typical. The coach, with 25 members of the Society and supporters aboard, left Cardiff early on Saturday morning. After an afternoon crossing of the Channel, the first night was spent in Arras, staying at the Hotel Mercure. This gave an opportunity for some-sightseeing, and shower-dodging, as well as a first French meal. The following day the coach went on to Dijon where the Hotel Mercure was to be home for the next four nights. A guided tour of Dijon followed on Monday morning, following the Route of the Owl (Le Parcours de la Chouette), and for most people a visit to the Musée des Beaux-Arts. On Tuesday there was an outing to Nuits-Saint-Georges, with a visit to the cellars of Morin for a wine tasting, and then on to Beaune for lunch, sight-seeing, and a tour of the famous l'Hôtel-Dieu at Beaune. On Wednesday there was an optional outing to Langres, the home of Diderot and the Encyclopaedia, and to Domrémy, the birthplace of Joan of Arc. Those who preferred it could stay in Dijon, full of glorious buildings in the flamboyant Gothic style, dating from the wealthy times under the Dukes of Burgundy. The journey home started on Thursday, with a break to visit the village of Colombey-les-deux-Eglises, before arriving at Lille for the night. After a final dinner in Lille, in unusual surroundings, there was an opportunity to sight-see and shop the following morning before the journey back across the Channel to arrive in Cardiff late in the evening.



2000 – on the Somme



2003 - Provins



2000 – Lille



2006 – Beaune



2006 – Nuits-Saint-Georges



2000 – Douai



2004 – Azay-le-Rideau



2000 – Lille

Questions pour un Champion

This quiz programme is one of the most popular on French television. It is broadcast every day in the early evening on the national channel France 3. The host, Julien Lepers, is a household name in France. It is a general knowledge quiz where speed of answer is at a premium. Each programme starts with four competitors, who are eliminated one by one through the three rounds until that evening's winner is found. The consolation prizes for the losers are invariably glossy reference books, donated by the show's sponsors, the publishing house Larousse.



May 2003 – Questions pour un Champion
The Welsh Team: Elwyn Moseley, Jane Bowen.
Steve O'Regan, Patricia Thomas

Once a year, the programme organises an international competition in which representatives from ten countries around the world take part (the selection of countries being different each year). In 2003 Wales was invited to take part, and for the preliminary stage was required to put forward a team of four players. The quiz is very demanding both of ability in French and of general knowledge. The request was circulated to the French societies in Wales, and in the end the Society provided all four members of the team.

The ten teams assembled in Paris in May 2003. The first stage was a series of matches involving each country in turn, to determine which of their four members would represent the country in the grand final. France 3 turned out to be very good hosts and it probably true to say that the team members appreciated being shown the sights of Paris more than the rigours of the quiz itself. In the event, the worthy winner of the Welsh heat was Steve O'Regan who then upheld the Olympic ideal in taking part in the final.

Social Events

The programme of the Society has a number of social and celebratory evenings each year. Those that have made a regular appearance in recent years are the Fête de Noël (the last meeting of the autumn session), the Fête des Rois (Epiphany or Twelfth Night), which is the first meeting of the winter session, and Mardi Gras in February.

The Fête de Noël takes the form of a dinner with musical entertainment. It is also the occasion on which the Society presents a prize of £250 to the student with the best A level results that year in any of the Cardiff schools, this prize being awarded for the first time in 2002.



Fête de Noël 2002 – Claude Rapport, the French Consul, presents Ben Philips from Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Glantaf with the Best French Student Prize



Fête de Noël 2004 at Aberdare Hall

Mardi Gras, as in the early times, continues to be celebrated with a variety of fancy dress, as the pictures below testify.



Fancy hats are still in vogue



Napoleon and Josephine are remarried by a druid



Cardinal Richelieu was there



The 1998 World Cup is won by the French football team

Finally, the Society organises an outing each summer. This can take a variety of forms. Sometimes it is a trip to a tourist attraction, sometimes a picnic, sometimes a treasure hunt, sometimes a party for the Fête Nationale. In 2005 and in 2006, it was a combination of a trip, a picnic and the celebration of the Fête Nationale. In 2005 the Society visited Dindefwr castle and in 2006 the chosen destination was Waddesdon Manor, a magnificent house built by Baron Rothschild which is now owned by the National Trust. Some 25 members of the Society enjoyed these visits as the following pictures show.



Waddesdon Manor 2006



Picnic in the grounds



A walk in the country to
Dinefwr castle



Dinefwr Castle 2005

Change of Name of the Society

In 1995 it was decided to change the name of the Society from Société Franco-Anglaise de Cardiff to Société Franco-Britannique de Cardiff. When the Society was founded in 1906, the word 'English' was used freely as an alternative to the word 'British'. Although it also had the meaning of 'English, as distinct from the other countries comprising the United Kingdom', no offence was intended by using it the sense 'British' and none was taken. However, over the course of the twentieth century, the sense of Welsh identity increased and this was recognised officially in many ways. For example, in 1955, Cardiff was declared the capital of Wales and still proudly boasts (though now a suspect claim) to be Europe's Youngest Capital.

Over the years there was some discussion in the Society about changing the name, since people were now conscious that the use of the original name could seem to embody a discourteous and patronising view of Wales and the Welsh. Against that, of course, was the fact that the name represented the long and honourable tradition of the Society, and there had never been any hint of discrimination in the Society's original choice.

A formal proposal for the change of name was put forward in 1995. There was a keen debate, with partisans on both sides, but the necessary two-thirds majority was obtained, and the new name of the Society was established.

**CENTENARY OF
SOCIETE FRANCO-BRITANNIQUE DE CARDIFF
1906 - 2006**

APPENDICES

- Appendix A: Biography of Paul Barbier**
- Appendix B: Biography of W. E. Thomas**
- Appendix C: Biography of Max Wideman**
- Appendix D: Houses of the Society**
- Appendix E1: Early Programmes of the Society: 1906**
- Appendix E2: Early Programmes of the Society: 1910-11**
- Appendix E3: Early Programmes of the Society: 1915-16**
- Appendix E4: Early Programmes of the Society: 1924-25**
- Appendix F: Membership Card 1908**
- Appendix G: Programme of the Society: Centenary Year 2005-2006**

Paul Barbier (1847-1922)



[picture courtesy of Cardiff Central Library]

Paul Barbier was one of the three founders of the Society and was its first president. He was a familiar figure in Cardiff, having joined the University College in 1883, becoming the first Professor of French Language and Literature in 1906

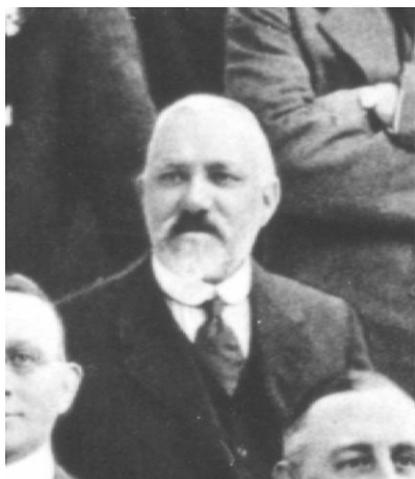
Paul Barbier was born in France, at Colombier-Châtelot in the Doubs, around 1847. He was the son of a French Protestant pastor and was educated at the Ecole de la Confession d'Augsbourg in Paris. He trained for the Protestant ministry but instead took up tutorial work. He taught French, first at Felstead Grammar School and then at Manchester Grammar School. He came to the University in Cardiff (then known as the University College of South Wales) in 1883 as lecturer in French language and literature, and was appointed professor in 1906.

He married Euphémie Bornet, the daughter of a professor from Lausanne. They had eight children, four sons and four daughters. Although they lived in Britain for some fifty years, they retained French citizenship for themselves and their children. All four sons served in the First World War. Paul Barbier (the eldest son who went on to become Professor of French at Leeds University) and Edmond Barbier were interpreters with the British forces. Georges and Jules Barbier served in the French Army and, though both were wounded, they survived the war. One of his daughters married a French resident of Cardiff, M. Vaillant de Guelis, who fell during the war and is buried in Cathays cemetery.

Paul Barbier contributed much to the teaching of French in Britain. He was the author of a number of school editions of French classics. He was at one time examiner-in-chief to London University, and in 1906 he chaired the meeting in Shrewsbury of heads of Modern Sections in schools at which the decision to set up the Modern Languages Association was taken. He was always seeking ways to bring Britain and France closer together, and it is no surprise that he took a leading part in the foundation of the society.

He was noted for his perfect knowledge of the English language and he was a regular contributor of articles to local newspapers and journals. He was a widely-admired teacher of French at the University. He was also deeply interested in Wales and the Welsh people and, after his retirement from the University in 1920, he started to collect material for a social and religious history of Cardiff. He was recognised in France as Officier de l'Académie and Officier de l'Instruction Publique.

W. E. Thomas (1855-1929)



[picture courtesy of National Museum - Wales]

W. E. (William Evan) Thomas was one of the three founders of the Society and was its first vice-president. He was a leading Cardiff docksman, had an expert knowledge of French and served the famous French shipping line, the *Compagnie Générale Transatlantique*, for more than fifty years.

W. E. Thomas was born in the Cardiff docklands, at 2 Stuart Square, in 1855. His father was the manager of the Cardiff Steam Navigation Company and he was educated at Trice's Albion House School in Charles Street and in France. After leaving school he went to sea and his voyages included one around Cape Horn. He then spent three years working in one of the shipping businesses in Cardiff before taking charge of the *Compagnie Générale Transatlantique* at Cardiff in July 1876.

The *Compagnie Générale Transatlantique* was a major purchaser of Welsh steam coal, which they transported in their own ships to Le Havre to fuel their transatlantic liners and cargo ships. Their collier, the *Sainte Adresse*, was well-known in Penarth docks on account of her distinctive hooter. Her name lives on in the name of one of the squares in the modern Penarth marina, Plas St Adresse.

He married the daughter of one Mr Ellis, a Customs surveyor. They had six children, one son and five daughters. His only son, William Byard Thomas, also worked for the *Compagnie Transatlantique*, although the society's minutes record that he moved from Cardiff to London in 1930.

W. E. Thomas was one of the three founders of the *Société Franco-Anglaise de Cardiff*. The newspaper account of one of the earliest meetings of the society, on 25 October 1906, records, "At its institute – 3 Park Place – Paul Barbier gave a lecture on Jean-Jacques Rousseau before a large gathering of members. Mr W. E. Thomas of the *Transatlantique* Company was in the chair." He was the first vice-president of the society and was president four times, the last occasion being in 1926-27. His son, W. Byard Thomas, was also a member of the society and served as treasurer from 1925 until 1930, when he moved to London.

W. E. Thomas had an expert knowledge of French and interpreted several cases in the House of Lords. He was a noted figure in shipping and commercial circles in Cardiff. In 1927 the President of France appointed him Chevalier de la Légion d'Honneur in recognition of his fifty years' service with the French shipping company and for his consistent efforts to foster business and friendly relations between Great Britain and France.

Max Wideman (1872-1922)



[picture courtesy of R Max Wideman, Vancouver, Canada]

Max Wideman was one of the three founders of the society. Born in Paris in 1872, he came to Cardiff at the age of eighteen and became a naturalised British citizen. He had a very successful career as a docksman with extensive business interests in Cardiff. He was twice president of the society.

Max Wideman had a colourful family history. His father, Karl, was the illegitimate son of Prince Frederic V de Salm Kyrbourg, a minor prince with several estates in Europe but then living in Limbourg, Belgium. Together with the legitimate son he went to school in Brussels. He went to live in the USA and earned a highly profitable living in California by embalming dead Chinese so that they could be returned to China for burial. Afterwards, he returned to Europe and married a Parisian widow. Max(imilien) Wideman was born in 1872 in Paris, at rue de Travise 15, shortly after the end of the siege of Paris during the Franco-Prussian war.

At the age of eighteen Max Wideman left France for Cardiff. He had probably been raised as a Catholic, but was baptised into the Anglican Church in May 1895 and the same year was confirmed by the Bishop of Llandaff at the cathedral. In 1896 he married an English girl, May Hilda Boulton, in Liverpool. At this time he was living in Roath, and his profession was described as foreign correspondent, i.e. he was employed in a shipping company to deal with foreign business. In 1904 he became manager of Morgan and Cadogan, a company with interests as shipowners, coal exporters, iron and pitwood importers, shipbrokers and chartering agents and in 1918 he became chairman of the company.

He was a man of great warmth, energy and charm which brought him exceptional business and social success. At the time of his death he was chairman of eight companies and director of a further ten. Most of these were connected with shipping and trade, including French and Algerian companies. He was also deeply involved in the social life of Cardiff and Penarth, as director of the Playhouse, the Paget Rooms, and various local Masonic groups, and a supporter of local hospitals, charities and of All Saints Church in Penarth.

He moved from Roath to Penarth around 1904, where he lived first in Archer Road and later at Erw'r Delyn, an impressive house on Sully Road which had previously belonged to the shipping and docking magnate Thomas Roe Thompson. He had five children, two sons and three daughters. He died at the age of just 49 from a heart attack which he suffered after going for a walk near his home one evening.

He took out British naturalisation papers in 1914. He was very conscious that his name had a rather German sound, and during the First World War there was much anti-German feeling. He used to point out that he was of largely French descent, including having an ancestor beheaded in the French revolution, and that he had trained for more than a year with the Penarth Drill and Rifle Corps, where he was a corporal.

He was very generous at all times towards the society. The minutes show that for a number of years he personally paid one third of the expenses of the speakers each year, and he advanced part of the money which the society needed to purchase 36 Park Place.

The Houses of the Society

Introduction

From 1906 until 1948 the Society had its own premises, in a succession of three houses in Park Place. These enabled the Society to function like a members' club, with the rooms open at all times (typically every day from 10 a.m. until 10 or 11 p.m.). Newspapers and magazines were provided, as well as games and refreshments, and the Society was a centre of social activity.

3 Park Place

The first premises were at 3 Park Place. The Western Mail carried reports of two meetings of the Society in October 1906, which refer to 3 Park Place as "the [Society's] rooms" and "their [the Society's] institute". There are also some books in the archives which formed part of the Society's library and these are stamped with the Society's stamp showing the address as 3 Park Place.

We do not know whether the Society had the entire building or just some of the rooms, but we may assume in either case that the Society hired the premises rather than owned them, since it moved within a couple of years.

The photograph on the right shows 3 Park Place as it looks today [July 2006].



31 Park Place

The second house occupied by the Society was 31 Park Place. This is the address given on the membership card for 1908, so the Society in fact spent a very short time at 3 Park Place.

The Programme for 1910-11 also gives the address as 31 Park Place, but during 1911 the Society moved again, to 36 Park Place.

The photograph on the right shows 31 Park Place as it looks today [July 2006].



36 Park Place

This house was the home of the Society for nearly 40 years, from 1911 until 1948. The Society, for a short but profitable period after the First World War, owned the house but for most of the time it was rented.

The history of the house and its role as a centre for the Free French during World War Two has been recounted in Part 1 (Arlette's talk).

The photograph on the right shows 36 Park Place as it looks today [July 2006]. The ground floor has changed considerably since it was converted into a bank.



Early Programmes of the Society: 1906

Programme for 1906

The earliest reports of the Society's meetings so far traced are in the Western Mail from October 1906, the first year of the Society's existence. These reports are as follows:

Western Mail, Thursday 4 October 1906

ANGLO-FRENCH SOCIETY

The second session of La Societe Franco-Anglaise de Cardiff was opened on Wednesday [presumably 3 October] at the rooms, 3 Park Place, by a successful concert, which was largely attended. The society has a membership of 220 and an interesting programme of lectures has been drawn up for the session. Madame Winter Hamon, Madame Elsa Tostia, Mr H. L. Francis, Mr Pritchard, Mr T. Lewis, Mr W. R. Jones and Mr W. Nolan were among the artists.

Western Mail, Thursday 25 October 1906

At their institute – 3 Park Place, Cardiff – on Wednesday evening [presumably 24 October] Professor Barbier gave a lecture on Jean-Jacques Rousseau before a large gathering of members of the Franco-Anglaise Societe. Mr W. E. Thomas, of the Transatlantique Company, was in the chair.

It would appear that these refer to the second session of the Society from October to December. However, no earlier reports than these have been found in the Western Mail.

There are three further meetings recorded in the Western Mail during November and December.

M. de Guelis spoke about "The Commune", again with W. E. Thomas in the chair (reported on Thursday 15 November).

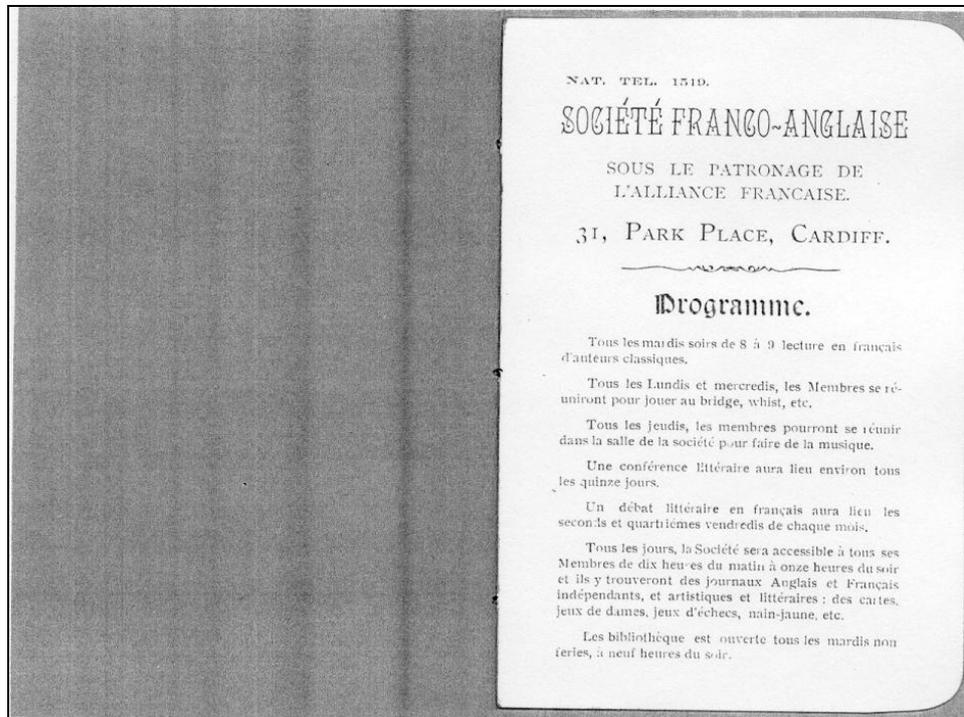
Prof. Otto Siepman (Clifton College) spoke on "Modern Language in Education", with Professor Barbier in the chair (reported on Monday 10 December).

Mlle Osmond-Barnard (Pontypool County School) spoke on "Victor Hugo et le Centacle", again with Professor Barbier in the chair (reported on Thursday 13 December).

Early Programmes of the Society: 1910-11

Programmes for 1910-1911

The programme for 1910-11 was drawn up and published as two sessions, October-December and January-April.



Programme.		Hiver 1910.	
1910.		1910.	
Vendredi 14 Octobre	Réception à la Société de tous les Membres par le Président, précédée d'une causerie. "De tout et du reste" par M. F. Le Bars, Licencié-lettres ; suivie d'une soirée musicale et dansante.	Samedi 19 Novembre	De la frontière d'Espagne à Madrid (avec projections) Mr. F. Novion, Secrétaire Général de la Fédération de l'Alliance Française;
Samedi 29 Octobre	Probablement représentation en matinée de pièces classiques françaises A. Roubaud et sa troupe.	Vendredi 11 Novembre	WHIST DRIVE. (Members, 1/6, Non-Members, 2/-)
Samedi 5 Novembre	"Victor Hugo à Jersey et Guernesey," avec projections, par M. Maurice Souriau, professeur de littérature à l'Université de Caen, Salle des Conférences du Y.M.C.A.	Vendredi 2 Décembre	"Paris par un Parisien," R. M. Gardeur, Université de Manchester.
		Samedi 17 Décembre	"Les Gaulois et la Nationalité Française." Prof. A. V. Salmon, Président de la Fédération de l'Alliance Française.
		Vendredi Dec. 30.	Soirée musicale, Dansante etc.

Programme for October-December 1910.

[Courtesy of Cardiff Central Library]

NAT. TEL. 1519.

SOCIÉTÉ FRANCO-ANGLAISE

SOUS LE PATRONAGE DE
L'ALLIANCE FRANÇAISE.

31, PARK PLACE, CARDIFF.

Programme.

Tous les mardis soirs de 8 à 9 lecture en français d'auteurs classiques, etc.

Tous les Lundis et mercredis, les Membres se réuniront pour jouer au bridge, whist, etc.

Tous les jeudis, les membres pourront se réunir dans la salle de la société pour faire de la musique.

Des Conférences littéraires auront lieu suivant programme.

La Société est ouverte aux membres les jours de semaine de dix heures du matin à onze heures du soir et les dimanches et jours fériés jusqu'à dix heures du soir seulement. Ils y trouveront des journaux anglais et français, artistiques et littéraires, cartes daniens, échecs, etc.

La bibliothèque est ouverte tous les mardis non fériés à neuf heures du soir.

Personnes ne faisant pas partie de la Société seront admises aux conférences, lectures, soirées, etc. moyennant le paiement d'un shilling par conférence.

Programme		1911.	
1911.		1911	
Samedi, 14 Janvier à 8 heures	Conférence du Prof. A. V. Salmon Les Gaulois et la Nationalité Française.	Jeudi, 2 Mars à 8 heures	Conférence du Prof. J. C. Andre Barbier. La poésie en France sous le Second Empire.
Vendredi, 20 Janvier, à 8 heures	Conférence du Rev G. Ramette, B A, B D. La femme Française à travers histoire	Vendredi, 10 Mars. à 7 heures et demie	Bridge Drive. Membres 2/- Invités 2/6
Vendredi, 27 Janvier. à 8 heures	Assemblée Générale, comptes rendus de l'année et élections.	Vendredi, 17 Mars. à 8 heures	Conférence de Mme J C André Barbier La musique (avec illustrations)
Vendredi, 3 Février, à 8 heures	Conférence de Mr. R. M. Gardeur, L. es L. Chateaubriand.	Lundi, 27 Mars. à 8 heures	Conférence de Mr. G. Lacour Gayet, Professeur d'histoire à l'Ecole Supérieure de Marine de France, La reine Marie Antoinette.
Samedi, 11 Février, à 8 heures	Conférence du Prof Yvon Calviou L'époque Napoléonienne	Vendredi, 7 Avril. à 8 heures.	Conférence de M. F. L. Bars L. ès L. Sujet à son choix.
Vendredi 17 Février à 7 heures et demie	Whist Drive Membres 2/- Invités 2/6.	Vendredi, 21 Avril à 8 heures.	Soiree littéraire musicale et dansante.

Sauf avis contraire les conférences auront lieu à la Société à huit heures précises du soir. Pour les Whist Drives, Soirées, Lectures, Conférences, Représentations, on peut obtenir des billets à la Société.

Programme for January-April 1911.

[Courtesy of au Cardiff Central Library]

Note first that the premises of the Society are 31 Park Place. This is in agreement with the history given in Part 1 (Arlette's talk), where the Society had these premises until 1911.

The Society's premises were open to members every day from 10 a.m. to 10.00 p.m. and there was a wide variety of activities on offer:

A reading circle every Tuesday.

Bridge and whist every Monday and Wednesday.

Music every Thursday.

A literary talk approximately once a fortnight.

A literary debate (in French) on the second and fourth Friday of each month.

A library, open every Tuesday evening.

Several of the speakers (Professor A. V. Salmon, Professor J. C. Andre Barbier and Mon. F. Le Bars) were regular speakers. Mon. F. Le Bars was a leading member of the Society for many years and was president in 1925.

The Annual General Meeting was held in January, as required by the constitution at that time. The officers of the Society were elected at the Annual General Meeting and held office for the calendar year. This was changed later, so that the year of office for the president ran from 14 July.

Soirée musicale of 30 December 1910

The programme includes a 'Soirée musicale, Dansante etc' on Friday 30 December. A special illustrated programme for this evening was produced, drawn by Marcel Ragody.



Société Franco-Anglaise de Cardiff Program 30 Décembre 1910

Romance Berceuse de Panurge
Piano et Mandoline MM. Lambert & Santuc

L'anglais tel qu'on le parle
Sketch

La musique des trottoirs
Air populaire M. Forgues

Frais sourire
Mandolines MM. Lambert & Santuc

C'est idiot
Monologue M. Mauvoisin

Ici on parle français
Sketch

La fille à sa mère
Répertoire Mayol M. Forgues

La Marseillaise

God Save the King

P.S. Les organisateurs se réservent le droit de modifier le programme ci-dessus – si besoin est.

The featured performers – Lambert, Santuc, Forgues et Mauvoisin – were all young French members of the Society. They all appear together on a photograph taken on 14 November 1910, i.e. about six weeks before the concert, together with the drawer of the programme, Marcel Ragody.



French members of the Society (note the French flag in the foreground) on 14 November 1910.

Back row: C Lambert, G Sentuc, M Bordier, L Mauvoisin.

Front row: Joseph Orf, H Maynan, (indecipherable), F Forgues, M Ragody.

Acknowledgement: Programmes for 1910-11 courtesy of Cardiff Central Library.

Early Programmes of the Society: 1915-16

SOCIÉTÉ FRANCO-ANGLAISE
DE CARDIFF,
36. PARK PLACE, CARDIFF.

Programme du
Trimestre.

1915.
OCTOBRE DECEMBRE.

TELEPHONE 1519.

C. Wakeford & Sons, Dumballs Road, Docks, Cardiff.

Tous les mardis soirs de 8 à 9 heures lecture en français d'auteurs classiques, etc.

Des Conférences auront lieu suivant le programme.

La Société est ouverte aux membres les jours de semaine de 10 heures du matin à onze heures du soir les Dimanches et jours fériés jusqu'à 10 heures du soir seulement. Ils trouveront des journaux anglais, français, artistiques et littéraires, cartes, damiers échecs etc.

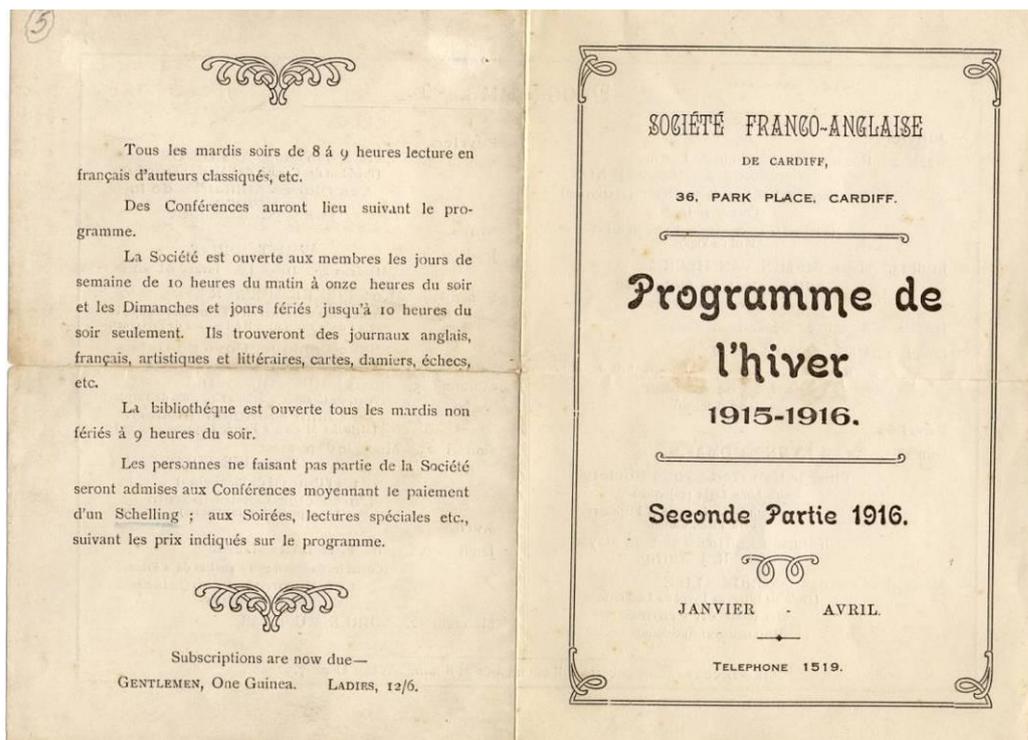
La bibliothèque est ouverte tous les mardis non fériés à 9 heures du soir.

Les personnes ne faisant pas partie de la Société seront admises aux Conférences moyennant le paiement d'un Schelling ; aux Soirées, lectures spéciales etc., suivant les prix indiqués sur le programme.

Cover of programme for October-December 1915. The Society was now established in 36 Park Place, which was open to members from 10.00 a.m. until 11.00 p.m. on weekdays, and until 10.00 p.m. on Sundays. [Courtesy of Cardiff Central Library]

PROGRAMME.	
<p>Octobre.</p> <p>Mercredi 13. Conférence de Monsieur G. STIENON. La Danse à Travers les Ages.</p> <p>Samedi 23. Conférence de Madame D'ORLIAC BOHN. Vice Principal de l'Institut Français du Royaume Uni. Les Pays Scandinaves. Recitations de Melle. Teissier (du Théâtre du Vieux Colombier). At the South Wales Institute of Engineers, Park Place, Cardiff.</p> <p>Samedi 30. Conférence en Anglais de M. le Professeur A. SALMON. (Président des Comités de l'Alliance Française) Le Martyr de la Cathédrale de Reims. (Avec projections lumineuses). At the South Wales Institute of Engineers, Park Place, Cardiff.</p> <p>Novembre.</p> <p>Jeudi 4. Concert organisé par les soins de Monsieur R. J. RIMELL. (Vice-Président de la Société Franco-Anglaise).</p>	<p>Novembre.</p> <p>Mercredi 10. Conférence de Monsieur PROUMEN. Délégué de l'Institut Français. Professeur aux Facultés de Bruxelles. Le Roman Historique, Vigny, Hugo, Dumas.</p> <p>Jeudi 18. WHIST DRIVE. Messieurs 2/-. Dames 1/6. Invités 6d. extra.</p> <p>Samedi 27. Conférence de Monsieur F. LE BARS (Dés-I). Counselleur du Commerce Extérieur de La France. "POILUS et TOMMIÉS."</p> <p>Décembre.</p> <p>Jeudi 2. Conférence de Monsieur VAILLANT. Licencié en Droit Avocat au Barreau de Lille. Délégué de l'Institut Français. Causes de la Guerre de 1914.</p> <p>Samedi 11. Conférence de Monsieur JACOB. Etudes de Mœurs à Paris.</p> <p>Samedi 18. Soirée Musicale et Littéraire.</p>
<p>N.B.—Lectures and Concerts will commence at 8 p.m. Whist Drive 7.15 p.m.</p>	

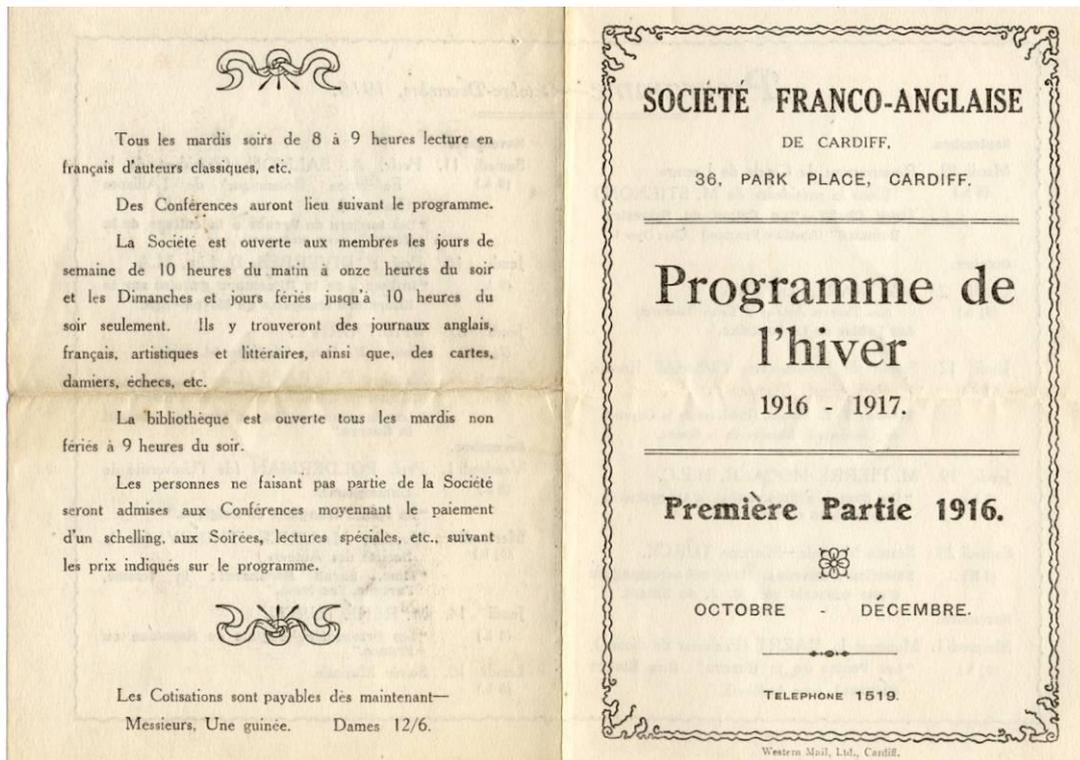
Programme for October-December 1915. Speakers include Professor Salmon and F. Le Bars. The speaker on 4 November, R. J. Rimmel, was president of the Society in 1916 and 1917. [Courtesy of Cardiff Central Library]



Cover of programme for January-April 1916. Subscriptions were due in January.

PROGRAMME.	
Janvier.	Février.
Mardi 4. Réouverture du Cercle de Lecture (Sous la présidence de Mons. STIENON) Livre—" La tulipe noire " (Dumas) Chez Dyer 1/6, (à suivre) Grandes et Servitudes Militaires— Alfred de Vigny.	Samedi 26. Mons. le Professeur A. SALMON (Président des Comités de l'Alliance Française) Les Oloires Militaires de la France (Avec projections lumineuses).
Juedi 13. Mons. FIRMIN VAN HECKE. Villes d'art en Belgique (avec projections lumineuses).	Mars.
Juedi 20. Assemblée Générale Annuelle.	Juedi 2. WHIST DRIVE. Messieurs 2/-. Dames 1/6. Invites' 6d. extra.
Lundi 24. Mdlle. MARIE DE NYS (du Théâtre Antoine et du Théâtre Sarah Bernhardt), Alfred de Musset (avec auditions).	Samedi 11. Mons. PIERRE MOCAËR (Secrétaire de la Section d'Economie Politique et Sociale de la Fédération Régionaliste de Bretagne). L'Idée Celtique, Pays de Galles et Bretagne.
Février.	Mercredi 15. Mons. LOUIS BOURGEOIS (Prof. de Chant à la Schola Cantorum de Paris). Le Chant Français Moderne (Mélodies Modernes Fauré, Duparc, Debussy.)
Samedi 5. Dr. J. LYNN THOMAS, C.B. The British Red Cross Society with Lime Light projections. At the South Wales Institute of Engineers, Park Place, Cardiff. Chairman—Rt. Hon. The Lord Mayor (Dr. R. J. SMITH).	Samedi 25. Mons. le Professeur FABRICE POLDERMAN (De l'Université de Birmingham). L'Art Belge Contemporain (Avec projections lumineuses).
Mercredi 16. Mons. GEORGE ALIEZ (Prof. de lettres au Lycée de Londres). Un tour en France (Impressions et Anecdotes).	Avril.
	Juedi 6. Mons. F. le BARS (L és L) (Conseiller du Commerce Extérieur de la France). Les Femmes Françaises et la Guerre.
	Mercredi 12. SOIREE MUSICALE
N.B.—Lectures and Concerts will commence at 8 p.m. Whist Drive 7.30 p.m.	

Programme for January-April 1916. The Annual General Meeting was held in January.



Cover of programme for October-December 1916.

<i>Programme---Octobre-Décembre, 1916.</i>	
Septembre.	
Mardi 19. (8 h.)	Re-ouverture du Cercle de Lecture (Sous la présidence de M. STIENON.) Livre Choisi —"Le Crime de Sylvestre Bonnard" (Anatole France.) Chez Dyer 1/-
Octobre.	
Lundi 2. (8½ h.)	Mlle. MARIE DE NYS (des Théâtres Antoine et Sarah Bernhardt). Les Fables de La Fontaine.
Jeudi 12. (8 h.)	Soirée de Re-ouverture (Whitehall Rooms, Park Hotel) Discours par Monsieur T. E. Watson, (Président de la Chambre de Commerce.) Membre de la Société.
Jeudi 19. (8 h.)	M. PIERRE MOCAËR, H.E.C. "Un Breton à l'Eisteddfod d'Aberystwith Impressions et Souvenirs."
Samedi 28. (8 h.)	Séance Musicale—Madame TURCK. Sélection d'œuvres de Massenet accompagnée d'une causerie par M. J. de Smedt.
Novembre.	
Mercredi 1. (8½ h.)	Monsieur L. BAERT (Professor de diction). "Les Poètes de la Guerre" (Les Etoiles éteintes.) (avec Auditions).
Novembre.	
Samedi 11. (8 h.)	Profr. A. SALMON (Président de la Fédération Britannique de l'Alliance française). "Les femmes de France à la culture de la Terre." (avec projections).
Jeudi 16. (8 h.)	Prof. P. DIVERRÈS, D. Litt., M.A. "Influence de la littérature galloise sur la littérature française au Moyen-Age."
Jeudi 23. (7½ h.)	WHIST DRIVE. Messieurs 2/-. Dames 1/6. Invités 6d. extra.
Samedi 25. (8 h.)	Monsieur F. le BARS (L ès L) (Conseiller du Commerce Extérieur de la France). "Les journaux anglais et français pendant la Guerre."
Décembre.	
Vendredi 1. (8 h.)	Prof. POLDERMAN (de l'Université de Birmingham). "La Poésie française en Belgique."
Mercredi 6. (8½ h.)	Monsieur MAURICE THIÉRY (de la Société des Auteurs). "Mme. Sarah Bernhardt: la femme, l'artiste, l'écrivain."
Jeudi 14. (8 h.)	M. RENÉ TURCK. "Les Prisonniers anglais de Napoléon en France."
Lundi 18. (8 h.)	Soirée Musicale.

Programme for October-December 1916.

Acknowledgement: Programme for October-December 1915 courtesy of Cardiff Central Library.

Early Programmes of the Society: 1924-25

Programme for 1924-1925

<i>PROGRAMME—Octobre—Décembre, 1924.</i>	
<p>Octobre.</p> <p>Samedi 11. SOIRÉE. (8 h.)</p> <p>Mardi 14. RÉOUVERTURE DU CERCLE DE LECTURE. Sous la Présidence de Mlle. LE GOUSSARD. (8 h.) Livre choisi : "La robe de laine."</p> <p>Samedi 18. M. PRENTOUT (Professeur d'Histoire Normande à l'Université de Caen). (8 h.) "Les Cathédrales Normandes."—Avec projections. Président - M. PIERRE VALET (Consul de France). Sous les auspices de l'Alliance Française.</p> <p>Samedi 25. WHIST DRIVE. (7½ h.) Billets, 2/6. Invités, 1/- extra. S'Adresser à Mlle. BANTING.</p> <p>Novembre.</p> <p>Samedi 1. MONSIEUR F. LE BARS (Chevalier de la Légion d'Honneur). (8 h.) "A quoi servent les Conférences." Président - Monsieur M. RAGODY.</p> <p>Samedi 15. BRIDGE DRIVE. (7½ h.) Billets, 2/6. Invités, 1/- extra. S'Adresser à Mlle. N. JAMES.</p>	<p>Novembre.</p> <p>Samedi 22. MADAME BERTAUX (Critic d'Art—Paris). (8 h.) "La beauté féminine en peinture,"—Avec projections. Sous les auspices de l'Alliance Française. Président - W. E. THOMAS, Esq.</p> <p>Mercredi 26. CONCERT—MUSIQUE FRANÇAISE. (8 h.) Mlle. WIENIAWSKA. Président - CLEMENT SPIRIDION, Esq.</p> <p>Décembre.</p> <p>Samedi 6. MONSIEUR PIERRE VALET (Chevalier de la Légion d'Honneur, Consul de France à Cardiff). (8 h.) Sujet Libre. Président - Monsieur F. DE BARS.</p> <p>Mercredi 10. REV. FATHER DILLEN, O.S.B. (8 h.) "L'Angleterre, la France et la Belgique dans l'Union," Président - CLEMENT SPIRIDION, Esq.</p> <p>Samedi 20. SOIRÉE DRAMATIQUE. (8 h.) (Par les membres de la Société.)</p>

Programme for October-December 1924.

<i>PROGRAMME—Janvier—Avril 1925.</i>	
<p>Janvier.</p> <p>Samedi 10. RÉOUVERTURE—SOIRÉE MUSICALE. (8 h.)</p> <p>Lundi 12. BROADCASTING. "Fais ce que doit," (MESDAMES LE GOUSSARD & MAGGI et MONSIEUR A. W. SWASH).</p> <p>Mardi 13. RÉOUVERTURE DU CERCLE DE LECTURE. (Sous la Présidence de Mlle. E. LE GOUSSARD). (8 h.) Livre choisi : "La robe de Laine,"</p> <p>Samedi 17. Mlle. SALMON (Reading University). (8 h.) "Les gorges du Tarn."—Avec projections. Président - R. HARPER, Esq.</p> <p>Mercredi 21. BAL MASQUÉ.—COX'S, QUEEN STREET. (Billets - 10/6).</p> <p>Samedi 24. ASSEMBLÉE GÉNÉRALE. (8 h.)</p> <p>Samedi 31. MONSIEUR ANDRÉ MAUROIS (Paris). (8 h.) (Auteur des "Silences du Colonel Bramble," &c.) Sujet : "L'Esprit et l'Humour." Sous les auspices de l'Alliance Française. Président - M. PIERRE VALET (Consul de France à Cardiff).</p>	<p>Février.</p> <p>Samedi 7. WHIST DRIVE. (7½ h.) Billets, 2/6. Invités, 1/- extra. S'Adresser à Mlle. BANTING.</p> <p>Samedi 14. MONSIEUR F. LE BARS (Chevalier de la Légion d'Honneur). (8 h.) "A quoi servent les Conférences." Président - Monsieur M. RAGODY.</p> <p>Samedi 21. CAPTAIN D. B. ANTHONY, M.A. (Université du pays de Galles). (8 h.) "Vieilles chansons de la Bretagne." Président - Monsieur C. SPIRIDION.</p> <p>Samedi 28. BRIDGE DRIVE. (7½ h.) Billets, 2/6. Invités, 1/- extra. S'Adresser à Mlle. N. JAMES.</p> <p>Mars.</p> <p>Samedi 7. MONSIEUR F. H. BARTER, M.A. (8 h.) Sujet : "La femme au XVIII^e Siècle." Président - Monsieur H. GONNEVILLE, D.S.O.</p> <p>Samedi 14. MONSIEUR ÉMILE SOREL (Paris). (8 h.) "Les poètes que j'ai connus"—avec récitations de Mlle. TAVERNIER, de Paris. Président - Monsieur W. E. THOMAS. Sous les auspices de l'Alliance Française.</p> <p>Samedi 21. CONCERT.</p> <p>Samedi 28. SOIRÉE DRAMATIQUE. (Par les Membres de la Société.)</p>

Programme for January-April 1925. The minutes show that the Alliance Française substituted the lecturer (A. Maurois) planned for 31 January with M. Lefèvre.

Membership Card 1908

Introduction

Only a very few of the early membership cards of the Society have been traced. In Cardiff Central Library there is a membership card for 1908 in the name of the Editor, Western Mail. Arlette Ragody-Hughes has in her possession cards for 1911, 1912 and 1916. These early cards, which are in the form of a fiche of several pages, are a valuable source of information. They include both the constitution and lists of the patrons, officers and individual members.

The 1908 membership card contained 18 pages and is reproduced in full below.

Acknowledgement: to Cardiff Central Library.

Programme of the Society: Centenary Year 2006-07

Introduction

The Society's programme for its centenary year, 2006-07, is reproduced below. The programme card was of A5 format and the design incorporated artwork drawn by Marcel Ragody, a former President, for a musical evening in 1910.

Société Franco-Britannique de Cardiff

Présidente d'Honneur
Madame Claude Rapport, Consul Honoraire de France

Vice-Présidente d'Honneur
Madame Arlette Ragody-Hughes

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Valerie Hill
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Françoise Stephens
Pauline Thompson

Conseil d'Administration

Nancy Jordan, Joan Meredith & Dyfrig Thomas

Registered Charity No. 1056433



CENTENAIRE 1906-2006



PROGRAMME

2006/07

Affiliée à l'Alliance Française af

Sous le Patronage du Rt. Hon the Lord Mayor of the City and County of Cardiff

Couverture du programme dessinée par Marcel Ragody, Président de la Société en 1910, lors de la Soirée Musicale du 30 décembre 1910

PROGRAMME 2006-07

*conférenciers de l'Alliance Française de Londres

2006		3 mars	Mme. Saïda Goutel* "L'Art Nouveau en France"
30 septembre	Joyeuse Ouverture (Vin, pain, fromage et bavardages)	24 mars	Mme. Sylviane Atkinson* "Hausmann: le démolisseur d'art"
14 octobre (19h00)	Dîner du Centenaire au Hilton Hotel	5 mai	Mme. Chantal Witchalls* "Le Dr Schweitzer"
28 octobre	M. Guy Richeux* "Le Franglais"	19/20 mai	Visite surprise - détails à suivre
11 novembre	M. Jean-Claude Vignaud* "Les Cévennes sur les traces de Stevenson"	17 juin (dimanche)	Jeux de Boules à Penarth
25 novembre	Mrs. Eleanor Williams et sa fille Eleanor "Que se passait-il en 1906?"	30 juin	Assemblée Générale Annuelle
16 décembre	Fête de Noël	14 juillet	Fête Nationale Représentation, par certains membres, d'extraits de la pièce de Molière "Le Bourgeois Gentilhomme", suivie d'un repas
2007			N.B. Notre voyage annuel en France aura lieu en mai/juin - Demander détails.
6 janvier	Fête des Rois Galettes, divertissements		Toutes les réunions auront lieu dans Aberdare Hall, Corbett Road, Cardiff, le samedi à 19hr 15, sauf où indiqué. Parking dans King Edward VII Avenue ou Museum Avenue.
20 janvier	Mr Paul Stephens "L'Indre-et-Loire"		
3 février	Mme. Germaine Jones* "L'histoire de l'immigration en France"		
17 février	Mardi Gras Crêpes, jeux		
		Cotisations:	
		Membres: £12 par an	£10 pour retraités et étudiants
		Visiteurs: £2 par réunion	£1 pour étudiants