**Vermeille Internationale**

**Annual General Assembly 2022**

**held virtually on Zoom on Wednesday, 26th January 2022 at 18h00**

Present: 34 members on line via Zoom. 28 members voted on line before the meeting via the website and 7 proxies were received. The documents (minutes of last year’s AGM, President’s report, Treasurer’s report) were available on the website; voting took place on line and also during the Zoom meeting, and was recorded.

Apologies: Pam Newell, Juliet Grimm, Helen Donoghue, Michael Delahunty, Karla and Dan Ptacek.

Item 1: The president began the meeting by welcoming everyone, explaining that it was preferable to hold the meeting virtually because the covid numbers were significantly up in France.

Item 2: Minutes of last year’s AGM held on 27 January 2021 were summarised by the secretary, Sally O’Farrell (these had already been circulated on-line) and they were approved unanimously.

Item 3: Membership numbers are down compared with previous years but this is largely due to the fact that we have not held an art exhibition for 2 years, an event which brought in many new members. HelloAsso has facilitated the management of membership. We have 146 members at present: 40% British, 30% French, 30% other nationalities (Irish, Russian, Belgian, Dutch, German, Swedish, Norwegian, Italian, Swiss and Indian).

Item 4: The President presented his report, which had already been posted on-line, allowing members to vote beforehand. He described the activities organised by Vermeille Internationale in 2021: monthly meetings on Zoom, each on a different theme which allowed members from all over the world to get together virtually and exchange news. Our first outdoor meeting for 17 months was a lunch on 30 June, followed by six other events in the autumn. The report was approved unanimously.

Item 5: Treasurer’s report. Madeleine Raupp presented a summary of the 2021 accounts. The accounts had been posted on line before the meeting and members were able to vote on them. Our activities in 2021 produced 2049€ in takings, resulting in a profit on the activities of 1700€. Gifts to Vermeille Internationale were up on the previous year, reaching a total of 2108€, thanks to members’ generosity during the pandemic and also because HelloAsso offers a more efficient way of receiving donations. The association gave a total of 3791€ to both local and international organisations. There is a surplus on the bank account as some gifts to our charities are pending while projects and contacts have yet to be confirmed. The Treasurer’s Report was approved unanimously.

Item 6: David and Madeleine presented each of the organisations we support. Our donations policy is to give approximately 50% of available funds to international charities and 50% to local projects.

Item 7: Election of Vermeille Internationale committee members. The whole committee stood down, and the request for new committee volunteers was reiterated by David. As nobody was forthcoming, the five committee members stood for election once more and were elected for a further two years.

Item 8: Forthcoming events will start with mainly outdoor activities. These will be announced via the newsletter. It is planned to hold the Art Exhibition once again in 2022, from 3 to 10 October in the Pavillon des Arts at Port-Vendres.

Item 9: Membership fees, which were increased from 2 to 5€ in January 2021, are due and can be paid via HelloAsso or directly to Linda Cadwallader.

The President thanked everybody for their participation in the meeting and especially Stephanie Browne for the slides and Melissa Payson for the technical support.