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FAVERSHAM TOWN TWINNING ASSOCIATION

Newsletter 5 – February 2020

Welcome to this latest edition of the FTTA newsletter. You will be aware of the tragic loss of Sheila Maister, our Secretary, who with her husband Julian Saunders, was responsible for much of the communication and organisation of several successful FTTA events. Sheila was also at the forefront of our links with the Council members in Hazebrouck, doing much to bring us closer together as twinned towns. It has been a challenging time for Julian, his family and

friends and as a Management Committee we have continued to work behind the scenes while remaining respectful during and after the period of Sheila's illness. Many people attended the service in memory of Sheila held at the Assembly Rooms and the extent to which she was loved by all who knew her was very apparent. We were privileged to learn so much more about the drive and commitment that she put into the FTTA since moving to

Faversham some four years ago. You already know that Julian is kept very busy with his duties and responsibilities as a local Town and Swale Borough Councillor. He is keen to maintain his active involvement in organising events which is very much appreciated.

To mark Sheila's outstanding commitment to the FTTA we will be considering how best to commemorate her memory in the most appropriate way.

FTTA Management Committee

The Committee has the following members:



Catherine Bessieres-Craddock

As a French national, resident in England for many years, I have a deep affection for both countries. I am now using my past experience as a language teacher to organise contacts between schools in Faversham and Hazebrouck and hope to establish educational exchanges between the two towns.



Clarissa Hanna

I love France the country, its culture and customs. I shared a home there until 2019. A retired Head, I see great value in developing links between young people in both our towns, to their mutual benefit.



Trevor Martin

Trevor is a Faversham Town Councillor having lived in Faversham all his life he has been involved in many different Faversham organisations. Trevor has been a School Governor at The Abbey School for 21 Years and is currently Vice Chair of the Governing Body.

Chris Oswald Jones

A Faversham resident for over 45 years, participates at various levels in many walks of life, and has an affinity for French matters. Joined as a supporter of the revival of the FTFA links with Hazebrouck after many dormant years.



Julian Saunders

I am a former Treasurer of the Association and a Borough and Town Councillor. I enjoy making regular trips to France. I am also interested in French politics and society.



Richard Shipman

Our love of France has meant we have had a maison secondaire in Picardy since 2006 I am Treasurer & Membership Secretary of FTFA

Autumn Event Flemish Beer Tasting Evening

On Saturday, 7 September 2019 Julian and Sheila organised a highly successful Flemish Beer tasting evening in the Alexander Centre. After consulting with local resident Michael Hoey, Vice Chair of the local CAMRA group, they ensured a varied and plentiful provision of

Flemish beers which Michael introduced to the audience with knowledgeable flair and enthusiasm. Guests enjoyed typically regional snacks during the interval and as you will see from the photographs it was a thoroughly jolly evening. People left saying how much they

had enjoyed the event and asked whether the FTFA could organise a brewery tour in the Hazebrouck region. If you and your friends would be interested in participating please let Julian know. We can certainly explore the possibility for the future.



Our Master of Ceremonies Michael Hoey



Sheila with FTFA member Jack Wahlberg



Future events

Fetes de la Mi-Carême 28-29 March 2020

Julian recently sent out details of the Mi-Carême Festival to be held in Hazebroeck on 28-29 March. It would be marvellous to have a group of us heading over to the town to join in their festivities. It would be helpful if you could let Julian know by **Monday 10 February** at the latest.

The Mayor of Faversham Charity Banquet and Ball Friday 20 March at the Alexander Centre, 6.30 for 7.00pm

The Mayor has sent the FTTA an invitation to her Charity Ball. This year she is nominating Faversham Umbrella Centre and North Preston Community Hub as her principal charities. The cost of tickets for the 4-course meal and after dinner dancing is £35.00 per person. We are

planning to arrange a table (or two) of FTTA members and their guests.

If you are interested in coming along and making up a table, please contact Adrienne Begent, Deputy Town Clerk on 01795 503286 for further details of menu choices etc. The last date for booking places is **Friday 6 March but wise to book early.** Do ensure that you ask to be on the FTTA table

so that we can turn it into an even more enjoyable social occasion.

French Film Night – provisional date for your diary Friday 24 April 2020, 7.30 for 8.00pm

Members of FTTA enjoy their French Film nights and no wonder as French films are so quintessentially French! Julian has maintained a list of the films that members have requested for future showing. Taken from that list, this year's film will be '*Jules et Jim*'. The venue is yet to be confirmed. Publicity will be sent out as soon as we have confirmed the details. Please put the date in bold in your diaries. Non-members are also welcome.

Education links – Major joint project

One of the key aims of the FTTA is to encourage our local schools and students to become involved with our twin town. Catherine Bessieres-Craddock has been corresponding with Lauren Bouquet, a college lecturer in Hazebrouck. He is very keen to visit Faversham and to initiate a joint exhibition

on the theme of trees. Trees are a very important theme in our town as part of a genuine commitment to show greater care for our environment at this time of climate change. We see this project as a significant entry into our schools, with a tree planting in each town and a major photographic exhibition. We would like to sponsor a visit to Hazebrouck for a group of students and to establish the links we are so keen to encourage. We are still at the planning stage but Catherine is doing everything she can to organise a preliminary visit by Laurent to Faversham in April. We very much hope to create a partnership with other community organisations sharing similar interests. We have already set a date for the photographic exhibition which is **1-6 October 2020** in 12 Market Place.

Date of AGM 2020

Another date for your diaries. The AGM will be held on **Thursday 25 June 2020** in the Guildhall, at 7.00 pm. As in previous years we hope to have a guest speaker after the

formal business has been concluded.

Conclusion

We have over 50 members in the FTTA. There is scope to recruit new members who share common interests about the society and culture of France, which is closer to us here in Faversham than many towns and cities in the UK. We would very much like to hear from members who are happy to become more involved. Members and friends can help in many ways e.g.

- Contributing to the development of social media and communication to promote the FTTA
- Production of the occasional newsletter
- Creating educational and business links
- Supporting event planning and organisation
- Recruiting more members
- Visiting Hazebrouck and welcoming guests to Faversham

Finally we are seeking someone to become Secretary of the FTTA. Contact clarissa.hanna@hotmail.com to find out more about the role

Clarissa Hanna
Chair FTTA