

Minutes of FTTA Management Committee Meeting held at 4 New Creek Road, Faversham at
5.00 p.m. on Thursday, 16th February, 2023

1. Present: Clarissa H, The Mayor of Faversham Cllr Trevor Martin, Trevor B, Richard S, Julian S, Catherine B-C, Stephen C, Margaret A
Minutes : Christine F

Apologies : Eileen Allen

Richard was warmly welcomed back to his first meeting since his illness.

Clarissa shared an email she had received in response to the one she had sent to Chris Oswald- Jones.

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2. There were no matters arising from the minutes of 6th December, 2022
3. Communication from Hazebrouck. Catherine wrote to Matthieu urging progress in finding a school to partner Eastling School. She also sent a letter to the person in charge of schools organisation in Hazebrouck. After some delay Matthieu finally telephoned to say a partner school has been found but no exchange can take place until the authorities have approved it. He further told Catherine that the bridge opening is likely to be at the end of March or early April. There is so far no exact date as President Macron has been invited and his diary is not confirmed until fifteen days before an event. It was agreed that we should send representatives of FTTA and that a French speaker would be needed (Eileen and Pascale were suggested). Matthieu will liaise with Clarissa as Catherine may still be in Australia.

In response to Trevor's suggestion that we establish who on the Planning Committee would be available to travel at short notice to Hazebrouck for the Bridge installation Richard offered to devise a spreadsheet which we could each complete showing our availability or otherwise during Wednesday- Friday in the 2 weeks towards the end of March and 2 weeks at the start of April. It is appreciated that Faversham will be given a limited allocation of invitations. In any case some members might wish to arrange a 'private' visit to Hazebrouck around that time.

4. Feedback on Social Event on 4th January. This was considered a success with 22 people attending and a really good atmosphere. Everyone was very happy with the food provided by Eric and by the galettes. As a consequence of this, and the request for more social events, it had been decided to invite members to meet at Castellias on the last Wednesday of each month. At the end of January, on a very wet evening, 11 members met up (some of these attend the U3A French group). The second evening will be held this coming Wednesday, 22nd January and it was suggested that members might be invited to give a very short talk on some aspect of French life to explore aspects of French life and culture that especially appeal. . Margaret A offered to talk about her very first visit to France as a child. If Richard S is there he would talk on having a house in France. Clarissa will send out via Richard a reminder about this coming Wednesday.

5. Possible collaboration with U3A etc. Stephen has established contact and talked with both French group leaders (Sheila and Mike). He will keep in touch with them. Stephen also felt that our Town Information Centre has attractive leaflets on Faversham which could be sent to Hazebrouck Tourist Centre for display there. Hopefully leaflets on Hazebrouck could also be displayed in Faversham. Stephen read a short article which he has written about FTTA for the Faversham Society Newsletter. This has been sent to Stephen Rayner for publication. He has also written to Andy Shepherd of the Scouting movement and awaits a response. Harold Goodwin of the Faversham Society had mentioned a meeting on 9th March entitled Opening Up Faversham. FTTA should be represented at this meeting & Clarissa offered to go.

Julian has been approached by Colin Rushton, the U3A Cycling group leader who wants to organise another cycling trip to Hazebrouck at the end of June. Any FTTA members would be welcome to join the group. Once the date has been finalised Clarissa will write to the Mairie in the hope that the Mayor would be happy to formally welcome the cycling party. Catherine has also passed this information on to the cycling club.

6. French films. Trevor B reported that Faversham Film Society is showing two French films in its next selection of films and it, therefore, seemed unnecessary for FTTA to negotiate a further film at the Royal. These are « **Petite Maman** » on **Monday 13th March** and « **Un Monde** » on **Monday 10th April**. Un Monde « on Monday. **This information should be included in the next FTTA newsletter.** The films could provide interesting discussion at the Castellás evenings.
7. Financial Report . There are now 53 paid-up members (two new ones at time of writing). The current balance in the bank is £3,633.58 with £30 waiting to be credited to the account due to a problem between the post office and the bank which is being sorted out by NatWest.
8. Future Activities : The meeting recommended that the 'Dejeuner sur L'Herbe,' cancelled on the death of the Queen, takes place this September . Resham will be approached re holding the event in his garden and Julian kindly offered his garden as an alternative. Catherine suggested organising a social event for 'Bastille Day', which falls on a Friday. Clarissa will mention the idea to Eric that FTTA books Castellás that evening. There was also discussion about which pubs in Faversham had Petanque facilities. This to be followed up. All these events would have an element of fund raising.
Members of the Planning Committee will maintain contact via email to make arrangements for the above events. It is hoped that subgroups will involve themselves in planning and communicating details to the wider membership.
There being no further business the meeting closed and Clarissa thanked everyone for a productive meeting.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING : **Thursday 11th May at 5.00pm at 4 New Creek Road**