

Minutes of FTTA Management Committee Meeting held at 4 New Creek Road, Faversham
at 5.00 p.m. on Thursday, 7th September, 2023

1. Present : Clarissa H, Trevor B, Richard S, Catherine B-C, Stephen C
Minutes : Christine F
2. Apologies : Julian S, Margaret A, Eileen A
3. Matters arising :
 - a) Bridge Opening at Hazebrouck. Catherine reported that this had been a good event with many speeches – M Valentine gave an excellent speech. Hazebrouck's Belgian twin town was represented but no-one from Germany. It was a profitable day.
 - b) Educational Links. Catherine is constantly assured that everything is in hand but regrettably nothing has materialised. Eastling School is still keen to have a link. Catherine recommended we set a timeline with Matthieu. **If there is no action by the end of September Catherine will suggest contacting the British Council.**
 - c) There has been no further news from the organisers of the French U3A classes. Clarissa will raise this with Mike Wilkins at the forthcoming Dejeuner sur l'herbe event.
 - d) Catherine wrote to Matthieu about the cycling club's visit to Hazebrouck but received no reply. They were late in arriving and there was no-one to welcome them. A message was sent to Xavier, the Mayor's secretary, who reported that the Mayor would only be free at 5.00 p.m. but unfortunately no message could be sent to the cyclists.
 - e) Despite writing Stephen has heard nothing from the people he wrote to in Hazebrouck or from the Faversham scouts. **Clarissa will talk to Simon Moore, Head Scout at Rotary.**
 - f) Open Faversham had been a great success. A boules competition had not been possible due to the restrictions of our insurance. It was suggested that next year we have a display either in the Town Hall or maybe in St Mary of Charity. **Clarissa will write on our behalf to Harold Godwin congratulating them on a highly successful event.**
 - g) The Bastille day party at Castella has been very successful with younger people taking part. It was suggested that next year the Physic Garden might be an alternative venue.
4. The Dejeuner sur L'Herbe is to be held in Resham's garden on Saturday, 9th September at 1.30 p.m. 24 people have indicated they will attend. Raffle prizes would be very welcome. **Julian will bring the flag and will provide music. Clarissa will provide tablecloths and napkins and also coffee, tea and milk. She will also buy raffle tickets.**
5. Treasurer's Report. The accounts for the year 1.4.22 to 31.3.23 have been audited. The current balance is £4,160.45. The biggest outlay has been £29.58 to purchase French dictionaries for Eastling Primary School pupils.

Membership. There are 44 paid up members, 1 member with a standing order for 1.1.24. 9 former members have, up until now, not renewed their membership.

6. Castella Monthly Evening. This seems to go well but at the AGM it would be good to check if it is something which people want to continue.
7. We should continue to pursue French films – perhaps persuading the Film Society to include them in their programme if possible.
8. The proposed French association. The information on this came from a teacher in Hazebrouck. Jean-Michel has had contact with Faversham for many years and has talked with Catherine who finds him very helpful. He has many good ideas including the use of Facebook. Through him Catherine was able to talk to someone at the tourist office in Hazebrouck. The main aim is to enable young people to have contact with France. Jean-Michel sent an article inviting people to apply to become involved with the twinning associations of all three towns. **Clarissa offered to send a message introducing ourselves and telling of our aims.** Maybe in due course twinning events could be held in each town, but not until it is all up and running.
9. Date of AGM. If the Guildhall is available the AGM will be held on Thursday, 9th November. Nominations and seconders should be sought for committee officers.