



# Faversham Town Twinning Association

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## Newsletter May 2024

Dear FTTA Friends,

### Eastling Primary visit Hazebrouck for Mi-Carême festivities

One of our key aims as a twinning association is to foster links between Faversham and Hazebrouck's schools, clubs and associations with a particular focus on schools and other organisations involving children and young people. For the last 2 years Eastling School has been very positively involved in helping us to reach out to primary schools in Hazebrouck and we were delighted to be able to reward them by subsidising a visit of a small group of their pupils and their parents to the Mi-Carême parade in Hazebrouck on Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> March. Despite the rain and a few organisational hiccups in Hazebrouck members of the group enjoyed their day and made some useful contacts for partnership with a Hazebrouck Primary School. Our thanks to 3 FTTA members for their help on the day: Susan Elcoat who accompanied the group on their travel to Hazebrouck by minibus and Clarissa Hanna and Trevor Bryans, ex Chair and Vice Chair of FTTA, who kindly agreed to spend the weekend there to facilitate connections between the Eastling group and their welcome party in Hazebrouck. We will report on progress in primary links in our next newsletter.



## Events planned for the next 6 months:

At our latest Committee meeting on Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> March, we discussed future events. 3 are planned:

- A Bastille day celebration “goûter” with fizz and, hopefully, accordion music on **Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> July 4pm at the Physic Gardens.**
- Our now annual “Déjeuner dur l’herbe” on **Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> September, probably also at the Physic Gardens.** Time and venue will be confirmed soon.
- A wine tasting event in June or October depending on our wine expert’s availability. Precise date and venue will also be confirmed soon.

## Evening food and drink events at Castellà:

We had 2 very enjoyable evenings at Castellà in November and February. Eric and Anette are great hosts and provided us with excellent platters of cheese and charcuterie and a very warm welcome. Many of those who attended are keen to meet there again every few months but we are aware that some members who are on special diets have been reluctant to attend as they can’t eat meat or cheese or both. Catherine will speak to Eric to see if he could cater for special diets and it would be useful if those of you on such diets could let us know what you can and can’t eat so he can see what he can and can’t provide.



## Hazebrouck new Twinning Association:

In September 2023, Hazebrouck Council created a twinning association to facilitate twinning links with its 3 twin towns. The 2 members responsible for links with Faversham, Jean-Michel and Maité, are delightful and dynamic and doing their best to work with us though, after 8 months since the creation of Hazebrouck Twinning Association, they are not yet sure of their and the Hazebrouck Council’s respective roles. This is frustrating for them and for us and, with their full support, Catherine has written to the Councillor in charge of twinning to ask for

clarification on areas of responsibility and encourage him to make the association really effective through delegating. She also suggested that members of Hazebrouck Twinning Association visit Faversham in the next few months. Again we will report on progress in this area in our next newsletter.

### **Encouraging links direct links between Faversham and Hazebrouck clubs and societies:**

In looking at photographs and documents we found for our exhibition to celebrate 60 years of twinning in 2022, and speaking to people who visited the exhibition it became very clear that up to the early nineties, there were strong links between various clubs and societies in Faversham and Hazebrouck. As a committee we are, as stated previously, very keen to revive these kinds of links and encouraged to see that, on the Faversham side at least, several clubs are very open to this idea. Faversham Running Club has approached us to ask for help in linking with a similar club in Hazebrouck and Faversham Scouts would be keen to link up with Scouts groups in Europe. We have approached similar groups in Hazebrouck but so far without success. This is where we believe that Hazebrouck Twinning Association could help us and are more than willing to. We have discussed with them putting up a display of clubs and associations of Faversham in Hazebrouck's "Maison des Associations" which is an information centre for all leisure and charitable associations in the area. Margaret and Trevor Abram have kindly agreed to write a list of clubs and societies in Faversham to enable us to produce a display. If you belong to a club or society which would be particularly interested in links with Hazebrouck, please let us know.

### **Links with other twinning associations in Kent:**

In February a few of us attended a meeting of several twinning local associations hosted by Minster Twinning Association. The other participants were Broadstairs, Fordwich, Eastry and Sandwich. It was good to meet and share ideas on activities and strategies for keep twinning links alive. Broadstairs and Sandwich have a very large membership and organise many events throughout the year which they are happy to open to members of other twinning associations in their area and you already have been notified of some of them in the last few months.

Sandwich have a programme very interesting older and more recent critically acclaimed French films. The programme runs from Autumn to early Summer and next two showings of the season will be as follows:

- **Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> May; "Le charme discret de la bourgeoisie" a 1972 comedy-drama by Luis Buñuel that won a number of critical awards.**
- **Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> June "Un long dimanche de fiançailles" a 2005 comedy drama by Jean Pierre Jeunet (director of the very successful Amélie film in 2002) with Audrey Tautou and Jodie Foster**

- Films are shown at the Empire Cinema and start at 7.30. Early arrival or booking in advance is recommended as film nights have been very popular lately. You can book by contacting Stuart Jones on 07989 695129 or by email on [stuartjones100@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:stuartjones100@yahoo.co.uk) . The cost of a seat is £7.50 pp and can be paid online in advance to SHTA ac 42027168 Sort Code 30-90-09 or pay by cash or card at the cinema on the night.

### **Facebook page:**

In our FTTA Committee meeting of Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> January we discussed posting more on our FTTA Facebook page and making it more attractive and informative for anyone interested in twinning. Activities here and in Hazebrouck. We wrote to you to ask if any of you or any friends or acquaintances of yours would be willing to manage our Facebook page to this effect. We have not had any offers so far and are appealing to you again for help.

Finally, some of you have suggested activities we could consider. We are doing just that and will get back to you personally very soon to discuss practicalities. Members suggestions are very welcome we would encourage you to contact us with ideas.

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