

Minutes of a Meeting of the FTTA Management Committee held at 8 Worcester Close, Faversham on Thursday, 5th September 2024 at 4.30 p.m.

Present : Catherine B-C, Clarissa H, Trevor B, Richard S, Julian S, Eileen A, Margaret A

Minutes: Christine F

Apologies: Tina M, Stephen C

1. Minutes of the last Meeting were approved.

It was noted that 42 people had attended the Bastille Day event at the Physic Garden on a beautiful afternoon. Two French families passing had heard our rendition of La Marsellaise and had joined the festivities – and been very lucky on the raffle. We were able to donate £125 to Abbey Physic Garden

2. Membership and Financial Report 2024

There are currently 39 paid-up members. There are 7 people who have not as yet renewed their membership.

The current balance of the bank account is £3,454.39 with £20 cash in hand.

Since 1 April we have received £99.10 from Faversham Lottery.

Donation to Abbey Physic Garden £125

Hire Charge for Wine Tasting at the Purifier Building (in Octobe4r) £30

3. Communication with Hazebrouck

Valentin and his family paid a private visit to Faversham during Open Faversham. There were

7 members of his family and they were very jolly and friendly and made great efforts to speak

English. Catherine and other members of the committee met with them at Castella. Valentin seemed very pleased to see us all and made very positive comments about our twinning.

Catherine had telephoned Matthieu concerning Valentin's visit and he had mentioned a meeting of the Hazebrouck Twinning Association due to be held in September. The main objective was to decide on projects for the year ahead and how to make best use of the funding that the Hazebrouck town hall had made available to the association. Matthieu had not yet set a date for this meeting but assured Catherine that it would take place in September. With this meeting in mind Catherine wrote to Matthieu and Jean Michel in mid-August outlining our vision for twinning, what had been achieved so far and what more we would hope to achieve. She stressed that the two administrations had a warm and convivial relationship that should help build stronger twinning links.

So far, however, there has been no progress with contact for schools, organisations and clubs.

From the Faversham end the impression is that many organisations would like to have an

association with fellow organisations in Hazebrouck, but so far this still hasn't happened.

. Eastling School, the Scout Group, the Running Club and the Tourist Office are Faversham are waiting expectantly to start working closely with Hazebrouck.

Having not heard from either Matthieu or Jean Michel since her letter, Catherine emailed Jean Michel 2 days ago for an update. No date has yet been set for the Hazebrouck twinning association September meeting. However, there was a meeting of all Hazebrouck associations at the end of August. Jean Michel who attended as a member of a charitable organisation was not able to publicise twinning very much but he sent Catherine a list of associations in the Hazebrouck area (179 of them!). He asked her to identify those which would be likely to have a link with Faversham organisations and suggested that Hazebrouck town hall write to them to see if they would be interested.

Trevor suggested that as Hazebrouck has a very good brass band there might be a possibility of them joining with our Mission Band at events in both towns.

4. Déjeuner sur l'herbe

The Déjeuner sur l'herbe is scheduled for Saturday, 14th September at the Abbey Physic Garden at 2.00 p.m.

14 members and 2 guests have requested to come.

[Richard](#) will send a reminder of the event by Monday 9/9

Catherine has invited the Mayor of Faversham Cllr Josh Rowland to attend but has not yet received a reply. Committee members should arrive after 1.00 p.m. to set up.

[Clarissa](#) will deal with the keys and will check whether or not the Physic Garden has the equipment to play music.

There will be a raffle of French items. Please bring items for prizes.

Richard suggested that donations should be put in FTTA boxes rather than Physic Garden.

5. Wine Tasting – Saturday, 12th October at 6.30 p.m.

It was noted that this coincides with Faversham Carnival and that parking could, therefore, be difficult with several roads closed. However, pedestrian access to the Purifier Building is assured

[Margaret](#) will send details of road closures and timings

The room can seat 40 but only 30 in comfort. Clive Barlow will charge £270 for a tasting of 6 wines for 30 people. We will charge £15 per person, to include some food, and priority will be given to FTTA members. Money must be paid up-front as money cannot be handled at the Purifier building on the night. However, donations for any extra wine consumed can be accepted.

6 Future events:

- a) AGM to be held in the Guildhall on Thursday, 21st November at 7.00 for 7.30 p.m.

Catherine will invite Jean-Michel to attend. It was suggested an on-line link could be used if he was unable to be there in person. Richard has a projector we could use if necessary.

- b) Catherine suggested a trip to Lille in the Spring (March or April) Broadstairs Town Twinning

Organisations are organising such a trip and Catherine will talk to them to get further information.

c) French films coming up :

* Monday 30th September. "The taste of things" at the Royal Cinema Faversham 7pm. Catherine has seen it and would recommend. Link to Guardian comments below.

<https://www.theguardian.com/film/2024/feb/18/the-taste-of-things-review-juliette-binoche-tran-anh-hung-benoit-magimel-deliciously-subversive-tale-of-later-life-love>

* Saturday, 21st September at 3.00 p.m: Widow Clicquot will be showing at the Gulbenkian Cinema in Canterbury

d) Margaret A would like to invite a party over from Hazebrouck to attend the 2025 Faversham Carnival.

There being no further business the meeting closed.

Date of next Meeting : Thursday, 7th November at 4.30 p.m.