

## **Minutes of the FTTA Management Committee held at 8 Worcester Close, Faversham on Thursday, 7th November, 2024 at 5.00 p.m.**

Present : Catherine B-C, Richard S, Stephen C, Clarissa H, Trevor B, Julian S, Eileen A Minutes: Christine F

Apologies : Margaret A, Tina M

### **1) Report on latest events**

a) The "déjeuner sur l'herbe" held on Saturday, 14th September at the Physic Garden had been very enjoyable but much less well attended than previous years. There was discussion on increasing numbers for this event in the future and a popular suggestion was that we should hold a pétanque game/competition next year.

b) The wine tasting evening held at the Purifier building on 12th October had been a great success. 26 people attended – 11 of them not members of FTTA. There was a lot of chasing to get people to commit to coming, and there was some criticism of the venue (mostly because it was a little scruffy), but it was cheap to hire and just the right size. If we use it again we need to allow extra time beforehand to tidy it up and move any broken furniture. Julian felt we should advertise events so that non-members can take part, perhaps giving a slight discount on events for existing FTTA members. It was felt that it was definitely worth repeating this event. The Master of Wine had very much enjoyed the evening and we still await his bill.

Catherine to chase this.

### **2. Membership and Finance Report November, 2024**

Membership. Currently there are 40 paid up members. There are 7 people who have not as yet renewed their membership.

Dejeuner sur l'herbe donation to Abbey Physic Garden £40 Raffle raised £20

Wine Tasting Hire Charge for Purifier Building £30 Bill awaited from Master of Wine Finance

Bank Balance £3,887.83 with no cash in hand

Since 1st April we have received £135.70 from Faversham Lottery

### **3. Communication with Hazebrouck**

-The Mayor of Faversham has been invited to the opening of the new bus station in Hazebrouck on 29th November.

-Catherine contacted Matthieu to ask if Hazebrouck Town Twinning Association had had their first official meeting scheduled for beginning of September and if we could have a video showing life in Hazebrouck, recent achievements, present challenges and plans for the future to be shown at our AGM. She received no reply for over 2 weeks. Then Matthieu emailed Catherine and said that, as yet the first meeting of Hazebrook Twinning Association had still not taken place so there were no new developments to report. On the other hand he liked the idea of sending a video and was going to ask a few people if they could help him with that. Although we had in a previous meeting discussed inviting someone from Hazebrouck to come in person to talk at the AGM, Catherine felt that, as nothing has been happening in Hazebrouck with regards to twinning links, the video was a better idea. When things are better established we invite members of Hazebrouck Twinning Association to other events. The date of the AGM scheduled for 21 November has had to be postponed to **Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> January 2025** for a number of reasons and this will give us more time to see what comes from Hazebrouck. Catherine will ask Matthieu to send the video by early December so we have time to organise another speaker if we do not receive anything. There was much general discussion on the way forward if Hazebrouck continues to be as unenthusiastic to put the necessary effort into the partnership as it appears to be at the moment.

#### **4. Future Events**

- a) Invite someone from Hazebrouck to come and talk to members about life there and share their views on twinning
- b) A fun language evening at Castella aiming to get members, and non-members, to talk to one another in French. We could invite the French group, and U3A French group members to join members of FTTA. Mid-February was suggested for this event.
- c) A French meal was suggested for early summer – maybe moving from house to house.
- d) A possible visit to Lille for the “Grande Braderie”( grand jumble sale) weekend in early September (Saturday 5th and Sunday 6<sup>th</sup>). Several large British coach companies run these trips every year so we could book directly with one of those.

There being no further business the meeting ended. The next meeting will be the AGM on Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> January at 7 for 7.30 at the Guildhall.