

## HAUGHLEY & WETHERDEN TWINNING ASSOCIATION

For the last few years, we have had nothing to report, as the movements of both our local members and those of our French Twinning families, have been limited by circumstances that we are all too familiar with.

The last time we met our French friends was the visit of the French families to Haughley & Wetherden, in May 2019.

However, we have just returned from a wonderful sunny weekend in Noyelles-Lez-Seclin, near to Lille in north east France.

It was pleasing to welcome two new 'Haughley & Wetherden' families to our cultural exchange this year.

Hopefully, with the influx of new families to our villages, we can add further to our numbers.

All are welcome from the immediate area of Haughley & Wetherden and we, urgently, seek some new members, especially younger families.

There is a small charge (currently £15 per month per family of two or more) which helps to fund the coach trip to France and the entertainment that we organise for our French families (and the H&W hosts) when they visit us, alternate years. We visited them in May 2023 and will host them in May 2024.

Language is not a problem. Many of us speak little French but most of the French families put us to shame with their better grasp of English. Our Botesdale based coach driver, this year, spoke no French at all but had a great time and now wants to meet the families when they visit Haughley.

This year's event started with a reception by the local Mayor, Friday dinner with our families, a Saturday trip to a coal mining museum, including lunch in the on-site restaurant, followed by an evening of food and music in a local hall. Sunday is a leisurely morning, followed by a buffet meal prepared by our hosts and home on the bus, leaving around 3pm.

When we visit Noyelles, we don't spend a penny (or a Euro) from arriving Friday evening until departing Sunday afternoon. We are made to feel very welcome and can become part of each others' families. When I joined, many years ago, our Twinning partners were a family of two younger adults with two girls of primary school age. We have just been introduced to the two children of one of the daughters. Time flies when you have fun...and we certainly do!

Please contact me for any further information about joining,  
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