

HAUGHLEY & WETHERDEN TWINNING ASSOCIATION

2023 saw the resumption of the Twinning Exchanges between Haughley & Wetherden and the French village of Noyelles Léz Seclin, on the outskirts of Lille in North Western France, close to the Belgian border.

Since then, we have been planning for the visit to Haughley & Wetherden from 17th to 19th May, this year. It is, again, pleasing to welcome two new 'Haughley & Wetherden' families to our cultural exchange this year.

We start this year's events with a welcoming arrival reception, on Friday 17th May, at King George V Playing Field, kindly supported by a grant from Haughley Parish Council. Our representative local Councillors at Parish, District and County level will be welcome to attend.

We have made efforts to better publicise our Saturday evening event, in the hope of making more local people aware of our existence, particularly given the influx of new families to our villages, on our new residential developments.

All are welcome from the immediate area of Haughley & Wetherden to join the Association and we would love to see some new members, especially younger families.

There is a small recurring charge (under review but currently £15 per month per family of two or more) which helps to fund the coach or car trip to France and then the day trips and evening entertainment that we organise for our French families when they visit us, in alternate years.

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.

House and bedroom space need not be a limiting factor as 5 star hotel facilities are not expected and, sometimes, other accommodation can be arranged.

This year's event will start with the reception, then a Friday dinner with our individual twinned families. The Saturday trip will be to Bressingham Gardens and Steam Museum, including lunch, followed by an evening of Caribbean food and music in Haughley Village Hall. The Sunday farewell, at Wetherden Village Hall, has been brought forward to 10am, due to our visitors needing to catch an afternoon ferry from Dover. It will be a light continental buffet meal with most of our guests leaving around 12 midday. Village Hall hire costs have been supported by a generous locality grant from Mid Suffolk District Council.

We next plan to visit Noyelles in May 2025 and hope to be able to include some 'new blood'. 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 Yvonne and 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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