Welcome to the winter newsletter. It’s been a long time since the spring letter and we plan to get back to the four newsletters a year schedule in 2018. The new, user-friendly website is the best way of keeping right up to date with all the reports and events for your diary. Its address is: farehamvannestwin.wordpress.com

Fareham is honoured with a Square in Vannes
To mark the 50th Anniversary of our twinning with Vannes, the town has named a children’s playground after Fareham. The square was dedicated by the Mayor of Vannes during the FVTA visit in May. It is near “Place de Fareham” which was created to mark the 25th anniversary of our twinning.

Stop Press!
Annual General Meeting with Supper and Quiz – Saturday 13th January 2018, 7.00pm
Holy Trinity Church Hall, West Street, Fareham, PO16 0EL.

Mayor and Mayoress Geoff and Tina Fazackarley will attend. Numbers for the supper are needed in advance. All members should have received an email with a form for tickets. If you have not, and wish to attend, please email Peter Davis as soon as possible.
davisp6477@gmail.com

Subs now due
And if you missed the email requesting your annual subs of £4 individual or £6 for family please contact Peter on the email address above.
Visit to Vannes – celebrating 50 years of our twinning

The FVTA annual visit to Vannes was a special one in 2017 as it marked 50 years of our twinning, writes George Pickburn.

The group from Fareham included the Mayor and Mayoress of Fareham and members of the FVTA accompanied by several fabulous classic cars representing our latest affiliated group, the South Hants Vehicle Preservation Society.

Vannes arranged the celebrations in May to coincide with its colourful Semaine du Golfe classic sailing festival which together with a classic car rally made the joint event Des Roues et des Voiles (Wheels and Sails). The party atmosphere was enhanced by beautiful sunshine throughout the week.

There were several visits to the ports participating in the Semaine du Golfe; flotillas of small boats of all sizes — most without a cabin — could be seen coming and going. There were also many activities — musicians including Celtic pipers, ship-craft, carpentry, and arts and crafts.

The entire party of visitors, including the mayors of both towns, attended the dedication of a children’s playground as Le Square Fareham. Then we all assembled at the Mairie for a reception and speeches. Maire Robo ‘Tweeted’ the occasion.

Next day, we all drove out to the beach at Etel for a picnique jumelage. Later we crossed the river to visit a tuna-fishing museum dedicated to the once huge industry and the great storm that destroyed much of the fleet and had a disastrous effect on the fishing community at Etel. On the way back to Vannes we paid a visit to the charming and very ancient Chapel at St Cado. We all assembled again for a fascinating evening demonstration of traditional Breton folk life and dancing, including visitor participation.

Finally, our hosts treated us to a Gala Dinner on the Presqu’île de Conleau, with panoramic views of the Golfe du Morbihan. As it went dark, we were entertained by a fantastic firework show — part of the sailing Semaine du Golfe.

We offer our thanks to our French hosts for a splendid visit.
Fareham’s classic cars added vintage glamour to the occasion

Our newest affiliated group, the South Hants Vehicle Preservation Society, made an exciting addition to the Fareham visit to Vannes for the 50th Anniversary “Wheels and Sails” celebrations. Twenty members with their 12 immaculate classic cars converged on Vannes by various routes to spend four days with local French car club ASPYC56.

“The central event was an all-day tour around the Golfe coast in the classic cars with a route delivering us via a scenic drive to Locmariaquer. A commanding view of the entry to the Gulf of Morbihan gave the chance to see tall ships sailing in and out of the Gulf. A BBQ was provided while the public admired the cars. All too soon it was time for the run back to Vannes to the Port to take the Navix cruise boat out into the Gulf to see the Ile aux Moines and other smaller islands.

“Car club members joined in several events with other FVTA visitors. Particularly memorable was the most amazing evening production by the Celtic Circle of Vannes with a large cast starting outside the Palais des Arts, with the mystical story moving location and finally ending upstairs with Breton dancing. Most of us did our best with the challenging steps and arm movements.

“It was a most interesting first car club exchange visit. Vannes cars will be welcomed in Fareham in early June 2018.”

French flotilla to Fareham sailing clubs makes the TV news!

A flotilla of yachts from Vannes arrived on the River Hamble in June for a week of festivities hosted by the sailing clubs of Warsash, Hill Head, Fareham and Portchester. The intrepid sailors came ashore to a welcome by the Mayor of Fareham and interviews for BBC South TV and Radio Solent, then lunch and dancing to the Warsash Five jazz band.

In the following days the French sailors enjoyed days out and evening entertainment put on by each of the hosting sailing clubs. George Pickburn of the FVTA Committee and
organiser of the visit in an interview with BBC TV South news said that twinning events like this are very important as a way for communities from different countries to experience each others’ culture and create bonds across borders. The Fareham sailing clubs have been invited to visit Vannes in 2019 which will be the 10th anniversary of the joint rally and the fifth time a Fareham flotilla has made the challenging voyage to South Brittany.

Table tennis team take on the French

Fareham’s Generation 2 table tennis club sent a team of 13 to challenge AJK of Vannes in May. This well-established twinning means that good friendships have been made and there are plenty of French families keen to host our table tennis players in their homes.

The “Davis Cup” event was won by Gen 2’s youngest player, Ethan Cooksley, and Jordan Le Ponnier. The French club won the team event 2-1.

A barbeque, dinner in a restaurant and prize-giving made for a packed schedule, but the team made time to stock up with French goodies in the supermarket before the drive back to the ferry. The French will visit Fareham in April.

Medical Society in Vannes – ‘a fabulous time’

Five families (8 adults, 8 children) went to Vannes in October writes Bill Cutter. We kicked off with a tour of an oyster farm followed by a tasting and a delicious lunch in the seafood restaurant next door.

We then went to see some of the alignments of standing stones outside Carnac. In the visitor centre we learnt all sorts of stone-age skills, such as starting fires using a bow and stick, or stones with iron deposits to create sparks. There was an amusing stone-age spear-throwing competition, and Alison Ascough was the only person to hit the target!

On Sunday lunchtime we gathered at the beautiful seaside house of the Gloaguens, We were fortunate with the weather in that we were able to eat outside. The photograph was taken on their terrace.

All in all, we had a fabulous time, and the Vannes doctors were incredibly kind and hospitable as ever, and they organised a truly memorable weekend for us. Vannes medics have been invited to Fareham 20-21 October 2018.
New website getting lots of attention
The new website farehamvannestwin.wordpress.com has been looked at more than 3,500 times by almost 700 different people. Please keep looking! It is your first port of call for what’s happening in the Association. Thanks to George Pickburn for the new design.

Conversation Group
All abilities are welcome in the group which usually meets on the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of each month from 7.30 to 9 pm, in the Committee Room of the Titchfield Community Centre, Mill Street, Titchfield, PO14 4AB.
The group is chaired by Jill Pickburn (tel 01489 574178), who organises the programme of topics including word games, simple translations, debates, etc. See the website farehamvannestwin.wordpress.com for the current programme.

Beetle Drive
In September a lively time was had by all in Catisfield Memorial Hall with a keenly fought Beetle Drive and a supper of “poisson frites”. Thirty-six people were there, and between them they created a profit of £166 for the Association’s funds.

A social event not to be missed!
**Sunday Roast Lunch**
*11th March 2018* 12:00 noon

at Portchester Parish Hall,
1 Assheton Court, Portchester (opp. Methodist Church).
Free car park behind Portchester shops.
**Full roast lunch followed by dessert**
Bring your own drinks and glasses
**TICKETS £15.00 each**
**Talk by Peter Trott** : “My Life as an Extra”.
Booking forms being sent to members by email.

French school students coming to Fareham Academy
A teacher from the Lycée Charles de Gaulle in Vannes is bringing some of her pupils to visit Fareham Academy in February 2018. This is thanks to perseverance by Table Tennis supremo Charlie Childs who is the school's Chairman of Trustees. Bien Joué Charlie.

Thank you for reading this edition of the newsletter and we look forward to seeing you at the AGM and other events throughout the year. *FVTA Committee*. 