



***The Friends of Marcq-en-Baroeul
Ealing's official French town-twinning organisation***

*<http://fomeb.eu>
<http://lesamisdealing.fr>*

NEWSLETTER

SUMMER 2025

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FUTURE EVENTS

Intensive English Weekend, Thursday 5th- Sunday 8th March 2026

Intensive French Weekend, Thursday 19th- Sunday 22nd March 2026

The Intensive weekends are an ideal way of getting to know our "amis" in Marcq-en-Baroeul as well as an excellent opportunity to practise your French in a challenging but friendly and supportive environment. The weekend in Marcq includes

- 10 hours tuition
- Staying with a French host
- Evening social event (Saturday)
- Meal in a restaurant (Friday lunch)

We travel in a group by Eurostar to Marcq. Lessons are in groups of 10 by a qualified, experienced teacher and are on Thursday (2 hours in the afternoon), Friday (5 hours punctuated by a group lunch) and Saturday morning (3 hours).

In the spirit of our Town Twinning, this course is run on the basis of reciprocal hosting and we would love participants to host for the Intensive English course. We will be opening registration and payment in September, so do please look out for an email.

NEWS

Pique-nique at Bergues

This year we were the guests of "nos amis" for our annual picnic. Twenty-three of us set off by coach on Saturday morning to take the ferry to Calais and then on to Dunkirk where we were to spend the night. On arrival there was time to go for a stroll around the harbour, enjoy some refreshments in a harbour café as well as possibly visiting the local supermarché to purchase provisions for the following day. This turned out to be a holiday weekend in France (Ascension Day) so Kathryn had wisely booked tables for us at a nearby restaurant overlooking the harbour.



On Sunday morning we were off to Bergues, our picnic destination a short distance away. This is an attractive town surrounded by ramparts and canals and



known to French cinema buffs as the setting for the 2008 film *Bienvenue chez les Ch'tis*. We made our way through the narrow streets to a spacious community hall

where we were greeted by our hosts who had already laid out tables heaving with an assortment of dishes. People mixed well and as well as plentiful and varied food and no shortage of wine there was the buzz of conversation (mainly in French) as we all caught up on news and met some of the new members present.

After lunch most of us walked the short distance into the town centre (accompanied by column of the town's population of Toulouse geese for which it is known and which are also depicted on murals) where some of our more energetic members climbed the UNESCO listed belfry which boasts beautiful views over the surrounding countryside.

Sadly, it was then time to retrace our steps to meet our coach and after our goodbyes we set off back to Calais. This was a most convivial and enjoyable

break and everything ran smoothly thanks to the hard work and efficiency of our valiant organisers Kathryn and Joanne.

Ed



Boules

It was a pleasant day for boules on Sunday July 13th - the weather was not too hot, sunshine and cloud with a bit of a breeze. We all picknicked and chatted in the shade under the trees and just about everybody played. There were only about 24 of us, a smaller group than in previous years, which was a pity. A number of the usuals were on holiday and perhaps some were deterred by the possibility of hot weather. Our amazing trophy was won by Penny and Moira.

Gill Conneller

Thanks go to Gill, Jean, Colin, Penny and Robin for their sterling work in ensuring the pitch was fit to play on!

Ed

