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MARCH 2023 NEWSLETTER

THE THOUGHT OF THE MONTH

"No one is born hating another person because of the color of their skin, their past or their religion.

People must learn to hate.

And if they can hate, they can also be taught to love.

For love is born more naturally in the heart of man than the extreme alternative sentiment of hate. »

Nelson Mandela.

A WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT

In the Var,
Arsonist criminals create multiple fires,
In a state of serenity.
In Marseille,
Murderous drug dealers
Operate In known and recognized dealing locations,
Visibly identifiable
In a state of serenity.
In Calais,
Drones
Have
Helicopters
Hunt down our friends fleeing: war, terrorism, famine

TRY TO UNDERSTAND THIS REALITY!

Jean-Claude Lenoir.

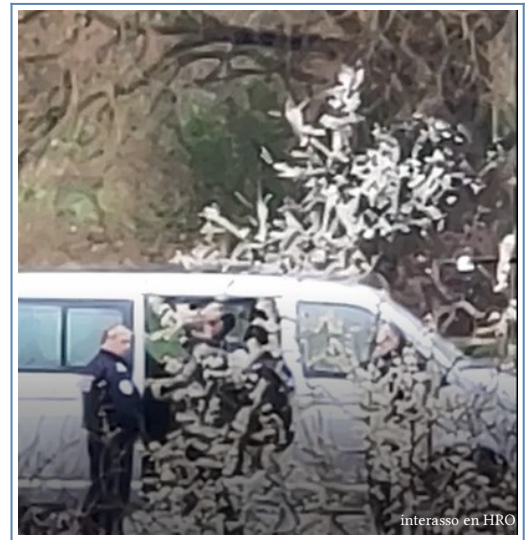
EVENTS OF THE MONTH

REAL MARCH WEATHER:

On 8th March, in the morning, we woke up to snow.

Other times, the smell of spring spreads.

On 31st March, the evacuation in Dunkirk took place in a storm but the arrests took place in the surrounded by the flowers...



Some days it was still very cold or raining and/or storm conditions.



On 13th March, in Calais, a box of pastries was blown away by the wind and passed over the head of a volunteer. Few refugees came to eat, they were too busy holding their tents down so that they did not fly away...

The next day, in Dunkirk, the Salam team gave up distributing outside in the rain but left the equipment in the van and passed the trays out.

So our friends were able to sit around the tables to eat.

Otherwise, in all weathers they eat on the ground (Dunkirk camp in photos).



No shelter for the night in Dunkirk between 28th February and 1st March.

In Calais, the DDCS announced on 7th March, when the weather forecast was snow:

"I inform you that a second daily sheltering time, for the CAES of the department, will be organized this Tuesday, March 7th and tomorrow afternoon, March 8th at 3:30 pm from the Rue des Huttes. Morning departures are maintained as every day. »

The maraudades of the Audasse have been reinforced, and this until 10th March.

And on 29th, despite a fairly mild weather:

"I inform you that a second time of daily sheltering, for the CAES of the department, will be organized from Thursday 30 March to Saturday 1 April at 15:30 from the rue des Huttes. The morning departures are maintained as every day to which are added two departures Saturday, 1st April."

The storm is indeed announced for the weekend...

But while we shelter in Calais, we dismantle in Dunkirk ...

LACK OF MINIMUM SANITATION FACILITIES.

Calais:

Always a single water point accessible 24 hours a day on rue des Huttes. Otherwise they are only itinerant distributions through "Active Life".

Two sites are equipped with construction site toilets.

Access to the showers continues to be by bus shuttles.

Dunkirk:

Still no water point, no toilets.

Day after day, "Roots" continues to fill the tanks with water. Strength to them.

"Help 4 Dunkirk" who came daily with their small truck of four showers left the region now until next autumn.

Only Olivier remains with his motorhome...

We expect the resumption of Sunday showers on 2nd April in a gymnasium in Grande-Synthe, but only for women and families, without adult men (for showers in a gymnasium in Mardyck, the problem of securing the route on foot is far from being solved.)

THE CROSSINGS TO ENGLAND.

As is usual, it is when the seasonal weather has become springlike that the attempts have been the most numerous.

On bad weather days, everyone stayed on dry land and families agreed to leave on buses, for stays in CAES, waiting for it to improve.

The Calais team regularly sees soaked people arrive who have missed their passage across the channel.

On March 19, the Calais team met about thirty people on Rue des Huts, dripping with water. There were children including one who was crying, two pregnant women, one of whom, very young, also in tears. The medics, alerted, had no solution for her. The person on the other end of the line also became angry because this young lady could not give her age: perhaps she did not mean that she was a minor, or she did not mean that she was no longer a minor, perhaps simply too shaken by this terrible situation in a country whose language she did not speak, did she really not know anything at all...

In any case, the Salam team gave what they had of their dry clothes and blankets and two people went back to get them from the local depot...

Yet we all read in the 8th March message from the DDETS to the associations that "all requests from families are taken into account as always."

And it was not, that day, an exceptional case.

Sometimes we witness departures, and our hearts tighten.

In Dunkirk, on Thursday, March 16, we shared this moment of emotion with the clowns.
(See below, the article: "The clowns inside... a migrant camp.")

Meanwhile, in Calais, near the parking de la Turquerie (in Marck), Salam's team saw a group of those who organize themselves to try to get into the trucks.
With the growth of passages by sea, we had the impression that trucks no longer interested many people. But all it took was strikes to protest the law on the reform of pensions, for the motorway or the port ring road to be blocked. And again, as in the not-so-distant past, to the cry of "dougard, dougare" which signals a traffic jam, all abandon the distribution of Salam's breakfast and rush on the trucks to try to get in.



For the past few days, we have been doing an additional distribution at this place where an important camp has been established, at La Turquerie.
They are Sudanese, the poorest of the exiles present in Calais, of those who cannot afford a passage by sea (they do not sneak into an inflatable canoe; the smugglers know their customers!)
We can therefore observe the organization of those who aim at the crossing in lorries: there are:

- those who monitor the car park (that it is not occupied by another group if it is left empty),
- those who take care of the supply of all (they ask – and of course get – whole bags of provisions)
- and those who try the passage and who are sometimes seen falling like flies, once almost on the top of the "load" or vehicle. One wonders how there are not more deaths under the wheels of trucks, or crippled because of falls in his attempts...

And here too we feel helpless, and our hearts tighten.

I was telling young workers back home, who were opposed to pension reform, that our leaders should come in only once, run behind a garbage truck or pick up the elderly people they are going to help wash. They could also suggest that they try to climb into a truck or get into an inflatable canoe that will cross the North Sea....

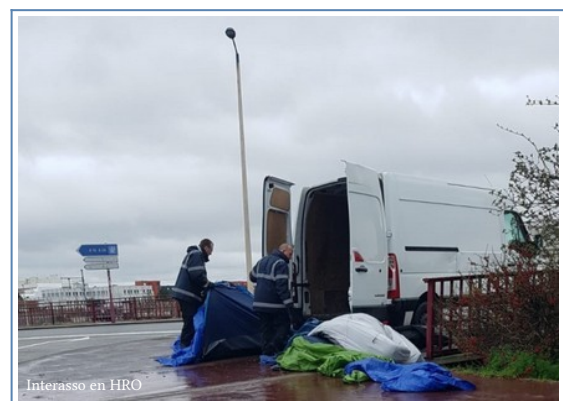
SOME DISMANTELLING.

The HRO, since the end of February, has suspended its activities.
In Calais, of course, the authorities have not stopped every other day evacuations.
It is simply difficult to know exactly what is happening, and where.
The associations who notice something, report it to others on Whatsapp groups, this confirms that the same policy continues but, in the messages, we are far from the reality...
In addition, with the demonstrations against the law on pensions, the arrival of the Police may be due to a demonstration and not for a camp evacuation...

It is the presence of the two so-called "cleaning vehicles" (a van and a small dump truck) and/or the collection of tents, which provide indisputable proof of an evacuation.

Thus:

- a convoy of eight CRS vans is spotted between the City Center and the rue des Huttes, on 6 Mars, with these two "clean-up" vehicles,



- Ten CRS vans were seen at the bridges, near the Moselle quay, on March 10.
They were seen putting tents in a van and taking another from Marck.



- Thursday, 16th March, twenty policemen are spotted in Marck, then rue de Judée with the two cleaning vehicles and two vans of the National Police, even if no one saw them take anything on the West side.

- Wednesday, 22nd March, the cleaning vehicles are rue des Huttes with 8 vans of CRS and the PAF, then in the City Center. The Secours Catholique team has its identities checked. At least 5 tents were seized. "Utopia" then sees them on Judean Street.

On the Dunkirk side, the associations (mainly MRS, Utopia 56 and Help 4 Dunkirk) manage to organize themselves to monitor the movements of the Police and observe seizures and harassment.
Since 27th February, there has been a very large evacuation on 1st March and the next one took place on the 31st.



On 1st March , the Order's forces are numerous.
8 gendarmerie vans, 6 CRS vans, 8 National Police (plus two cars), 2 AFEJI buses, a cleaning team, several small LOXAM tractors and at least one crane, one excavator and one large dumpster.



On 31st March, 10 CRS vans and two of the National Police arrived at the camp before 8 a.m.



The actions are often violent: some are heavily armed,
On 1st March, the strip searches were not exceptional.



A systematic collection of tents was carried out on 1st March, while sheltering was offered to the exiles in a gymnasium. The equipment should then not be considered abandoned... At least dozens of tents had been collected.

On the 31st, people can leave with their belongings ("We are not in Calais here") but it was no longer possible to pass the perimeter for those who have forgotten their phone in a tent (two people). They were given time to take their belongings, say the CRS. It is true that there were two hours between the arrival of the police convoy and that of the "clean-up" vehicles. Is it really, not possible however, to accompany two people to their tent?

At least the Roots volunteers, if they underwent an identity check in the lunch hour, were able to continue distributing the water.
And the mosque was spared.

OBSTACLES TO THE WORK OF ASSOCIATIONS AND THE INSTALLATION OF EXILES...

New "riprap" is installed in Calais next to the Pont Mollien, on March 1st...





... then on 7th March.

A gentleman came on 27th March, to the site of the Turquerie, to distribute food at the time of the breaking of the fast of Ramadan. He was surrounded by four CRS vans. They told him that it was forbidden to distribute food, which is totally reasonable. Impressed, the next day he inquired with us by phone: no, there are no authorizations to distribute since there are no prohibitions.

On the other hand, beware of all of us if we do not scrupulously respect the rules of the road!

Some refugees are traumatized: on the morning of the 26th, two newly arrived Iranians had hidden together in a toilet cubicle when they saw us arrive rue des Huts: they thought we were the police! They then devoured food like people who have not eaten for several days...

... or ABANDONMENT:

The dumpster of the Dunkirk camp has not been emptied or replaced since the evacuation of March 1st...

The exiles were forced to set fire to the garbage to prevent it from spreading too much and to limit the proliferation of rats

It was removed but not replaced at the evacuation of 31st March.



RAMADAN BEGAN ON 22nd MARCH.

The exiles of Dunkirk have built a mosque which we hope will be respected throughout this month of pray.

The meal distributions are a little different from usual: fewer people show up, many ask for provisions for the evening.

One Thursday, in Dunkirk, we had a lot of trouble distributing the delicious chocolate bananas, but the guys wanted to take their share in “a jar with a lid” but we were terribly short of containers!

On the morning of March 26th, the Calais team met only 7 people for breakfast! Even if we take into account that it was the first morning of day light saving time, it is still very very few...

SALAM HAS PARTICIPATED IN SOME PUBLIC EVENTS:

On March 7, at St. Joseph's Church, Claire gave a presentation of life in the camps and Salam's work, with a display of photos.os.



And on the weekend of 13th and 14th March, she spoke of her commitment during the masses in Quaëdypre and Bergues.

We were, represented by Brigitte, in Calais, behind a stand, on March 25 at the MER (Maison d'Entraide et de Ressources), a local of Secours Catholique, which was celebrating its first year of existence.

Also on the 25th, in Dunkirk, we were present at the rally organized against the 'Asile and immigration' law.

"And even Jean Bart says it!" writes Sabine by sending us this photo:



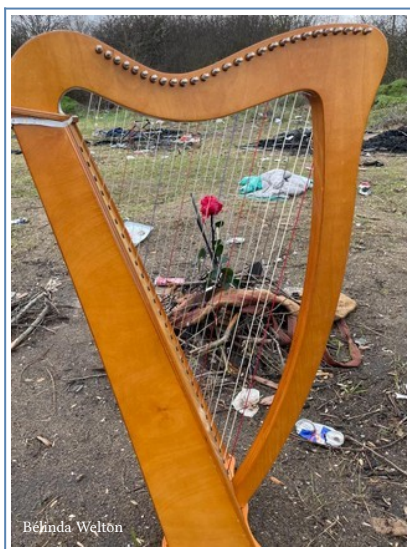
Maria, a volunteer in Salam, tells us that her husband was there and that he had "a good sense of cohesion".

The law will not be presented in the next session of Parliament, but Mr. Macron said it well during his televised address on 22nd March, it will be voted in sections.

Once again, I give the floor to Wilma for the conclusion: "The boats sink and the governments shed crocodile tears over the fate of these poor exiles while multiplying the measures to turn them back."

Claire Millot.

LAST MONTH'S EVENTS, continued (see February 2023 newsletter).



HALO, IN MEMORIAM – HERE AND THERE.

Halo is the gentleman who died, shot in the head, in his tent, in his sleep, from 13th to 14th February.

Here.

The tents in the corner of the camp where he was killed were burned by the others and the corner remains unoccupied.

The rose that Pascaline and Pierre had stuck in the ground at the place of his fall remained intact, since 18th February, at least until 9th March. Not even rooted, the flower refuses to die.

A cocktail of gel and chlorine gas? (For chlorine too, see the February issue of our newsletter).

There.

He was Kurdish.

His body was repatriated. Photos arrived from his home, thanks to Pierre who communicated them to us.

The lively crowd of his family and friends, like the rose in our house, gives the feeling that, in the end, it was life that won...



FOGGY LOOK.

It's dark here,
I look outside,
The misty look,
And I see the moon...
I think you're already here...
That's strange...
I know you're here...
I know,
It's the same moon you see,
at this moment provisional,
and it makes me feel good to know...

Raid Jabbar HABIB,



Excerpt from :

Quintessence and phantasmagoria. Poetry collection
in French. Paris, 2022.

Poem published and updated on October 21, 2022.

« A little angel in the jungle » Ferri comments

FORTY ASYLUM SEEKERS WELCOMED BEFORE THE END OF THE YEAR IN A SMALL VILLAGE IN CORREZE.

The state opens a reception Centre for asylum seekers (CADA) in Beyssenac, a small village in the Lubersac sector of Corrèze.

Last month's article ended on a half-hearted, but rather optimistic, note:
"Eric Zemmour organized a demonstration in this small village of Beyssenac, tells us a few days after our friend.
Fortunately, it is impossible to cancel this project because the association has already signed the purchase. »

Text message from our friend, 13th March:

"People suggested to my daughter that the sheep in the nearby fields be replaced with pigs to protect the farm."

Incredible!

Is the pig a guard animal (everyone knows that a hungry pig eats human beings) or do some think that the smell of pork is enough to keep away these "savages" who do not eat it...

A few days later, on March 18, a new message arrived, more worrying:
"Here we are living painful moments with the neighborhood at the moment. It's hard to live with. There is going to be a reception Centre for asylum seekers at the top of our house, and the population is overwhelmingly racist, macho and hateful. We don't feel at our best in this environment... »

A tweet accompanies this message.

Claire Millot





It rains heavily on Grande Synthe this Thursday morning, 9th March, 2023.

Fortunately, a break and a ray of sunshine greet the little harp on the camp. The Salam team is busy with distribution.

Abdallah and other Afghan friends find an ephemeral smile by playing a few notes that lighten the atmosphere for a moment.



When Claire finishes collecting the garbage, Pierre accompanies us further to the camp carrying the small harp.

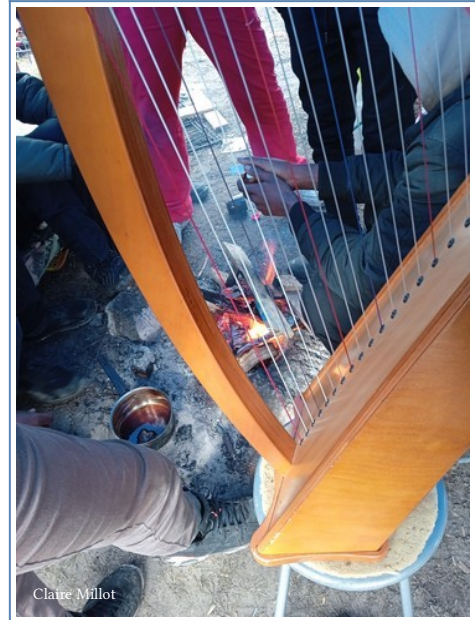
This time, I wouldn't have gone alone. The tension, an imprint of violence inscribed in the memory of these places are palpable. The smell of fear, the anxiety that sweats take to the throat. With a heavy heart we advance cautiously in the slush.



First stop in front of the remains of a tent made of ashes, pots and pans and bowls lying on the ground. No one will dare to touch it anymore... Last Friday, Abdel* was brutally assaulted twenty-to-one, knives and guns. The bullets hit his legs... A miraculous man still alive and on the run despite his injuries. His days are numbered on the camp...



A few meters further, under a tarpaulin that threatens at any moment to fly away... .. The storm rushes in and almost blows out the small fire that they manage to save with great difficulty. Hands stretched out over the meager flames, the small group desperately tries to warm their fingertips.



Here, all but one are from Togo. All but one have the same skin color but not the same benevolent smile. 'The exception' leaves the place rather hastily when the small harp arrives under the tarpaulin. The smoke too suffocating... Placed under the wind that sings in its strings...

The 'exception' has disappeared, certainly disturbed in his negotiations of plans for a next passage.

Ibrahim, full of the enthusiasm of his youth, insists on listening to the harp: "Your music goes straight into the heart! Rest assured, with the phone you see the weather and we will not try for UK with this weather."

Remnants of a recent dismantling by the police, we cross a field dotted with hastily abandoned belongings. In this 'No man's land' spread out in front of us the remains of cans of sardines in the ashes, clothes, mismatched shoes...



Fragments of lives in tatters like this shredded tent debris... Surreal vision of a battlefield unfortunately very real. The camp smells of the great reaper who prowls from ...



His sneaky presence freezes the bones. All look over the shoulder in a state of permanent alert. And suddenly, here it is! It soars straight and proud, connecting Earth to Heaven. The Rose... Red... Color of the blood that flowed here in the middle of the night, the eve of Valentine's Day... Halo is asleep in his tent. In the middle of the night, a bullet in the head. Halo won't wake up again. *"To get here and die like this... He was so nice... Always smiling..."* Pierre knew him well. A brother at heart who misses him so much. Everything was set on fire on the site of his tent as well as those of his brother and his relatives. The notes of *'Let Them Fly'* scattered over the camp. Time stands still. Emotion... The Rose deposited there by Pascaline and Pierre is eternal, just like that of the Little Prince. Since 18th February, not a petal has faded. A flowery scarlet drop *'that is not even rooted and refuses to die'* as Claire will say.



Two young Eritreans in cold weather approach us asking us to register them so that they can pitch their tent with other Eritreans or Somalis. They spent a sleepless and frigid night without shelter. Someone has already approached them to charge a site fee. Would they kill each other for a patch of mud? The jungle in all its horror! The powerlessness to be able to help them improve... We pass a group of men with large colorful turbans on their heads. They fled northern India to save their lives in great danger there. More and more communities are currently living side by side in the North, and unsustainable conditions for survival are creating inevitable tensions.



Along the small pond the remains accumulate. Peter guides us. We go from small group to small group lighting up the faces with a smile thanks to the sound of the harp. Some dance in the wind after our passing.

Several British journalists are getting our reactions to the announcement made by their government regarding the detention of migrants when they reach England illegally... Rwanda's concern... The sword of Damocles of return to hell that they managed to escape... at what cost... Anguish that can be read on all the tense faces of our friends... As if their survival situation was already not unbearable enough! Why does France, the so-called land of welcome human rights, equality and fraternity, not finally decide to receive humanely on its territory these families in distress? She did it so well for the Ukrainians...

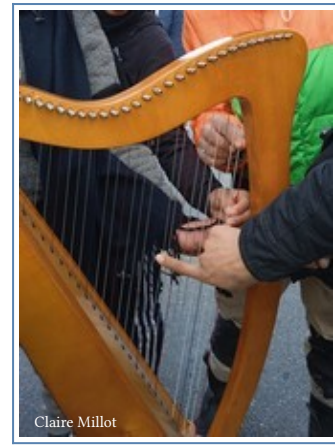
Are these adrift human beings less valuable? *"What do you think about England's new decisions regarding all these people waiting here?"* (What do you think of England's new decisions regarding all these people waiting here?) asks a journalist from the "Sunday Mirror".

Answer-question: *"After Nazi Germany, are you ready for an England of the same order? What would you do in the place of these people?"* ». That evening, in the small room facing Gravelines, I turn on the TV to clear my mind.

Film on the program: "The Roundup"... A sign?

In the early morning, in Calais, the conditions are no better. Rue des Huttes. It drizzles. The harp makes Mustapha smile. Little boy who we are not sure that the one he calls Daddy really is... Our hands join on the ropes.

Cheerful notes accompany this makeshift breakfast. A moment of sharing that warms hearts. The little one snuggles up to Yolaine's. In her arms, he listens to the reassuring beats, surely seeking his mother's unconditional love.



Claire Millot



Bélinda Welton

On the next distribution point, meeting with Rasta, the cat. The only one who seems happy with his condition as an exile... despite the rain... Abraham adopted him. He can finally move without crutches.



Ferri Matheeuwsen

At the next waterhole, these young exiles receive a sky-blue garbage bag poncho** to protect them a little from the weather. Today, it is Marguerite who accompanies us with the small harp.



Bélinda Welton

I ask him where the tragedy of this young man who ended his life under the eyes of the Salam team took place a few weeks ago? *"Right here!"* while the car enters one of the level crossings around Calais. The Salam truck stops a hundred meters away. The notes of *"Let Them Fly"* fly here too in tribute to this broke life in full flight towards a better life in a world that he had thought could be better at no...

A Salam volunteer sees a small feather on the stool standing in the trunk of the car. It flies away. Falls into a muddy puddle. A car passes over it. It is recovered, all white and dry... Offered to Yolaine... A sign? ***



Bélinda Welton

A new distribution point. Near a depot of trucks that leave in dribs and drabs, after careful inspection by the police. This camp is huge. The tents line up on a mound as far as the eye can see.

To the right of the embankment, a body of water where a multitude of waste is soaking.

Huge rats take advantage of this to proliferate. Ferri ventures towards our friends whose eyes are still misted with nightmares of the night. She invites them to come to the truck for hot coffee/tea, bananas, sandwiches... The password from tent to tent and here are our friends who set off to the end of the long road forbidden entry to any vehicle.



Bélinda Welton



Bélinda Welton

On the way back, the age-old question: "But what can we do for all these families? How can we help them avoid having to face death and survive? These human beings, a whole displaced youth, come to kill each other or take their lives! Abandoned... Desperate... Will they end up in detention for fleeing the hell they came from? After braving and suffering so many dangers, back to square one? What would we do in their place? One will suffice to keep man's humanity alive. For now, France and England are choosing the path of crimes against humanity.

Thank-you Pierre, thank you Claire, thank-you Yolaine, Marguerite and the whole Salam team who tirelessly go to the front every day to reach out to these men, women and children wounded by life and condemned in advance by our countries where abundance reigns.

"There is always a little perfume left in the hand that gives roses," said Confucius. Let's smell it... Let's share the... It is that of Life.

Belinda M. Welton.

*To preserve anonymity, names have been changed.

** These were originally hospital gowns of which we were given a whole lot. They look like garbage bags but they are perfectly waterproof!

*** Another volunteer, who wishes to remain anonymous, comments:

"Thank you to the kind harpist for playing this little piece in tribute to our migrant brother who preferred to join other skies! Thanks to the pretty little white feather braving the rain to come and greet us in Calais. »

THE CLOWNS INSIDE ...FROM A MIGRANT CAMP...



They are called "Clowns Inside".

There were three of them (Laurence, Jeroen and Anne) and they came from the Netherlands.

They normally visit hospitals, retirement homes, nursing homes, disabled children. But they also seek to help populations in great precariousness: they crossed Europe to the refugee camps of Greece and arrived at the bottom of this deprived corner of the great Dunkirk, where people survive in the mud, without water points and without toilets. They joined us on Saturday, 11th March, after a series of phone calls that persuaded us, it was a good idea. We were not mistaken.

They arrived on Saturday morning for a week and, right away, participated in “Salam life”: sorting donations, preparing...



... and distribution of hot meals at the camp.



Simply, they managed (treacherously!) to escape the dishes by wearing their red noses for a while longer in the middle of the refugees.

The two youngest were quite disturbed by the total absence of children the first days. It had snowed on March 8, spring was slow to arrive, and the families had accepted a stay in the shelters, far enough from the sea but warm ...

As a result, our clown friends spent Tuesday afternoon in the middle of the little ones of the Sesame house, an communal place for some families.



On Thursday morning, it is the children of the IME who come to help us every week, who have benefited from their presence: moments of happiness shared. Their poor educator had to work almost alone to make fruit salad. This is usually the task that we reserve for children and that they accomplish with efficiency and great pleasure... except the day of the arrival of clowns!

We shared a moment of emotion on Thursday, our clown friends and us: we collected together the empty cups and trays abandoned on the ground and walked along the fence that limits the property of Total. The camp largely overflows onto this private land...

Two young men approach us and stretch out their hands through the fence.

- We are leaving, they say.
- England?
- Yes.
- On the sea?
- Yes.

They ask us to pray for them, that they will stay alive and arrive in England.

Laurence, who is doing well in English, sums up what we are going to say:

"They are good guys, they have never hurt anyone. Protect them Lord, so that they may arrive safely in the United Kingdom."

They shake our hands very hard and walk away.

A few minutes later, it is our hearts that tighten when we see a whole group leave.

They leave to get on a "small boat", or to wait in the dunes for the call to the departure from the smuggler

Of course we have not heard from ... We simply did not hear, in the hours that followed, the information that there had been a deadly shipwreck ... And that's it...



Among the photos, there is a short video that shows an interview of Claire (head of the Salam team on the Dunkirk side) by Laurence (head of the clown team from the Netherlands).

You will visit it on our Facebook page: "Salam Nord/Pas-de-Calais".

It was the Japanese journalists who did it. There were two of them and they also spent the day with us to ask questions and testify, on the other side of the world, about the conditions of reception of exiles in France.

In Salam, we really like these moments that bring together people of such different origins, especially on a camp that is also so cosmopolitan!

Claire Millot.

POEMS OF YOUNG PEOPLE FROM THE COLLEGE DARIUS MILHAUD OF SARTROUVILLE.



Anne-Catherine Mourgue

2020, 2021, 2022, 2023...

In spring the daffodils come out of the ground. In the spring, young people from Darius Milhaud College in Sartrouville leave the reserve that often characterizes adolescence, and they begin to write.

It has become a tradition. Two special issues of this newsletter appeared in March 2020 and April 2021, letters to little Amal in October 2021, others to exiles were published in December 2021.



Anne-Catherine Mourgue

In February 2022, 18 poems were written by the students of the 3^e 2 classes.

On 7th February 2023, with their French teacher Anne-Catherine Mourgue, to the sound of the harp of our friend Bélinda, this year's 3rd year students wrote poems about exile, about those who arrive on the north coast of France and who wait, in a desperate situation, for a passage to England.

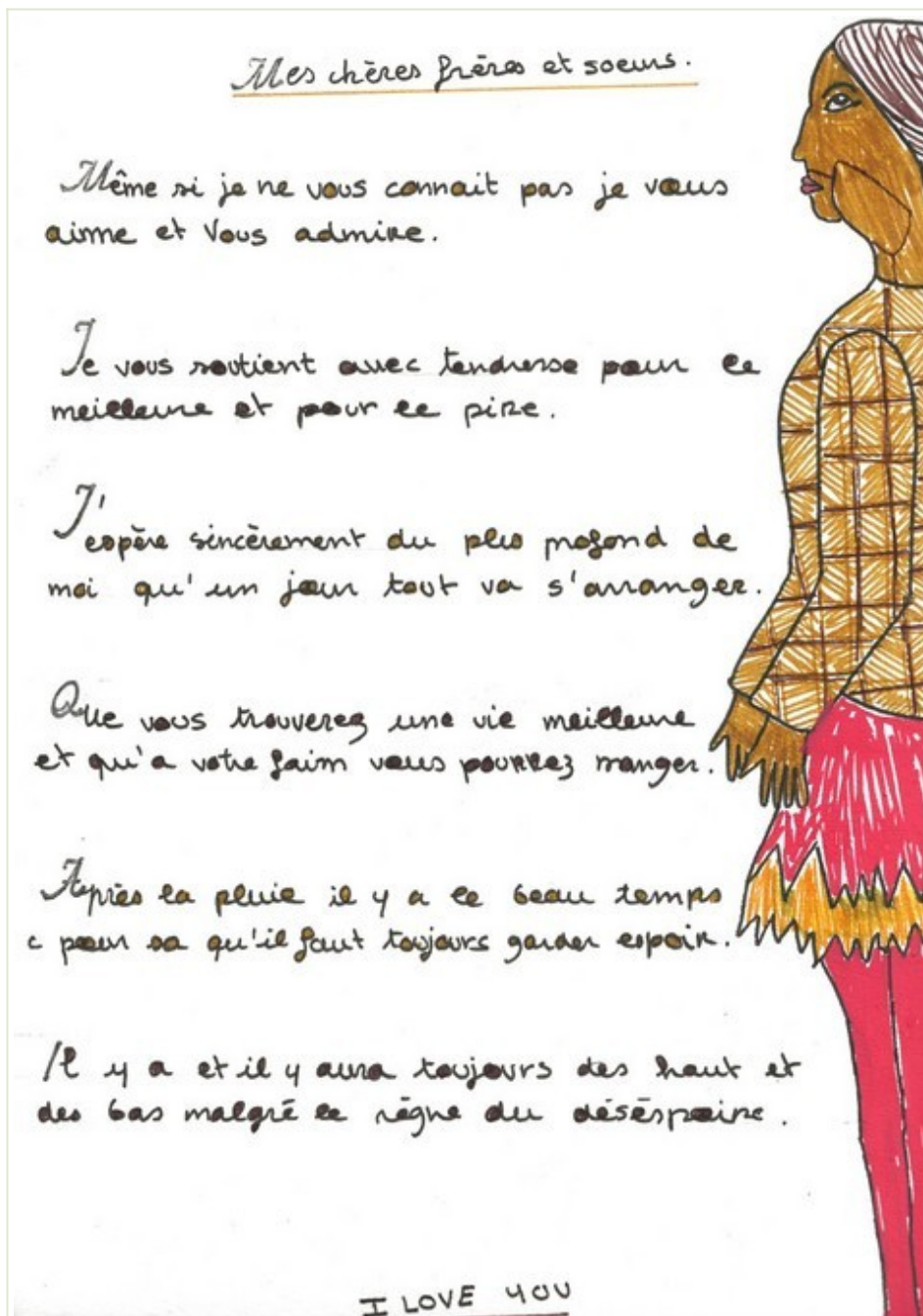
As last year, we are publishing these texts over three months, starting with this March issue.

Collections have also become a tradition (*see the acknowledgements section of our October 2022 newsletter*).

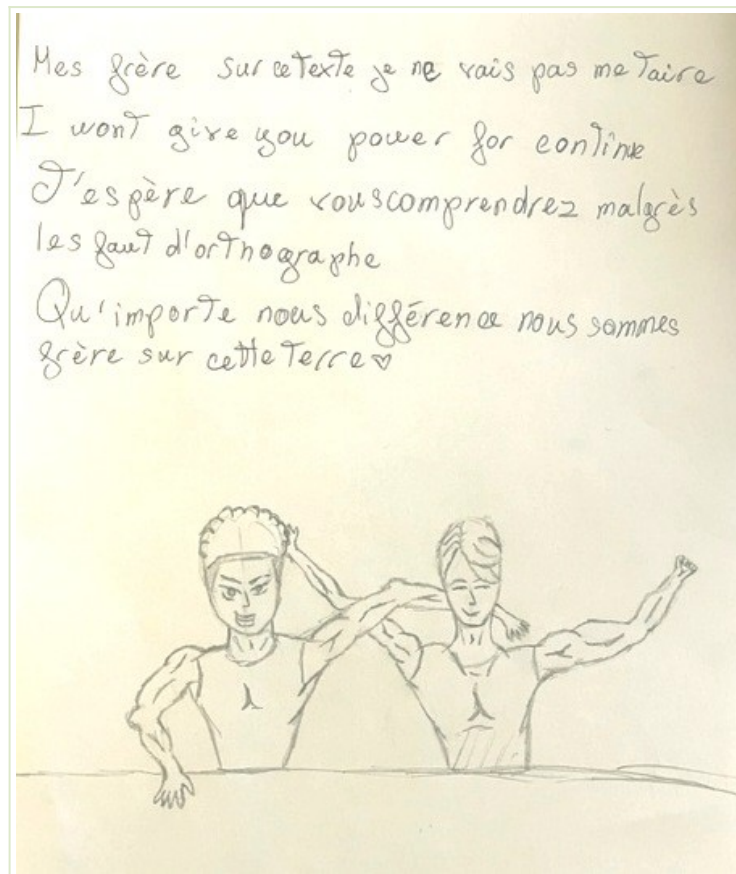
Manel, in the margin of his poem,
drew the little Amal, a giant puppet
3.50 m high, which represents a little
Syrian girl in exile, who lost her
mother. She had also met Bélinda in
October 2021 in Grande-Synthe and
then in Calais.



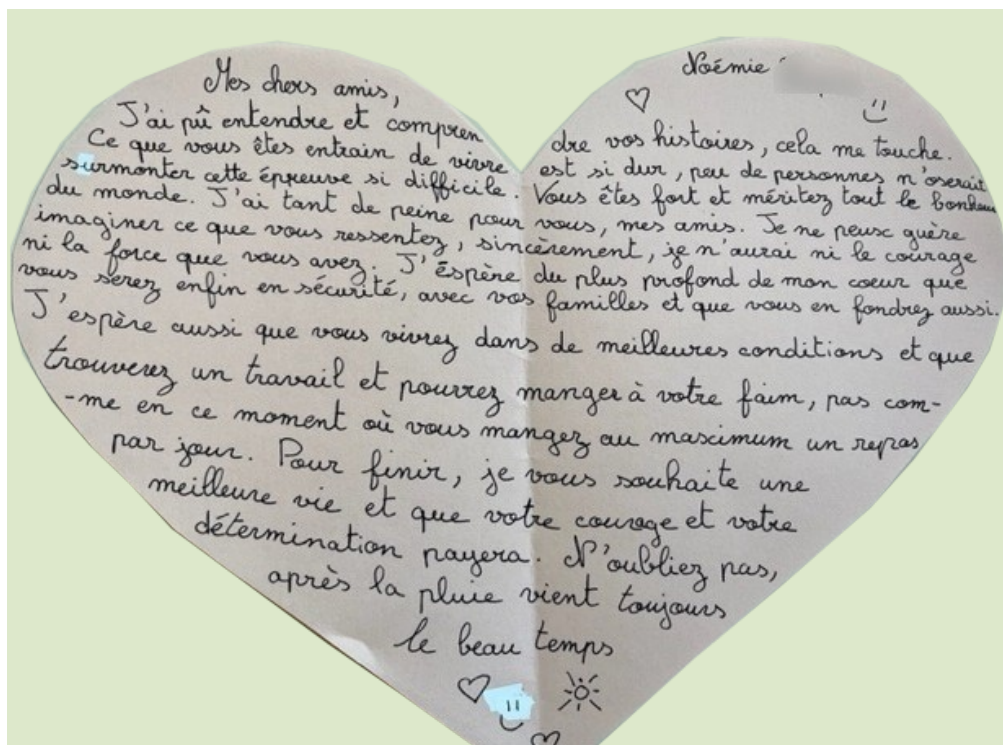
Bélinda Welton



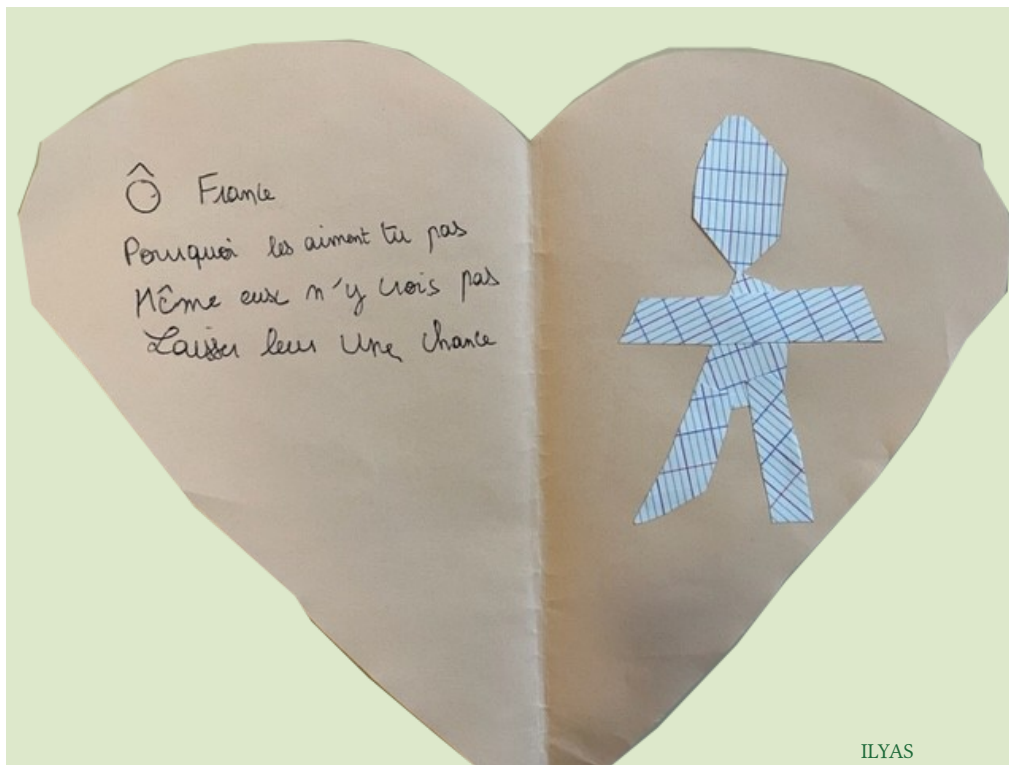
Richard symbolizes by his drawing the friendship between peoples.



"I want to give you the strength to continue".



Others do it by writing
with hearts.



Message to migrants

My dear friends

I share this message with you to say that I support you.

You as a human being should not live under these conditions.

I wish you all the best

and I hope that one day the authorities will realize their cruelties.

I realize that there are still people

with good hearts like the Salam association and donors.

I will support you all my life and I love you my dear friends.

I wish you success in your goals and I wish you to arrive in England.

We know that you had to pay to cross into England
in a not very comfortable truck.

I give you my full support.

Ilyes



SALAM

You who come from all walks of life

You who lost your homes

As you arrive on the threshold

Of a so-called land of welcome

You who fled

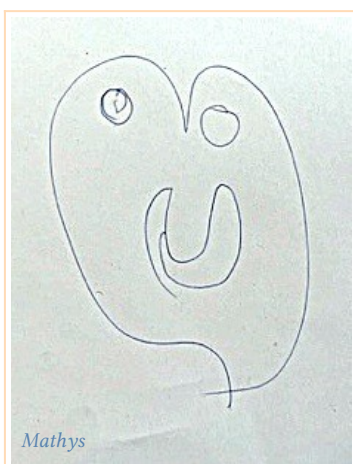
Who risked everything

Why are you not welcomed

In this country with values of freedom

Never give up, my friends.

AIDAN.



My dear friends

I hope you are all doing very well.

I am sending you this message to let you know that I support you all. I am sure that very soon you will manage to pass to England and that some will reach France, you regain hope when You see trucks, a tip, always keep positive.

Mathys

THANK YOU.

THANK YOU FIRST OF ALL TO THE VOLUNTEERS, WITHOUT WHOM, NOTHING WOULD BE DONE!

Thank you to those who are there every week, to prepare, distribute, do the dishes, pick up donations that do not always arrive directly at our premises, to those who receive and sort them....

Those who prepare food, with a special mention for Sunny who started the kitchen on her own on 25th March and 1st April .



Josette and Elisabeth, who bake cakes at home for the Monday lunchtime distribution.

Those who distribute on the camp,



Dunkirk



Calais



in front of a van that reminds our friends of our volunteer status,

regardless of the length of the queue.

Those who launch a football match at the end of the distribution, a moment of relaxation and harmony, at least 21st Tuesday and 23rd Thursday and 30th : "A ball is often life-saving on a camp" wrote Marie in her report of 21st March. So thanks also to the ball!



You will admire, with Guy, "Clara Benzema on the offensive"!

Volunteers are all the more valuable as they are rare:

- Brigitte and Jean-Noël, who several times brought us rolls of tarpaulins from Templeuve, were progressed , with their little daughter Rose just of age, from the status of donors to that of volunteers. On 11th March, they discovered the world of camps that they knew only by repute.
- Soumaya, passing through her parents' home in Dunkirk, after a long absence, returned with her niece Kenza.
- Bouchra and Virginie, who came from Emmaus Dijon, were on holiday at the Sesame house and joined our team on Thursday 23rd as if they had always been there.

THANK YOU TO THOSE WHO MAKE US KNOWN AROUND THE WORLD:

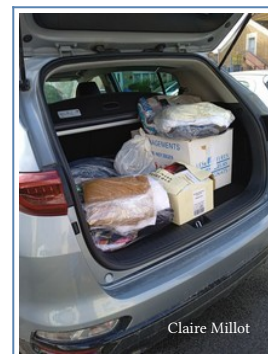
- Two teams of Japanese journalists, who came to us.
 - A young lady from Hong Kong, in contact by telephone, who is doing a thesis on the migrant camps in Calais.
 - Laurent Prum, the photographer, was back with us on 18th March.
- "Visit of our supportive and committed friend, Laurent Prum, this morning in the different jungles of Calais – Sweet and true exchanges," Ferri wrote.
- See our March 2022 newsletter.*

THANK YOU TO THOSE, KNOWN OR UNKNOWN, WHO GAVE US GIFTS FOR OUR EXILE FRIENDS.

- Yves D. de Bousignies helped Guy and Régine pass duvets and mattresses, thank you to all three.
- A lady placed a large shopping bag on 9th March that contained two warm jackets.



- Brigitte and Jean-Noël (see above) came on 11th March with two large rolls of agricultural tarpaulin, immediately loaded onto Pierre's truck to be cut to usable sizes.
- On the same day, the clowns from the Netherlands (see also above) also arrived with clothes collected from their homes.
- The Comorian ladies who cook rice on Mondays for the Dunkirk camp, gave us on 13th March a large packet of mutton to cook in our kitchens.
- The lady who knits hats, at the Val des Roses in Dunkirk, gave us another twenty, in warm wool.
- Daniel H. gave us a bag of clothes on 25th March.
- A gentleman who arrived straight from Saint-Flour, in Cantal, on 23rd March, had his case full of clothes for our friends.
- Nabil offered 250kg of dates for breaking the fast of Ramadan.



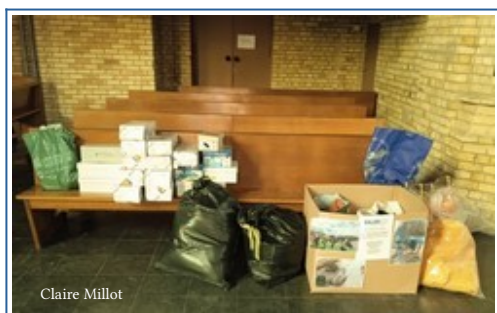
THANK YOU TO THOSE WHO HELPED US ON BEHALF OF A COMPANY OR AN ASSOCIATION THAT IS A FRIEND OR IN THE PROCESS OF BECOMING ONE...

Thanks to Adventices jardins for the new donation of 100 kg of potatoes and 33 kg of onions, on 7th March.
And thanks to Jacky who once again provided the transport.

Thanks to the market gardening company in Grande-Synthe who took contact with us and offered us a very large bag of sweet potatoes to share with ADRA, which we gladly did.



Thanks to " Help 4 Dunkirk" who empties the hangar he occupied, before leaving until next winter.
A beautiful series of duvets came to us through Pierre.



Thank you to the parish of Saint Bertin Saint Joseph de la Colme, for the collection made after the intervention of Claire on 13th and 14th March,
A duvet, two blankets and a bag of trousers, and especially a big collection by the children of the catechism:

Thanks to Onjali and his association "O's Refugee Aid Team" who offers us every month since November an important food fund:

To our thanks ...

"Many thanks first of all to Onjali for this new generous donation. Your support, Onjali, is very, very reassuring for us. »

... Onjali replied:

"Ah! How amazing you both are! Thank you very much Caroline and Claire. I receive all this with a deep thank you and a lot of love. »



Thank you also, of course, warmly to Caroline, who does all the thankless work of buying and transporting groceries for us.



Thanks to Secours Populaire/Copains du monde, Christian Hogard, Caroline and their team.

Thank you for the desserts that will improve the ordinary meals distributed in Dunkirk:



Bags of pineapple in syrup that perfectly complement our fruit salads, composed especially in winter of apples and bananas. The small compotes to put in the pocket for the evening in this period of Ramadan.

And thank you especially for the gift of the year: more than a hundred tents to give on the camps, on our "two poles", to those who have nothing to protect themselves at night from the cold and bad weather.

AND FINALLY THANK YOU TO ALL THOSE WHO MADE US FINANCIAL DONATIONS, without which we would not be able to maintain the vans, put diesel in the tanks, pay for the water and electricity used in our premises, replace the gas cylinders... Thank you to all those (close friends and strangers) who slipped us a ticket, sent a cheque, made a transfer directly or by Helloassos.

Special thanks to:

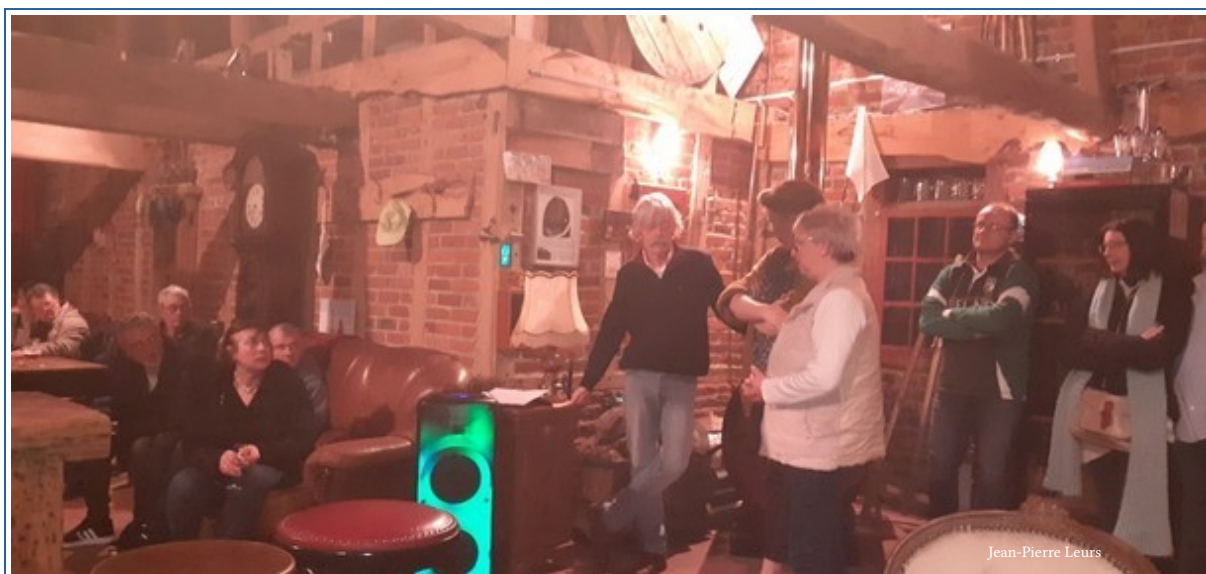
Bernadette and Léa, bakers in the Tarn, who for the third time sold biscuits for the benefit of Salam that they cooked!

The MEVE (Let's Walk Together, Let's Live Together) presented us with a big cheque during an evening on 25th March. The benefit of the "nettle walk" organized every year in June was shared between several associations.

Julie, Ghislaine and Jean-Pierre were sent on a mission to Saint-Sylvestre-Cappel,



But they were amply rewarded for their punishment:



THANK YOU TO BETHLEHEM, TO ABDELKADER AND TO THE ASSOCIATION RENAISSANCE, TO FLANDERS TERRE SOLIDAIRE, TO THE PROTESTANT MUTUAL AID, TO THE AUBERGE DES MIGRANTS which shares with us the ton of bananas offered by CONHEXA once a week, To EMMAUS which gives us surpluses every week, for Calais as for Grande-Synthe , to the Ressourcerie de Montreuil sur mer ("Il était deux fois") and to the Secours Catholique de Berck which provide each month clothes brought to Calais by André de Merlimont, to the JARDINS DE COCAGNE, to the COMORIAN DAMES, to the RESTAURANT DU CAP in Escalles, to the bakeries opposite the Noordover, "La mie du pain" and "Au bon pain d'ancienne" of Coudekerque. Week after week, they are there to help us. Thanks to HRO and Olivier Schitteck who allow us to publish their photos.

THANK YOU to the diocesan association of Lille which, through the parish of Grande-Synthe, has been graciously making available the premises of the Salle Guérin, for about fifteen years.

THANK YOU to Michel who ensures the layout of this newsletter, without fail, for years, to Chris who translates it into English, month after month, for our website, to Antoine who manages the Facebook Page , also without fail, since 2017, and Guillaume who introduced us to the LinkedIn network just a year ago.

Claire Millot.

OUR NEEDS FOR VOLUNTEERS

Dunkirk:

We need people on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays from the beginning of the peeling chore (8 am) to the end of the dishes (between 2 and 4 pm). In between, we distribute the meal.

Call Claire (06 34 62 68 71). From outside France 00 33 6 34 62 68 71

Calais:

Salam continues the distribution of enhanced breakfasts every morning with tea and coffee.
But we are sorely lacking volunteers, especially volunteers with driver's licenses:
Meeting at 8 am at the local, 13 rue des Fontinettes.

Call Yolaine at 06.83.16.31.61. From outside France 00 33 6 83 16 31 61

CALL FOR DONATIONS

MONEY NEEDS

Without state subsidies and with a very significant reduction in subsidies from local and regional authorities, we still need money to make the work of the association last:
Maintenance of premises and vans, fuel, purchase of food that is missing...

Visit the association's website: www.associationsalam.org
Section : "Support us"

Go through HELLOASSO:
<https://www.helloasso.com/associations/salam-nord-pas-de-calais/formulaires/2/widget>

or simply send a cheque to:
Association Salam
PO Box 47
62100 CALAIS FRANCE

You are entitled to a 66% tax reduction on these donations, in cash by one of our volunteers, by check payable to SALAM, or by bank transfer (direct or by Helloasso) (please check your local tax laws)

A big thank you to all our generous donors!

TENTS AND TARPAULINS!

From dismantling to dismantling, the tents are removed at both sites and we are unable to replace them. Many people sleep with nothing on them, in all weathers.
But we hesitate to suggest you buy some: the life expectancy of a tent is a few days...
On the other hand, tarpaulins, pieces of 3m by 3m (or 2.50m by 3m), cost much less and allow an honest man to spend a night in the shelter.

Otherwise, the most pressing needs on both sites:

BLANKETS (DUVETS, SLEEPING BAGS).

hygiene products (shampoo, shower gel, deodorant, sunscreen, etc.), especially razors,
towels,

men's clothing from XS to XL: underpants, long underpants and thermal leggings and thermal sweaters, socks, jogging pants, jeans, shorts, t-shirts,
SHOES for men: trainers or light hiking shoes (sizes 40 to 46),
sandals, caps.

backpacks,
lamps and batteries,
water packs,
bags (small backpacks, garbage bags, freezer bags, tote bags and plastic bags)

Food for Calais:

milk,
tea and sugar, soluble coffee,
cans of sardines and cans of tuna,
cream cheese,
dried fruits,
Power banks.

To drop off your donations, RDV 13 rue des Fontinettes, and call 06 83 16 31 61.

And for Grande-Synthe:

Especially canned vegetables of all kinds (we have been receiving much less fresh for some time),
bags of pulses, spices,

Drop off your donations in the Salle Guérin, rue Alphonse Daudet, behind St Jacques Church on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.

CALL FOR CONTRIBUTIONS

You can take your membership for 2023.
The membership form is attached to this mailing.

If you are not yet a member, do not hesitate to join us.
Whether you are an active volunteer or not, becoming a member gives the association the strength to the Union ! We were already more than 250 members in 2022, help us to exceed this threshold.

CONTACT US

<http://www.associationsalam.org>
salamnordpasdecalais@gmail.com
[Facebook page: SALAM Nord/Pas-de-Calais](#)
And the new LinkedIn page, available at the following link :
www.linkedin.com/in/association-salam-nord-pas-de-calais

Association SALAM
PO box 47
62100 CALAIS

Association SALAM,
Salle Guérin, Quartier St Jacques,
1, rue Alphonse Daudet,
59760 Grande-Synthe

Bulletin d'adhésion 2023



Principaux objectifs de SALAM :

- Apporter une aide humanitaire aux migrants (soins, hygiène, nourriture, vêtements...)
- Accompagner les migrants dans leur demande d'asile
- Informer et sensibiliser l'opinion publique sur la situation des migrants du littoral Côte d'Opale
- Combattre toutes les formes de racisme et de discrimination
- Agir dans les pays en difficulté
- Soutenir juridiquement les membres de l'association

Merci de remplir le bulletin ci-dessous et de le renvoyer à l'adresse suivante :

Association SALAM-Nord/Pas-de-Calais

BP 47
62100 CALAIS

Monsieur/
Madame : _____ Prénom _____

Adresse _____

Code postal _____ Ville _____ Pays _____

Téléphone _____ E mail _____

☐ J'adhère à l'association en versant la somme de 10 €.

(5 € pour les étudiants et demandeurs d'emploi , adhésion valable jusqu'au 31/12/2023)

Date et signature :

☐ Je fais un don* à l'association Salam en versant la somme de : _____

**Par chèque à l'ordre de l'association Salam. Un reçu fiscal vous sera adressé*

☐ Je souhaite recevoir davantage d'informations sur l'association Salam.