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JANUARY 2024 NEWSLETTER

THOUGHT OF THE MONTH

My question to all those who criticize the presence of migrants in France:

"Did You choose to be born in France?"

P. L.

A WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT

Everyone has their own opinions about our "Minister of the Interior":
His many speeches,
His many terrible decisions during the demonstrations,
His political career.

26th January 2024 has passed!

Our Minister of the Interior had said:
"You don't respond to suffering by sending riot police."

A new Minister of the Interior had arrived!

BE SPARING!
We are all ready to welcome this new epoch!

Let's talk about it again...

Jean-Claude Lenoir.

Most recent: two additional deaths between the end of January and the beginning of February.

- A horrible death in a truck.

We learned, from the press on the 28th January, of the discovery a day before in Marck, of the body of a young African, pierced by metal bars that would have come off during the truck braking. The farewell ceremony took place at Parc Richelieu in Calais on 28th January at 6:30 p.m.

- One person was shot dead at the Loon-Plage camp during the night between 3rd and 4th February.

It was the press that informed us again: a call from AFP this morning asking for confirmation. But nothing about Whatsapp groups. At first we were hopeful that it was a rumour.

But at 11:31 a.m., confirmation came, via a link to an online article in the "Parisien": his body, as well as that of another injured man, had been placed on the side of the A16 road "to facilitate their care."

IT'S WINTER.

Falling into the water can be deadly.

FIVE MORE DEATHS, which as always upset us, on the night between 13th and 14th January in front of Wimereux.

Four dead in an attempt to cross over the Channel. A fifth body was found on the seashore on the morning of the 14th. The water temperature was 10 degrees, the air temperature was 3 degrees. Those who didn't manage to climb into the dinghy didn't stand a chance... The boat continued without them. No help for those lost.

A military boat accompanied those who were leaving, they are only allowed to intervene if they are called to help...

How do you embark on a journey that seems so potentially suicidal?

The Home Office had not recorded any arrivals by sea since 16th December (almost a month). The weather conditions (rain, storms) did not allow them...

Waiting in camps successively bogged down or under the frost would make anyone want to leave, whatever the risk...

The usual commemoration ceremony took place in Richelieu Park, Calais, on 15th January, a ceremony in tribute to the last to disappear but also, to all the dead on the border. Salam was represented.



They were 26, 24, 16 and 14 years old.
Coming from Syria... a country destroyed by war.
They had dreams...
Hopes...
They died in the icy water of the North Sea.
No, it's not the smugglers' fault!
It is the fault of an inhuman and hostile policy... Closed borders.
Of a heartless Europe.
Borders kill!
Open the Borders.

Ferri Matheeuwsen 15th January (Ferri, a volunteer in Salam, is Dutch).

Crossings by sea took place in January: 1,057 recorded by the Home Office: on 13th, 14th and 17th January (621 on 15 dinghies, with between 41 and 42 people on average per boat. That's vast, but at least it's not increasing anymore.) and the 25th, 27th and 28th (436 on 8 dinghies, so between 54 and 55 people on average per boat. We shudder when we think of the consequences of a possible shipwreck...)

These passages by sea are commonplace: you don't even hide your life jacket anymore, like this young man, surprised by our photographer Agnès, on 17th January, seated at the Auchan cafeteria in Grande-Synthe.

But the weather is too bad, and the police are too present on the water's edge.

Some tell us about the police cordons that prevent them from approaching the sea.

"Nord Littoral" of 26th January reported on the intervention of police officers the day before, around 3:30 a.m., in the Hammes de Marck. They prevented the departure of about sixty people on a small boat and destroyed the boat... This is enough to further encourage departures by "taxi boat" which forces passengers to enter the water (cold, of course) at least up to their waists, to board... (see our July 2023 newsletter).



UN BARRAGE FLOTTANT ANTI-MIGRANTS AU PORT DE LA MADELON

WABEN. Un nouveau barrage a été installé mardi sur l'Authie, au niveau du port de la Madelon. Il est destiné à empêcher le passage des embarcations de migrants. L'installation a été faite conjointement par la préfecture de la Somme, la gendarmerie et un prestataire puisque l'Authie sert de frontière naturelle entre la Somme et le Pas-de-Calais à cet endroit. Ce barrage est le troisième du genre dans le Montreuillois. Il fait suite à celui d'Étaples, déployé en août et renforcé dans la foulée. Et à celui posé en septembre à Quend.



In addition, the authorities are increasing the number of roadblocks that prevent boats that could arrive at the sea, already loaded.

This article was published in the 12th January issue of "Voix du Nord".

The Salam team regularly sees refugees return in the morning, exhausted and hungry after a failure. On 29th January, behind the PASS, our team saw about twenty people arrive full of sand, soaked up to their ears and (clearly) shivering with cold. They came back on foot (five hours walk, they say) they didn't know precisely from where, after the "soldiers" (police? not sure... but "no, no, not the police, the military") punctured their boat. This is where the "shipwreck kits" that are still in the van come in handy! (bags with everything you need to dress someone). Only one guy, too large, couldn't fit into any trousers, the others were dressed and fed.

On 19th January, about thirty Eritreans were freezing and passed in front of our premises on Rue des Fontinettes. Arriving from Belgium in trucks, they were spotted at the port and taken out by manu militari. They want to go back to Belgium from the Fontinettes train station. As the name suggests, this station is at the end of the street, hence the route that takes them past Salam...

This station is much less policed than the Central Station.

On the afternoon of 10th January for example, the HRO (Human Rights Observers) spotted a vehicle of the Municipal Police, one of the National Police, and a CRS van, which were checking people in Calais Town at the departure of the Lille train: five arrests.

On the 24th, we relive a somewhat forgotten scene:

Farmers protest and blockade the port and the Channel Tunnel.

The trucks are stopped. The guys run by to get a piece of bread from the hands of the Salam volunteers and rush into the cry of "Dougar... dougar" to try to get into a vehicle going to the UK.

"Dougar" means "there is a traffic jam, trucks stopped. You must take advantage of it."

Indeed, some try to cross by truck, the poorest and/or the most impatient.

On 4th January, from the rue de Judée, the HRO (Human Rights Observers) saw men getting out of a lorry on the emergency lane of the A16 road. Kicked out by the trucker, no doubt?



IT'S WINTER...

Shelters were opened for the night during the coldest periods.

Calais:

The buildings dedicated to the "Cold Weather Plan" were open from the evening of Saturday 6th January to the morning of Wednesday 10th January, opening extended until the morning of Friday 12th January.

New opening period from Monday 15th to the morning of Friday 19th, extended until the morning of Sunday 21st.

A reception for women and families was provided by the SIAO.

The minors were welcomed on the route de Saint-Omer, the adults on the rue des Huttes, in both cases by means of a shuttle bus (no spontaneous arrival possible). Accommodation was provided from 4:30 p.m. to 9:30 a.m.

Of course, none of us will blame the state for allowing people to sleep warm during stormy nights or sub-zero temperatures... However, it can be noted, without being unwilling, that if 9:30 a.m. is a perfectly correct time for the end of the reception, it is not normal that the evacuation of the camps also start on these days is before 9 a.m., while the equipment is picked up even if the owner is not present next to it (equipment is considered to be abandoned) ...



This photo of the dismantling on 20th January, taken with a BMX bike at 8:51 a.m., is particularly telling as the white of the frost makes the sub-zero temperatures visible...

On the same day, at the same location, the Human Rights Observers noted 5 tents and 21 pallets seized, as of 9:08 a.m.

Also on 10th January, the first seizures of equipment were observed by the HRO at 8:58 a.m.

Do you have to choose between saving your equipment and sleeping away from the cold?

We can also ask ourselves if it is humane and reasonable to leave people outside all day, without shelter, at the same time...

Dunkirk:

There are no dedicated rooms.

But a gymnasium was open from the evening of Friday 5th January to the morning of Monday 8th January, opening extended until the morning of Wednesday 10th, then until the morning of Tuesday 16th, finally until the morning of Monday 22nd and Tuesday 23rd.

Another room accommodated the homeless.

An AFEJI shuttle, present from 3 p.m., took those interested (all: families and single men. But AFEJI gave priority to families when boarding buses).

Later, if there were still places (to be checked up to 115), latecomers could reach by their own means.

The gymnasium had been open for 100 people; the capacity was increased to 160 from 10th January.

The Red Cross distributed sleeping bags, blankets, and an evening meal and breakfast.

Accommodation was provided from 6 p.m. to 8 a.m. the next morning. Some complained to the Help4Dunkirk association that they had been kicked out between 7 and 8 a.m. (in the dark, in the cold, and without a shuttle home) ...

Geoff's photo shows the families returning to the camp in the early morning hours of January 15th...

As in Calais, whatever the closing time of the room is, the children we see in the photo are too small to spend time outside on stormy and very cold days...

Is this more normal for an adult man?



Geoff Motyer - Instagram@Small_cog



Olivier Schitte

IT'S WINTER...

The Loon-Plage camp finally saw the installation of two running water points on 23rd December. Thanks to CUD.

On 12th January, we can see that the water point is rendered unusable by the frost...

On 17th January, after a mild spell, MDM noticed that the water had been cut off...

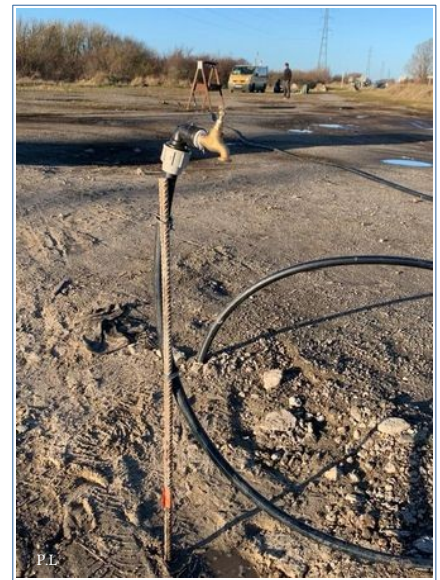
On the 16th, in a meeting at the CUD, we asked for a telephone number for emergency repairs.

On the 23rd, a telephone call was made by the Director General of Services of the CUD. He gives us the contact details of the gentleman who should be our contact. Great news, he is someone we know well in Salam and who is remarkably responsive and efficient.

He explains to me that the water points are easily cut off to avoid waste and are also easily put back into action, by a tap accessible to all, under a small hatch on the ground near one of them. All that remains is to pass on the information widely... It's not easy to get people to it pass on, and to enforce respect for them...

A less complicated solution was adopted on the 26th: a sink with 8 push buttons and, next to it, a hose with a tap to fill the jerry cans...

Thank you to him, thank you to those in charge at the CUD.



The dumpster, which had been there since 20th December, was neglected on the weekend of 20th January. With our new guardian angel, this shouldn't happen again.

DISMANTLING:

In Dunkirk,

There has been no total dismantling since the one on 30th November.

But on 4th January, a new evacuation took place in the area of the shops: The tents and their occupants have been displaced.

In Calais,

the dismantling continued every other day, without exception even in the period when the forces of order were required by the demonstrations and blockades of roads by farmers. On 31st January, no riot police (presumably called where the motorways were blocked); the dismantling took place anyway, with three vans of the National Police.

There was a one-day exception on 22nd January: nothing between the 20th and the 23rd, and we couldn't understand why.

The Human Rights Observers ask the police every day, several times, what is the legal basis for the operation. Either there is no answer, or it is: "conspicuously bad" or "flagrante delicto", which is the same thing.

On 27th January, behind the PASS, a policeman replied:

"unhealthiness"... And yet they let people resettle in the garbage, and the so-called "clean-up" crews never take away garbage or dirt, only tents, tarpaulins, personal belongings, and pallets.

The workflow has been the same for years:

- The police arrived in large numbers. Here, George V Bridge, 12th January.



They almost always set up a security perimeter to keep associations, and the Human Rights Observers in particular, at bay. The perimeter is less and less often marked by a cordon of policemen, more and more vague and shifting: "Over there... »



The conditions of observation of the Human Rights Observers are therefore most often very difficult: they are very far from the operations and even heavily hampered materially. Here on 16th January in Marck.



On 14th January, a riot police officer told them clearly: "I don't know... Are you part of an association... I have orders only for you... »
Indeed, on 12th January on the site of the Hospital, a film crew was on the site, we do not know who, but it was there while the Human Rights Observers was not allowed to enter it.
And on the 27th, at the same place, someone was riding motocross bike on the field and was not kicked out while the Human Rights Observer was not allowed to enter.
On 25th January, however, a journalist was also pushed out... Another kind of unwanted observer, surely...



- The police moved people and tents. Here, Judea Street, on 25th January.

- They have "abandoned" equipment removed, i.e. equipment whose owner is not there. Too bad for him if he is sheltered at the "Plan Grand Froid", at a meal distribution, at the shower, or if he misses his passage to England...



What is most often seized are tents and pallets (very valuable, they are used to insulate the tent from wet earth or to make a fire for warmth or cooking). Here at BMX on 20th January:

Exiles may or may not be allowed to pass through this perimeter to retrieve their belongings in a completely random manner. An example, to avoid a tedious list: in BMX, on 2nd January someone is allowed to enter the site, but on the 6th another person does not have permission, and on the 12th the exiles can all stay inside the perimeter...

The exiles are resettling in such a way that it is impossible for the forces of law and order not to notice. However, they are supposed to have "liberated" illegally occupied land... The photo taken at BMX on 23rd January shows this clearly:



On 18th January, behind the PASS, the operations manager was satisfied with the evacuation conditions: "Talk to them and you will see that they have absolutely nothing to reproach us with... There have been excesses in some municipalities, but certainly not in Calais. But she ends the conversation because it's being recorded..."

Indeed, it happens that the HRO observes human behaviour, which we welcome: on 27th January, we hear in the HRO video the CRS walkie-talkie: "For information, there is still a migrant in a tent at the very back, apparently he is sick, yes for sure".

However, evacuations are too often brutal. Some examples:

Intimidation by the presence of weapons is a daily occurrence; These photos were taken on 20th January.



We haven't seen shields in a while, they've been back since 25th January, here at the Farmhouse on 29th January.

- On 4th January, after the evacuation convoy had passed, nothing could stand.

- On 6th January, at the "Fermette", the police woke people up and tore down a tent. People are forced to demolish their shelters in front of the riot police.

- On 14th January in Marck, shelters were destroyed, and the HRO heard the sounds of a tarpaulin being torn apart.

- On 16th January, on the hospital's website, two arrests were particularly brutal: the video (too large to download) shows someone handcuffed on the ground and taken away between two police officers. He limps.

- On the same day, as he was leaving Hospital, a riot police officer pushed one of the Human Rights Observers members and made her fall into the ditch...



Worse, morally:

- On 14th January, behind the PASS, the police grabbed some guys and wrote numbers on their arms to identify them...

The "zero fixation point" policy is behind these behaviours and the new immigration law is not going to help matters.

Salam was widely represented in the 20th January demonstration in Dunkirk against the Darmanin law. We were waiting for the Constitutional Council's response on 25th January.



THE (NEAR) FUTURE OF THE DUNKIRK CAMP.

In the last issue of this newsletter, we announced the installation of water points and the dumpster on the Mardyck side, on the other side of the D 601 from Loon-Plage. This made us fear that the camps would soon return on that side.

And then, nothing...

But in the last days of the month, we noticed work to install gates that would close the industrial zone of Loon-Plage.



Is moving back on the agenda? To a place where they were brought without having chosen it, a little over a year ago on 7th December 2022, to be chased away on 4th May and 5th, 2023...

When will the authorities stop playing golf with human beings as balls?...

OUR HUNGER STRIKER IS OUT OF DANGER.

As we announced in our last issue of this newsletter, on the advice of two doctors, Pierre has decided to end his hunger strike, with a visit to the hospital in a gastroenterology department for a safe resumption of feeding.

He entered as scheduled on 2nd January.



The recovery has been very, very gradual. Here is his first meal: a little broth without anything solid in it, before infusion for all other energy intakes.



Since Friday the 12th, he has been back at the Sesame House; By 24th January, he had already gained 5 kg. We no longer fear irreversible consequences.

On the other hand, his complaint against the bailiff about the irregularities in the seizure of his truck on 19th October is still blocked...

A DROP OF HOPE TO CONCLUDE:

The Rock of the Month, *pictured behind the PASS in Calais, on 8th January.*

Claire Millot



These three texts speak to us, because they say what we feel, all of us...
THE WORLD BELONGS TO NO ONE.

The world belongs to people and to all of us.
Borders are invented by men.
Dreaming of a better life is everyone's right.
No... You don't choose where you're born... or the colour of your skin.
But it shouldn't make a difference.
You are me and I am you.
Citizens of the world live in a world without borders.

Ferri Matheeuwsen, 17th January.
Ferri is a volunteer in Salam and Dutch.

**REPLY TO A LETTER
FROM THE SUB-PREFECT OF DUNKIRK ON 9th JANUARY.**

Dear Sub-Prefect,

Thank you for taking the time to respond to my letters.

No territory is ready to take in some of the misery of the world. No territory is prepared to deal with a situation that it is suffering from and has not chosen.
On the other hand, Dunkirk has always distinguished itself by its sense of hospitality, the warmth of its inhabitants and the respect for the values that have made our country proud.
It is also a legacy of the tragic episodes of the recent history of Dunkirk. The situation of exiles has been experienced by many of the elders.

This region knows how to innovate, invent solutions, and move forward in consultation. Dialogue is always constructive and here on the coast, through the Associations, there is no shortage of goodwill. Understanding a territory and its stakeholders is essential to do the right thing.

Depriving exiles of water, confiscating their personal belongings during dismantling, arbitrarily seizing the van of a volunteer who is entirely devoted to his cause are not part of Dunkirk's DNA.

I maintain, therefore, that coming back unscathed from the camps when you cannot give shoes to men in flip-flops in the cold and mud, is impossible.

I maintain that it is incomprehensible and even violent to see all these millions invested in kilometres of fences and concrete blocks, and to see that in the camp there are no latrines, no water points or even no dumpsters.

I maintain that the Associations that act in the field work to respect public order and deserve to be listened to and helped in their tasks.

I maintain that the state would grow by listening to them and setting up an area that would allow food distributions to be made easier.

I maintain that the bowl of soup distributed at Loon-plage is first and foremost a humanitarian and fraternal gesture. The draught took place for its people, often several months or years ago and several thousand kilometres from Dunkirk.
These people have encountered many dangers, they deserve respect and humanity.

I maintain that the policies of the Right and the Left have been failing for years in welcoming these populations and in controlling the migratory routes. The cluster for ideas of extremes is there on the side of the road, in bus shelters and in our inability to find a dignified response and not in gestures of comfort and humanity.

I maintain that the words spoken by President Macron in Calais in 2018 are not applied in its respect for exiled people

I maintain that as for the "Great Cold" plan declined for planned weather events, there should be shelters in gymnasiums for repeated bad weather as in November 2023.

I maintain that Indignation is a virtue when it allows us to mobilize consciences, energies and move forward.

I maintain that dialogue is a strength, an opportunity and not an admission of weakness.

I maintain that the first violence present in the camp is that suffered by the exiles in their daily survival conditions.

I maintain that in the professional life of a man with responsibilities, there are decisions to be taken or not that question his conscience and that it is not disgraceful to remind him of this.

These people exist and survive, they are so close to their goal... after such a long journey!

Thanking you for your attention, hoping for your understanding and support,
Respectfully,

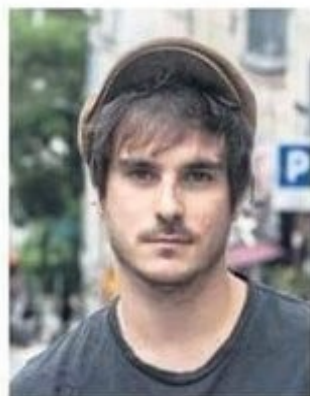
Dominique, citizen volunteer on the Dunkirk River, 23rd January, 2024.
(*Dominique is a volunteer at Salam.*)



drawing by San Ran Kane, for the Cimade de Valence.

« Je pensais vivre dans un pays... »

« **J**e pensais vivre au pays des droits de l'homme.
Je pensais vivre au pays des Lumières.
Je pensais vivre au pays d'Hugo, de Jaurès, de Camus, de Voltaire.
Je pensais vivre dans un pays où l'on a gravé "Liberté, Égalité, Fraternité" au fronton des mairies.
Je pensais vivre dans un pays qui soigne les femmes et les hommes, quel que soit leur passeport.
Je pensais vivre dans un pays qui tend la main aux sans-abri, qu'importe leur lieu de naissance.
Je pensais vivre dans un pays qui accueille les étudiants étrangers à bras ouverts.
Je pensais vivre dans un pays qui se dit fier d'être une terre d'asile pour les familles qui fuient le sifflement des bombes.
Je pensais vivre dans un pays où l'on a tous les mêmes droits, qu'on soit banquier d'affaires né à Saint-Cloud ou femme de ménage d'origine congolaise.
Je pensais vivre dans un pays de résistance.



GAUVAIN SERS
Chanteur

Je pensais vivre dans un pays qui a su faire taire le bruit des bottes.
Je pensais vivre dans un pays qui a retenu les leçons de son Histoire et de son passé.
Je pensais vivre dans un pays qui descend dans la rue pour faire barrage à l'obscurantisme.
Je pensais vivre dans un pays où ne pourraient infuser les discours brumeux des marchands de haine.
Je pensais vivre dans un pays où la "préférence nationale" n'aurait jamais sa place.
Je pensais vivre dans un pays où le rétrécissement du droit du sol serait une injure et une ineptie.
Je pensais vivre dans un pays qui a été le refuge pour nos mères, nos grands-pères, nos voisins, nos docteurs, nos ouvriers.
Je pensais vivre dans un pays que le monde entier observe et admire.
Je pensais vivre dans un pays humaniste.
Je pensais vivre en France. » ■

I THOUGHT I LIVED IN A COUNTRY...

This text was published in "L'Humanité" on 16th January, 2024.

THANK YOU

FOR ONCE, LET'S START WITH THOSE WHO PROVIDE US MONEY.

Eric is a regular donor. A few days ago, he accompanied his payment with a very ... I was going to write "Enriching"... note...:

"To make you smile at the beginning of 2024, if my donation arrived so quickly, it is once again thanks to the State which generously gave me an advance on my 2023 tax credit!!

We also have the freedom to take them on, financing that which they might not have considered themselves. I'm thinking in particular of some regional presidents who brutally cancel subsidies to associations they don't like....

Let us ensure that this freedom is preserved.

Yours sincerely,

Eric"

For those lucky enough to pay taxes*, a 66% reduction in their donations is granted at the beginning of the following year.

*For those who don't follow me, I never forget this reflection heard from the mouth of a Syrian, whom we were trying to help in his daily misery, several years ago: "We want a job, we want to pay taxes... (*We want to work, We want to pay taxes*)"

Thank you, therefore, to all those who have donated money to us,

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 everyone (close friends and strangers) who slipped us a note, sent a cheque, made a transfer directly or by Helloasso.

A special thank you this month to the Fondation de France which has just made us a big donation as part of the "Nord/Pas-de-Calais Flood Emergency Fund"



THANK YOU TO THE VOLUNTEERS.

Thank you to those who have been there all winter, in all weathers, who have prepared the distributions, including with their feet in the water (here in Grande-Synthe, in the basement, on January 3rd):
who have done the shopping,
who distributed,
who did the dishes,
who tidied up, sorted, cleaned,
who baked cakes to brighten up Monday's distribution.
They haven't been photographed much this month, but they don't care, they only listen to their hearts.



Denise Cassignat

Thank you to those, even more discreet, who repaired tables, barriers, brooms, in the secrecy of their workshop or garage..

Thank you to the visiting volunteers, like Alice,
And even just once, because they usually come back: "Once a volunteer, always a volunteer."

Thanks to Juciara and Blanche, sent by AFEJI with us every Thursday. They integrated into the team immediately and are remarkably kind and efficient.

THANK YOU TO THOSE, KNOWN OR UNKNOWN, WHO GAVE US GIFTS FOR OUR EXILED FRIENDS:

Four new "catch-all" parcels from Jean-Guillaume de Reims, arrived by Mondial Relay on 22nd January:



Claire Millot



Claire Millot



Elisabeth Zert



Elisabeth Zert

Clothing:

Nelly, a friend of Elisabeth d'Auxon les Vesoul, who sent us a large parcel of knitted snoods and another of socks on 9th January.

JAMAL who dropped off some hats and gloves he had just bought on 11th January.
The lady who dropped off clothes on 18th January.

Hygiene products:

A new gift from Marie-Ange D., which is not her first gift.

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

Thank you to those who simply came to lend a hand,

But no, it's not so "simple" as that: they came from far away, to Calais, and paid with their person:

Tadamoon, from Le Mans, present with us in Calais from the evening of 2nd January to the morning of 4th January,

An Emmaus community in Brittany, also in Calais from 29th December to 5th January.

Thank you to the bagpipers, who organized a concert for the benefit of Salam on 14th January and gave us a nice cheque. But they did it with such discretion that we didn't know in time and we couldn't go and applaud them. The money will be used to buy basic products for the Calais breakfast (coffee, milk, etc.)

Thank you to the friends of FTS,

They are more and more numerous and regular to help us in Grande-Synthe, in addition to their weekly presence in Calais.

On 11th January, in addition to all their goodwill to help us, they brought blankets, sweaters, shoes, hats.

Patrick put away the shoes, got rid of the orphans, a nice job that was always handed over. It's finally done, thanks to him.

A special thank you this month from the Calais team for the super thermos that FTS gave them on 18th January.



Thank you to the children of the IME of Rosendaël who were back with us in Grande-Synthe on 11th January.

Their speciality is fruit salad.

Thank you to Secours Populaire/Copains du Monde, Christian Hogard, Caroline and their team.

Our message from 21st January:

"Thank you to our friends and buddies around the world for their help over the past few days:

A big bread delivery last week and a big one this week, for our Calais team.

And as we are in France, the land of cheese, the last delivery of bread was accompanied by half a pallet of Camemberts that complements it nicely.

Thank you to Christian, to Caroline, to your entire team for your unwavering support. »

And the beginning of Christian's long response the next day:

"Dear Friends, it is always with great joy that Caroline and her teams work to help our Friends of Salam as best we can, we know your unwavering dedication to all these causes towards the most vulnerable people, we also know the commitment of all the Salam teams whether in Calais or Loon-Plage."

Our message from 29th January:

"Thank you for the last donations that have reached us in Calais for our exiled friends:

Bread again, 23rd Tuesday,

and a whole bakery on the 25th: bread, pastries, and even a stock of MMS for all these men who are not very old and have kept their children's eyes for sweets...

Thank you for us, thank you especially for them. »

On 13th January, we also ran into the "Friends" while we were in distribution in Mardyck near Total. They left us big bags of salad dressing.



We warmly thank Caroline for taking care of the groceries and delivery from the beginning. And we thank her all the more strongly, because it was the last time. From now on, we will work without it.

On 4th January, she arrived at the Salle Guérin with her trunk full of large cans of food and bags of rice.

Thank you once again to Onjali and his association "O's Refugee Aid Team" which has been offering us a large food fund every month for more than a year now.

Thank you to the bakers of Deep Flanders who once again offered us plenty of yule logs on 3rd January. Thanks to Anne-Marie who always makes the connection.



Thank you to the Maison de Quartier de Rosendaël for the bin of delicious pancakes made by the children for the distribution on 18th January.

Thanks to a fishing company in Boulogne for 200 kg of smoked fish, distributed on 26th Friday on the camps by the Calais team.



Thank you to Emmaus Saint-Omer for the four boxes of fruit donated on 11th January.

Thank you to the churches that once again called on parishioners for textile collections:

The small chapel of Notre-Dame des Dunes in Dunkirk where we collected duvets and a large bag of containers to distribute meals, on 20th January.

The church of Bergues that has been collecting for us since Lent:

This month again, a good number of bags and boxes of warm clothes and duvets.

Thank you to the United Protestant Churches of Artois and Thiérarche (Lutheran and Reformed Community) for a large donation of clothing dropped off on 6th January.

It's always a pleasure to welcome them for a while!

Thanks to Audotri, for the bags of clothes collected on 11th January.

AND THEN... HELLO MESS... the smallest chip shop in the world:

It was last month of course, and I didn't get the pictures in time... but it was such a beautiful day that here are some of them, with the smallest French fries merchant in the world:



And some pictures of hands
from that day, which
particularly touched me:



THANK YOU TO BETHLEHEM, TO FLANDRES TERRE SOLIDAIRE, TO THE PROTESTANT MUTUAL AID, to the Auberge des Migrants who share with us the ton of bananas offered by CONHEXA once a week, to EMMAUS who give us surpluses every week, for Calais as well as for Grande-Synthe, to the Maison Sésame which shares with us two mornings a week the surplus fruit and vegetables from the ALDI store on rue du Kruysbellaert, to the Ressourcerie de Montreuil-sur-Mer ("Il était deux fois") and to the Secours Catholique de Berck which supply each month clothes brought to Calais by André de Merlimont, to the JARDINS DE COCAGNE, to the COMORIAN LAMES, to the RESTAURANT DU CAP in Escalles, to the bakeries in Calais and to those opposite the Noordover, "La mie du pain" and "Aux pains du Nord" in Coudekerque. Week after week, they are there to help us. Thank you to HRO, Olivier Schitteck and Geoff for allowing us to publish their photos.

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

THANK YOU to Michel who has been in charge of 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 has also been managing the Facebook Page since 2017, and to Guillaume who introduced us to the LinkedIn network almost two years ago.

Claire Millot.

OUR NEED FOR VOLUNTEERS

Dunkirk:

We need people on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays from the beginning of the peeling chore (8 a.m.) to the end of the dishes (between 2 and 4 p.m.). 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 to distribute improved breakfasts every morning with tea and coffee.

But we are sorely lacking in volunteers, especially those with driver's licenses:

Meet at 8 a.m. at the premises, 13 rue des Fontinettes Calais.

Call Yolaine at 06.83.16.31.61. From outside France 00 33 6 83.16.31.61

CALL FOR DONATIONS

NEEDS FOR MONEY.

Without state subsidies and with a very significant reduction in subsidies from local and regional authorities, we still need money to keep the association's work going:

Maintenance of premises and vans, fuel, purchase of food that is in short supply...

Go to 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

BP 47

62100 CALAIS

You are entitled to a 66% tax reduction on these donations, in cash by one of our volunteers, by cheque made out 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 protecting them, in all weathers.

But we hesitate to suggest that you donate a tent: 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 shelter.

Ongoing, the most pressing needs at 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, shopping bags and plastic bags)

Foodstuffs for Calais:

JAM,

Milk

tea and sugar, instant coffee,

biscuits (or pastries, or cake bars or pound cakes etc...)

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

And for Grande-Synthe:

Mostly canned vegetables of all kinds (we have been getting lately a lot fewer fresh items), bags of pulses,

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

CALL FOR CONTRIBUTION

The membership form for 2024 is attached to this mailing.

If you are not yet a member, please 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 more than 250 members in 2023, help us to exceed the 300 threshold.

<http://www.associationsalam.org>
salamnordpasdecalais@gmail.com
Facebook page: SALAM Nord/Pas-de-Calais
And the new LinkedIn page, which can be consulted on the following
link : www.linkedin.com/in/association-salam-nord-pas-de-calais

Association SALAM
BP 47
62100 CALAIS

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



Bulletin d'adhésion 2024

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 31/12/2024)

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.