



PRESS RELEASE

27th December 2007

For Immediate Release

New edition of Via Francigena Magazine launched in Canterbury

The sixth edition of the magazine of the European Association of Via Francigena Towns [AEVF] was launched at a meeting in the International Study Centre of Canterbury Cathedral on the 17th December 2007. *Via Francigena Magazine* is a bilingual publication aimed at the enhancement and re-launch of this major cultural itinerary of the Council of Europe. Inaugurated in 2001 in Fidenza as an initiative of 34 Italian communes and provinces, the Association now numbers some 80 local authority members. The Via Francigena is a historic pilgrimage route between Canterbury and Rome, first walked by Archbishop Sigeric in 990 AD and now being brought back into use. Last year saw the installation of a 'zero kilometre' stone at Canterbury Cathedral that denotes the start of the route. The Via Francigena is a major pilgrim route in Europe, second only to the Camino route to Santiago de Compostela in Spain.

The launch was chaired by Cllr Harry Clegg, the City Council's Executive portfolio holder for Culture, the Arts and Sport. Also present were the Dean of Canterbury, the Very Reverend Robert Willis; Hon. Massimo Tedeschi, President of the European Association of Via Francigena Towns (EAVF); Piercarlo Rampini, representative of the Italian Ministry of Culture; Pierluigi Ferrari, Vice President of the Province of Palma; Lorenzo Losi, General Secretary for Europe and North Africa of the Italian Overseas General Council; and many representatives from towns and cities which are part of the Via Francigena.

In August 2007, 27 cyclists from Canterbury Cathedral cycled the Via Francigena from Canterbury to Rome in 16 days, raising £133,000 for the Save Canterbury Cathedral appeal and other charities.

E N D S

- 1 For further information, contact AEVF at 0039 0524 530449 or Christopher Robinson on 07759 215537
- 2 Images of the launch will be available but I regret not until tomorrow, 28th December.