

Report to Twinning Committee from Norfolk and Norwich Rouen Friendship Association

Trip to Rouen

Twenty-four members spent a wonderful weekend in Rouen in October. We were to have been joined by students from the Art College but unfortunately they had to withdraw as two of them went down with swine flu. This weekend included the French celebrations of the 50th Anniversary of the signing of the twinning charter between our two cities. We were delighted that the Lord Mayor, Cllr Evelyn Collishaw, was able to join us for part of the weekend with Andy Emms. The official reception at the Mairie was led by the Mayor of Rouen, also a woman, who expounded the importance of growing together to develop even closer links on many levels. We were joined by students from Wymondham College on an exchange visit with the link having been made during the festivities in May last year.

During the weekend we visited the Fete du Ventre in the centre of Rouen, spent a day in Le Havre, and had a day in the area around Rouen which included a meal at a restaurant in the village of La Bouille, which was reached by ferry across the Seine. As ever, our hosts looked after us very well and we were sorry to leave.

Social Evening

A wine-tasting meal with a difference was held at the St Benedict's grill in November, preceded by more archive films within the Screen East-Pole Image partnership between East Anglia and Normandie. We were regaled with various courses at the meal, perhaps best described as French tapas. And there was a table quiz on French wine to complete as well.

Annual Dinner

Early in February the Annual Dinner was held at the Debut Restaurant at City College. Thirty-seven members and their guests enjoyed a very fine meal. The Lord Mayor and her consort were once again with us and another enjoyable evening was spent together.

AGM

The AGM will be held on Thursday, 25 March in the Council Chamber at 7.30pm.

Visit of Rouennais in June 2010

Our friends will visit us in the first week of June. Their programme will include a day in Norfolk with the theme of 'In Nelson's Footsteps', a day in Cambridge, and a day in Norwich.

The latest editions of our Newsletter will be available at the meeting.

Mary Corbould

22 February 2010