



NORFOLK & NORWICH ROUEN FRIENDSHIP ASSOCIATION

Report to Twinning Committee, 5 June 2008

President of NNRFA

We welcome the Lord Mayor, Cllr Jeremy Hooke, as our President for the next year. Rouen has a new mayor, Mme Valérie Fourneyron, who is in post for six years.

The Committee

At the AGM, David and Audrey Talks stood down from the Committee. David McKay was re-elected Chairman, Christine Wilson as Vice-Chairman, responsible for publicity, newsletter and website, and Mary Corbould as Treasurer in addition to membership. Other committee members are Penny Bullen, Diana Lowe and David Adlard. We do not have an Hon. Secretary.

Membership

Membership is now about 75. The Committee appreciates the continuing support of its members. But the current figure is about half what it was in 1990 and we must make efforts to increase it in order to continue to have a thriving Association.

Events

The annual dinner was held again at City College in the Debut restaurant and was once again considered 'the best ever'! We were pleased to have the company of the Lord Mayor Cllr Roy Blower and the Lady Mayoress who are now joining as members.

On 6 February we showed another French film at UEA but were disappointed that there was no support from the students of French.

We also arranged a *pétanque* evening with the Chapelfield Society in Chapelfield gardens.

Links and exchanges

Norfolk International Projects continues its youth exchange tour with young people from

Norwich's twin cities and are going to Koblenz this year and in 2009 to Rouen.

An invitation from the Maison des Jeunes Grieu in Rouen is culminating in a youth exchange between young people of Rouen's twin cities (Hanover, Salerno and Ningbo plus cities from Poland and Hungary). This is to be held during the 2008 Armada, 5 – 14 July. We approached the City of Norwich School and they are finalising the visit which will involve 10 post-GCSE students and two newly qualified teachers of languages. John Nooney of Norfolk International Projects has helped with the grant application process. The visit is funded by the European Commission.

Changez d'Art, another art exchange involving Brighton and organised by Marie-Paule Barré and Ian Seymour, will be bringing work of Rouen artists to the Crome Gallery, Elm Hill, from 7 – 28 June. The preview is on Saturday 7 June, 12 – 3 and Twinning Committee members are welcome.

Norwich has been invited to take part in Rouen's Christmas market in December, and we are exploring the possibility of this with Produced in Norfolk.

Two students from Rouen's National Institute of Applied Sciences have been in the School of Chemistry at UEA under the Erasmus scheme.

The Lord Mayor and Christine Wilson have been invited to Rouen for the signing of a new twinning charter between Rouen and Cleveland, Ohio. This takes place during the Armada, 9 and 10 July.

Spatial Metro Conference, 15-16 May 2008

Norwich City Council received well justified congratulations on this excellent conference, the culmination of a European-funded project looking at reclaiming public space in the participating cities and making it more convivial. Among the presentations on the Friday the audience heard from Norwich, Rouen, and Koblenz. It was clear that all partner cities had enjoyed the project and had learnt from each other – a good example of European cooperation!

Other

We continue to receive enquiries about work and study placements (latterly from Greshams and Hethersett Old Hall School), and connections to Rouen e.g. students writing dissertations and wanting to research in Rouen.

Visit of the Rouen Norwich Club

Members of the RNC will be coming to Norwich from 11 – 15 September. They have asked to visit Houghton Hall and Hunstanton, and to visit the Broads.

50th anniversary of twinning between Norwich and Rouen

The twinning charter was signed in May 1959 so it is appropriate to start considering now how this might be celebrated in 2009. We will shortly be exploring ways of doing so with the Twinning Officers and Chair of Twinning Committee.

Norfolk Association of Twin Communities

Christine Wilson and Mary Corbould took part in the sponsored walk on 20 April.
Christine attended the NATC meeting on 26 April in Fakenham.

Christine Wilson
Vice-Chairman
Norfolk & Norwich Rouen Friendship Association
16 May 2008