



NORFOLK & NORWICH ROUEN FRIENDSHIP ASSOCIATION Report to Twinning Committee, 2 October 2008

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Links and exchanges

We are pleased to report that nine students from City of Norwich school took up the invitation to a youth exchange from the Maison des Jeunes Grieu in Rouen. Other groups came from Rouen's twin cities (Hanover, Salerno and Ningbo) and from Poland and Hungary. This was held from 5 – 14 July during the 2008 Armada, the visit of some 45 tall ships to Rouen.

The Lord Mayor and Christine Wilson were invited to the signing of a new twinning agreement between Rouen and Cleveland during the Armada. This is a 10-day visit of tall ships and Rouen dresses up for the occasion. Representatives of Rouen's other twin cities: Hanover, Salerno and Ningbo in China were also present. Thirty-five people from Cleveland were there, representing tourist, academic and commercial interests. This new twinning is intended to be much larger-scale than ours.



*left: Mme Valérie Fourneyron (Mayor of Rouen) with Lord Mayor of Norwich, Cllr Jeremy Hooke; City of Norwich
right: School students with the Lord Mayor, Mme Bernigaud (exchange organiser) and Jack Warwick (President of Rouen-Norwich Club)*

Our programme included an evening open air concert of the Rouen Opera orchestra on a large stage. The second half was given over to music related to each of Rouen's twin towns, each of which was introduced by the conductor. About 10,000 people attended this. Next day we first visited the Chamber of Commerce then returned to the Mairie for the signing of the new charter. The aim of the new twinning is clearly to develop commercial and academic links and there was plenty of time during the well-organised programme to meet people and exchange ideas.

Changez d'Art, an art exchange involving Brighton and organised by Marie-Paule Barré of Rouen and Ian Seymour of Brighton, brought work of Rouen artists to the Crome Gallery, Elm Hill, from 7 – 28 June.

As reported in previous reports, there is a very successful exchange between the Norwich 20 Group and the *Atelier normand de Création* in Rouen. Artists of each group exhibit in each other's exhibitions and several Rouen artists will be coming and/or be represented at the next 20 Group exhibition, 16 – 26 September at the Bally Shoe Factory on Hall Road.

Visit of the Rouen Norwich Club

This will of course have happened at the time of this meeting. Members of the Rouen Norwich Club are in Norwich from 11 – 15 September. They asked to visit the Broads and see some windmills, and there is a day excursion to Houghton Hall and Hunstanton. On Friday they will explore Norwich, ride on the new little train, and visit some of the open buildings. Ben Webster of City Council is going to give a short talk on what Norwich has done in the Spatial Metro project.

Norfolk Association of Twin Communities

Christine attended the NATC meeting on 26 April in Fakenham. Claire Alban has put in a lot of work to sort out umbrella insurance for twinning associations though Norwich's twinning associations are, as far as we understand, covered by Norwich City Hall policy and have therefore not joined this scheme. Zurich insurance company had written to Claire about enhanced cover in light of the *Corporate Homicide and Corporate Manslaughter Act 2007*, which had come into force on 6th April 2008. We should review the Norwich City Council policy in the light of these changes

Talk to Townswomen's Guild

Christine gave a talk on twinning to Thorpe Townswomen's Guild on 4 September.

Other

We have received several enquiries from Rouen for student exchanges, accommodation and summer jobs.

Christine Wilson
Vice-Chairman
Norfolk & Norwich Rouen Friendship Association
4 September 2008