

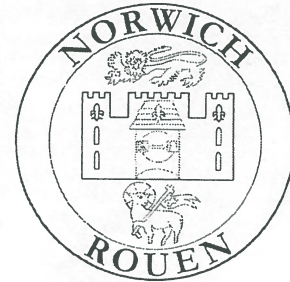


# L'Amitié

*The Newsletter of the Norfolk & Norwich Rouen  
Friendship Association*

*December 2015*

*Christmas*



## **Joyeux Noël!**

At this time of year it gives us a chance to reflect on the past 12 months.

In February CNAR (Club Nautique Athlétique Rouen) sent a crew of 8 oarsmen plus their cox (a young lady) to race in a long distance race on the River Yare, from Surlingham to Whitlingham. They arrived on the evening before the race and were entertained at the house of Nick Francis, the Chairman of Norwich Rowing Club. They were then taken to their hosts.

The following day, Saturday they raced twice, first in the morning Division and then in the afternoon Division. It was a very good experience for them that they thoroughly enjoyed and it gave us a chance to show off our beautiful river. In the evening they joined members of Norwich Rowing Club for a "Pub" dinner. They returned to Rouen on the following day, Sunday.

Also in February there was a joint Twinning lunch at The Debut Restaurant, Norwich. This was a coming together for lunch with all the Norwich twinning groups.

In March our AGM was held at the City Hall, Norwich. 13 members plus 6 committee members attended. See minutes included with this Newsletter.

We had intended to have a NNRFA lunch at the Oakland Hotel on Sunday, 17th May. This was cancelled due to lack of support.

In May, 18th to 22nd we paid a visit to Rouen. Our hosts sorted out a very good programme of visits

for our stay there. It was a very good visit and enjoyed by all! Even the coach breaking down at Dover didn't dampen our enthusiasm for our visit. We arrived quite late and were pleased to get to our hosts/hotel. A varied programme was organised for us. It was felt it was one of the better visits to Rouen we had. On our return journey we stopped off in Péronne in the heart of the Somme valley battle area. Our homeward journey was trouble free!

The annual garden party was held at Mary Corbould's house on 25th July. Those who attended had an enjoyable afternoon, despite the wet weather in the morning. At lunchtime the sun came out, and in the words of the song, 'and dried up all the rain'. The deserts were especially popular!



Later in the year, in November, we had which has now become an annual event, a dinner. This was held this year at The Library Restaurant, Norwich.



This was attended by 30 members with good food and wine, with a chance to sample this year's Beaujolais Nouveau. As this is a popular event, we will return again next November (2016). Details will be out to members in mid 2016.

On a sad note, two of our members have died.

Geraldine Smith in August and John Massey in October. Both will be sadly missed.

**Geraldine Smith:** an appreciation by Christine Wilson (reproduced again in more readable form)

All of us who knew Geraldine when she was an active NNRFA committee member will remember her for her many fine qualities. As chairman of NNRFA from June 2003 to March 2009 I worked closely with Geraldine notably on the visits to and from Rouen. We spent a lot of time together arranging the visits, sometimes in pubs and Cafés and I found her an excellent person to work with. She cared about getting things right for everyone both in NNRFA and the Rouen-Norwich Club, and was attentive to their needs and preferences and paid great attention to detail, double-checking everything to ensure no one was left out. Geraldine claimed not to be computer-literate but she managed her arrangements very well and everyone could be sure that all possible information was available when required. Geraldine was outgoing, warm-hearted, generous to a fault. And very hospitable—as those of us who remember parties, garden or otherwise, at her beautiful house on Constitution Hill. When Bernard and Chantel Carpentier, Yvette Autain and Giselle Debleds were the key organisers of visits at the Rouen end, they would always come over “mid-term” in Bernard’s car and we had many a lively and entertaining supper at Geraldine’s, crammed into her dining room and

discussing arrangements for the next visit. I missed these gatherings after everyone variously stood down from our respective responsibilities and others took over. Geraldine adored her family, members of which were frequently visiting her, and took great interest in their activities and well being. Geraldine will be missed by them and by her friends.

In an email to me Yvette Autain wrote:

De temps à autre je pensais à Geraldine dont je me suis occupée son hospitalisation puis de son départ en ambulance pour Norwich. C’était au moment de la dernière Armada. Geraldine s’est dépensée sans compter et avec générosité pour le jumelage et la NNRFA, recevant du monde chez elle, organisant des garden parties en juillet, etc. C’est le temps qui passe et le future de chacun d’entre nous.

And from Rouen we sadly hear of the recent death of one of their oldest members, whom some of our long-standing members may remember: Michel Lethuillier. Yvette Autain sent this message to us:

Je voulais vous informer du décès de Michel Lethuillier le 6 décembre 2015, qui fut vice-président du Rouen-Norwich-Club dès sa création et pendant plusieurs années. Sa photo se retrouve dans plusieurs brochures éditées par Hugette Andriès-Smith.

### **We now look forward to 2016**

First of all, your membership renewal form is enclosed. Please complete it and return it to Ann with your cheque as soon as practicable.

The AGM will be held on the 9th March 2016 at the City Hall. A copy of the agenda and last year’s minutes are included for your information. The committee works hard for the membership and is at present down in numbers. It is always helpful if you can contact the relevant committee member if you have any concerns. These are often not passed on and it is very difficult to sort in retrospect. If you can offer or volunteer your services this would be appreciated too.

This year, 2016, is the visit of our Rouennais friends in April. Dates 13th to 16th, to be confirmed. A programme is being prepared for them and we hope to hear from them soon regarding numbers etc. We hope that recent events in Paris will not put them off travelling to Norwich. I’m sure all the members were shocked to see the images of the attack on Paris and hope it does not affect our friends.



Minutes are included for your information. The committee works hard for the membership and is at present down in numbers. It is always helpful if you can contact a committee member if you have any concerns. These are often not passed to us and it is difficult to sort things out in retrospect. If you feel you could offer or volunteer your services, this would be appreciated too.

Beryl Blower  
email [berylblower@gmail.com](mailto:berylblower@gmail.com)

Lyn Holt  
email [lynholt@waitrose.com](mailto:lynholt@waitrose.com)

Margaret Garwood  
email [Margaret.garwood@virgin.net](mailto:Margaret.garwood@virgin.net)

Our Rouennais friends will visit us in April. The dates we have, 13th-16th, are to be confirmed, and we hope to hear from them soon regarding numbers, etc. We hope the recent events in Paris will not put them off travelling Norwich. I'm sure our members were shocked to see the images of the attack on Paris and hope it does not affect our friends. A message of support was sent to the Rouen Norwich Club on behalf of us all.

And, as many of you will know, Mary Corbould will be moving away from Norwich in 2016, and so we shall have a new Chairman in March. Please make every effort to attend the AGM.

Our friends in Rouen join with me in wishing you a good Christmas. Yvette writes:

Nous souhaitons aux membres de NNRFA de très bonnes fêtes de fin d'année et une heureuse année 2016.

Martine sent an email card with the message:

Joyeux Noël et Bonne Année 2016 avec toute mon amitié.

Now back to the present: it will soon be Christmas and the time of year to celebrate with friends and family. Good wishes to you all for an enjoyable Christmas and a happy and successful new year.

Peace on Earth, goodwill to all mankind.

**Your present committee consists of the following:**

Chairman: Mary Corbould  
email: [m.corbould@btopenworld.com](mailto:m.corbould@btopenworld.com)

Vice Chairman: Chris Rowe  
email [chrisrowe@btinternet.com](mailto:chrisrowe@btinternet.com)

Treasurer: Bob Barnard  
email: [RandV.Barnard@hotmail.com](mailto:RandV.Barnard@hotmail.com)

Membership Secretary: Ann Rowe  
email: [ann18rowe@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:ann18rowe@yahoo.co.uk)

**A few more photos from the November Dinner**



