



# L'Amitié

Newsletter of the Norfolk & Norwich Rouen Friendship Association

**January 2018**

*We wish all our members a very happy new year !*

## From the Chairman

Dear Members,

Welcome to the first newsletter of 2018. I hope you had a good Christmas and best wishes for 2018.

Thinking back to 2017, we had a very good visit to Rouen in May. At first it appeared that the cost would be too much, but it was decided to subsidise the visit from funds. We travelled to Rouen on 10 May, a less stressful journey than in 2015.

The visit included a conducted tour of the Quarries in Caen, lunch at Caen Castle and a visit to L'Abbaye aux Hommes. The next day took us to Honfleur, a delightful town on the estuary of the River Seine. In the afternoon we had a boat trip which took us under the spectacular Pont de Normandie. The return trip included a stop for lunch in Boulogne.

The "annual" dinner, as we might call it now, took place at The Debut Restaurant, Ipswich Road, in November. A very good dinner was provided by the students, an opportunity for them to show off their skills! Because of its success future dinners will be held at the same venue.

Finally, let me say thank you to those who have paid their subscriptions for 2018. Some of you are now paying by standing order, well done.

A renewal membership form is enclosed with the newsletter. Please ignore it if you have paid. If you have changed or have an email address please let the membership secretary know. Don't forget our website [www.nnrfa.co.uk](http://www.nnrfa.co.uk). It's well worth a look and an opportunity to keep up to date.

Kind regards to you all,  
Chris Rowe

## Editor's note

In view of the all important year of 2019 when the twinning charter between Rouen and Norwich will have reached 60, I felt we needed to show ourselves off a bit better, not just in Norfolk and Norwich, but also in Rouen which goes from strength to strength - as you'll read from the report of the This is England film festival in November organised by the Rouen-Norwich-Club. We are extremely grateful to Mike Button for helping set up a website free of charge. But we need things to report on it, so let's come up with ideas for some events we can put on, ideally with a French flavour.

The Rouen-Norwich-Club does a lot to promote us and Norwich and you can keep up to date with what they are doing at [www.rouen-norwich-club.fr](http://www.rouen-norwich-club.fr) They've been very active this Christmas with cookie-making and carol-singing (in English).

If you wish to contribute anything to this newsletter, please let me know by email - see the contact details at the end of this newsletter.

On 14 July, a well-known date in France of course, I was invited by Adrian O'dell to speak about the Rouen twinning at a reunion of City of Norwich School 'old boys', who took O levels in 1961. Several had been to Rouen on school exchanges. It was a very nice occasion and Adrian had rootled about in the EDP archives and found news cuttings about school trips to Rouen in 1959 and the early 1960s.

## Welcome to new members

Welcome to several new members: Adrian and Jane O'dell, Alan and Ellen Metcalfe, Penny

Bullen, Shalini Singh, Mihail Vlasia, Nancy Sutherland.

### Latest

The sixth festival of British short films, *This is England*, was extremely well organised by the Rouen-Norwich-Club under the direction of Christophe Thierry, and a huge success. It took place from 13 - 18 November in Rouen where thirty shortlisted films from some 1000 received were shown to students and members of the public. The jury, usually drawn from the French film industry, were this year all British: Norwich-based Guy Myhill, (whose film *The Goob* was recently shown at Cinema City), Steve Bell, one of The Guardian's cartoonists, and film producer Millie Marsh. The films showed a wealth of talent and imagination and ranged from documentaries to animation and fiction, some funny, some thought-provoking, some touching. Some 5500 school students from the *collège* and *lycée* age groups attended to see a selection of films and each group chose their winning film. Some film-makers were present and available for Q&As after the showings. At the end of the week, the awards were announced and prizes given. Winners are announced on our website, [www.nnrfa.co.uk](http://www.nnrfa.co.uk) and some of the films can be found on Vimeo - [www.vimeo.com](http://www.vimeo.com)

The same week there was an exhibition of some 50 of Steve Bell's cartoons at the Hotel de Ville and Steve gave a talk about his work in a bookshop. The exhibition was organised by RNC member Olivier Auvray who has known Steve for some years.

A new schools' link has been set up between Ecole Bachelet and Lakenham First School. Children are corresponding and Ecole Bachelet made some lovely Christmas crackers and sent them to Lakenham school. We have contacted Lakenham School about the link but not had a response.

In October Norwich Rowing Club took part in *Défi Seine*, European rowing championships in Rouen. Thanks to our Chairman, Chris Rowe, a

keen rower, there has been an active exchange with the *Club Nautique de Rouen*, whose

members have visited Norwich and rowed on the Yare.

### Dates for your diary

Wednesday 14 March, 7 pm - AGM in the Council Chamber, Norwich City Hall. Access via the side entrance to City Hall. Parking in The Forum.

Saturday 14 July - Beryl Blower has kindly offered to host the garden party. Details later.

2019 - 60 years of twinning between Norwich and Rouen. This will surely be celebrated in both our cities. Our visit to Rouen is likely to take place from 7 - 11 June during the next Armada in 2019. This will be a very busy time in Rouen and we will be making preparations well in advance. More about the Armada at [www.armada.org](http://www.armada.org)

To date we are not sure when the Rouennais will next be visiting us.



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