



L'Amitié

Newsletter of the Norfolk & Norwich Rouen Friendship Association

Dear friends,

It is not too late to wish all of you a happy new year! I would also like to welcome our new members. I hope you will be enjoying taking part in our activities and making links with our friends in Rouen. As you will notice we have a few nice activities planned for this coming year. We will celebrate the Epiphany the French way with our famous Galette des Rois at the end of this week. Then you are all welcome to join us for our AGM in March. Furthermore, it is our turn to visit Rouen and we will take the opportunity to see the famous Armada display of Tall Ships in the Seine. Finally, we will host our Annual dinner in November. We hope that you will be able to join us as often as you can. All details are in the Newsletter.

Best wishes

Isabelle Savage - Chair



Christine Wilson

Sadly this year started with the death of our dear friend and member, Christine Wilson. She died on Monday 9 January following a heart attack. Christine was a busy lady, involved in many activities during her life. She was a very dedicated member of the Association. She had been the President, but more recently an active committee member, and in charge of our website and newsletter. She had a great love for France and was very much appreciated in our

twin city. She was also a great friend to me and an invaluable support in my role as Chair in the association. I miss her terribly. *Isabelle*

* More comments from Norwich members on the next page

Our friends in Rouen sent the following message: *It was with great sadness that we learned of Christine's passing. She was an amazing lady and brought so much to our associations, RNC and NNRFA. Please, accept our sincere condolences.*

MORE COMMENTS FROM ROUEN:

Francophone, francophile et européenne convaincue, Christine s'impliqua beaucoup au sein de la NNRFA dont elle fut un temps présidente. Elle a toujours essayé de faciliter les échanges et les rapprochements

entre les deux villes, comme le prouve cette photo prise en juillet 2022, lors du séjour à Norwich de membres du RNC et de la mairie de Rouen. C'était elle le webmestre du site de la NNRFA (<https://www.nnrfa.co.uk/news-events.html>), c'était elle qui était allée à la rencontre du foodtruck normand qui s'était installé à Norwich le temps d'un weekend en mai dernier et elle nous a accompagnés l'été dernier dans les diverses visites du Norfolk. Elle était toujours active, pleine d'idées pour entretenir l'amitié entre nos deux comités de jumelage. Voilà un trop bref résumé de la belle personne qu'elle était. *Martine Commessie et Nathalie Le Gendre*

Visite de Norwich : Christine, à droite



« C'est avec tristesse que j'apprends le décès de Christine Wilson.

Nous nous sommes bien connues, notamment à l'époque où elle était présidente. Lors de nos échanges de jumelage elle m'a accueillie chez elle à plusieurs reprises et c'est avec plaisir que nous l'avons reçue en retour.

Nous avons apprécié son intelligence, sa façon de voir la vie, son humour très British. Ne disait-elle pas qu'elle était descendante de la Couronne britannique comme tous ses concitoyens sur leur île ? Ma sympathie à la NNRFA » *Yvette Autain Fondatrice du Rouen-Norwich Club*



Christine Wilson, 2ème rangée à gauche



A la garden party

Christine Wilson - More information from Isabelle: John Horn and Christine's family are planning a memorial gathering in a few months to celebrate her life, and you will be invited to join them and share your memories.

Norwich - Rouen members comments:

I am so sad to learn of Christine's death. She will be much missed. **Ruth**

This is really a shock. So very sad and relatively soon after her brother. Having worked together for NNRFA, she has always supported all activities with great energy. I am sure she will be greatly missed.

Connie

I was with Christine on Monday morning. She was going to have coffee with us after our Arabic class but then felt unwell - but well enough to cycle home, so I was not expecting this terrible news, which I learnt of on Tuesday morning. I am devastated and will miss her very much. **Val Wilson**

This is indeed a shock. It was only recently I had got to know Christine, but she was such a kind and generous woman. **David Raby**

Such sad and terrible news. Christine will be very much missed by us all. **Wendy and Rory**

Thanks for letting us know, Isabelle. Such sad news. She was an amazing lady. **Roger and Sue Ryan**

I hosted a lunch chez moi on the 2nd, a week before she died. I am still in shock really and feeling quite vulnerable. **Penny**

Oh my gosh, that is really sad news. As you say, Christine has been an inspiration to many people, and the reason I am involved with the Norwich Rouen link. So many connections and initiatives have grown out of her move to contact people in the cultural sector only a few short years ago and she has always been so open and friendly to everyone. These projects and initiatives will continue as she sparked some very strong connections. John and her family can rest assured that she had a very positive and far-reaching effect on the world, and, to my mind, that is as much as we can ask for. She will be badly missed by NNRFA, and I will miss her too. **Marion Catlin**

De très tristes nouvelles. Elle est venue me voir la veille de Noël...C'est terrible. Je me souviendrai toujours de sa gentillesse et sa bonté. **Michael**

Isabelle, I am so very sorry to hear this very sad news. Christine was a huge support to me when putting the Norwich in 1959 exhibition together in 2019, and helped me make so many connections in Rouen, it really wouldn't have happened without her. **Jenny Caynes**

So sorry to hear this. She was a lovely person. **Doug Underwood**

Gosh, what a shock. Bless her she was such a lovely lady. **Michelle Golding**

NNRFA Membership Our association now has over 60 members and to make us more viable it would be good to expand its size. We are suggesting that each member tries to invite at least one friend, and / or family to join the NNRFA. Could you do that?

We would also like to encourage our members to set up individual links with our friends from Rouen, some of whom would be keen to practice speaking in English for instance. Please do not hesitate to contact Isabelle (nnrfa.bureau@gmail.com) if you are interested.

Monthly Zoom meetings with RNC members. The next zoom meeting with our friends in Rouen will take place on **Wednesday 1st February from 5.00 pm**. Do try to join in. It is a wonderful opportunity to keep in touch. We speak French and English. A theme or a quiz is proposed. A link is sent to all members prior to the meeting.

Galette des Rois (Epiphany) Saturday 28 January at St Anne's Church Hall, Colman Road NR4 7HD from 2.30 – 4.30. (Car park entrance is on The Avenues) To cover the costs, we are asking £3 per person payable at the door, with children under 12 free. It is still time to register for the event if you have not done so already. (nnrfa.bureau@gmail.com). There will be the famous *galettes des rois* to eat, a quiz, and families will be welcome. It will be three years since the last time, and we look forward to seeing a good crowd!

AGM - Wednesday 15 March 2023 - City Hall Council Chamber from 7.00 pm to 9.00 pm (The AGM to start at 7.30 pm) The AGM is particularly important this year as some of the Committee members will be stepping down and **new members will need to be elected**. Also, our webmaster is no longer with us. If you are keen and able to support us in any way, and/or would like to know what the role entails, please let me know as soon as possible (nnrfa.bureau@gmail.com). The meeting is chaired by the Lord Mayor, and usually last about an hour. It is preceded by a small buffet.

VISIT TO ROUEN, 15 – 19 June 2023 It's been four years since we were last in Rouen! So this is the long-awaited visit. The spectacular Armada (Tall Ships) takes place every four years or so, and this is a great chance to visit Rouen when it's on – see www.armada.org/. We hope more members will take this opportunity to join us, as the travel cost could be reduced. The more the merrier. Every effort will be made to arrange accommodation with French hosts unless you prefer to stay in a hotel.

VISIT TO ROUEN, 15 – 19 June 2023 *continued.*

Travel Costs - £250 per person to include return trip by coach, ferry, driver's costs, trip to Fecamp and additional tolls.

A deposit of £50 per person is requested to be paid on booking as soon as possible. The remaining payment by 30 April. This may be paid directly to our bank account at:

Lloyds Bank –sort code 30 96 17 account number 01693528 Norfolk & Norwich Rouen Friendship Association or sent by cheque to Lorna Jesty, 12 Morello Close, Norwich NR4 7NF. (Please keep this separate from your January membership renewal.)

The provisional programme is (with more detail to follow very soon):

Thursday: depart 8 am and travel by coach via ferry

Friday: Day in Rouen with choice of tour of the Armada by boat, guided tour of the city, Musée des Beaux Arts. Evening free.

Saturday: Day trip to Fecamp – choice of visits to Palais Benedictine, Abbatiale de la Sainte Trinité, Musée des Pêcheries. Time for lunch and walk on the beach.

Sunday: Watch the Armada leaving Rouen from 9 am. Lunch at Relais de Montigny just outside Rouen with members of Rouen Norwich-Club.

Monday: depart Rouen for Norwich

Further events for your diary:

3 July: We have been invited by the NNKFA (Koblentz twinning) to join them on the Mississippi River Boat. More details to follow.

16 November – proposed NNRFA Dinner – can you get it in your diary?

contacts

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Bert Bremner, (Vice-Chair & membership) – Norwich.Rouen@gmail.com

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CHRISTINE AND OTHERS IN ROUEN