

# *L' Amitié*

## Newsletter of the Norfolk & Norwich Friendship Association

May 2017

Welcome members to this latest edition.

Rouen Visit.

This year, 10th May to 14th May we travelled to Rouen for our biannual visit.

On Wednesday 10th May we departed from County Hall for our journey to Rouen. The journey was remarkably good with light traffic and no hold ups. We arrived in Rouen at about 5pm (local time) to be met by our hosts.

Thursday 11th May a reception was held in the Hotel d'Ville at 11.30am. Where greetings, speeches and exchange of gifts.

Christophe Thierry presented a speech on the 10 keys to success regarding twinning. The full text can be seen by accessing email link.

<http://twinning.org/en/page/ten-keys-to->

The rest of the day was free for us to visit Rouen. A guided tour starting at 3pm was arranged for those new to Rouen and members who wished to join in. The weather changed in the afternoon to rain but it did not spoil a very good tour.

On Friday 11th May we assembled (a bit too early for some of us) for a visit to Caen. Our first port of call was to one of the quarries that supplied the stone for the construction of Norwich Castle & Cathedral.



In our safety gear !

It was a special visit as the quarry is not usually open to the public to visit. So we were privileged to have this opportunity to visit. The tour guide was the Mayor of Caen and was very enthusiastic and gave an interesting talk and tour.



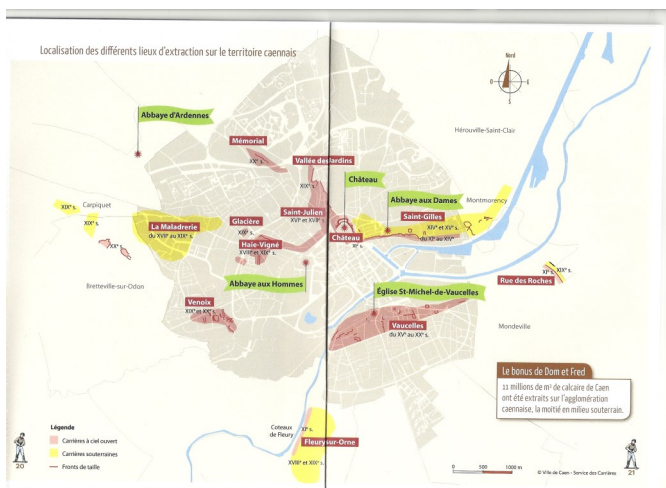
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Well worth reading



The quarry we visited was an underground excavation in the area of Le Maladrerie. Some of the supporting pillars of limestone are crumbling and have been replaced by reinforced concrete pillars. There was evidence of fossils in the stone and stalactites hanging down from the ceiling. Evidence of ancient and modern stone cutting was seen. This was one of many quarries in and around Caen it has both underground and open cast quarries. A commercial site has now been built over the top of the quarry, excavations ceased in 1986 but limestone is still extracted for restoration works.

### Quarry sites in and around Caen



The group then went on to Caen Castle (also of Caen stone) where a short break to explore the castle, unfortunately it was not possible to visit the art exhibition or any of the interiors of other buildings. We then took lunch at the on site restaurant, a leisurely affair with lots of good food and conversation

In the afternoon we made our way to the Abbaye-aux-Hommes, where we had an intensive tour presentation visiting many rooms and admiring the artwork and furnishings before finding ourselves at the tomb of Guillaume, the grave had been desecrated many times in the past and only one relic remains of William of Normandy.



### The cloisters

On Saturday 13th May we travelled to Honfleur. Our journey to Honfleur was through rain which did not bode well for our visit, but the clouds and rain disappeared and we had a relatively fine day for the visit. Our first sitting of Honfleur was from the “Pont de Normandie” On arrival we took a walk during the free time we had around the Vieux Bassin, exploring the narrow streets and seeing the many timber framed houses. There was a market, being Saturday and it was pleasant wandering amongst the stalls selling all kinds of produce. Then a very enjoyable lunch with a great choice of seafood on the quayside. In the afternoon we took a boat for a mini cruise taking in the amazing Normandy bridge. The “Pont de Normandie” was built between 1988 and 1995, it’s overall length is 2113.5 metres the central span over the Seine 856 metres and the height of the two central pylons 214 metres and 71 metres above the water in the central span. We travelled under the bridge towards the port of Le Havre and had very good views of the bridge from every angle.. It was a bit breezy on the boat but calm conditions made all the more enjoyable



Market stalls Honfleur



Group photo at Honfleur

The visit to Rouen this year was an enjoyable experience with lots of variety and places of interest.

Our thanks go to Martine and her team for making us welcome, their hospitality and *bonne homme* !

Not forgetting our driver David who got us to our destinations safely with good humour and efficiency.

Looking ahead this year's garden party is on the 15th July at Beryl Blower's house at 26 Morello Close, NR4 7NF. The usual form a savoury or sweet offering, don't forget to bring drinks with you and a chair if required. Beryl's phone number is 01603 452557 if you need to contact her. Be aware parking may be awkward so best to ask.

Starting on the 29th July is the display of the

captured Tricolour, at Norwich Castle Museum. The following information from Rory Quinn.

The flag is from Le Genereux which escaped the defeat at the battle of the Nile where Nelson was victorious against the French. It captured the British ship, HMS Leander, and its captain, Berry. Berry was exchanged for French officers and in a subsequent battle captured Le Genereux and sent the flag to Nelson who gave it to the city. It was last on display in 1905, the centenary of Trafalgar.

It is the size of a tennis court and is the oldest tricolour in the UK. As yet the museum has not been able to obtain information about surviving tricolours in France. It could be the oldest as flags tend to be used until they wear out. This survives because it was captured. It is also from the First Republic, that is before Napoleon declared himself emperor.

We could arrange a visit of the NNRFA to the museum to see the flag. The museum would be happy to give us a talk if we give them notice.

If any of the members are interested in this let me know and we will arrange a visit on a suitable date.

On November 22nd is the annual "November Dinner" this year being held in the Debut Restaurant, City College at 7 for 7.30 pm. Menus and further details will be sent out.

Can I make an appeal to those members who have not paid their annual subscriptions. That they are now overdue, please settle up as soon as possible. Contact Ann Rowe on 01508494409 email [ann18rowe@yahoo.com](mailto:ann18rowe@yahoo.com) if you have any questions.

More images from our visit to Rouen 2017.



I'm sure you have your own record of the visit.

Thank you to all who made the visit and made it so enjoyable.

Chris Rowe