

bonjour!



Newsletter of the Stowmarket Twinning Association

November 2017

In this issue:

- la visite - 2017
- all aboard
- this year
- it's only november
- what else
- future events

intro

Welcome to this latest edition of Bonjour, which now has a new custodian. Firstly, on behalf of the committee, a big **Thank You** to Keith for dishing out the news in the past (not a single fake item!) – I will try to maintain the standards he set!

As our main event only happens once a year at Easter, we strive to maintain interest throughout the rest of the year with our own local events and the occasional piece of publicity, which is where Bonjour comes in.



*Street sign spotted in Verneuil ...
do you know where Verneuil
Avenue is in Stowmarket?*

la visite - 2017

The French were playing away this year so there we were huddled together in the car park on Good Friday, eagerly awaiting the arrival of *nos amis*. Well, at least it wasn't snowing!

Before you could say Jaques Robinson, we were stumbling through our poorly rehearsed Franglais greetings and eventually dispersed back home with our guests and put the kettle on.

We had a brief meeting on Saturday morning at the Peel Centre, when the dignitaries of both sides read from their carefully composed bi-lingual notes and made the whole thing official.

In the afternoon we had a free-period and then it was best togs on for the evening meal at the Limes Hotel, where I think we did justice to the menu.

On Sunday we set off into Norfolk on a visit to the Gressenhall Museum/Workhouse, where we plied our guests with cups of Tetley and carrot cake – oh, and we did the museum tour as well.

The whole weekend was happening so quickly and before we had got the silver foil of our second Easter egg it was time to take our *visiteurs* back to the car park complete with their *picnic*.

As the departure time neared, the *au revoir* crescendo and multiple embraces and *bises* peaked until we were all emotionally exhausted. And then all the cars with the funny number plates disappeared and we went back home for a cuppa.

We look forward to the return trip next year! Roll-on *Paques!* NB. see below ...

all aboard for Verneuil ...

Easter 2018 starts on 30th March (Good Friday/*vendredi saint*). That's the day we set off for Verneuil and if you would like to ride in (or on!) the mini-bus you may still have a chance . Please email heathersalmon50@gmail.com *tout de suite*.

Stowmarket



Verneuil

allez-y!

this year

In addition to hosting the previously mentioned *visite*, we have had numerous events, which have been good for our social well-being, as well as for fund-raising.

We started off with a French *soirée* in the Scout's Hut. A great meal with all the trimmings and *tricolores* everywhere you looked. This was the result of a lot of effort, especially in the kitchen, by certain committee members and partners.

Our next event was a Safari Lunch. Not spit-roasted wildebeest, but groups of hungry people GPS-ing their way through uncharted streets of Stowmarket for the next course of food. We all managed to finish up at the end point where we celebrated with tea and coffee and the customary raffle finale. Nice food & nice company.

In the summer we had a delightful BBQ event *chez* Linda and Jon. In pleasant surroundings, serenaded by the local bird population, we ate, drank and gossiped until the sun went low in the sky.

Although it was mainly an "English affair" a French guest brought some "Ham & cheese" cake". I'm not

sure whether this resulted from a mis-heard comment that the English like "cheesecake" ... anyway it was very tasty – honest. Well, if we can have a "lettuce" course half way through a meal, I think we can manage ham & cheese cake!

In September we did another *soirée française* at Cedars park—a delight shared by 30 hungry and thirsty *jumelleurs* (new word).

The tables looked really good, they all had a candelabra on them and this really set the atmosphere for the evening, there was French music playing in the background.

The meal had a real French flavour to it, which included French onion soup, Beef Bourguignon and Tart aux Citron.

We had our usual raffle, people were very generous in bringing prizes and buying tickets, we made £80 profit.

A good evening was had by *tout le monde*.

it's only november

... but the pre-ambule to Christmas is already in full swing. Our Christmas "angels" have been busy in Stowmarket church, doing tree decorating, as part of the Christmas tree festival.

A tastefully decorated tree in the colours shared by our two countries. Nice one ladies! Makes it easy that both nations share the same three colours! Whew!



what else ...

We had our AGM in May; in a nutshell, we've got enough *fric* (excuse my French), we're changing banks, the membership's about the same— everybody's happy!

We have agreed to increase the membership ... it's now £15 per household per year - that's 30p a week - bargain!

future events

Feb 17 - Murder Mystery @ The Scout Hall

Mar 30 - we've done this one ...

May 19 - Soup & Pudding Evening @ Red Woods (if you've never had one of these, you haven't lived!)



Just a little space left to wish you all
joyeux Noël and a *bonne année*.