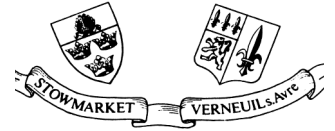


bonjour!



newsletter of the stowmarket twinning association

July 2022

by dennis morley

intro

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Who would ever have thought you would have to wait 3 years for another edition of our newsletter? I can sense the disappointment, but don't worry we're not going to say "au revoir" to "bonjour".

Now that Covid-19 is almost under control (?), the committee is again making plans for social events which we hope you will support and thus help with our "re-energisation".

The lifting of restrictions meant that once again we could resume our biennial Easter trip into deepest Normandy and submit ourselves to the temptations of camembert, vin rouge, scallops, ... need I go on?

We also have our own website (for the first time), which we will be able to update ourselves, although access will still be via the Stowmarket Town Council website.

allons-y ! (and we did)

although we weren't able to muster our normal contingent, the eight of us that made the trip did it justice and a *joli* time was had by all. We executed a deft pincer movement, with some of us sneaking through the tunnel and the remainder taking the boat to Dieppe.

Saturday morning was (of course) a trip to the market in Verneuil, but when we arrived at the market place, there was no market. Panic! The pulse rate returned to normal when it was explained that it had been displaced a street or two whilst renovation work was being carried out. Phew!

In the *aprém*, we shot off to Evreux, a beautiful town that has been burnt down and rebuilt numerous times. Thankfully it was quite peaceful when we were there and after savouring the internal architecture of the cathedral, we sat outside and had a *boisson* or two, until the sun went down.

Sunday included a trip to the Perche region, where we visited the Inzolite "museum". You have to see it to believe it, or just try Google! We also managed to squeeze in a trip to a beautiful garden and then to an art gallery.

We were lucky with the weather, and we are looking forward to returning the hospitality to our *chers amis* at Easter 2023.

missing out?

If you are reading this and are wondering how you could get involved in such pleasant happenings, please get in touch via our [website](#).

Stowmarket is twinned with Verneuil-sur-Avre in France and we have exchanged hospitality with them for over forty years. It is a wonderful opportunity to meet people and embrace their culture. Our official visits take place over the Easter weekend and we alternate years - so one year hosting, and one year visiting.

If you have children, it's a wonderful opportunity for them to discover a new environment abroad (that is not teeming with tourists!) and a great chance to learn a foreign language.

You don't have to be able to speak French, but you will probably want to learn !

everybody likes a barbie !

In May the rain gods were with us when we had our BBQ. We sat in the garden to the sound of sizzling sausages, tweeting birds and wonderful sunshine. Everything suddenly went quiet when we moved on to the trio of “puddings” – it was time for concentration – BBQ’d bananas, ice cream and maple syrup, followed by strawberries and cream, followed by rhubarb crumble. Outrageous! you might think - and rightly so. We agreed that no photos were to be taken during this period!

agm

Our AGM is always a friendly affair, no irate shareholders and no tricky questions from the floor.

The bank balance is healthy and officers were re-elected without too much arm-bending ! We will continue as before. See below for the line-up.

future events

It was nice to resume our social life and it will continue on **Sunday 11th September** when we hope to have a Safari lunch, which will take place on the steppe of Stowmarket.

This is a great event (no wild animals) with good food and excellent company. Rumour has it that there will also be a RAFFLE !

As Christmas approaches (yes, it'll be here before you know it) we will again be taking part in the **Stowmarket Christmas Tree festival**. Please check the website nearer the time for the date.

Future events are also contained on our website: <https://stowmarkettowncouncil.gov.uk/local-services/town-twinning/> or [here](#).

who's in charge?

We only continue to exist due to the tireless efforts of our committee.

Jon Pattle, Chairman
Marilyn Finbow, Vice-Chairman
Linda Pattle, Secretary
Dennis Morley, Treasurer and Publicity Officer
Sue Smith, Membership Secretary

Linda Baxter
Paul Ekpenyong
Jan Rooks
Keith Scarff
Miles Row, representing the Town Council
Barry Salmon, representing the Town Council as Mayor

and finally ...

A big “Thank you” to Eve Paton, who after many years of dedicated service has decided to stand down from the committee. We are grateful to the numerous times she has hosted committee meetings and the supply of innumerable cups of tea, coffee, biscuits and chocolates on Safari Lunch days.

— Thank you — Eve