

## “HAPPY NEW YEAR” to all our members

### Greetings from the Chairman

Another year has come and gone and it is time to wish everyone a very Happy and Peaceful (this time) New Year. And to send warmest greetings to all our friends in Europe and around the world, too! May they have the same desire for Peace as indeed do we in Norfolk.

We had planned a Christmas Dinner, Portuguese style, as a gesture to our many guests from that beautiful country but our hopes have not so far been realised.

Anyway, we hope you all had a wonderful time with your families and we look forward to seeing everyone later this month. Of course, the AGM - our annual affair - will take place on 30 January. The official notice is attached to this Newsletter. In February we do have an excellent film to show you, which is not only French but extremely funny and I am sure that everyone will enjoy it. And you'll see that we have several other events planned, not least of which is International Day on 5 June – make sure to mark the date in your diaries.

Good luck and lots of love.

~ Barrie

### Forthcoming events

#### 16-18 January

Vive la France exhibition at Olympia

#### 30 January

AGM at the United Reformed Church, Earls Street on 30 January 2004 at 8.15pm.

#### 19 February

Film evening at Breckland House (Level 8) showing the French film *The Closet* (with English subtitles), 7.30pm

#### 30 March

Visit to the Icenii Brewery in Mundford, 6.30 for 7pm

#### 9-12 April

French Market in Norwich

#### 26-28 May

Trip to Ironbridge, Shropshire

#### 5 June

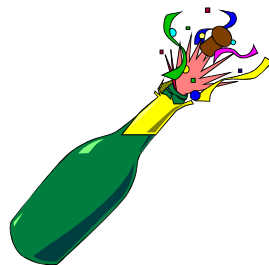
International Day in Thetford

#### 16-23 August

Trip to Camarès in the Aveyron region of SW France.

#### November/December

Proposed trip to a Christmas Market in Germany or France



**Join us for our next event:**  
**The AGM at 8.15pm on Friday, 30 January 2004**  
**in the United Reformed Church**

## More details of our forthcoming events



### Vive la France Exhibition 2004

This popular exhibition will take place at Olympia from 16 to 18 January 2004, the annual French week.

We went last year and as we subsequently reported in the Newsletter, we had a really enjoyable day.

Of course, anyone wishing to go may apply for tickets - I think they are marginally less expensive beforehand - and then choose one's own preferred mode of transport. If however, there were enough takers perhaps the hire of a Minibus for a small group might be considered. On the other hand, it is not difficult to take the train and then direct tube to Olympia. If you are interested or have any ideas please get in touch.

~ *Barrie Nutt*

### Annual General Meeting

We hope as many of you as possible will come along to our Annual General Meeting at 8.15pm on 30 January at the United Reform Church. Hear about everything we've been up to in the past year and what's planned for the coming year. There'll be a chance to socialise together after the meeting, accompanied by the usual free glass of wine or soft drink and nibbles.

~ *Barrie Nutt*

### Film Show

On Thursday 19 February we are having a film evening at Breckland House (Level 8) when we will be showing French filmmaker Francis Veber's delightful comedy *The Closet* (with English subtitles). The cost of the evening is just £1 to cover refreshments. Return the enclosed slip or telephone Sheila to book your tickets. [Note: access into Breckland House on this evening will be via the back door.]

~ *Barrie Nutt*

### Tour of Icení Brewery

We have organised a tour of the Icení Brewery at Mundford on Tuesday 30 March, meeting there at 6.30pm for 7pm. The cost is £6.50 which includes buffet food and beers to sample. We will be shown around the brewery, the bottling plant and the hop garden, and there will also be the opportunity to purchase some of their excellent beer. Places are limited, so return the enclosed slip or telephone Sheila asap to order your tickets and avoid disappointment. If you are interested in going but don't have your own means of transport let us know so that we can organise a lift for you.

~ *Mike Edmond*

### Coach trip to Ironbridge

It is proposed to have a trip to Ironbridge in Shropshire in May, to visit the famous iron bridge and to go to the many museums and attractions of that area. It was the centre of the industrial revolution.

We will be staying in the Telford Moathouse Hotel for 2 nights bed & breakfast, the cost of the coach plus the two nights B & B will be £129 per person based on two people sharing a room, and a minimum of 30 people going on the trip, there will be an additional £30 supplement for a single room.

The proposed itinerary will be as follows:

26th May. Leave Thetford at approx 10am, travel to Telford, stay the night in the Moathouse Hotel.

27th May. Breakfast. A short trip to Ironbridge by the coach, the rest of the day to see the iron bridge, museums, sights and attractions, in the early evening back to the Moathouse Hotel. (An entrance pass to all the museums costs £13.)

28th Breakfast. Coach trip back to Thetford.



Please contact Albert Paines on tel: 01842 752459 or return the enclosed slip if you wish to participate, if we get the required minimum of 30 people I will make a definite booking and will be asking for a £35 deposit per person before making final arrangements.

I need to have your names and deposits by 30 January at the latest.

~ Albert Paines

## International Weekend June 2004

Saturday 5 June next year, will be our 2004 International Day when Thetford is inviting people from Hürth, Spijkinisse and Les Ulis and, in addition, from Skawina to take part.

We all remember, of course, the successful weekend in September 2001 when the whole town seemed alive with sounds of music and colourful costumes from abroad and from home. Obviously one hopes for an equally successful celebration this time.

Invitations to Mayors and senior officials are the responsibility of the Town Council.

But the Twinning Association has responsibility for non civic groups such as bands, dancers, etc. At the moment, all the towns are in process of deciding what groups they can offer. While looking forward to a pleasant variety of participants from Europe, we are anxious that we shall not be embarrassed by accommodation problems.

Economic pressures are quite serious for local authorities everywhere in Europe as well as in UK. One is aware that it is quite difficult for groups in all these towns to get financial help from their councils to meet the cost of travel. At the moment, however, we can only assume that German, Dutch and Polish guests will arrive on Friday, 4 June and depart for home on Sunday, 6 June. The French are sometimes unable to get time off and have to travel overnight on Friday, arriving in Thetford early Saturday morning.

We are therefore writing to members at this early stage seeking their usual generous support in the project. Many of you have been involved with this problem for more than 30 years and know the difficulties that arise. For this reason therefore, it seems only sensible to give everyone plenty of notice so that if they are able they can jot down the relevant dates in their diaries!!

By the way, we saw the Polish dancers in Hürth this year and it will be nice if they can come for we thought they were one of the most colourful groups there.

You may wish to talk to a member of the committee at the AGM on 30 January.

~ Barrie Nutt

## Camarès 2004

Recently, Liliane Lefevre was a guest of Janet and Brian with whom she stayed for 4 days - she admitted to having spent a most delightful time in Thetford.

We too, were pleased to see Liliane and to hear news of Les Ulis. She brought a message from Claude Gargallo who has now invited us to join them for a seven day holiday from 16 to 23 August in Camarès in the Aveyron region of SW France.

Sheila and I and (of course) that young John Young have stayed there twice in the last few years. In fact, John was the first Thetfordian to enjoy the delights of this simply gorgeous part of France and we subsequently followed in his footsteps with a sizeable contingent of about 15 'rosbifs'.



Details of our forthcoming visit have just arrived. As previously, we shall be guests at 'La Résidence', a converted chateau which, 4 years ago, offered excellent accommodation with full-board and a private swimming pool. All is in very pleasant surroundings at the edge of the village.



The cost of accommodation based on 2 persons sharing a room is provisionally put at 320 euros. To this must be added the cost of travel to the village. One idea so far proposed is to stay in Les Ulis the previous night and then to travel with hosts by one's own car. An alternative would be to fly from Stansted by Ryanair direct to Rodez and to hire a car there (booking before departure - not through Ryanair). We flew to Carcassonne last time. As soon as possible, I hope to be able to confirm further precise details.

For the time being, I can tell you that Camarès straddles a pretty river inhabited by a lot of fish (Having coffee one morning with Claude, a young lad came into her riverside house, proudly displaying a huge golden carp several pounds in weight – do you remember those specimens years ago in glass frames?). The banks of the river which divides the village rise steeply to quite a height on both sides at her end of the village. The other end near 'la Résidence' is lower and flatter. If you are interested in walking - whether moderate or even slightly more challenging - this is a most enjoyable place to stay.

But I am ahead of myself. You need to have much more information and this we will be able to provide in due course.

~ *Barrie Nutt*

## Christmas Markets

As you may have read elsewhere, the Committee is thinking about activities for next year. One of the suggestions is a short trip to a Christmas market in Europe (we know we haven't even got Christmas 2003 out of the way yet but these things take a lot of planning). We have looked at four different options and would be interested in feedback from members:

**Lille in northern France.** Lille Christmas market takes place from the end of November to the end of December and has traditional stalls, festive treats, a Ferris wheel, concerts and live entertainment. This trip could be either by Eurostar on foot or by minibus and ferry. Costs would depend on numbers wishing to travel and ferry and hotel options.

**Aachen in Germany.** Aachen Christmas market is held from late November until 21<sup>st</sup> December. Aachen is very close to Hürth. Although there are various organised trips available, if we were to travel to Aachen it would be good to include a visit to Hürth, too, so this would be a locally organised minibus and ferry trip to give more flexibility. Again, costs would depend on numbers and other options as above.



**Prague.** Prague is located in the heart of Bohemia. Known as the 'Golden City', it is said to have a vibrant atmosphere. Two nights, including flights, is likely to cost around £180 per person including hotels.

**Hamburg.** The final option is a trip from Harwich to Cuxhaven and then on to Hamburg. Jungfernstieg is a shoppers' paradise with department stores and delightful Christmas markets. A ferry trip to Cuxhaven and then on to Hamburg for two nights will cost from £124 pp sharing a four berth cabin with shared facilities, and from £169 pp sharing a two berth cabin with shower and toilet, and b&b at the hotel.

All prices are very approximate as they are based on 2003 rates but this should give you some idea of the different options and costs.

~ *Janet Fuller*

# Recent Events & Activities



## Town Quiz

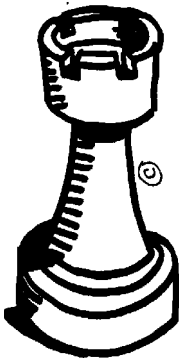
Our Town Quiz event in September coincided with the Thetford Heritage Open Days weekend. Paul and I spent a wonderful sunny Sunday morning walking around the town attempting to complete our quiz sheet – we couldn't match Stephen Davey's top score, but were delighted with our second place. Very many thanks to Janet Fuller for all her hard work putting this quiz together. We then met up with everyone for Sunday lunch

at The Mulberry – the quality of food and service was superb (those who chose the half a chicken will long remember their enormous platefuls!). If you haven't already tried The Mulberry we can highly recommend it.

~ Susan Waghorn



## Thetford Junior Chess Congress



The 5<sup>th</sup> Thetford Chess Congress was held on Saturday 20 September at Rosemary Musker High School attracting 115 competitors from 6 years of age to 60.

Sections were held for novices, under 8's, u/10's, u/12's, u/14's, Open B & Open A. The two Open sections encouraged adults to play too.

Players came from all over East Anglia, Surrey and also a Dutch team from Thetford's Twin town of Spijkenisse entered. These players had been invited to England by the Thetford Youth & Community Chess club as a return visit when English players visited Spijkenisse in April earlier this year. Teams from Thetford, Norwich, Sheringham, Coltishall and Horringer schools competed for the school team prize. Winners were Norwich School B.

The event was hosted by the Thetford Youth & Community Chess Club which runs every Wednesday evening during term time from 6.30-8.30pm in Rooms 34 and 35 at Rosemary Musker High School.

Twenty four players from the Thetford Club entered. Robert Wicks won 2<sup>nd</sup> equal in the under 14's. Rebecca Body and Susannah Moore (youngest player at six years old) were equal first in the under 8's. Robert Wicks won the trophy for the best Thetford performance and Neils Vedder won the trophy for the best Dutch performance on the day.

Thanks must go to the Town Council Civic Links Committee, Thetford Twinning Association, Shadwell Estate, Jeyes, and Furniture Clearance Services for the financial support. To Aldi, Tesco's, Roys, The Bell Hotel, Waterworld and Mr Chips for their donations to the raffle. Thanks also to Norwich & Peterborough Building Society who sponsored new Chess sets and Boards. Thanks to Tournament controller Stephen Orton and Steve Whitehead for helping to run the tournament.

The Dutch visitors spent Saturday evening with English host families. On the Sunday they enjoyed a visit to Thetford forest before travelling to Harwich.

The Tournament and weekend had been hard work, but was a great success. Thanks to all the host families who opened their homes this weekend.

~ Steve Wicks

## French Market, Norwich



The Norfolk Association of Twin Communities (NATC) is a sort of umbrella organisation to which twinning groups can belong. In October it took a stall in the French market area there to attempt to publicise more widely the principle of international friendship and we ourselves took part to represent Thetford and to lend our support.

It was enjoyable to meet so many French people in Norwich and to practise our French with them.

Undoubtedly their prices are not the most competitive but you are able to buy some very nice foodstuffs such as a huge variety of cheeses and, of course, the mobile Boulanger was kept busy by a long queue of enthusiastic purchasers. Many of the exhibitors are from Brittany and they travel across the Channel by Brittany Ferries. Apparently it is, for them, a successful enterprise and it is always the same people who take part as a sort of 'circus' as one British participant told me.



I think we shall probably go the next time and hopefully we can get a more prominent position within the market area. But Bury are planning one also next Easter. So watch this space!!

~ *Barrie & Sheila Nutt*

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## Julian Faust

We have mentioned Julian in a number of contexts recently. He is the young man who has come to UK to improve his English and although he had acquired a place at Charles Burrell School, we were unable, despite much effort, to find him accommodation for the 5 months required.

Julian has been given a place in Gloucester where he is being put up by a family there. I know his father was so disappointed that he couldn't find digs here and, indeed, are we also. So we invited him to stay with us for a few days during the half term break. Sheila and I tried to provide some creature comforts. He saw, too, the fireworks in Bury, the Broads and one of its nature reserves: he went to the Castle Museum and the new Millennium Centre in Norwich. One of his most interesting experiences was at Snetterton where Mark was taking part in some rally driving. He was suitably impressed because I understand he had never had previous contact with motor racing - despite the fact, I am told, that the famous Schumacher brothers are natives of Hürth!

I hope we shall have him back again. He is a charming young man, very good company and seemed intensely grateful for the hospitality he received in Thetford. I think he is an excellent ambassador for his town and country. I would hope that our youngsters would present themselves in a similarly appropriate way should they be invited to one of our twin towns.

~ *Barrie Nutt*

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## Chocoholic Evening



On a cold Friday night 31st October about 20 people turned up to a chocolate party. We were greeted by a lady called Mary Rose who had come from Bury St Edmunds. She showed us a wonderful display of chocolates. The chocolates were very reasonable priced and the selection was vast from children's chocolates to table decorations, up to adult liqueur chocolates. We even got to sample some of the delicious Belgium chocolates. This was followed by a hot drink & biscuits, with a chance to mingle with the rest of the guests. All said a lovely evening.



~ *Carol Van Ackeren*

## Vi and Mike Edmond's holiday in Ireland

We decided to have a holiday in Ireland because in October last year we took the family to Clonakilty in Co. Cork for four days and they were so enthralled with the scenery and magnificent beaches in that area they wanted to go back and see more of Ireland, so on Saturday the 16th August we left home at 5 a.m. with our daughter Sarah, son-in-law Kevin and our two granddaughters Jemma and Amelia in tow. Our flight from Stansted was at 7.30 a.m. and we arrived at Cork Airport one hour later.

We rented a house in Killorglin, Co. Kerry for one week. En route to Killorglin we broke our journey in Blarney and had a delicious Irish breakfast. We then visited Blarney Castle and its extensive grounds and Jemma and Amelia were very much amused with the fairy grottos and underground caves etc. within the grounds. No we did not kiss the Stone of Eloquence; one needs to be somewhat younger for that ceremony!

We left Blarney mid-day for our stay in Killorglin, which is about 12 miles west of the town of Killarney. On arrival at our holiday home we were very impressed by the beautiful house and gardens. Jemma and Amelia thought it was great because it had three bathrooms and five toilets, so they quickly decided to allocate which ones we should all use during our stay.

We drove around the "Ring of Kerry" with its breathtaking views. We also visited a 'Bog Village', which is actually a museum of old Irish cottages furnished to show you how people lived many years ago. It was very interesting because they had ladies in the cottages making bread and cooking it over the old turf fires and all visitors were welcome to have some. My grandparents had a farm and I can remember my Grandmother cooking bread on an open fire in a big black pot. I explained this to Jemma and Amelia and they looked at me as if I had lived on another planet!



We visited the lovely village of Waterville. Whilst there we came across a Statue of Charlie Chaplin who spent several of his latter years in residence there and was thought of very highly by the local population.

After Waterville our return journey was on minor roads over the Macgillycuddy's Reeks and the stunning views of Carrauntoohil, the highest Peak in Ireland.



DINGLE. Another day we visited the Dingle Peninsula. The girls spent 2 hours in the Aqua in Dingle. Mike and I spent this time sightseeing in the town. We then went on to Sleat Head which is the most Westerly point in Europe, apart from a few small Islands. It was also the place where the film "Ryan's Daughter" was filmed.

On Friday the 22<sup>nd</sup> August which would be our last full day in Co. Kerry we visited Tralee, which is the administration centre of that County and the annual "Rose of Tralee" Festival was taking place. This Festival has nothing to do with horticulture. It is an event that has been taking place for many years and basically it involves music and dancing all over the town during the day and the evening, young ladies from all over the counties of Ireland and worldwide enter a competition to become the "Rose of Tralee". We saw the final on television and a young lady from Dublin won it this year - the first time Dublin had won so we were told. There were entrants from Australia, America, Canada etc etc. It ends with a Ball when the winner is crowned the "Rose of Tralee".

On Saturday the 23<sup>rd</sup> August we left Kerry to travel to Portlaw in Co. Waterford, the village where I was born. En route we visited Mitchelstown in County Cork and had lunch there. We lived just outside Mitchelstown for a number of years where my Father managed one of the biggest Sawmills in Ireland. I took the family to see where we had lived.

We then carried on to Portlaw arriving there about 4.30 p.m. Had dinner and then did a tour of the village, pointing out to family the house I was born in and where my Grandparents had lived. I met a friend from my childhood days in the street whom I had not seen for 55 years and she very quickly invited us into her home for tea and cakes. Later in the evening we met up with a few of my relations and had a good old chat about times long ago.

The next day we went to Bunmahon just a few miles away where there is a magnificent beach. Jemma and Amelia had a great time in the sea and on the beach and quickly made some friends. Later in the afternoon we visited Waterford City.

On Monday the 25<sup>th</sup> August we met up with some of my relations at 11 a.m. and left for Duncannon in Co. Wexford to attend the wedding of a Nephew of mine. It was a wonderful wedding in all aspects. Jemma and Amelia were involved in the actual wedding ceremony - they carried the marriage rings on a cushion up to the altar, so you can imagine their excitement. The Reception was held at the Ferrycarrig Hotel in Wexford Town and we all had a very happy time indeed.

The next morning we said our good-byes to family and friends and travelled to Dublin visiting Avoca on our way. We were staying overnight in Dublin, so were able to have a good walk around the City visiting some of the sights and enjoying the atmosphere - lots of Music and various things going on to keep you occupied.

We left Dublin 6.30p.m. for Stansted the next day and Mike tells me we travelled 1500 miles during our 12 days. It was a wonderful holiday, the weather was excellent. I always enjoy going back to my roots. My Mother came from Waterford, but my Father came from Armagh in Northern Ireland, so over the years Mike and I have spent very many holidays across the Pond visiting and staying with my vast amount of relations in both the South and North of the country.

Just before I sign off I must tell you that this is my second attempt. Several days ago I had just finished typing and somehow I managed to delete everything from the screen. I was not happy at that point, but having cooled down I made my mind up to have another go!!

~ Vi Edmond

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## Committee Members 2003

<b>Chairman/French Secretary</b>	: Barrie Nutt	<b>German Secretary</b>	: Mark James
<b>Vice Chairman</b>	: Stephen Davy	<b>Dutch Secretary</b>	: Mike Jacobs
<b>Secretary</b>	: Sheila Nutt	<b>Newsletter Editor</b>	: Susan Waghorn
<b>Treasurer</b>	: Mike Edmond	<b>PRO</b>	: Janet Fuller

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