

June 2023 Ludlow Twinning News

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This year's visit to France by forty members included a contingent of ten under-18s, and several who were making the trip for the first time. Although this visit required a longer-than-usual road journey on both sides of the Channel, due to lack of suitable crossings from Portsmouth to Caen, travelling from Newhaven to Dieppe gave us the chance to visit Rouen . Once again, the whole visit was accompanied by bright sunshine. The weather enabled us to enjoy the charms of Rouen and a warm welcome at the opening of La Voie Verte. An excellent visit to the Ferme du Cheval at La Michaudière followed for everyone. For some, Swin golf was a new experience, whilst others enjoyed the delights of the Andaine at such wonderful spots as L'étang de Lande-Forêt with our generous hosts .



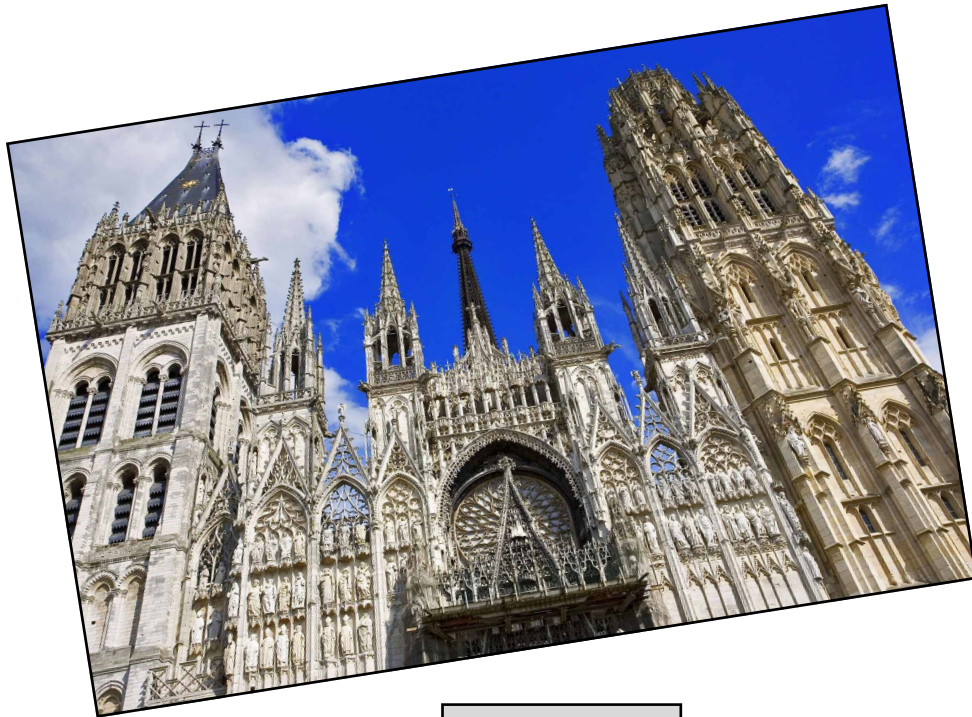
The welcome band for the opening of La Voie Verte and our arrival



A warm welcome at the old station



La Voie Verte is the 21 km of rail track bed between La Ferté-Macé and Briouze which was abandoned for rail traffic in the 1990s. Its restoration for cycling and walking enables a trip through such places as the Forêt d'Andaines and the delightful Étang de Lande-Forêt. Our arrival at the site of the former La Ferté-Macé Station. was accompanied by a welcome drink and some pieces by the town band. This formed part of the inauguration of the Voie Verte - an initiative to create cycle and pedestrian pathways, to promote the use of green spaces and healthy, active travel. The Voie Verte seems to have been a big success for La Ferté-Macé.



Rouen cathedral



One of Rouen's listed buildings



Le Gros-Horloge

Any misgivings about an early morning start at Rouen were soon dissipated with our realization that the empty streets at that time of day would provide us with such an uninterrupted opportunity to see the Cathedral, the Gros Horloge and the many other listed buildings in the city . The same applied to those who walked along the quayside of the Seine, or visited the Historial Jeanne d'Arc (Joan of Arc Museum) in the Archbishop's palace ,close to the cathedral. That is where Joan of Arc was condemned to death (1431) and where the second trial took place (1456).

La Ferme du Cheval at La Michaudière



La Michaudière is a typical farm in the bocage of Normandy .

La Michaudière was a typical farm in the bocage of Normandy .It has been developed for visitors to see a variety of animals, especially local horses, at work and on display. Within the garden, we found some quirky sculptures like the unfortunate cyclist opposite, A period documentary film showed wheelwrights at work making carriage wheels like the ones on La Michaudière's carriages, The day's events began with a garden visit followed by the usual joint meal hosted by the Comité du Jumelage de La Ferté-Macé . It was our first at lunchtime. Just for the record ,here is the menu:

- ◆ Apple drink or Kir
- ◆ Grilled sausage / salmon terrine with sorrel/ country-style terrine ham cooked in cider for 5 hours,served with a delicious home-made purée and with apple sauce.
- ◆ Trou Normand- alcoholic spirit, usually Calvados
- ◆ Salad and Cheese
- ◆ Egg custard
- ◆ Café
- ◆ Cider, red wine or Fruit juice

The equestrian spectacle– followed for the next hour and a half. We were seated in the covered area shown in the picture above .It was a blessing in the hot sunshine!

A quirky garden sculpture

This was not an unfortunate accident on La Voie Verte but one of a number of quirky garden sculptures at La Michaudière!



Ludlow a wonderful destination for French visitors

Shifnal/Machecoul visit

A coach party of English and French visitors from Shifnal spent a day in Ludlow during the May Fair. Shifnal was celebrating 35 years of twinning with the town of Machecoul and, as part of that, they brought their visitors to Ludlow. One of the visitors was, by chance, a lady originally from Ludlow's twin town of La Ferté-Macé. They were met by the chair and the secretary of Ludlow Twinning

Association and shown around the town, and the church (in French of course) . The intermittent rain did not dampen spirits, and everyone enjoyed a 3-course lunch (including English roast beef followed by bread and butter pudding, of course!) at The Feathers. Ludlow Twinning Association is keen to extend a similar warm welcome to other local twinning associations – not

only is Ludlow a wonderful destination for visitors with its Norman castle and Norman medieval town layout, but it is good for local businesses to host such visitors. The committee are, therefore, considering whether further tours of a similar nature might follow.

40 Machecoul visitors took lunch in the James 2nd suite in the Feathers Hotel following a town tour in French led by our Secretary, Phil Horsfall



Messages to Grace from Molly, Tatiana and Otis

Thank you so much for leading the trip to Normandy and allowing me to be a part of it.

I was so lucky to be there and I had such a lovely time, everyone was so friendly and the events, such as the horse farm, were so fun and well run (and it was a great opportunity to practice my French!)

Thank you so much again and it was so lovely to meet you all!

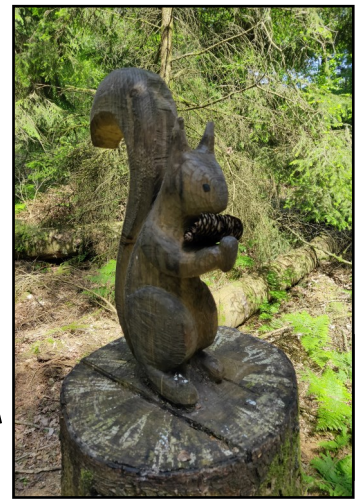
Molly

Hello Grace

Thank s you to you and the committee for a truly memorable trip.

Do keep us posted on dates for next year. We wait in anticipation!

Best wishes
Tatiana and Otis



L'étang de Lande-Forêt

Not far from La Ferté, near the village of Grais is the lake and forest. A great place to walk on the boardwalks through the peatland to see the carnivorous sundews and dragonflies. You can also fish and see the wood carvings in willow, like that of the squirrel (Above Right)



L'étang de Lande-Forêt at Grais (left) is easily accessible from La Voie Verte



Stephane Andrieu has captured our departure from La Place Neustadt in this picture. Hosts and guests are mingled together. The twin steeples of the Church of Our Lady in the background were undergoing restorative maintenance at this time.

LUDLOW FRENCH TWINNING

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Members' Corner

The committee are considering other social media platforms for members to be further engaged with twinning activities. Meanwhile you are invited to submit relevant information or images for this newsletter and for the website. Thank you.

For the website please send to:

Shirley.davies@orange.fr

You may also wish to post information on our FACEBOOK

Pages

www.ludlowfrenchtwinning.co.uk



Your committee 2023

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Welcome speeches from the President du Jumelage, Marie-Christine Chatel (L), Chair of Ludlow Twinning, Grace Wilkins (at the mic), and the Mayor of La Ferté-Macé, Michel LeRoyer

Reflections on the 2023 visit to France

Chère Marie-Christine

J'écris de la part du comité de Ludlow et de tous les membres de notre jumelage, pour vous remercier de tout le travail que vous avez fait pour assurer une visite si réussie. Tous les participants auront des souvenirs inoubliables du déjeuner à la Michaudière, des chevaux, du swin- golf et du lundi ensoleillé qu'ils ont passé avec leurs hôtes français. Un grand "merci" aussi, à M. le Maire et aux musiciens qui nous ont accueillis à notre arrivée. C'était un honneur de pouvoir participer à votre fête "Voie Verte".

A nous, maintenant, de commencer les préparatifs pour l'année prochaine!

Veuillez nous dire les dates de votre visite aussitôt que vous les aurez choisies.

Grace Wilkins

Chairperson