

**2025
Exchange
with
La Ferté-
Macé**

**Newsletter 58
includes:**

- ⇒ **May visit**
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- ⇒ **Future events**
- ⇒ **Films 2025**



**William the
Conqueror**
(Vault/Wiki)



Ludlow French Twinning

Number 58

May 2025

May 2025 visit to La Ferté-Macé

Going to France

The coach, will be departing from Ludlow at **08.00** on Saturday 24th May from **Smithfield** car park for the 15.00 crossing from Portsmouth to Caen, with Brittany Ferries. Participants are advised to bring sandwiches and water or a flask for the coach which has a toilet.

We expect to be in La Ferté-Macé around midnight.



Guillaume de Normandie is hybrid fuelled on cleaner liquefied natural gas and battery. It can carry 1310 passengers.

Coming back

Leaving la Ferté-Macé around 9 am on Wednesday 28th May. There will be a stop at Falaise where lunch can be taken and several attractions seen. (See page three). After lunch we leave Falaise or the port at Caen/Ouistreham for a 16.00 departure , to arrive in Portsmouth at 21.15 and Ludlow after midnight.



REMEMBER Passports must be:

- ♦ Issued less than ten years before the date you enter the country .
(please check your 'date of issue')
 - ♦ Valid for at least 3 months after the day you plan to leave (check the 'expiry date')
- When it mentions 'leave' it means leave France which will be 28th May 2025 (I.e. your passport must be valid to at least the 28th August).

BEST KEPT ON PERSON or HAND LUGGAGE

To Caen

On 24 May we
are likely to
travel on the
Mont st Michel
and
**To
Portsmouth**

We expect to
return on the
*Guillaume de
Normandie*
(Please see
the pic on the
front page.)

To members
travelling:
Find fuller
Details of
events
in recent e
mail from
The Chair.

Bristol and other trips



The Mulfords noted that the towers on
the Clifton suspension bridge were not
identical



The drop from Clifton bridge is 245 feet at high water level— and a few feet more
at lower water as it is here

Bristol

Another group of over forty members and friends enjoyed our coach trip to Bristol on Saturday 5th April. Some visited the Great Bristol Wine Fest with Oz Clarke whilst others enjoyed the Watershed, the Arnolfini Gallery, the Harbourside, the Tobacco Factory and the many delights of the town. Several walked along the dockside to visit the SS Great Britain Brunel's famous steamship. The Mulfords decided that they wanted to walk cross the Avon Gorge into Leigh Woods via the 1352 foot long Clifton

Suspension bridge, anticipating the

Bristol from the Bridge walkfest.

They noted that the towers on the 1864 bridge were not identical and that Brunel was the original, but not the final designer of the bridge.

Future trips

Members and friends on the Bristol trip were asked to 'have their say' on their preferences for an Autumn 2025 visit by choosing from:

- ◆ Bath on Saturday 13 September
- ◆ Bath Christmas market on Saturday 28 November, 6 or 13 December
- ◆ A different destination.



Wikipedia

Falaise

The Calvados town of 7744 inhabitants was the birthplace of William I the Conqueror, first of the Norman Kings of England. The Château de Falaise (12th-13th century), which overlooks the town from a high crag was formerly the seat of the Dukes of Normandy and is shown above. The Treaty of Falaise was signed at the castle in December 1174 between the captive William I, King of Scots, and the King of England Henry II Plantagenet. In modern times it is known for the battle of the *Falaise Pocket* during the Allied reconquest of France in August 1944 in which two German armies were encircled and destroyed by the Allied armies. Some 10,000 German troops were killed and 50,000 taken prisoner. Two-thirds of Falaise was destroyed by Allied bombing before the town was taken by a combined force of Canadian and Polish troops. Falaise was largely restored after the war.

Not surprisingly, today Falaise produces foodstuffs and household appliances. During your visit you may also find the Circuit des Remparts, Automates Avenue and the André Lemaitre museum as well as some nice restaurants.

A note for French film enthusiasts

The Blue Boar

Ludlow French Twinning have run a monthly French film with English sub-titles at the Blue Boar since October 2018, with a brief break during COVID. May 2025's film, *Être et Avoir*, a hugely popular film, was the first to be shown. It will be our sixtieth showing when it is re-screened on May 7th. However, the availability of the Sitting Room in the Blue Boar will be uncertain after July due to a change of tenancy. We will update you on the situation nearer the time regarding our film programme.

May 7th: Être et Avoir,
June 4th: Le Beau Mariage
July 2nd: Le fils de l'épicier



LUDLOW FRENCH TWINNING

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Photographs

Thanks to members who kindly submitted information and images for this newsletter and for the website.

For the website please send to:

Shirley.davies@orange.fr

You may also wish to post information on our
FACEBOOK

Pages

for the newsletter to:

philipadams@uwclub.net

THANK YOU

www.ludlowfrenchtwinning.co.uk



Your committee 2025/2026

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Garry Oram

This month there are two deaths to report . On February 21 Garry Oram died at the Oram's new home in Dinham. Garry was not only Treasurer since 2016 but also an effective organiser of transport arrangements to France and elsewhere. He was well known at Twinning film nights, too. He and his wife, Pauline, who continues

as accommodation Secretary, have contributed immensely to the success of Ludlow French Twinning as it approaches its fortieth year in 2026. He was a good friend to many of us and we will miss him.



Sue Dash

It was Sue Dash who, forty years ago, despite knowing little or no French, made the exploratory trip to La Ferté Macé with John Holliday and the Ravens which led to the establishment of Twinning a year later. Sue continued to be Chair for the best part of a busy decade. That was the time when twinning enthusiasm was at its height and included many school exchanges, with visits in large num-

bers in both directions during the same year.