

**2026
Exchange
from
La Ferté-
Macé**

**This 60th edi-
tion includes:**

**Our twinning
song**

Trim and Ludlow

Future events

Visit 2026

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Ludlow school



**Not where you
might think-see
page two!**



Twinning News

Twinning News no 60

December 2025

**We're on our way to La Ferté-in May 2027
(Tune: 500 miles)**

We're on our way, we're on our way
We're on our way to La Ferté,
Cos the twinning's here to stay,
We're on our way.

Nous sommes en route pour La Ferté,
Pour être ensemble toujours gais,
Le jumelage on va célébrer,
We're on our way.

John Holliday and Henri Bono,
First twinned Ludlow with La Ferté,
Now the twinning's here to stay,
It's here to stay.
Around forty years ago,
We made friends for evermore,
Cos the twinning's here to stay,
We're on our way.

Traversez sept cents kilomètres
Le jumelage est la raison d'être,
Laissez le bon temps rouler,
A La Ferté.

We'll have cider, we'll have crêpes,
Now the twinning's here to stay,
We're on our way.

Trips to Rouen and Trips to Caen,
Grandes fêtes are in the plan,
Cos the twinning's here to stay,
We're on our way.

Acknowledgment : Pontardawe-Locminé Twinning



**Hugh de Lacy's statue
in Trim**

Trim, Ludlow and the Normans

You could be forgiven for thinking that you are in Ludlow when you are actually in the town of Trim in County Meath, Ireland. There, on the banks of the river Boyne lies Ireland's finest Norman castle. It's there because of the de Lacy connection: They came from Lassy in Calvados. Walter came with William the Conqueror; Hugh de Lacy built the castle in Trim from 1173. Ludlow's was built by his father, Walter, and finished by his sons Roger and Hugh. Much of Trim castle's fabric has remained unchanged since the height of Anglo-Norman power. Like Ludlow, it also boasts a Russian cannon, gifted to the town for its support in the Crimean War of 1853-56.

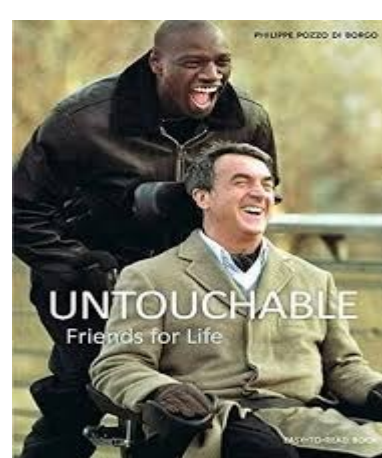


**Trim and its fine Norman castle lie on the banks of
the river Boyne**

French films for 2026

Thanks to the Unicorn Inn, Corve Street, for stepping in to enable us to continue showing our monthly film following the temporary closure of the Blue Boar from August until October. During the three-month break the Unicorn hosted a reshewing of the ever popular *Bienvenue chez les Ch'tis* in September, *Molière* in October, *Jean de Florette* in November and *Manon des sources* in December.

The 2026 programme at the Blue Boar will see some old favourites such as *Intouchable* in January and some newer, unshown films like *Le Pot-au Feu*, starring Juliette Binoche, amongst our early titles.



Date	Film	Year	Length
January 7	Intouchable	2009	89m
February 4	Le Pot au Feu	2024	129m
March 4	Therese Des-queyroux	2013	106m
April 1	Cyrano de Bergerac	2021	123m
May 6	Le Grand Bain	2018	117m
June 3	De battre mon Coeur s'est arrêté	2005	107m

The films

The film shows at the Blue Boar takes place on the first Wednesday of each month. Films have English subtitles. All start at 7.30pm.

Food and drink

Drinks will be available before during and after the film. The Blue Boar now offers a **Supper Club** from 5pm each Wednesday. Those attending the film are welcome to take advantage of the imaginative two (£19.50) or three course menus (£24.50) available prior to the film show. You can order on arrival.

2026 visit from France

Your committee began its discussion of arrangements for the 2026 visit when they met in early July. It is confirmed our visitors will arrive for the welcome reception at Ludlow Brewery on the evening of **Thursday 14**

May.

On **Friday 15th** there will be a group coach visit to places of local interest. The destinations will be announced later.

Saturday 16th will be a family day for hosts to enjoy privately with their guests at home or elsewhere.

This special timetable will involve the 40th anniversary commemorative dinner on the Saturday evening in the Prince of Wales suite at the Feathers Hotel. Musical entertainment and dance will be part of the commemoration.



Only speak one language?

If you only speak one language you are in a minority internationally. From 1066 to 1399 (333 years) England was ruled by kings whose first language was French. Henry IV was the first king to speak English as a first language; he became king in 1399 and that was the first coronation held in English.

In today's world more people are bi or trilingual than monolingual. Throughout Africa, China etc people speak their local language as well as the national language of their country. To take a few examples, the English national football coach Thomas Tuchel speaks German, English, French and Italian. The leader of the Conservative Party Kemi Badenoch speaks Yoruba as her first language, English as a second language. David Lloyd George spoke Welsh as a first language, English as a second language.

Thanks to Phil Horsfall for this fascinating language snippet. Look out for more in future editions of Ludlow French Twinning Newsletter.

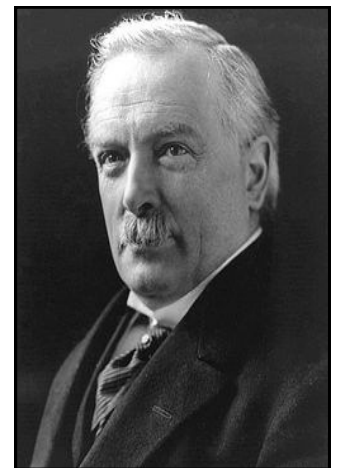
Thanks to Wikipedia for providing the pics of these linguists. Like *Private Eye*, we don't always get things right though!



Thomas Tuchel



Lloyd George



Henry IV

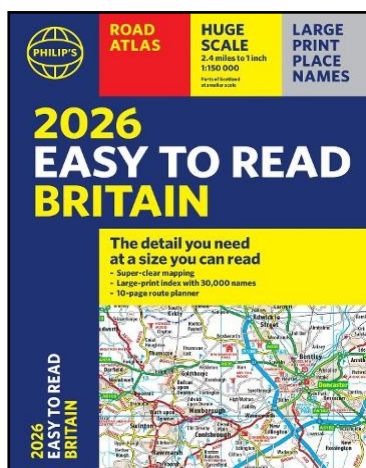
Ludlow CE School

We are delighted to have made contact with the school's Mrs Kate Witty, the new head of the foreign languages department. We shall exchange thoughts on how we can help one another on things French. The school's aim is to foster a life-long passion in students for languages; not only to be able to communicate with people around the world, but also to understand and appreciate cultural differences in world in which we live. The experience of learning and using a foreign language allows students to explore other life-styles and cultures, as well as helping to develop an understanding of the linguistics of their own language. It equally broadens students' horizons and can open the door to exciting opportunities for their future careers. At present, year seven study French and Spanish for an hour each week. Now that French has been reintroduced students will have a great opportunity to continue further and, perhaps visit La Ferté Macé during their studies.



Spring coach trip

The committee intend to offer a spring Saturday coach trip for members and friends, continuing the series six previously successful Spring and Autumn trips to Narberth, Chester, Cheltenham, Stratford and Bath. Your suggestions for a destination are welcome before any final decisions are made.



Pricing will be known when the destination is confirmed, but it will certainly be value for money as usual. It will be nice if you can join us to enjoy the glorious weather we have always enjoyed on these delightful trips! STOP PRESS!

Cardiff has been provisionally chosen for Saturday 18 April. Look out for further details.

Films in La Ferté

Do you ever wonder what films are shown in La Ferté Macé? Mainly American British and French are shown. Here's a recent French production whose title translates as *The colours of time* with the story:

En 2025, plusieurs membres d'une même famille héritent d'une vieille ma-

sure abandonnée en Normandie. Quatre cousins éloignés, Seb, Guy, Céline et Abdelkrim, vont alors s'intéresser à une certaine Adèle qui est passée dans cette maison à la fin du XIX^e siècle. Par l'intermédiaire de rêves, de ils se connectent à la mémoire de leur aïeule et vont reconstituer son histoire avec l'aide des lettres et des photos qu'elle a laissées.



LUDLOW FRENCH TWINNING

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Photographs

Thanks to Stéphane Andrieu who kindly submitted the dramatic evening image below of L'église Notre Dame, La Ferté Macé.

For the website please send to:

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You may also wish to post information on our
FACEBOOK

Pages

for the newsletter to:

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THANK YOU



www.ludlowfrenchtwinning.co.uk

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A word from the Chair

As we move into the new year, we are excited to be celebrating forty years since Ludlow began Twinning with La Ferté Macé. That we have reached this anniversary is a tribute to the enthusiasm and hard work of all those people, on both sides of the Channel, who set up and, through four decades, maintained the relationship which we now still enjoy. The committee is currently making final plans for the French visit to Ludlow in May—an occasion we are treating as extra special. Our friends in La Ferté Macé will celebrate the 40th Anniversary in 2027 meaning that celebrations will last over two years. So vive la différence! Music has always featured strongly in our Twinning celebrations both in France and England. As Hans Christian Andersen put it “Where words fail, music speaks”. Philip (Adams) therefore suggests we adopt *We're on our way* as our very own bilingual Twinning song. Thank you to the Proclaimers for first composing the tune *Five Hundred Miles* and to Pontardawe-Locminé Twinning for originally adapting the words as a twinning song. Let's hope that we can all enjoy singing it together in future years!

EES and ETIAS

From October 2025, an Entry/Exit System (**EES**) was implemented at European border crossing points for both arrivals and departures from the Schengen Area. It is an automated system designed to register third-country nationals traveling for short stays (maximum 90 days within any 180-day period). Upon crossing the border you will be required to complete a one-time biometric registration (four fingerprints and a facial image)

ETIAS (European Travel Information and Authorisation System) is a new visa-waiver scheme. It's similar to schemes you may have encountered when visiting the US, Australia and Canada.

From 2026, all UK passport holders will need an Etias to enter the Schengen area (ie most European countries) for holidays. It is expected to launch at the end of 2026 and will require UK holidaymakers to apply online and pay a fee of €20 (around £17) before travelling. The authorisation is expected to be valid for three years, or until your passport expires.