



**What am I up to?
Please see page three.**

Inside this issue:

| | |
|---------------------------------|---|
| Arrival and departure | 1 |
| 75th Anniversary of D-Day | 2 |
| Fougères | 3 |
| Couterne Dairy farm and Chateau | 4 |
| Meccano Exhibition | 5 |
| Film season | 6 |
| Reflections | 7 |



Ludlow Twinning News

Ludlow Twinning News 34

June 2019



French hosts and English guests mingle cheerfully on their reception at Adrien Sallard's Cidrerie at Le Champ de la Vallée.

Once again our party of over forty members of all ages was blessed with sunny weather throughout the visit. It coincided with events commemorating the 75th Anniversary of the D-day landings in Normandy. Commentaries on the landings were by Dave Mulliner and Garry Oram, with John French outlining the recreational and tourist attractions of La Roche d'Oëtre and the Suisse Normande. This was particularly appreciated by new members making their first twinning visit to Normandy.



Your coach awaits. When it's time to leave, it's a case of mixed emotions for twidders, young and old.

Arromanches, Bayeux and Pegasus Bridge

At Arromanches, amongst the flags, the guns and the memorials, was another message from artist Lebret Pascal on behalf of younger generations:

PLEASE, NO MORE WAR



Lebret Pascal once again left his studio to decorate the shop windows in Bayeux to say 'thank you' to the D-Day forces. Bayeux was the first town to be liberated after D-Day.

THANK YOU FOR FREEDOM



Major John Howard
Distinguished Service Order
Croix de Guerre avec Palme

At Pegasus Bridge...and Omaha beach

Major John Howard was the commander of 'D' Company within the Sixth Airborne Division whose task was to land six gliders and capture intact the Horsa bridge over the River Orne and Pegasus bridge over the Caen Canal. The task was completed on 6 June 1944 by British and Canadians to secure the invasion's eastern flank so that landings could be made on Juno and Sword beaches. The Americans did the same at Utah beach.

Meanwhile, in happier times, on June 3rd 2019, Philip and Jane Horsfall return to their coach after a brief walk to see how the beach looks today. From here the distant cliffs at the Pointe du Hoc were in clear outline. Our group's first stop was at Arromanches and the last at Pegasus Bridge. All the beaches, except Utah, and several museums were visited.



La Roche d'Oëtre visit



La Suisse Normande is at the eastern end of the Armorican Massif, with the Roche d'Oëtre at its centre. The rock stands proud proof that the Basse-Normandie region is Armorican in its western half. The reputation of this precipice is founded on its breathtaking sheer drop of 118 metres. Neither tourists nor locals expect this kind of natural feature in Normandy, but geological history has the Armorican Massif as the oldest mountains in Europe, from two thousand million years ago. It's a great recreational area, too.

Fougères old town walk



To most of our group, and many others, the medieval town of Fougères, just in Brittany, was unknown, despite having Europe's largest chateau. The castle was built on a naturally protected site, a rock emerging from a swamp surrounded by a loop of the Nançon river acting as a natural moat. It had three different enclosures: the first for defensive purposes; the second for day to day usages in peacetime and for safety of the surrounding populations in times of siege; and the last for the protection of the keep. In all it has an impressive thirteen towers.

Fougères Chateau exploration



Dairy farm and Chateau visit at Couterne

The Ernault family of Couterne near La Ferté Macé opened the gates of their dairy farm for us to see their modern methods of producing delicious white cheeses, yoghurt and milk. Robots are in use to milk and feed the hundred or so cows. The products are packed on site and sold widely. The automatic (robotic) feeding and milking systems attracted much interest from agriculturist and lay person alike.



This machine looks like a flying saucer but it is actually a robot. It keeps the cows fed by pushing the feed towards them so that it is in their convenient reach.

When they are ready the cows can approach the milking machine to be automatically milked. The machine only accepts them for milking when they are due.



Letting your hair down at the Salle des Fêtes, Louge-sur-Maire!



It's the traditional Anglo-French entente cordiale, in the form of a *repas dansant*. Some managed it after cocktail normand, potage de poule, poule a la crème, fromages normands and tarte aux pommes

Meccano exposition at La Ferté Macé



Yves Jestin (far left) of La Ferté Macé twinning committee engages in a serious technical exchange with an exhibitor. How do you control the movements of that earthmover? How long did it take to make it? Did you do it all yourself?



Once again twinning were able to visit the International Meccano Exposition at the Salle Guy Ossollini Sports Centre which coincided with our visit. La Ferté Macé hosted it for the second time.

Meccano-the inside story

Meccano is a model construction system created in 1898 by Frank Hornby in Liverpool, United Kingdom. The system consists of reusable metal strips, plates, angle girders, wheels, axles and gears, and plastic parts that are connected together using nuts and bolts. It enables the building of working models and mechanical devices. Meccano maintains a manufacturing facility in Calais. The International Society of

Meccanomen was founded in 1989 in England, nine years after the Liverpool factory closed. This organisation is considered the modern replacement of the Guild system and now has some 600 members in over 30 countries.

Today, over one hundred years since its inception, there are thousands of Meccano enthusiasts worldwide, many clubs and hundreds of websites covering Meccano history, model building instructions

and nostalgia. Individuals and companies worldwide still manufacture parts, some long out of production. There are annual Meccano exhibitions around the world, notably in France (at a different venue around May each year) and at Skegness in England (around July every year). Many notable shows also take place in South Africa, Australia and New Zealand each year, to name a few.

Although the cranes and heavy lifting models may suggest that Meccano is a 'boy's toy', it is now a favoured hobby for both sexes, as was evident at the Salle Guy Ossollini



Film season-Ludlow

By popular demand our film season will be continued indefinitely, or until all the fifty or so films that we now have available are shown. Since last October we have shown eight films with good attendances at every one. The film and financial donations we have received at the Blue Boar showings help us to sponsor young visitors to France.

Therefore we are pleased to announce the programme for the remainder of the year and look forward to your attendance whenever possible. All films are on Wednesdays.



| | |
|-------------|----------------------------|
| 3 July | La Règle du jeu |
| 7 August | Les Triplets de Belleville |
| 4 September | Cleo de 5 à 7 |
| 2 October | La Gloire de mon Père |
| 6 November | Le Colonel Chabert |
| 4 December | Joyeux Noël |



July's film is Jean Renoir's subversive 1939 portrait of the French aristocracy "dancing on a volcano".

Le Cinéma Gerard Philippe-La Ferté Macé

Right in the heart of La Ferté Macé is the Cinéma Gerard Philippe. It usually runs on seven days of the week. On weekdays one or two different films are shown and on weekends some three or four. It's run by CinéFerté, a group of volunteers who run the programme on a rota basis. Sixty-two showings are scheduled for June 2019 alone. Facilities for 3D and VO showings are available.

Once a month an English film is shown with French subtitles-the exact reverse of what we do at the Blue Boar! Another feature is Ciné-débat in which you stay with other film goers after the show to discuss the film. This sometimes take place as Resto-Ciné, in a local bar or restaurant in town. It's not just cinema, either. Concerts and theatrical events are also held at different times

of the year, especially during *la saison Culturelle*. Several of our twinning hosts are volunteers at the cinema, carrying out a variety of tasks from box office to projectionist. Others work behind the scenes on publicity and programme planning. All in all the Cinéma Gerard Philippe is a great credit to the town of La Ferté Macé!

Ciné-débat and Resto-Ciné are both possible at Le Cinéma Gerard Philippe!



LUDLOW FRENCH TWINNING

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Members' Corner

All members are invited to submit relevant information or 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

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Your committee 2019

| | | |
|------------|-----------------|-------------------|
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Reflections on the 2019 visit to France



For the second visit to France while I have been Chairperson we have experienced excellent weather in Normandy. Whilst that was very welcome it must be stressed that town twinning is about a lot more than enjoying good weather. It is no doubt evident from the content of this and previous newsletters that it has always been the case for the, many, mutual benefits of educational and cultural exchanges.

It is rather unfortunate that the twinning system, which was widely practised at the end of the last century in schools and colleges, has become more and more difficult to set up with schools because of frequent exams. However, our family system of twinning avoids most of the bureaucratic arrangements required for work experience abroad.

On the other hand many schools offer expensive holidays which only some parents can afford. In the French Twinning Association we avoid such expense by taking youngsters to France with their parents and subsidise their travel in order to keep it all going. It is by no means easy but we work hard to make it successful.

Ludlow College now has its parallel links with La Ferté Macé after an initial visit with Ludlow French Twinning last November. A return visit is expected by the College for October 2019. Further details can be obtained from Alice Fishleigh (Teacher of French) at the College.

Now that our members are back from France we must again plan to provide another memorable visit to Ludlow for our friends from La Ferté Macé in a year's time. As ever, the committee is open to your suggestions and ideas for activities and events of interest.

Sylvia Duffy

Chairperson

Social events

The film programme has been a big success, but what other types of social events would you like French Twinning to run in or around Ludlow? Race evenings, Beetle drives, Board games' nights, Wine-my-bluff, Antiques roadshow?

Please let us know what you think we should do.