



What are they
all up to?
Please see page
two.

Inside this issue:

Arrival	1
Bicuiterie	2
Domfront	3
Bagnoles and velorail	4
Manoir de Durcet	5
Soiree conviviale	6
Reflections	7



Ludlow Twinning News

Ludlow Twinning News 59

June 2025



Nineteen of 'nos amis de Ludlow', both young and younger, can't wait to get going on the Velorail at Bagnoles de l'Orne. The rest of the party chose to visit the Belle Epoque quarter. Whether on foot or pedalling, everyone appreciated their visit. It was the 38th year of exchanges and twinning visits from Ludlow to La Ferté Macé.



Anniversaries

In February 1985 an exploratory visit was made to La Ferté Macé to lay the foundations for twinning exchanges. By September 1986 thirty four Ludlovians disembarked at Ouistreham for our first official visit to Normandy. 1987 was the first reciprocal exchange to Ludlow. That's why Ludlow celebrates forty years of twinning in 2026 and La Ferté Macé in 2027.

Or, looking at it another way, it gives us twin reasons to celebrate!

Lonlaye



Yvon Jestin (LFM) on the left and Philip Adams (L) on the right are Bearded visitors. They were expected to cover their beards as well as their hair. The boys, too, are ready to don their overalls for an absorbing visit, including the shop. Others, instead, (top R) a quiet look from the bridge over the River Rouvre.



The Abbey



The biscuit factory shop

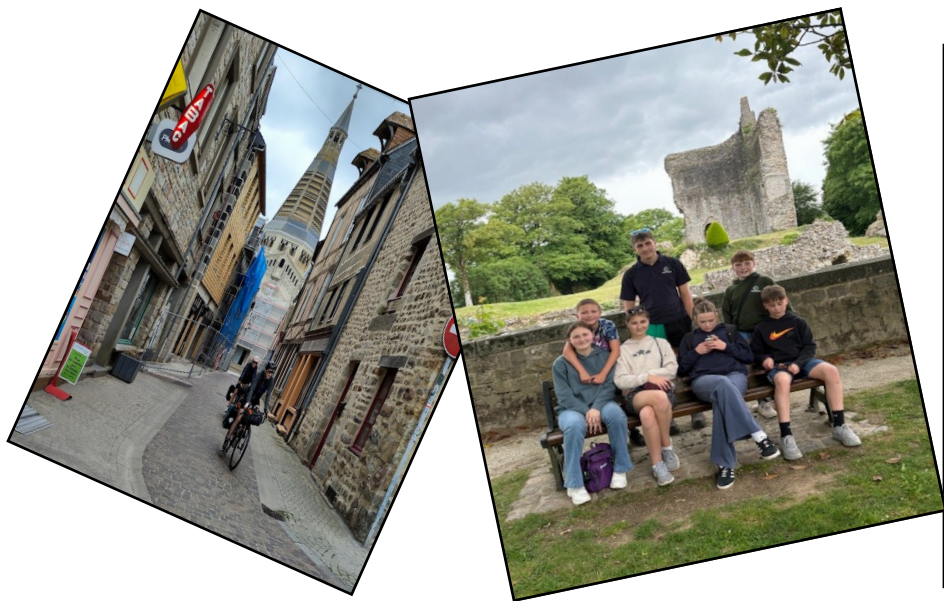


2025 Tour de France at Lonlaye

This attractive biscuit tin (R) commemorates the 2025 Tour de France which will be hurtling through Normandy from Bayeux to Lonlaye on July 10 on its way to Vire, as shown below.



Domfront



Far left: Cyclists enjoying the car-free street leading from St Julien's Church to Domfront Castle.

Left: Taking a break on the town walls after the town tour (See bottom right).

Below: In the heart of the town, the Bistrot offers a simple and varied menu of fresh local products.

Bottom left: Inside St Julien church – built from reinforced concrete !

Le Bistrot St Julien



With a 12th century castle built by the son of the Conqueror, a preserved Norman Romanesque church, cobbled streets lined with half-timbered houses, and not forgetting the unique St Julien church – built from reinforced concrete and decorated with Byzantine and art-deco motifs, located a lush setting 200 metres above the sea – no wonder this town has been named one of the Most Beautiful Detours in France) and "Petite Cité de Caractère"



Old town exploration



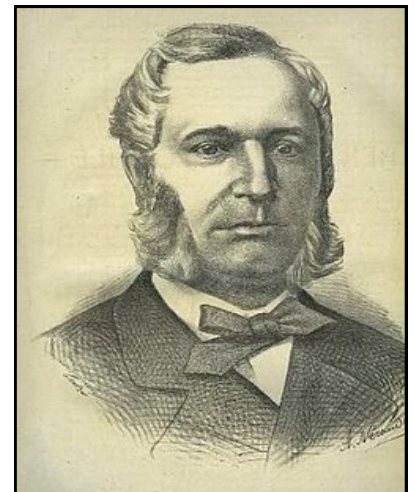
Bagnoles de l'Orne and Velorail



This machine looks like a golf cart but it is actually a velo- rail buggy at Bagnoles. Rail biking company Vélorails des Andaines offers two routes in and around the Andaines Forest in southern Normandy. The first starts at the former railway station in the spa town of Bagnoles before heading out on a 7km circuit that takes you through the atmospheric Andaines Forest and past the Priory of Saint-Ortaire. A second circuit, also 7km in length, starts further south in the town of Couterne and runs to Méhoudin, exploring Normandy's traditional hedgerow landscape and skirting the Mayenne river.



Bagnoles Lake



Albert Christophle

**Albert Christophle
(Above R)
and the lake
at
Bagnoles**

The velorail in Bagnoles de l'Orne is on the railway which connected Bagnoles with Paris in 1881. Bagnoles then became the fashionable new holiday resort for the Parisian bourgeoisie, who were keen to acquire a second home in Normandy so they could make the most of the waters, enjoy the fresh air in the forest and take part in the many sporting and cultural activities of the town. Albert Christophle – a local man who had become Minister of Public Works and owned an estate agency – wanted to promote the town and spa resorts, so he decided to create a new quarter to accommodate holidaymakers. It was built in the Forêt des Andaines, between the spa and the railway station, arranged around a central square with three parallel boulevards with four roads at right angles to them. He drew up a strict project specification illustrated by two neighbouring villas that exemplified the style and tone of the architecture of Bagnoles. They have some common features, including a simple layout, a slate roof and stonework in Armorica sandstone. The doors and windows are highlighted with brick, wood and enamel, with many balconies, bow-windows and awnings. The style evoked holidays and the colours of Bagnoles: red, green, yellow and blue.

Manoir de Durcet-its processes and products



An old alembic



What's in here then? Pommeau, calvados, Cider, Jus de pomme , Vinaigre de cidre or what? It's definitely not milk!

Calvados -the inside story at Durcet



A mobile alembic: two vessels connected by a tube to distil liquids

Calvados –the outside story



An alembic is a still



It's time to get inside and see what's going on !

Soirée conviviale at St Maurice du Desert

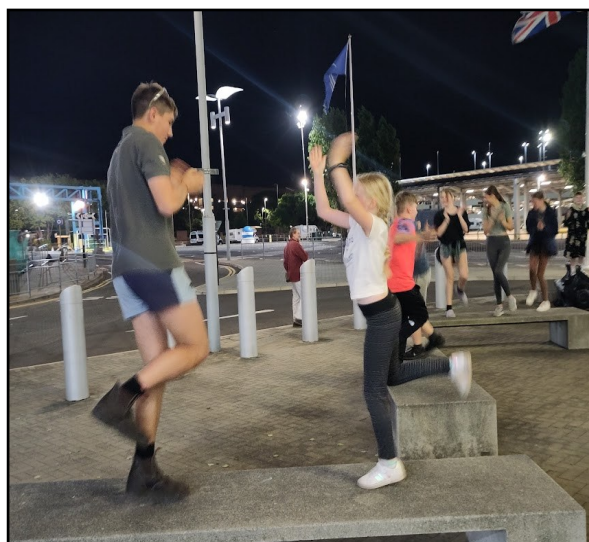


After an Apéritif normand...a delicious French buffet



Choosing your mignardises sucrées

Portsmouth performers



Never heard of the Portsmouth Performers? Well they are not actually from Portsmouth but from the Ludlow area. Here are three of them enjoying their passage back from Ouistreham.(Above)

When things were quiet in Portsmouth they provided everyone with some stupendous athletic performances. No one put a foot wrong, whether it was table dancing (Centre right) or just anchoring yourself so your feet did not touch the ground (Right)

An impromptu performance, but brilliantly orchestrated by Oli Prouse!



LUDLOW FRENCH TWINNING

Membership secretary:

Pauline Oram
Apartment 3
Dinham Hall
Ludlow SY8 1EJ
Phone: 07745531783
Email: pandgoram@gmail.com

Thank you, members

Thanks to those members
who submitted some
wonderful 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

THANK YOU

www.ludlowfrenchtwinning.co.uk



Your committee 2025

Chair	Grace Wilkins	Tel: 01584 318163
Treasurer	Phil Horsfall	Tel: 01584 876181
Secretary	Philip Adams	Tel: 01584 872807
Membership	Pauline Oram	Tel: 07745531783
Social	Sarah Burke	Tel: 07979756373
Social	Ann and Andy Mulford	Tel: 01584 879383
Social	Gillian Jones	Tel: 01584 318088
Secretary	Philip Adams	Tel: 01584 872807
Website	Shirley Davies	Tel: 01584 823236

Reflections on the 2025 visit to France



Given the varied nature of the excursions planned for us by our French colleagues, it is inevitable that we will all have different favourite moments. For me, it was the fun of dressing up in the protective clothing at the biscuit factory before emerging into that noisy and futuristic world of robots and conveyor belts. Others loved the town of Domfront with its exquisite Art Décor church, Bagnoles, or the Manoir de Durcet. True to form, the French committee had provided an option to suit the families and the vélo rail was a great group activity enjoyed by all.

As always on a Twinning holiday, it is the people who make the trip. The chance to catch up with our hosts' news over an aperitif in the early evening, the jokes in the bus and the boat- these are the memories which will last. And for our youngest members, visiting France for the first time, making the first tentative efforts to use a little of the language and succeeding in communicating, these memories will, we hope, be extra special. The inclusion of children and families in our trips is extremely important to us and we are committed to doing everything we can to promote twinning to our younger generations.

The UK committee wish to thank all our travellers for the good humour, punctuality and positivity that they showed throughout the trip and especially during the unscheduled and supremely unwelcome stay in the Costa Coffee café at Chieveley Services on our return! The spirit of the Blitz is truly alive and well!!

We hope to see you all again on 14th May next year when our French visitors pay a return visit and we celebrate forty wonderful years of Ludlow's twinning with La Ferté Macé.

Grace Wilkins

Chairperson