

THE HENLEY FALAISE TOWN TWINNING ASSOCIATION
REPORT TO HENLEY ON THAMES ANNUAL TOWN MEETING
to be held on Thursday 6 April 2017

During 2016, this Association has continued to foster friendship and good relations between the residents of Henley on Thames and surrounding villages and communities and Falaise and its surrounds in Normandy, France. The Association was created for that purpose in the early 1970s.

The two towns receive visitors from their opposite numbers every second year. A party of Henley residents visited Falaise in May 2016, when a full programme including a local market outing and a visit to the renowned, and extremely popular, Claude Monet gardens at Giverny was arranged.



There was also a visit, following its opening in May 2016, of Falaise's new Museum commemorating the wartime experiences of the civilian populations in Continental Europe during World War 2. Following D-Day, Falaise was devastated during the battle of the Falaise Gap in August 1944, making it a poignant site for such a museum. The Museum is a satellite of the famous Mémorial de Caen museum which focuses on World War 2 and the D-Day landings by the Allies.



Last year, the Association began holding quarterly cultural evenings showing French films and inviting guest speakers to talk on a range of topics associated with France. One speaker talked about some of the iconic buildings and artworks created over the last few centuries in Paris. These events, which took place in the Margaret Day Room, were very well supported. Furthermore, French conversation evenings are now being held regularly over a glass of wine in the Café Rouge.

The usual diary events once again included an afternoon of pétanque, an annual summer party and an autumn wine tasting in conjunction with the Henley Leichlingen Twinning Association.

The Association continues to develop closer links with its sister association, the Henley Leichlingen Twinning Association. Sadly, during the year, the twinning between Falaise and its German twin town came to an end.

This Association acknowledges and thanks Henley Town Council for its support during the current and past years. New members are always warmly welcome. Details from denisn07@talktalk.net .