



HENLEY & FALAISE

TWINNING ASSOCIATION

SUPPORTED BY HENLEY-ON-THAMES TOWN COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT 2018 – 2019

The Association continues in good heart, with a growing membership during the year. And new members always welcome! The highlight of our annual programme for the 32 participants was the extended weekend visit to Falaise. Our travel was door-to-door by coach and with the inimitable Brittany Ferries, and the sun shone from dawn to dusk throughout.

Naturally there were a number of extended and tasty meals, and a reception in an historic barn by the Chateau la Fresnaye, where the inevitable speeches were blessedly shorter than has very occasionally been the case in the past. Some of the party were guided on a walk round the town by one of the local tourism office's team – a man with splendid English, great projection, and an impressive ability to reveal all the signs of the town's long history as well as the philosophy guiding its post-War reconstruction.



We learned the history of the castle, where William the Conqueror was born, and by contrast with its grandeur we saw that the telephone box which Henley gave to Falaise some thirty years ago stands well-maintained near to their camping and caravan area where members of our Association are welcome to stay without charge. And there was a coach trip to a charming spa town, Bagnole a l'Orne, with a delightful flower garden and a lake with pedalos for the younger members of the party to tire themselves on.



None of the present townsfolk are as unfriendly looking as this!!

Through the year activities offered to members included Cafe Parlez, with small groups meeting and chatting in French, as best we can, at Cafe Rouge, whose support we appreciate, on two evenings most months. And monthly foreign film evenings organised jointly with the Leichlingen Twinning Association, which continue to attract worth-while audiences.

Our annual petanque afternoon took place in September, competing for the Peter Lowery Memorial Shield once again at Wallingford Petanque Club's terrain. They call this their Boulodrome, part of the Sports Park at Hithercroft Road, Wallingford. 21 members and guests picnicked and played, demonstrating levels of skill as wide-ranging as the seventy year age difference between the youngest and oldest competitors. Age and skill at this sport do not seem in any way correlated. Notwithstanding that, experts and novices, young and old, seemed to have equally good fun.

A summer garden party was held in the garden of our Treasurer, in rather unseasonable weather at the end of July. A large number of members and guests enjoyed themselves, and the weather did not dampen their spirits. The autumn joint party with the Leichlingen Twinning Association, held in the Kings Arms Barn, was at least equally well attended.

And the Association wishes to record appreciation of the Town Council's continuing financial and other support – not least hosting our Association's publicity on their website.

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