

Henley Falaise Twinning Association

Falaise, the birthplace of William the Conqueror, is an attractive, old and remarkably self-contained town set in the Normandy countryside. Despite terrible damage in the second World War, the reconstruction of the centre harmonises with the ancient buildings (including the Castle and much of the town walls) which survived the turmoil.

The charters of 'town twinning' were signed, and exchanged, in Henley in November 1973 and in Falaise in June 1974. Henley then became one of over 500 British towns to twin with another town in Europe, and, since then, group weekend visits between the two towns have alternated.



In addition, since its formation, the Henley Falaise Twinning Association has promoted various exchanges and local functions to foster personal contact. Some hundreds of residents of Henley and district have been welcomed into the homes of the Falaisiens through these events, and a similar number of Falaisiens have been made at home when visiting here. Typically, on a weekend, the host Association arranges a group visit to somewhere of local interest (a cider making farm perhaps, or one of the local chateau gardens), and families organise delightful dinners in their homes. Some exceptional parties result! As a result, the understanding and friendship between the people of Henley and Falaise has become very real to an increasing number of people. Many of us have formed warm and affectionate friendships, and visit outside the 'jumelage'.



This programme of events reflects the Association's conviction that the optimum impact of twinning upon the life of the twin towns depends upon the involvement of more than just its members – it requires our school children, students, individuals, families, clubs and other organisations to be engaged.

Past exchanges have included: The Henley Symphony Orchestra, the Henley Firemen, The Operatic and Dramatic Society, the Henley Boys' Football Club and the Ramblers and Gillott's School's involvement for a time on an exchange programme with their counterparts in Falaise. From that town, the *Theatre de la Lanterne* has brought us plays by Moliere, and more recently runners have come from Falaise to compete in the Henley Half Marathon.



A cider farm...



A more elegant scene.....

Members of the Twinning Association who camp or have a caravan can, at any season, through the generosity of the Falaise Municipality and its *Comite de Jumelage*, have a free *emplacement* (camping place) in a garden setting beneath the walls of the great Norman castle in the town.

But best of all is to be involved, and to steer the Association in ever new activities!

The Association welcomes all new members, especially young families from the neighbourhood and is keen to work with local clubs and societies.

Chairman:

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