

Issue 5
Summer 2026

Your The Longest Yarn® updates



Summer in Normandy

Well, it has been absolutely ages since our last newsletter — and there is rather a lot to catch up on!

The summer began for us here in Normandy with an unforgettable D-Day anniversary week.

On 7th June we were delighted to welcome the <https://www.taxicharity.org/> London Taxi Charity for Military Veterans, who arrived in their wonderful convoy of London black cabs with eight veterans, including **three Second World War Normandy veterans — all 101 years old.**

It was quite a sight. Around 14 London taxis descended on us, each carrying four or five people, so The Longest Yarn suddenly became extremely busy!

The veterans had the opportunity to see the exhibition and then we headed into town, where the **Jedburgh Pipe Band** came to serenade them in the square.

And then came one of those moments you simply don't forget.

Three 101-year-old Normandy veterans dancing in the town square to the sound of the pipes.

It was joyful, emotional and rather extraordinary. There can't be many occasions when you stand watching three men of 101, who were here during the events of 1944, dancing together in Normandy 82 years later.

The whole of D-Day week was rather splendid, despite the weather doing its very best to dampen proceedings!



A rather hot summer!

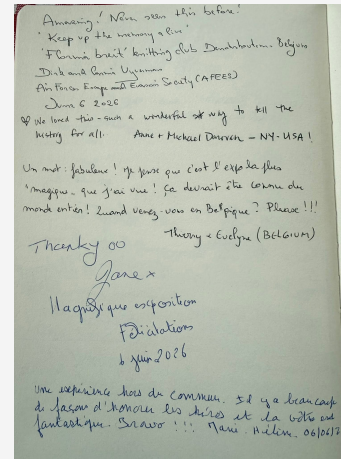
Since then, Normandy has gone completely the other way.

The rain disappeared and we have endured what feels like a relentless heatwave. Fortunately, The Longest Yarn is currently housed inside our beautiful old Norman stone church at Carentan-les-Marais, and when the temperature outside is soaring, those ancient stone walls make the church wonderfully cool.

Visitor numbers, however, have been disappointing and we have now identified several of the reasons.

For some time the Tourist Office had the wrong church listed for us, our large banner didn't make it onto the church as planned, and the promised toilets were not installed. The lack of facilities in particular made retaining volunteers extremely difficult.

We have finally built up a lovely team of volunteers — just as, typically, it is nearly time for us to pack everything away!



Normandy closes — and Northern Ireland beckons

The exhibition here in Normandy will close on **18th September**, when preparations begin for our next adventure.

The Longest Yarn is off to Northern Ireland for almost five months.

For me personally, that makes this next chapter particularly special, as Northern Ireland is where I grew up.

After Northern Ireland, we'll cross back to the mainland and return to **Lichfield**, this time over the Easter period.

Then we're doing something rather different — four days at the huge wool event at **Shepton Mallet**. Around **29,000 people** attend, so putting The Longest Yarn right in front of that many people who already love wool, knitting and crochet should be tremendous fun!

From there we'll head back to **Nothe Fort**, before returning home to Normandy for the summer months.

The diary is filling remarkably quickly, and we are already looking further ahead for new places to take the exhibition. Working out which year I'm talking about is becoming one of my greater challenges — we are now planning so far ahead that I frequently have to remind myself we're still only in 2026!



Meanwhile, Britain at War keeps travelling...

Our second exhibition, **The Longest Yarn — Britain at War**, continues its journey around Britain.

Next stop is **Welshpool**, where Alan and his team have really pushed the boat out. They are creating an entire **1940s and Battle of Britain themed month** around our visit, and we cannot wait to see what they have planned.

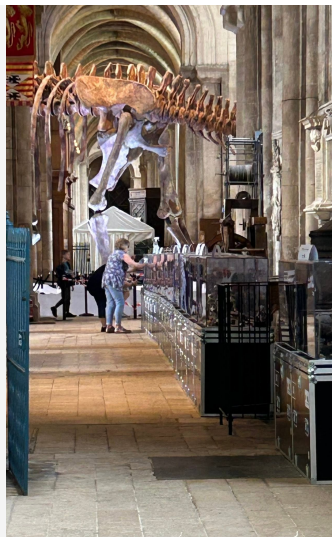
Later in the year comes another rather special moment when the exhibition goes to the **Royal Hospital Chelsea** in November.

To have our work amongst the Chelsea Pensioners is going to be something very special indeed.

After Chelsea, we head north again to **Astley Hall in Chorley**.

There is an enormous amount happening behind the scenes too, and several new ideas are beginning to take shape.





The Longest Yarn is growing up!

Perhaps one of our biggest pieces of news is that we have now appointed a **Chief Executive Officer**.

What started around a kitchen table in Normandy has grown into something none of us could possibly have imagined.

The Longest Yarn is already registered here in France as an Association Loi 1901, but we are also working towards charitable registration in the United Kingdom. That will give us the proper structure we need for the future and enable the organisation to grow beyond the slightly unconventional way we have operated until now!

France and Britain have quite different approaches to veterans and charitable support.

In France there is traditionally much more of an expectation that those who serve will continue to be supported through the state and military system. Veteran charities are beginning to develop, but the culture is very different from Britain.

For that reason, we expect that much of the surplus we are able to generate for veterans' causes will continue to support organisations in the UK.

Here in France, however, we see enormous potential for another part of our mission:

Education.

There is so much we can do.

Not simply teaching the history represented in our panels, but exploring the traditional crafts that created them — knitting, crochet and the extraordinary skills that have been passed from generation to generation.

The Longest Yarn has always been about telling history differently.

Now we are beginning to look at how we can take that idea even further.

And there's more coming...

There are new projects bubbling away, new ideas being developed and some rather exciting announcements that we aren't quite ready to make yet.

What began with a handful of people knitting around my kitchen table has become two major touring exhibitions, life-size figures, hundreds of makers and volunteers, and an ever-growing programme taking us around Britain, Ireland and France.

And we're certainly not finished yet.

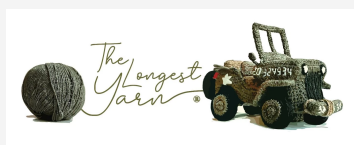
Watch this space — the next chapter of The Longest Yarn is already being knitted...



Tansy Forster

Founder, The Longest Yarn®

Based in Normandy, France



SHARE IT WITH YOUR FRIENDS

Liked this issue? Don't forget to spread it out!



[Privacy](#) [Terms](#) [Press](#) [Blog](#)

The Longest Yarn

48 La Croix Pan, Houesville
Carentan-les-Marais
France

You received this email because you signed up on our website or made a purchase from us.

[Unsubscribe](#)

