The Road to Bayeux

Normandy is dressed in every shade of green

From eau de nil to emerald

From new leaf to deep forest

Fields stretch away from us on each side

And the road is edged with white lace

As cow parsley sways and bobs in the breeze

There is yellow too in the bright gold of buttercups

And the acid yellow of rape seed flowers

We pass through villages of pale stone

With dwellings old and new in the French style of steeply pitched roofs

And shutters at each window

The churches are all ancient, having marked the rites of passage for generations of French people

Sometimes a high arch frames a set of elaborate wrought iron gates Perhaps this is the entrance to some grand estate

Cream coloured cattle munch on the rich grass looking relaxed And somehow knowing

Before long the pointed spires of the cathedral come into view

Do they perhaps suggest needles in a town famous for its tapestry?

Jan Rees May 2023