



HOME FROM HOME

Autumn 2024

The next Devon Twinning Circle Meeting will be the 2024 Annual General Meeting, hosted by Clevedon Twinning Association on **Saturday 12th October 2024** at 2 pm in The Bridge, North End Road, Yatton, BS49 4AU. Lunch will be served at 12.30 pm.

Lunch will be two courses, selected from the menu below at a cost of £15 per person.

Main course

- Steak & ale pie served with chips and peas
- Steak & ale pie served with mashed potato and peas
- Fish & chips served with peas
- Roasted vegetable lasagna and salad

Sweet

- Chocolate fudge cake served warm with vanilla flavour ice cream
- Apple & berry crumble served hot with custard
- Sticky Toffee and Bourbon Pudding with custard

Please complete the online booking form and send full payment, by **Friday 27th September**.

[Click Here For Booking Form](#)

Any problems with the online booking please email Clevedon.Twinning@gmail.com and a member of the committee will be happy to help.

Payment by bank transfer: Clevedon Twinning Association

Account Number: 35368460

Sort Code: 30-18-88

Payment by cash/cheque, please contact Treasurer, Emma Eabry to make arrangements.

clevedon.twinning@gmail.com

Please bring some cash with you on the day for a raffle.

Directions to The Bridge from Junction 20 of the M5 (Clevedon).

Follow signs to Yatton on the B3133 for approximately 3 miles.

The Bridge is on the right-hand side, before you get to Yatton.

Large car park at the rear.

Directions to The Bridge from the A370 at Congresbury.

At the traffic lights, take the B3133 (Smallway) towards Yatton/Clevedon. You will drive past Cadbury Garden Centre and past Cadbury House Hilton Hotel. Drive down through the centre of Yatton, past the precinct and out the other side past the new housing estates, following signs to Clevedon. Stay on the B3133 until you see The Bridge on your left-hand side. Large car park at the rear.

Contributions to the newsletter

Articles are invited for anything relevant to twinning – how you undertake your fundraising, some historic stories and/or photographs from years gone by or just something you think will be entertaining or useful.

Remember you will be entered into the Monica Saunders Competition and could win £50 plus another £50 if judged the overall winner of the year.

Please keep the articles coming.

**Please send articles, reports, photographs by email to babenton52@gmail.com
Or by post to Mr B Benton, 5 Silver Street, Bampton, EX16 9NR**

This newsletter contains many articles for you to read if you wish

Northam visit to Mondeville

Bampton Petanque Court

Bampton Tapestry

Ideas if visiting Exeter or Honiton

***** Competition – Win a prize for yourself *****

Tiverton Newsletter



NORTHAM TWINNING ASSOCIATION



Twinning Visit to Mondeville

Northam Twinning Association has just returned from a 5 day visit to Mondeville, a suburb of Caen, where we not only participated in remembrance ceremonies for the 80th anniversary of D-Day but also celebrated the 50th twinning anniversary of Mondeville and Northam.

The 19 members from Northam who travelled were delighted to be reunited with their friends from Mondeville who had planned a great stay for us. On 5th June we were invited to be present at a moving outdoor remembrance service at Caen Memorial.

On 6th June we were taken by our hosts to various places in and around northern Normandy and in the evening we had a wonderful official dinner preceded by speeches and presentations of gifts to celebrate our 50 years of twinning. The 50 or so people present were entertained by a most accomplished accordionist/singer.

On 7th June we all went to Ver sur Mer to the British Memorial which is where King Charles and Queen Camilla had been the day before for the official D-Day Remembrance Ceremony. The British Memorial is an amazing place and the Standing With Giants installation, specially commissioned for the 80th anniversary of D-Day is incredibly moving. There are 1,475 black metal life-size silhouettes which represent the number of fatalities under British command on 06 June 1944. These silhouettes are placed in the woodlands and grassy slopes covered with white flowers leading down to the sea. There was also a very moving outdoor concert given by the Welsh Male Voice Choir of Pendryusand assisted by the mezzo-soprano Emma Hartsuyker-Brown.

In the evening we enjoyed a farewell buffet and wine although, as we had a very early start the next day, no-one was late to bed.

We returned home on Saturday having had a most enjoyable and moving 5 days. The weather had been kind to us which made everything even better.

What next? Well, Mondeville will visit Northam at the end of June 2025 and we will return the visit in May 2026.

Bampton Pétanque Court

As a result of a collaboration between the Parish Council and the Bampton Twinning Association, the town now has a community Pétanque (Boules) court sited at the Millennium Green.

The council agreed to fund the construction of the court so long as the twinning group performed the work involved.

Due to the very wet spring and early summer, the construction didn't start until late June, but after a concerted effort from members of twinning and other volunteers the court is now there for all of Bampton to use.

Mike Coggins (Twinning) co-ordinated the building of the court, from strimming the area, the ordering of the materials and digger, then mobilising a team of volunteers for the clearing of the site, the building of the outside framework and the raking of the scalps and grit.

A special mention must be given to Paul Cottrell, who gave up his time and digger driving expertise which removed the laborious tasks out of the job.

The first friendly game took place on Saturday 6th July with teams who were involved in making this community facility.



We hope this will become an asset to Bampton.

Bruce Benton

Bampton Twinning Association 50th Anniversary Tapestry

I first proposed producing a “Tapestry” in the Spring of 2023 to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the link with Villers Bocage. The first designs incorporated the English Rose, Fleur de Lys and national flags (these were later discarded in favour of the Devon and Normandy Flags). Images of the towns of Villers Bocage and Bampton were added. The Bampton image was inspired by a picture of Bampton Church which was spotted at a twinning meeting at Dusty and Anita Miller’s house.

Jacqui Simmons drew up the Fleur de Lys for Julie Zillwood to stitch, along with reproducing the English Rose. Julie produced the pictures of Villers Bocage and Bampton, these were made up of fabric applied to a background before mounting onto the tapestry.

The Devon and Normandy flags were sourced, and after more research, we discovered the Bouchier Knot (Bampton knot), learning that the Bouchier family moved to Bampton from Normandy in the 14th century. It therefore made sense to use an image of the “knot” to join the two flags.

After much deliberation and discussion, and moving the images and emblems around, the team was joined by Andrea Russell who made and collated the lettering and numbers for the tapestry.

Julie then started the mammoth task of sewing it all together – Julie also introduced a vine image to act as a surround for the tapestry. A poppy was added on each side in remembrance of the two World Wars in France. It was found that the French use a cornflower as their remembrance emblem, so Julie produced and added a cornflower bloom for the French side of the tapestry.

Once the tapestry was ready for hanging, Michael Coggins turned some wooden finials to fit a pole which was threaded through a sleeve at the back.

The whole tapestry was inspired, constructed and produced by members of Bampton Twinning Association living in the parish of Bampton. My thanks to all those who took part and the support from everyone in Bampton Twinning.



The tapestry was presented to Villers-Bocage during the visit to France in May. The French were very appreciative of the gift, studying the workmanship up close, admiring the intricacy of the appliqué work and impressed with the amount of time and effort devoted to producing it.

A full-size fabric replica of the tapestry has been produced by Ken White Signs and it will be displayed in LARCS alongside the gift of a 50th anniversary painting from Villers-Bocage.

Brian Smith

Visiting Exeter – Idea from Beryl Whiddon
St Nicholas' Priory Exeter

<https://nicholaspriory.com>

It's the oldest building in Exeter and entrance is free!! They sometimes have reasonably priced concerts there and cookery demonstrations. As an example, in August one of their volunteers is doing a 3 hour demonstration of Ikebana, the Sogetsu School, which she learned when in Singapore. Free but donations appreciated!

So it is well worth looking at their website to see what they are doing. If a group was visiting Exeter it could be added to their itinerary.

They could walk downhill from there straight to the Quay, which is interesting. Or they could walk around the Northernhay Gardens in Exeter, the first public garden and opened in the 1612. Free. They also have the first statue/war memorial which includes a woman, plus of course Roman walls. And not forgetting the Guildhall (need to check opening times), the oldest Council building in the country and still used for council meetings (in use for 800 years) free but they will also do guided tours but necessary to pay for these! Exeter can be approached by bus, train Central is in the centre of town (St Davids station its necessary to either walk up (20 minutes or so) or bus.

Visiting Honiton – Ideas from Beryl Whiddon
All Hallows Museum of Lace and local antiquities

<https://www.honitonmuseum.co.uk>

Rosemary Connett, a local lady, demonstrates lace making.

Thelma Hulbert Museum

<https://www.thelmahulbert.com>

This is a lovely gallery and well worth a visit, with an interesting shop

COFFEE/LUNCH various places.

The Vine is a free house with a garden down an alleyway near Boots

4 You from Me, 56 High Street, Honiton. Home cooked food.

Picnic: there is a large playing field at the back of the museum with some seats. Or the other side of the church, going down toward the hall, there are some seats.

Or possibly stop in the countryside at The Pig at Gittisham <https://www.thepighotel.com/at-combe/> The Pig is a beautiful country hotel in a lovely setting. Don't forget to look at the three walled gardens, vegetables, herbs and soft fruit. It's well worth going inside the hotel to have a good look around, at the Bar and the panelled restaurant.

Heading home: stop off at Budleigh Salterton or Beer



Who won the Don Leech tankard in 2022-2023?

A **PRIZE** winner will be picked at random from all correct answers submitted through the “contacts us” page on the website.

Closing date – 30th September 2024

Need help? Check out the website

Tiverton Town Twinning Association Newsletter



Summer 2024



Our Chinon Visitors 2024



En Route

A “bon voyage” nearly wasn’t so bon this time. It seems that our 20 French friends were struggling to find a viable way to travel: coach hire would have cost a massive 8500 euros; a hired minibus could not be brought to the UK under post-Brexit regs; travelling as foot passengers was an option, and so we were poised to collect the party from Plymouth.

Eventually, the Town of Chinon came to the rescue. It owns a minibus (paid for by the advertising on it) and agreed that it could be used for transport to and from Tiverton. At last, we were able to make firm arrangements for the visit.

The party arrived in Plymouth on Thursday June 6th – a memorable date which, this year, was the 80th anniversary of D-Day. 18 guests (Marie Claire having had to stay at home because her husband was very unwell) had left Chinon very early that morning and, after a brief drop-off at Cullompton, they arrived in Tiverton just after 10.00pm. Bonne nuit!



As you can see, everyone recovered in time for the photoshoot at the Golf Club!
(Thank you to Marlon Lozano for the photo)

Le Programme

A deliberately late start on the Friday morning saw some 43 guests, hosts and members, board a coach to the Swan’s Nest Pub at Exminster for an excellent meal of fish, chips and mushy peas. It was noted that mushy peas were enjoyed by nearly all our guests, though many of them stoutly rejected the ketchup!



On to a guided tour of Powderham Castle. Two groups were entertained and informed by guides Felicity and Andy with stories about ghosts, secret doors and a fertility lamp. Ivan Godfrey looked totally exhilarated after his marathon stint as translator for the French group.



The imposing approach to Powderham Castle

🌀 Le Programme (2) 🌀

On Saturday morning we were welcomed at the Town Hall by the Mayor and Mayoress and enjoyed an excellent buffet meal prepared by Wally, Ann and Karen. A well-deserved presentation was made to Jean-Pierre by the Mayor to acknowledge his many years of involvement in, and organisation of this and past visits. He was made an “Honorary Citizen” of Tiverton.



That evening at Cruwys Morchard Village Hall some 50 people enjoyed a meal of curry washed down with beer, lager and cider. Or less spicy alternatives for those not so keen on curry. All expertly cooked by the Ceylon Curry House. The entertainment was a Ceilidh with music by the Lucy Lastic Band accompanied by a variety of amusing antics as “dancers” attempted to follow the instructions of the Caller with varying degrees of success. This evening was a real highlight of the stay, according to a survey carried out by email.

Sunday was a “free” day and guests spent it with their hosts exploring various attractions in the area, or just relaxing in the pleasant weather. Activities and trips included a trip on the canal barge; shopping and enjoying ice creams at Bickleigh Mill; a visit to the Donkey Sanctuary; taking in the sea air at Budleigh Salterton.

Linda described how Mireille craved a cream tea. However, she forgot to cut the scone in half. So she put a large spoonful of cream on the rounded top of the scone, followed by an equally big spoonful of strawberry jam on top! At least it was the Devon way.

🌀 Au Revoir 🌀

That evening, the Farewell Dinner took place at the Tiverton Golf Club where the French, their hosts and members tucked in to a meal of roast beef and Yorkshire Pudding with the usual trimmings. There was some amusement when the “mayonnaise” on the table was found to be horseradish sauce only after being applied lavishly to the prawn cocktail. Naturally, everyone struggled to describe Eton Mess to the French.



After a packed 3-day programme, departure was timed for 8.00am on the Monday morning. Knowing how long it always takes to say “Goodbye”, everyone was told to be there for 7.30am. Half an hour was scarcely sufficient!

Our guests returned to France via a particularly long route and via the Newhaven-Dieppe ferry. Not surprising then that they did not arrive in Chinon until the early hours of Tuesday morning.

🌀 Merci ... 🌀

.... where it’s due. Particularly to twinnors who sent me their reflections on the visit, but especially to John Smith who did so much of the organising and who sent me the large part of the newsletter’s text! John would like to thank everyone involved in the visit, particularly the hosts.

PS Linda was impressed with the translation app on Jean-Pierre’s phone. Can anyone suggest the best app for her to put on her phone and iPad? And, indeed, for any of us to check out.