

# Devon Twinning Circle



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Spring 2017

**Devon Twinning Circle General Meeting  
on Saturday April 22<sup>nd</sup>. 2017.  
The Village Hall, Wrafton, EX33 2BT. At 2pm.**

Directions to the venue see below.

Lunch will be available served at 12:30pm at **£6.50** a head.

**Menu:** - Chicken Chasseur, Selection of Veg, Choice of Desserts  
Vegetarian option available.

*Why not join us for lunch, a chance to meet and talk with other Twin members*

**If you have any dietary needs please advise well in advance.**

A reply slip is below. Would you send it **with PAYMENT by 10<sup>th</sup> April.** Thank you.

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## REPLY SLIP

Please Reply to :-

Mrs.P.O'Hare, 1, Williams Close, Wrafton, Braunton, EX33 2DY. 01271 813534.

Email: pohare1@talktalk.net

I would like to book lunch for \_\_\_\_ person/s at £6.50 a head £ \_\_\_\_

Please tick here for Vegetarian \_\_\_\_ and state how many \_\_\_\_

Special Dietary Needs if any .....

**Please return this slip with your cheque made payable to "Braunton Twinning Organisation" to the above address by April 10<sup>th</sup>. 2017.**

FROM \_\_\_\_\_ ASSOCIATION

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ (If DTC committee member please tick.....)

CONTACT NO. \_\_\_\_\_



## **Directions to Heanton Church Hall, Wrafton EX33 2BT**

From Barnstaple take the A361 to Ilfracombe. The hall is on the main road situated in Wrafton Road, near to the rear of the Williams Arms Pub/ Restaurant. The pub is on the right hand side as you approach Braunton.

### **Chairman's Report**

On a very cold and dreary day we went to Totnes for our DTC meeting. Riverford Bridge was closed so we had to take a diversion around Staverton Station. Visited bits of Devon new to me. A lovely lunch was prepared by Marion Adams and helpers and the deputy mayor of Totnes Rosie Adams was present. The speaker Sue Wyeth talked about the South Hams links with Chernobyl Children's lifeline. It was very interesting and in some ways a bit like twinning. The skittles competition isn't being held this year. I will be retiring as secretary in October after 11 years. Hope to see you in April at Braunton.

*Pat.*



## **Burrator Mathieu Twinning Association**

*From Jenny Gray*

For forty years, from 1976 to 2016, exchanges have taken place between the villages of Mathieu in Normandy and Burrator parish in Devon. This year 25 people made the trip to Mathieu, from 29th April to 2nd May, to take part in the 40th anniversary twinning celebrations.

On arrival we were greeted at the "foyer" or village hall, a place that evokes fond memories for many ex-pupils of Lady Modiford's school, Walkhampton, their parents and teachers. For this was where overnight accommodation was arranged for school visits some years ago.

Programmes showing the weekend's events were handed out and then the travellers went to their hosts' homes for an evening meal.

The next morning, after petit dejeuner, a group visit was made to the Chateau Carrouges. This was a brick-built home, surrounded by a moat, where a king of France had once stayed. A fascinating guided tour (in

English) was followed by a hot lunch served in the guardroom beside a warming fire.

Some of the group went next to a local art and nature attraction where local produce like cider, calvados, jam and honey were on sale.

In the afternoon we wandered around a pretty old spa town called Bagnoles de l' Orne where houses from the "Belle Epoque" (pre - 1914), overlook a lake.

The evening was spent with the host families, sharing a meal, and learning about each other.

On Sunday the day was free to explore the region with our French friends. A variety of attractions were visited: the Bayeux tapestry, the Normandy landing beaches, Caen market, coastal villages and Mathieu itself. A good day was spent enjoying ourselves in the warm sunshine.

At 7pm everyone met together at the foyer for the evening's entertainment. Photograph albums were shared. Some photos dated from 1976. David Reed, former headmaster of Lady Modiford's school, now aged 83, had travelled from Wales to join the party. A selection of photographs was shown on a large screen. Pictures taken over the years highlighted the changes in fashion, hairstyles and appearances, the astounding number of meals we have shared and the happy faces of all those who have been involved.

Special starring roles in the film were had by Ted House, who loved visiting Mathieu, and other participants on both sides who have enjoyed the twinning visits in years gone by. It was with great sadness that we all lamented the loss of Jim Knight's dark hair and youthful good looks. He and David Reed were thanked for their longstanding involvement with the twinning, enabling children from Walkhampton to benefit from learning first-hand about life in France.

The evening continued with a wonderful meal and entertainment from local musicians and dancers in costume. We were all encouraged to take part in some traditional folk dancing, guided by the dancers, and this resulted in a lot of confusion and laughter.

Mike Inman, who was present in 1976 at the first twinning visit, was delighted to make the acquaintance of the twelve-year-old granddaughter of the Mayor of Mathieu at that time.

The current Mayor was given a letter of greeting from the Chairman of Burrator Parish council. He made a speech to the assembled group, translated by Monique Spahn, President of the Mathieu twinning group. Monique gave a speech for the French group and Steve Gray spoke for the English / Scottish.

Both agreed that it was down to the generous support and enthusiasm of the individuals who had taken part that the twinning association had been such a success. Everyone in the room received a gift of a mug from a Normandy designer, inscribed, "La Normandie, je l'ai dans la peau!" or, "I've got Normandy under my skin!". The Burrator group presented the French with an engraved plaque and some children's books.

Three celebration cakes were cut and champagne poured for everyone. The festivities concluded at midnight. This was a very joyful occasion and both groups felt proud to be part of such a memorable achievement. A strong attachment has been maintained, which will hopefully continue into the future.

### **Committee Poem**

Oh, have some pity, I'm on a committee  
Which means that from morning till night,  
We attend and amend and contend and defend  
Without a conclusion in sight.

We confer and concur, we defer and demur,  
And re-iterate all of our thoughts,  
We revise the agenda with frequent addenda,  
And consider a load of reports.

We compose and propose, we suppose and oppose,  
And the points of procedure are fun,  
But though various notions are brought up as motions,  
There's terribly little gets done.

We resolve and absolve, but we never dissolve,  
Since it's out of the question for us.  
What a shattering pity to end our committee  
Where else could we make such a fuss!



### **Call My Bluff Held at Tiverton Football Club**

A good number of people came along to take part in Call My Bluff, John Smith was the Quiz Master and he had made some alterations to how the event was presented. The first round you had to name the inventor of various things – one was knicker elastic and there were four names on the screen for you to pick from – some were humorous and made you laugh.

The second round was as we know Call My Bluff with words of which few of us had ever heard of and the panel of four (Mitch, John Smith Jnr, Pat and John Smith Snr) gave the description and you had to decide which was correct, in this round only you could play your Joker (worth 3 points), there was a break half way through this round for refreshments – soup and a pudding, which we have to thank Jenny and Mitch for the soup, the apple tarts were purchase but excellent, plenty of filling, thanks to those that help with the catering, laying the tables and washing up.

The third and last round was on 'What happened next' – here pictures were beamed on to the screen and then when we had decided we were shown the answer, (example: first

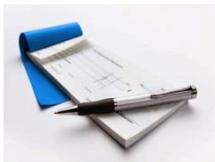
a picture of a toilet second a picture showing a shower fitted above it, not a cistern) quite amusing.

This whole format made for 'Fun Evening' the winning team were presented with boxes of Celebration chocolates.

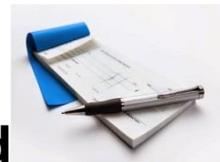
John how you think up all the questions and ideas we do not know but thank you for a very enjoyable evening and keep the ideas coming as we will require another evening like this.

*Should any other Association be interested in holding an evening like this John (Smith) has indicated to me that he would be more than happy to come and run the evening for you. You can contact him by email: [j-smith38@sky.com](mailto:j-smith38@sky.com) (the dash is the small lower one) or telephone 01884 252554*

**Editor.**



## Monica Saunders Award



The winner of the Monica Sanders award for the Winter Newsletter was Yealmpton Twinning Association and they received their cheque of £50 from the Chairman Mrs Pat Sherwood at the January meeting held at Totnes on the 21<sup>st</sup> January 2017.



## Dates & Venues of Meetings for the coming year

**Saturday July 15<sup>th</sup> Newton Abbot**

**Saturday October 14<sup>th</sup> Tiverton AGM**

### Returned Emails:

The following emails have been returned, please let me have your up to date email address. [Jeanaplin@live.co.uk](mailto:Jeanaplin@live.co.uk).

**Starcross:** [Phi.hallett@virgin.net](mailto:Phi.hallett@virgin.net)

## Visit by French Students to Wrington Vale

On a bright, chilly morning in late January a group of twelve post-6<sup>th</sup> form French students, wrapped up against the comparative rigour of an English winter, arrived for a visit organised by the Wrington Twinning Association (part of the Wrington Vale French Connection). The students were from the Lycée Marc-Bloch in Serignan (Languedoc), which provides secondary education for students in our twinned village of Villeneuve-lès-Béziers, just as Churchill serves Wrington. Since the students were following a course of management studies the focus of the visit was local agricultural production.

However, the first stop was Churchill Academy where the group leader could move from email exchanges to personal talks with language staff at the Academy with a view to developing educational collaboration. There was also a warm welcome from the Year 9 Churchill student ambassadors who quickly established a rapport with the visitors as guides on a tour of the school, reinforced when the group were invited to join the singing during a music lesson. However, the day had a tight schedule and the group was soon on the move to the next destination – Thatcher's cider mill in Sandford.



The Thatcher's visit provided a fascinating insight into the latest production techniques at the stunning new facility that, in a seamless process, starts with the apples and ends with wrapped pallets of cider. The students could and did make interesting comparisons with a process with which they are much more familiar back in the South of France – one of the largest wine-making regions in the world. A quick coffee break at the refurbished Railway Inn café-restaurant was followed by a short scenic tour of the Mendips via the Cheddar Gorge, ending with a finger-buffet at The Plough, where the quality and range of the spread was highly appreciated by the food-savvy students. David Simpson joined the group to welcome the students on behalf of Wrington Parish Council. There was however little time to linger since the party were expected at the new dairy unit at Regilbury Park Farm, run by the Alvis family.

At the farm the students were introduced to the integrated production system that gives animal welfare top priority and provides a sustainable and entirely waste-free production cycle. For many of the Languedociens this was their first encounter with dairy livestock and production, and aroused a good deal of interest. Then a short drive to Lye Cross Farm where they observed aspects of the cheese making process and, standing amongst towering stacks of cheese in the storage area, sampled different kinds of cheddar produced at the farm.

All too soon a very informative and enjoyable day came to an end. To judge from the enthusiastic responses of the student group, it provided an experience that will live in the memory as they move into their future careers and many expressed a desire to return in the not-too-distant future. Their enjoyment was shared by the group leaders and, indeed, the members of the twinning association who accompanied the group during the day.

## European Health Insurance Card

*Just a reminder – check that your European Health Insurance Card is up to date*



*(you'll find the date in the right hand corner of the card)*

Renew your EHIC for free at [www.nhs.uk/ehic](http://www.nhs.uk/ehic)

Unofficial websites may charge if you apply through them

## Devon Twinning Circle Travel Insurance 2017

This Policy will insure against Accident, Illness, loss, damage or mishap as defined in the Policy, including incidental holiday travel (known as a Period of Travel) commencing during the Period of Insurance, and having a destination outside of the United Kingdom. Cancellation is operative from the date of booking a trip or the effective date of the Policy.

| <b>Europe only</b> | <b>Up to 4 days</b> | <b>5-7 days</b> | <b>8 to 14 days</b> | <b>15 to 21 days</b> | <b>22 to 31 days</b> |
|--------------------|---------------------|-----------------|---------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| Adult              | £9.00               | £11.00          | £12.00              | £15.00               | £18.00               |
| Child              | £7.00               | £9.00           | £10.00              | £12.00               | £14.00               |

*All Prices include Insurance Tax:* It is further understood and agreed that; In respect of Insured Persons aged 79 years to 83 years, this Insurance excludes all claims arising from physical or mental conditions or disabilities of a recurring or chronic nature, from which an Insured Person suffer and was known to suffer, prior to the inception of this Insurance.

Members over 80 will need to submit their name and DOB to the Insurance Officer.  
Mrs. Pauline Knowles, 43, Greenway Gardens, Tiverton, EX16 5JL 01884 254775  
[dennisknowles123@btinternet.com](mailto:dennisknowles123@btinternet.com)

Policy No NBT 81863 2016

All Claims Should be sent to the insurance officer

The underwriter has agreed that for those over 80 we will just need their name and D O B emailed to [dennisknowles123@btinternet.com](mailto:dennisknowles123@btinternet.com)

We shall not be liable for the following:

1. Claims arising out of any trip which is booked or commenced by an Insured Person: (a) Contrary to medical advice (b) Contrary to health and safety restriction(s) from an airline or carrier with whom the Insured Person has booked to travel (c) To obtain medical treatment or convalescent care (d) After a terminal prognosis has been made.
2. Any claim from an Insured Person who is aged 80 years or over at the effective date of this Policy, unless specifically agreed in writing by Underwriters. In respect of Insured Persons aged 75 years to 79 years, this Insurance excludes all claims arising from physical or mental conditions or disabilities of a recurring or chronic nature, from which an Insured Person suffers and was known to suffer, prior to the inception of this Insurance.



## Information for your visitors

My own Association always gives our visitors an Information Pack; it contains leaflets on the places we plan to visit etc. Tesco's and other super-markets usually have on the way out a rack with various leaflets which you can pick up for free. One that is appreciated by our visitors is 'The complete Guide to Devon' this is because it has a large map of Devon inside and they can or you can for them point out your day journey. Yes many of you might already know this but just in case you don't.

*Editor*

### Devon Twinning Circle Officers and Committee Addresses

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