

Devon Twinning Circle



Home to Home

Summer 2016

Unfortunately my computer crashed and I have had **BIG** problems – losing many files and photographs, hence I have had to try and recover as much information as possible. **If you have sent in an article for the Home to Home newsletter and it has not appeared in this copy can I ask you to re-submit it and I will include it in the Autumn.**

Please keep the articles coming.

Ideas being shared, how you have entertained your twinning guests, raised funds etc. and remember you will be entered into the Monica Sanders Competition and could win £50 + another £50 if judged the overall winner of the year.

Please send articles, reports, photographs by Email to: Jeanaplin@live.co.uk
by post to Mrs J.Aplin, 13 Crowden Crescent, Tiverton, Devon. EX16 4E



Forth Coming Meeting

Devon Twinning Circle General Meeting on Saturday July 16th. 2016. It will be held at **The Sports and Community Hall, Woolsery, EX39 5QT.** at **2pm.** . Lunch will be served at 12:30pm at **£6.50** a head.

The menu will be :-

Honey glazed chicken with green veg. and new potatoes. Dessert Apple pie or Summer Pudding.

Vegetarian option available. If you have any dietary needs please advise well in advance.

We hope you will be able to join us for Lunch. A reply slip is enclosed. Could you send it to:-

Miss A. Sargent, 21, Moreton Park Road, Bideford, EX39 3AU. 01237 475132 with your PAYMENT.

The committee look forward to seeing you and other members of your Association at the meeting. If you are able to wear a badge with your name and Association on please can you do so. It is for better and easier communication with other members. Badges and a pen will be available for you to make one if necessary.

REPLY SLIP

Reply to :-Miss A. Sargent, 21, Moreton Park Road, Bideford, EX39 3AU. 01237 457132.

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 please state

Please return this slip with your cheque made payable
“ Bideford Twinning Association” to the above address by July 8th. 2016.

Your choice of dessert please tick Apple Pie Summer Pudding

FROM _____ ASSOCIATION

NAME _____ (If DTC committee member please tick)

CONTACT NO. _____

Directions to: Woolsey/Woolfardisworthy

Via the M5 torn off at JK27 and take the link road to Barnstaple then *take A39 to Bideford. Go through 3 roundabouts then **after passing the Hoops Inn turn left. Go into village and turn left into Lower Town. Pass the school and pub (Farmers Arms) and keep straight on. The hall is further down this road.

From Exeter either take the A377 to Barnstaple, then as *

Or

Go to Bideford via Torrington as you enter Bideford turn left into Meddon Street it is signed posted to Clovelly.

Then go on left into Clovelly Road, go pass Atlantic village, then turn left onto A39. Then as **

If you have a SatNav then use it EX39 5QT.



Devon Twinning Circle - Travel Insurance

Europe only	Up to 4 days	5-7 days	8 to 14 days	15 to 21 days	22 to 31 days
Adult	£6.17	£8.11	£9.94	£13.07	£15.73
Child	£4.62	£6.05	£7.45	£9.14	£11.80

All Prices include Insurance Tax

Terms and conditions apply for those 75-85 years old

For more information you are asked to contact the Insurance officer.

Mrs. Pauline Knowles, 43, Greenway Gardens, Tiverton, EX16 5JL 01884 254775

Email: dennisknowles123@btinternet.com

BONIFACE LINK ASSOCIATION, CREDITON

(Creditor's other "twinning" association)

I am sure many of your readers are familiar with Creditor's main Twinning Association, if only for their wonderful hospitality when they host meetings of Devon Twinning Circle. You may therefore wonder why the town needs another such organisation. The answer lies in the life of Creditor's patron saint, St. Boniface, born c.680 in the vicinity of Creditor, martyred in Dokkum in the Netherlands and buried in Fulda in Germany.

Some years ago, Creditor Town Council became concerned that there was no organisation in Creditor to handle contacts between the three main Boniface communities. Boniface Link was set up to meet this need. Full twinning arrangements were not felt to be appropriate as there was too great a disparity in size and wealth between the three towns but Creditor has "friendship charters" with both, signed by the respective civic authorities.

Boniface Link exists to help the Council and community to fulfil the obligations of these charters. We are also responsible for dealing with contacts with other communities related to St. Boniface as and when they arise. Despite the different name, what we actually do is therefore so similar to the activities of a twinning association that the Devon Twinning Circle has taken us under its wing, inviting us to its events and providing our insurance. We are only a very small organisation but we welcome contacts from communities associated with St. Boniface and will always do whatever we can to support their interest.

Cullompton Twinning Association

The visit to Plouclalmezeau this year was very short and sweet, with the group of 30 adults plus 2 young children arriving at Roscoff at 8am Friday 29th April after taking the overnight ferry from Plymouth. They returned on Sunday 1st May, weary, overwined, overindulged, but very happy, during the evening of

Sunday 1 May.

The programme was a packed one, starting with traditional Breton snacks and meeting our hosts at the Moulin Neuf Gardens in Ploudalmezeau. The afternoon was spent having lunch en famille and relaxing before we all joined up for our evening meal which included a main course of baby guinea fowl, in between preparing and serving the meal, the chef entertained us on his accordion, playing some lively music which soon enticed the diners to "strut their stuffs"! Probably a good idea due to the amount of food and wine consumed, and this was only the first night.

The following day we were taken to the Chateau de Taureau, an island fort in the Bay of Morlaix, just off the coast at Carantec. The weather was glorious and the boat trip to the Chateau was very pleasant, giving lovely views of the coastline along the way. It was built in the 16th century to repel the English from attacking Morlaix. On such a perfect day, the views from the ramparts were stunning. A leisurely lunch was taken at a restaurant near St Pol de Leon, with panoramic views across fields to the sea. We were taken into Morlaix where a guided tour had been arranged to see the distinctive architecture of this city which prospered from the linen trade. The town is dominated by the viaduct which is 58 metres high and 292 metres long and carries the railway line from Paris to Brest.

In the evening we were guests of Ploudalmezeau Town Hall, at the official dinner, where speeches were made by the Lady Mayoress, Margeurite Lamour, Cullompton Town councillor Camille

Harrison, and our two Chairladies, Yvonne Fers and Diana Speight. Cullompton presented Ploudalmeeau with a plaque representing the history and heritage of our town, one of several which are located around Cullompton.

On the final day, after lunch with the host families, the group left Ploudalmezeau for the journey home to Cullompton after another most enjoyable weekend, with many returning several pounds heavier than when they left.

Plans are afoot for 2017 which will be the 40th Anniversary of twinning between our two towns.

OTTERY TWINNING CELEBRATES 40 YEARS!

The last few weeks have been busy time for Ottery St Mary twinners, as 2016 marks 40 years since the formation of the Ottery St. Mary Twinning Association. The formal signing of twinning charters between ourselves and the Normandy town of Pont l'Évêque followed in 1977.

To mark these 40 years since the town first linked up with Pont l'Évêque, association members have published a book of 'Favourite Recipes'. The 40 recipes in the book have been contributed by twinning members in each of Ottery's twin towns— Pont l'Évêque in France and Ilsfeld in Germany - as well as Ottery itself.

The association collaborated with the King's School, Ottery to launch a competition for cover design. Artwork submitted by Holly Middleton was chosen for the cover of the book and a further 6 designs were selected to illustrate the different sections.

The book was formally launched both at the King's School and at the Curious Otter Bookshop during the last week in April

(First picture shows Sylvia Gehring, the book's editor, presenting the prize of a book token to Holly.

Second picture shows some of the other artists with their page design, together with members of the twinning committee.)

Then, on Thursday 5th May, a party of 36 visitors from Pont l'Évêque arrived for a weekend of celebration: the newly refurbished Station Centre was the setting for a reception and buffet supper provided by Twinning Association members. Ottery's Mayor, Glyn Dobson, and Mark Rix, Chairman of the twinning committee, gave speeches of welcome, to which Pont l'Évêque twinning's president, Catherine Carré, responded.

The following day, after a good night's sleep in the homes of their hosts, the 10 French children in the party were welcomed into the King's School for a morning's lessons. Meanwhile their parents and others were treated to coffee and a tour of Ottery's historic St. Mary's Church.

The weekend continued with a mix of activities – hosts taking their guests to Sidmouth, Dartmoor, Dartmouth and other places of interest in our beautiful county. A bilingual Redcoats tour of Exeter was also organised, which both French and English greatly enjoyed.

The culmination of festivities was on the Saturday evening when 82 members and friends gathered at West Hill Village Hall to celebrate in appropriate manner 40 years of friendship: The hall, enhanced with internal marquee and twinkling fairy lights, and decorated for the occasion with red, white and blue bunting and national flags, proved a perfect setting for a delightful cabaret by Julia Green, who got the whole company singing, and a delicious meal by Simon Benn. During the evening, Glyn

Dobson, Mayor of Ottery, presented an engraved clock, commemorating 40 years of friendship, as a gift from Ottery Town Council to the Mayor and Town Council of Pont l'Évêque.

The warmth and enthusiasm of all present that evening was a perfect demonstration that the entente cordiale continues to flourish. It was with deep regret that we said our farewells the following morning.

Here's to the next 40 years!

Sylvia Gehring, French liaison officer for Ottery St. Mary Twinning Association

Crediton Twinning Pig Racing Event a big success for FORCE

This Event organised by Crediton Twinning Association took place at The Masonic Hall, Crediton on Saturday 19th March when about 80 people attended. The Baker Family (Bill and Linda) Pig Racing Stables provided an exciting and enjoyable Event with six races sponsored by amongst others Kirton Metalcraft, Chinns, Crediton Club and the Three Little Pigs. The entrance ticket included a meal prepared by Lorraine Wood and Margaret Philips of Sausages and Mash which was enjoyed by all with an option of onion gravy and sauce. There was a steady stream of 'punters' at the Tote table where Paul Brewer and Clive Rowlands assisted head Tote operator Linda Baker and the successful ones enjoyed a modest payout on the night. A Raffle organised by Pat Sherwood proved very popular and added to the income. Support from Members of the Crediton 'Friends of FORCE' was appreciated and the photo shows them with the Chairman of the Twinning Association, Jenni Pitts. The Bar was staffed primarily by Valerie Brewer and Paul Evans with further help from Marion Evans. Peter Brewer was MC and provided commentary on each of the Races and the final race gave an opportunity to buy a pig on the night with the successful owner receiving 50% of the purchase income. Jenni Pitts thanked everyone for supporting the event and her team who had worked so hard to make it a success.

Exeter Yaroslavl Social and Quiz Evening

including Russian Comedy Sketch

On 22 March we enjoyed a fun packed evening at St. James Church Hall. The evening comprised a Quiz, a humorous Russian sketch and a delicious meal. About 35 members and guests attended.

To start the evening, six of us performed a short sketch or little play directed by Elena, one of our Russian members. This was based on a Russian poem called «Багаж» (Baggage) about a lady at a railway station, her curious collection of luggage, her little yappy dog....and the misfortune that occurs. Elena gave the audience a brief introduction in English then the six performed in Russian. The performance was up to our Director's usual standard - good and funny. The Actors taking part were mainly the stars from the previous production "The Enormous Turnip", and acted their parts with Gusto!

Joyce and John had done a tremendous amount of work on the quiz which had many questions including some about Russia, general knowledge and pictures of people. They ran it very efficiently, throughout it was very entertaining and challenging. It was supplemented by the picture questions and "matching the pairs". The results were close and each member of the winning team received a prize.

As for the Supper - what an enormous spread and so delicious - all brought by us and our guests to share. It was appreciated by all.

Finally, Raffle commenced, with even more prizes.

The aim was to at least cover our costs, including the hire of the hall. This we did plus making a useful addition to association funds.

The event was very stimulating and enjoyable. Many thanks are due to Marilyn for her help with booking the hall and clearing up during the quiz; to Elena for coaxing the sketch team into appropriate action; the players themselves; Joyce and John for hours of preparation; Angela and Miriam for running the raffle, and everyone who helped set up the hall, wash up dishes and tidy up afterwards.

All in all a wonderful evening

Angela Samuel and Clare Meiklejohn - Exeter Yaroslavl Twinning Association

Crewkerne & District Twinning Association

On the 1st/5th April the Crewkerne and District Twinning Association visited both their twin towns for anniversary celebrations the towns are about 20 minutes apart from each other.

Our first town is IGNY about 12 miles south west of Paris for the 40 year celebration and BURES SUR YVETTE which is about a 20 minute drive to celebrate 10 years of friendship.

Both towns went to huge amounts of work to decorate and include british food tasting and cider drinking which we took for them.

Two days were spent just looking at and visiting both towns with the first in Bures where the Mayor gave a lunch time of canapes and wine. We presented them with a photo album made by one of our members of Crewkerne and the surrounding area with details of milage from our town.

The main event was in Igny as it was our first town we all attended the evening meal and presented them with a Cokerell made of scapped metals and polished this was made and donated by Geroge Hider of Merriott which was very well received. He has a buisness making these for many places and large gardens all over the country.

The trip on sunday we visited the New museum of Louis Vuitton which is very new and the building is the most popular as it has a garden attached to it for the public.

Monday many people went to differrent places most visited Paris with a boat trip.

June 11th in Crewkerne the celebrations continue with some of the French attending a day of events ending with proms in the park for the Queens 90th Birhday and 40 years of Twinning.

Our Mayor was unable to attend the French weekend so we were honoured to have Mike Best along as a long term member as he is South Somerset District Council Chairman.

Bampton Twinning Association

Visit to Villers-Bocage – 29th April to 2nd May 2016

Thirty-two adults and children set off from Bampton at 4:30 a.m. on the Friday morning. The ferry from Poole arrived on time at Cherbourg, which allowed us a spare hour or so in our journey time to Villers-Bocage so a stop for coffee was proposed to the driver of the Kingdoms Coach. We travelled on and on, passing through Bayeux, before we stopped in Tilly-sur-Seulles that is famous for a battle between the British and Germans in 1944. A couple of bars in the town were then visited for a coffee or something a little stronger. We arrived in Villers-Bocage right on schedule, at 5 p.m., meeting up with 6 other Bampton Twinners who had arrived by their own transport. The 'virgin' twinners were allowed off the coach first so that they could take the tentative first steps in getting acquainted with their new French chums. They were quickly followed by the rest of the travellers who raced off the

coach, meeting up with our hosts with lots of hugs and kissing of cheeks. The first activity of the weekend was to attend the Hotel de Ville where the Mayor of Villers-Bocage welcomed us. The Mayor gave a speech (in French) that was capably translated by one of our members. We were then offered nibbles and local Cidre (with or without Cassis). It was good to see that the direction sign that we had presented to Villers-Bocage to celebrate our 40th anniversary in 2014 had been erected in the town square outside the Town Hall.



It was then time to go to the homes of the individual hosts for family updates, drinks and a meal.

Saturday was a free day to spend time with our families. In the evening we attended a dinner dance with our hosts at a local village hall in Monts en Bessin. After an aperitif of sparkling wine, a wonderful four-course meal was provided before dancing off the calories late into the night.

Late Sunday morning, everyone met up in Bayeux for a 3-course lunch prior to taking a short drive to a farmyard where we were welcomed by the sight of twenty or so multi-coloured vintage Citroen 2CV's, the French farmer's favourite car. This "umbrella on four wheels" was famously heralded as being able to be driven across a ploughed field without breaking the eggs it was carrying. We were given an entertaining and lengthy training session (in French) on how to perform gear changes with the weird dashboard gearstick. "For 2nd gear you push the stick in fully but not all the way as that is reverse!" The only instruction for using the handbrake was 'Do not use the handbrake'. Another important instruction was "Do not touch the radio" as it was the method of communication between our leader and our cars. We piled into the 2CV's and set off on public roads and spent the next 5 hours touring around the area with a few stops at historic and beautiful places. Our last stop was to sample local foods (whelks and other crustaceans) and drinks (cidre and apple juice). The majority of people had a go at driving with only one or two stalling incidents – well it is tricky making a hill start without being able to use the handbrake! It was a brilliant way to spend a sunny afternoon in Normandy where the locals waved to us as we passed by and often the traffic ped (even bikers) to allow us to keep in convoy.

In the evening we returned to the hall in Monts en Bessin for an informal buffet before we returned to our host's homes for one final sleep before our mid morning departure back to the ferry.

At 10:30 a.m. on Monday, after long goodbyes, we clambered aboard our coach to set off to Cherbourg. A stop was made en route at the hypermarket to stock up with wine and beer and to have lunch.

It was a comfortable sail back to Portsmouth on the fast ferry, arriving at 7:00 p.m. for the final leg of our journey back to Bampton by 10:15 p.m. The boxes of drink were loaded into the back of our cars before the drive home for the weary but enriched travellers.

It won't be long before we are hosting our French 'amis' at the end of April.

Bruce Benton - Bampton Twinning Association

Wembury Parish Twinning Association

The hosting of a DTC meeting in April prompted this report on our activities, which I confess we have not offered before. It was a pleasure to receive the committee and the other twinners who came for lunch and the afternoon general meeting. In passing can I offer thanks again to the speaker Ian Sherriff, the Peninsula Medical School academic lead on dementia. He entertained, even amused us at times without trivialising the subject, but most of all he totally engaged us in the serious matter of dementia care.

Looking back over the last two-year cycle, the alternating visits went well. In 2015 it was the turn of our partners from Locmaria Plouzané to visit us and on Thursday evening 14th May we picked up 36 guests from the Plymouth ferryport. This was the second largest visiting party since we started in 1981.

In fact the ferry was delayed so, what with talking to old friends or getting to know new ones, everyone seemed to have got to bed pretty late. Despite that, everyone was there in good time to leave by coach for Dartmouth next morning. From Dartmouth we went by ferry to Greenway, Agatha Christie's home, now National Trust. On the way home we stopped at the Dartmoor Lodge Hotel, Ashburton, for a much appreciated dinner. (We've been there before and we would do so again.) All agreed it was an excellent day and we were lucky with the weather.

On the Saturday we had a slower start, meeting at the Royal Corinthian Yacht Club for lunch, and what a view over Plymouth Sound for our guests! It was good to see the table of nine charming French and English teenagers (an exceptional number of youngsters for us) all getting on so well together. There was some time for shopping, sight-seeing, the folk festival around the Barbican area, or just a rest before the early evening reception in the Village Hall. After the customary speeches and dinner, we had a curling competition (on roller-bearings, not on ice!). Some of us had never seen this before and I don't think any of the French had. With much hilarity, not to mention a bit of gamesmanship, it really made the evening.

Sunday was a free day, with various small groups getting together for walks, picnics, etc. There were plenty of festive meals around the parish that evening, before our guests set off on their overnight voyage to Roscoff. A great weekend all round, with tired but smiling faces at the end of it.

It has to be said that, although we do have some younger members, by and large we are an ageing association and we pace ourselves rather more than we did in earlier years with late-night parties, early morning starts and even fuller programmes of events. And having a balanced programme, with just one long day and a fair bit of 'flexi' (ie potential resting) time, was a characteristic of our 2016 visit to Locmaria Plouzané, just as much as theirs' to us in 2015.

On Friday 6th May this year, 22 of us took an early day sailing to Roscoff, arriving in good time to settle in with our Locmaria Plouzané hosts and be in the Salle des Citoyens for drinks and speeches, then have dinner with hosts.



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This newsletter is the best I can produce, hopefully now my computer is up and working again I'll be able to do better next time. I apologise to anyone that has received it and has asked for their name to be removed or have given me a new email address, I have not yet worked out how to update my group email addresses and as time is at a premium to get it out I am just going ahead and sending. Two weeks without my computer, followed by a visit from my daughter and family and then two weeks holiday has rather pushed me into a corner!!

