

# Devon Twinning Circle



## Home to Home

Winter2013

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### Report on our Annual General Meeting at Newton Abbot 19<sup>th</sup> October 2013

*From the Chairman Josie Mardon.*

Twinning Representatives from groups all over Devon and Somerset met in St Luke's' Church Hall, Newton Abbot for the Annual General Meeting all having navigated their way through the vast array of road works and rows of cones which one day will reveal a road system without miles of traffic jams.

Any journey frustrations were immediately erased by our warm welcome from the members of Newton Abbot Twinning.

A delicious 'sit down' and 'waitress service' meal was provided. Soup, chicken and ham casserole with vegetables followed by an apple crumble to die for! Then tea or coffee was served. Many thanks go to the committee members who worked so hard to produce such a lovely spread and show such hospitality to everyone.

Having eaten far too much the room was re-arranged for the AGM.

We were welcomed by Neville Trivett chair of Newton Abbot, ably assisted by James Stewart their treasurer, and then the afternoon speaker was introduced.

Dr. Jonathan Mackintosh, from Plymouth University gave an illustrated talk about the plans for a Devon-Japan festival and celebration which will commemorate the 400 year anniversary of trade and cultural links with Nagasaki. He outlined some of the ideas under discussion, which included the arrival of a tall ship carrying the Mayors of Nagasaki and Hirado. Further information will be sent to us and several members were able to offer ideas of assistance.

Members were shown an imaginative card illustrating a hand printed panel of appropriate words connecting with twinning. This seems to be a very good idea for a gift for twin towns presents. Most groups took the publicity card back to their groups. No doubt the artist will be inundated with orders.

The AGM proceeded with reports from all the officers on the committee, ending in the presentation of the Monica Saunders Award, to be shared this year by Tiverton and Crediton. The format for the competition will be the same in 2014, but from 2015 the prizes will be three equal amounts given to the best articles appearing in the Home to Home magazine.

The afternoon ended with tea and biscuits and with the sunshine beaming down on us we all made our way back home.

Thank you to Newton Abbot for a very successful AGM. We look forward to meeting at St Luke's again and next time we shall be arriving by the new motoring system.

## Forth coming meetings 2014

**Devon Twinning General Meeting on Saturday January 18<sup>th</sup>. 2014.** It will be held at **The Village Hall, Station Road, Bow, EX17 6HU** at **2pm**. Lunch will be served at 12:30pm at **£6.50** a head.

The menu will be Pate, Beef/Chicken Casserole, Selection of desserts.

**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. Please book with: Mrs.U.Hobbs, 1,Lands End, Cottage, Coleford, Crediton, EX17 5DQ. 01363 82577 with your payment. by January 11<sup>th</sup>. 2014.**

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.

**April 19<sup>th</sup> Exeter July 21<sup>st</sup> Ilfracombe October 18<sup>th</sup> Crediton**



## Monica Sanders Trophy

Winners for 2013  
Tiverton & Crediton share the Trophy



Chairman Josie Mardon presenting the Monica Sanders Trophy to Jean Aplin (Tiverton) and Pat Sherwood (Crediton) At the AGM  
Besides sharing the trophy they were each presented with a cheque for £50.00

The Monica Trophy shall be awarded each year to the Association who, in the opinion of the committee, has made the most notable contribution to twinning in Devon during the past year. There were only two entries this year, Tiverton and Crediton. This is why the committee put it to the members at the AGM that the criteria been changed, so from **2015** it will be awarded to the three best articles in the Home to Home Newsletter.

***Past winners have been:-***

2006 Ipplepen 2007 Kingsteignton 2008 Exeter Yaroslav jointly with Chittlehampton  
2009 Ottery St Mary 2010 Exeter Twinning Circle 2011 Bow 2012 Chittlehampton.  
2013 Crediton jointly with Tiverton.

## **Observations on the Monica Saunders Trophy**

Frequently the emphasis in the submissions has been on activities for a single particular visit or event, and there have been some good ones, but perhaps the scope should be wider. To this end here are some suggestions which might help/guide future applicants:-

### **Additional criteria that might be promulgated to assist in compiling applications for the Monica Saunders Trophy.**

- Try and include activities from a whole year
- Outreach at least to the local community, if not farther afield
- Involvement with, or of, any of the following:-

Local business / Commerce – Museums – Libraries - Schools /colleges - Local council - Chamber of Trade - Local clubs / associations - Other twinning associations - Church groups Charities

- Description of a single outstanding visit **could** still qualify on its own but might be enhanced with some of the above .
- Include something which enhances the idea of twinning.
- Encourage younger children to enter.
- Include something to raise the profile of twinning
- Finally, assuming a good package has been put together try and ensure that the **presentation** is of high quality with graphics, enclosures, explanation and commentary.

## **So come on all you Twinning Associations make a special effort and enter in 2014**

### ***The rules are:***

A 3 person subcommittee to consider the entries.

The cut-off date for event content for entries to be January 1<sup>st</sup> - December 31<sup>st</sup> 2013

The deadline for entries to be sent to the secretary by March 31<sup>st</sup> 2014

The cup will be presented at AGM in October.

The DTC will be responsible for engraving the cup and the winners name will be on it when presented.

The cup to be returned to the secretary by July 31<sup>st</sup>. each year.

The subcommittee to be appointed at the April Meeting.

Beside the trophy there will be a prize of £150 awarded at the discretion of the committee.

**Please send your entries to the secretary:-**

MRS. P. SHERWOOD, LITTLEOVER, DEAN STREET, CREDITON, EX17 3EN

*By 31<sup>st</sup> March 2014*



**Silverton Twinners discovered outside a bar in St Thegonnec**



David and I were headed for France. A two and a half week trip in the camper van which was to take us approximately two and a half thousand miles. First stop was Le Chatre where a Luthiers festival was taking place then on to Puy la Roque near Toulouse to visit some friends. En route we stopped off at 'The Village of Martyrs' Oradour Glane, a very poignant experience and one I would recommend if you happen to be in that area.

Now, from here the original plan was to shoot across to meet up with some friends who were holidaying in Biarritz. But big change in these plans after the visit from our twinners in June. Caroline and Daniel who were staying with me, let it slip that they have a big music festival in Carhaix – very near St Thegonnec and that this years' were Neil Young and Carlos Santana. Amidst a flurry of excitement, tickets were booked, friends in Biarritz were cancelled (after all they only live in Reading so we can see them anytime!) and le Vieilles Charrues festival scheduled in.

Our trek from Puy La Roque to Carhaix allowed us a couple of days in Quiberon, one of my very favourite places. Camping in a car park on the Cote Sauvage, bathing in the sea and breakfasting on the beach – Heaven.

On to Carhaix and a tremendous festival in unbelievable heat. The only relief from the sun being the enormous hoses that were drenching the crowd from the front of the stages to keep us cool. Neil Young was awesome and Santana – well – magnificent.

Being very close to St Thegonnec we decided to make a flying visit to some of our friends there.

Unfortunately we had not made any plans or informed anyone that we would be coming, so we txt

our secretary to ask for some phone numbers. We were informed that we only had e mail numbers and of course being in a camper with no internet facilities we had no way of contacting them. But we decided to carry on and see if we just happened across anybody we knew when we got there. We parked ourselves at a table outside La Loup bar in the centre of town and gave off positive vibes about being found. Ten minutes later Florence drove by from the swimming pool with her boys Victor and Luke in the car. Their family had stayed with David on the previous visit and so the boys were excited and surprised to spot David and Karen sat outside the local bar. SO – we had been discovered. Florence did a hasty u turn and very kindly invited us to her home for lunch.. We ended up spending two fabulous days in their company and were also able to catch up with some of our other twinnings while we were there.

We left laden with bottles of local cider – of course.

This really summed up the spirit of twinning for us and we look forward to impromptu visits from our French friends in the future as well as the organized ones.

*Karen Goldby*

*Silverton Village Twinning*

## **Brampford Speke Twinning Barn Dance**

*From Pat Brazil*

In August we held a Barn Dance and barbecue with bar and were delighted to welcome over eighty people. We were also thrilled to welcome a French couple who had done a house swap in the village and a couple of holidaymakers who were camping nearby. Just goes to show what the power of advertising can do!



The evening was a lot of fun in spite of the rain and everybody danced and enjoyed the refreshments. Even the caller was impressed at the number of and standard of people who danced and the general comment was ..... A Barn Dance in a real barn!

## **The Mayor's Bear joins Honiton Twinnings in Gronau**

*A report sent in by Roger Sleeman*

Honiton's twin town Gronau recently held its annual Weinfest and nine members of the Honiton Twinning Association travelled to Germany to join the celebrations. The Weinfest is a festival of music, food and drink that takes place in the main square in the centre of the town. The event occupies a full weekend towards the end of August and seems to be visited by most of the town's population.

A special guest at this year's Weinfest was Diddi, the Mayor's bear. The weekend began on Friday evening, with an exchange of gifts between the two towns. Diddi assisted Lindsay Hyslop, chairman of Honiton Twinning Association, in making a presentation. The visitors were treated to a barbecue, with a display of music and dancing given by a group visiting from Sweden.

On Saturday morning the group set off for the nearby town of Hameln, famous for the story of the Pied Piper, which is based on a real event that occurred in the town in June 1284. A guided tour through Hameln's beautiful streets was followed by a restaurant lunch.

One of the highlights of the Weinfest is a road race around the streets of Gronau. Jennie Sleeman, a member of the Honiton Running Club, took part in the 5Km run and finished in a commendable time.

Throughout the weekend there were opportunities for the visitors from Honiton to sample wines from many regions of Germany and to enjoy coffee and wonderful cakes!

One of the traditions of the Weinfest is for motorbike riders to congregate on Sunday morning to attend a special service in the church, adjacent to the main square. At the end of the church service a crowd gathers to watch the motorbikes leave the town in convey. There were more than 140 of them and they made quite a spectacle!

Away from the Weinfest, the visitors from Honiton were able to relax at the homes of their hosts and enjoy wonderful German hospitality. Twinning visits are quite unlike any other holiday, offering unique opportunities to experience daily life in continental towns.

Exchange of Gifts



*Exchange of Gifts*



**This newsletter is available by email.**

If you would like to receive this newsletter by email please send your details to [Jeanaplin@live.co.uk](mailto:Jeanaplin@live.co.uk) and you will be added to our email list, you can then easily send it to your members that have an email address, thus increasing our circulation.

**Please keep the articles coming in.**

It is what makes the newsletter



Please send articles, reports, photographs by Email to: [Jeanaplin@live.co.uk](mailto:Jeanaplin@live.co.uk)  
or by post to Mrs J.Aplin, 13 Crowden Crescent, Tiverton, Devon. EX16 4ET



## **Travel Insurance**



***No price increase***

***No Age Limit***

Area 1 – Great Britain, Northern Island, Isle of Man and the Channel Islands.  
Europe, Madeira, Canary Islands and those parts of countries bordering the  
Mediterranean

Area 2 – Elsewhere in the World

### **Rating Per Person for Area 1.**

	<b>1-3 Days</b>	<b>4-5 Days</b>	<b>6-9 Days</b>	<b>10 - 14 Days</b>	<b>15 - 21 Days</b>	<b>22 - 31 Days</b>
Adult	£7.00	£10.27	£11.43	£12.60	£14.69	£18.78
Child	£5.25	£7.35	£7.58	£7.93	£10.22	£13.48

\* Please note that Child rates apply to anyone under the age of 16 years

\* All the above prices are inclusive of Insurance Premium Tax at 6%

*~If using holiday insurance under your bank or credit card please check that you really are covered,  
read the small print because some say that you must have paid for at least part of your holiday using  
the card, also children are not covered unless travelling with their parents.*

**Contact: Mrs Pauline Knowles (Insurance Officer)**

**Email: [DennisKnowles123@btinternet.com](mailto:DennisKnowles123@btinternet.com) Tel: 01884 254775**

**43 Greenaway Gardens, Tiverton EX16 5JL**

***Christmas Greeting to you all***



## Exeter Yaroslavl Twinning Association – 2013 Russia Outward Visit *My Diary By Peter Barker*

Early on Monday morning our group flew from Gatwick to Moscow on the new EasyJet service. Alexandra Melnikova was waiting for us at Moscow Domodedova Airport and we set off by mini-bus to travel the 180 miles to Yaroslavl, Exeter's Russian twin City, with a stop at the café in Peroslav where they make those pancakes you could die for.

As always, we had a busy programme in Yaroslavl, with something for everyone. On Tuesday my visit got off to a wonderful start, when Nicholas (our group leader) and I went along to meet the Russian Military Veterans. We met warm friendly people; there was conversation, songs, exchange of gifts and for me a personal first when I shared toasts with not one but three Generals.



Peter and Nicholas with Russian Veterans

On leaving the veterans we encountered a wedding party. Possibly emboldened by the vodka toasts, I asked if I could have a picture. The bride and groom replied in perfect English that they would be delighted, so now I have a prized photograph of us together.

That evening we attended an Orchestral Concert of music by Mozart, Rachmaninov and Prokofiev. The orchestra featured local musicians and soloists under a conductor from Moscow, and they achieved a truly top-class standard of musicianship.

For Wednesday, there was a countryside excursion. It featured a visit to Father Frost's Factory, where we painted toys and played lively team games. Some of our hosts brought their children who clearly enjoyed the visit. I believe that we all enjoyed the day, because those of us not young in years are young at heart!

On our return to Yaroslavl, my evening was rounded-off with a trip on the Volga in a Russian friend's private motor-boat, then a sauna and a barbeque. The Russian sauna is quite something, but not for the faint-hearted. Whatever you have read about a Russian sauna is true; fantastically hot steam, birch twigs, but, being summer, the dive into snow was replaced by dousing in bitterly cold water!



Belfry, Rostov Cathedral

On Thursday we toured the Baltika Brewery and then tasted their wide selection of beers. Then off to the lively Welcome Party where we enjoyed a generous buffet, conversation, speeches and songs. On Friday we went to Rostov, where we first visited a monastery, followed by a lovely lunch in the refectory. After the lunch we went to Rostov Kremlin, which is an Onion Dome extravaganza and a location in the famous Russian film "Ivan Vassilyevich changes his job"!

The weekend was free time with hosts. On Saturday I spent a pleasant afternoon with my hosts' retired parents who were at their dacha in the country. On Sunday I was taken to witness something I had never seen before: a "Flash Mob" (where an extremely large number of young people suddenly assemble and dance. This was followed by a well-organised air show over the River Volga. Then to conclude we had a great meal at Maneki wok-café or noodle-bar.

Monday we travelled to Rybinsk, a city once closed to foreigners, took in the cathedral, the museum, an excellent restaurant for lunch and then on to "Soviet Era", a fascinating museum about life in Russia during the Communist era.



Tuesday was our last full day. After a final stroll around central Yaroslavl, which involved much photography, we went to "Exeter House", for presentation to prize-winners in the "English Language Project" competition for school students. On completion of the prize-giving, a Yaroslavl City Hall official arrived to lead a round-table discussion about ideas for future twinning. Once we had shared our ideas we were finally off to the al-fresco

"Swifts" Russian Air Force Aerobatic Team

The "Farewell Party". As throughout most of our visit the weather was ideal - warm and sunny. On Wednesday I said goodbye to my hosts Alexandra and Dimitri Krotik and, of course, their cat, Zeus. Then sadly back to Moscow for our flight home, but with a final en route visit to that Pereslavl Café for a final plate of those pancakes

Peter Barker:

*If you are interesting in Russian twinning please contact me [Peter@peterbarker.plus.com](mailto:Peter@peterbarker.plus.com)*



**Bideford in Landivisiau May 2011**

*This little piggy didn't go to market!*