

# Devon Twinning Circle



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Summer 2012 Issue

### Insurance news

2012 Rate chart below

Rating per Person;

AREA 1	1-3 days	4-5 days	6-9 days	10-14 days	15-21 days	22-31 days
Adult	£6.60	£9.68	£10.78	£11.88	£13.86	£17.71
Child	£4.95	£6.93	£7.15	£7.48	£9.46	£12.71

**Plus 6% Insurance tax**

*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 traveling with their parents.  
These are very favorable premiums.*

Please do not email Dennis a list of members travelling and send the cheque separately; the two must arrive together in the post.

Contact Dennis Knowles (Insurance Officer)

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

43 Greenway Gardens, Tiverton. EX16 5JL (**note new email & address**)

### General Meeting held on Saturday 21st April 2012 at Littleham Leisure Centre, Exmouth at 2 pm.

Before the meeting lunch was served by members of Exmouth Twinning Association.

The meeting started at 2 pm, The Chairman of Exmouth Twinning Association apologies as due to a misunderstanding there would not be a speaker, however he more than filled the slot himself by telling us how Exmouth entertained their visitors. For the coming visit they are to take their guests to Kent's Caverns, Torquay and for the sum of £17 are getting a tour of the caves (20.30 hours) and a sit down dinner after for £17.00 a head.- they were making it their Gala dinner, speeches, gift exchanges etc. sounds a great idea Kent's caverns have a good size dining room and wedding receptions are held there Also planned is a visit to Dingle's Fairground Heritage Centre at Lifton (see their website) where you can ride on the bumper cars, play the organ etc. Adults are £8.00 but groups get a discount. Here there is also a restaurant and picnic tables if you wish to take your own food. This lead to others

present to speak on how they entertained their guests and how they raised funds to pay for it. Memory slips my mind on whom it was but they put a request out for paperback books and sold them on raising near on £2000 – however they did say lifting and storing the books was a bit of a problem so they modified the way they worked for the next year. Bideford had done a treasure hunt around the town and this was greatly enjoyed and cost very little. It is these exchange of ideas that make these meetings so worthwhile.

Secretary Pat Sherwood read to the meeting an article from the Daily Mail on new driving requirements which will take place in France from July onwards. Like having to carry two breathalyzers, yellow jacket, triangle etc. See more details in separate article in this newsletter. Amendments were made to the constitution' such Twinning Associations in the county of Devon and neighboring areas'

## **Date and venue of next meeting is Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> July at Umberleigh Village Hall**

*Hosted by Chittlehampton Twinning Association*

**Lunch at 12.30 Meeting starts 2 pm.**

**Menu:** *A selection of Cold Meats/Salads/Chutneys etc. to be served with potatoes – Vegetable Quiche for Vegetarians Assorted Home-made Desserts, including warm Devonshire Apple Pie. Cost £6.50 per head.*

*Fruit Juice and Wine will be available to purchase and there will be a speaker*

*(Mr Trevor Wilson - 'Peeking at Penguins')*

**Booking for lunch: All welcome**

*Please reply to Mrs Edna Ford, Ashcroft, Umberleigh. EX37 9AS with payment by 14<sup>th</sup> July. Cheques made payable to 'Chittlehampton Twinning Association.*

### **Directions to Umberleigh**

A361 from Tiverton through South Molton and take the B3227(Torrington Road) to Umberleigh. On approaching the village the Village Hall is on the left hand side by the Railway Station. From Exeter/Barnstaple take the 4377 to Umberleigh across the River Bridge, bear left and the Hall is on the right by the Railway Station.

### **Meeting Dates**

*Oct 20<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting-Clovelly      January 2013 General Meeting-Tiverton  
July 20<sup>th</sup>                      Still to be filled                      Oct 19<sup>th</sup> General Meeting-Newton Abbot*



## **@ Receiving this newsletter by email @**



We are now happy to send you a copy of the newsletter by email; you will also still receive a copy by post.

The advantage of getting it via email is that at a click you can send a copy to all of your members that you have on your email list, giving the newsletter a much wider circulation.

### ***The following Associations now receive a copy by email:***

**Axminster – Bampton – Barnstaple – Bideford - Bishopsteignton –Bow – Braunton  
Crediton –Crewkerne – Cullompton – Dolton – Exeter Exmouth – Heymock – Honiton  
Kingsbridge –Newton Abbot – Newton St Cyres  
Ottery St Mary - Sampford Peverell – Tiverton**

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Please email editor [Jeanaplin@live.co.uk](mailto:Jeanaplin@live.co.uk) if you would like to add your Association to this list.  
Remember to mention the name of your Association.



## BBC Languages

The BBC provides an excellent website where you can practise/learn a foreign language. Perhaps just before a visit you want to refresh your memory. Use Google and type in BBC Languages.

### Now French say we've got to carry a breathalyser

*What you need to drive in France*

#### Compulsory

Breathalyser  
Luminous vest  
Warning triangle  
GB sticker or number plate with EU logo  
Motor Insurance Certificate  
Headlamp converters for driving on right  
Both paper and photo card parts of UK driving licence

#### Recommended

Spare bulbs for car's external lights  
Fire extinguisher  
First aid kit

A new law which will come into force in July 2012 will apply to anyone travelling through France by car. Motorist found with between 50 mg and 80 mg of alcohol in 100 ml of blood can be fined 135 euros (£112) and lose six out of twelve points on the driving licence. Above that, a driver risks a fine of 4,500 euros (£3,744) losing their licence and being sent to prison for up to two years.

The French drink-driving limit of 50mg is much lower than in the UK where the limit is 80mg.

Motorists are being urged to carry at least two of the single-use breathalysers so that if they have checked themselves with one they can still show the police they have a ready-to-use kit if stopped. Drivers caught without a kit will face a fine of 11 euros (£9). There will be a period of grace until November 2012 before police start issuing penalties.

The kits cost between £1 - £2 and will be available at ferry and tunnel terminals for crossings to France.

## **EYTA SPRING TWINNING EVENT**

The time: Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> April

Round about 7.00 the cars rolled into Starcross, a quiet, attractive village on the Exe estuary. Parking spaces were found, cars were manoeuvred into corners and the combatants emerged from their vehicles.

The destination:

The Atmospheric Railway Inn.

Taking their lives in their hands they crossed the road and proceeded into the welcoming environs of the pub. Determinedly they made their way through the bars across a courtyard and into the Skittle Alley. The tables and chairs were lined up alongside the bowling alley and the room was soon filled to capacity.

The event:

Teams were chosen and with enthusiastic supporters the game began. Shouts, squeals and cheers filled the alley. Skittles fell (or didn't) and the players refreshed themselves with pints, wines or as in the case of the vehicle drivers soft drinks.

At 8.00 half time was called and sumptuous refreshments appeared. Sandwiches, homemade pasties, salads, sausages and pineapple with cheese on sticks were consumed with relish (actually pickle and coleslaw). A pause and plates of cream cakes appeared, these disappeared in record time.

Time for round two:

The scores rose, desperation set in for some while others sensed victory and stardom.

All too soon the contest was over; Pam, Christiane, Leslie and David were pipped at the post by Ingeborg Davies and David Parsons. Prizes were awarded and the victors applauded.

The Showdown:

There was just enough time for a game of killer. Wow, what a contest! Mentioned in dispatches should definitely be, Pam, Wendy, Jenny, Sheila and the Priests. What style, precision and commitment! But the final accolade went to Peter Boeuf.

Well done everybody.

Last orders:

The draw was organised by Jenny and lots of lovely prizes were distributed amongst the members. Thank you everybody for buying so many tickets, supplying the prizes and raising money for funds. Special thanks to the Staff at the Atmospheric Inn.

The Finale:

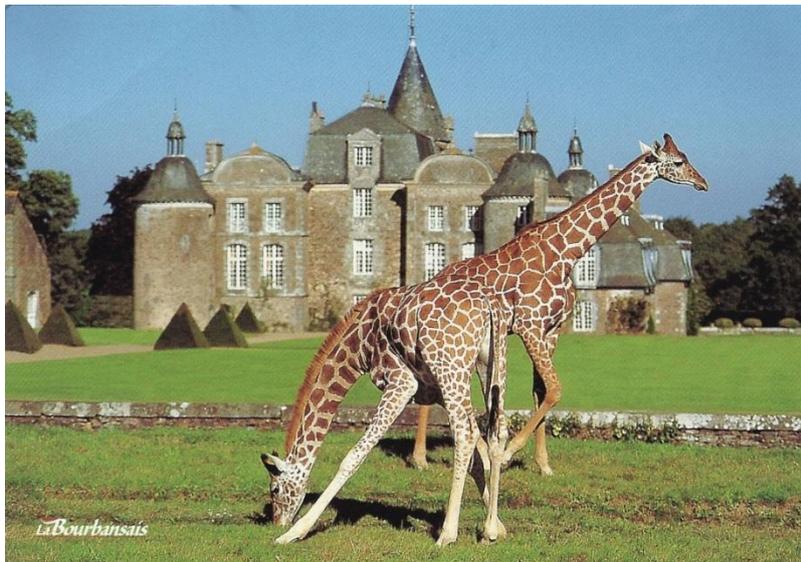
It was a great evening filled with laughter and a great opportunity for Twinners to meet and cement friendships.

Thank you everybody for your support

## **Bampton Twinning Association's French Trip**

3.15am, Friday 4<sup>th</sup> May, saw 47 members gathered in the station car park. More than half asleep, we boarded the coach for the 20<sup>th</sup> visit to our Twin Towners of Villers-Bocage in the heart of the Calvados Region in Normandy. This is an exchange, started in 1974, that occurs mostly annually & this year we were the lucky visitors. By coach & ferry from Portsmouth we arrived in V-B at 5pm for a short reception of snacks & wine, meeting with our host families, many of whom have been very close friends for many years, some over 30 years. That evening we were looked after in the homes of our individual hosts. Some lucky ones got to bed before midnight?

Next morning we all meet in the market square at 8pm to be coached over 100 miles to La Bourbansais, Brittany to visit a 16<sup>th</sup> Century Castle with a Zoo in the grounds .We were guided through the castle by one of the owners, speaking in English with great interest & humour. We then made our own way through the zoo & were most impressed by the excellent conditions of the animals in attractive surroundings. After an ample lunch in the zoo restaurant we were entertained by giraffe feeding, a skilful falconry display& a pack of 50 huge staghounds, unbelievably well behaved & controlled first from horseback then on foot.



“Kimba & Kanga grazing in front of La Bourbansais Castle.Below:-Lunch @ Zoo



A dash back to our quarters to dress up for a 7.30 Dinner Dance. An excellent 6-course meal,



Drawn out as only the French can do without a whinge & enthusiastic music from a popular local pop quintet offering vibrant exercise to combat gastronomic indulgence.

Sunday was a “Free Day” organised individually by our host family. Old hands managed a little lie-in and a long leisurely lunch well lubricated. Newer members were taken sightseeing around the region which offers so much:-WWII Normandy beaches, the Bayeaux Tapestry, stately homes, the Euro bridge and so much history.

That evening we all came together again for a fantastic, beautifully displayed buffet, plus tipples of course. (No-one goes hungry or thirsty on Twinning Week-ends!!!) Everyone now stuffed to the gills and ‘well oiled’, it was time for speeches by our respective chairpersons, who had to orate in both languages to raucous, good humoured heckling and thunderous appreciation for a wonderful week-end of too much lovely food and wine and a shortage of sleep.

10.30am Monday 7<sup>th</sup> May we bid 'Au Revoir' to our generous hosts, stopping at a hypermarket to stock up on wine and delicacies 'Francais' and lunch before catching the 5pm Cherbourg-Portsmouth ferry, then a very wet, tiring ride back to Bampton before midnight.

Now we have to plan and fundraise for next year to return the fabulous hospitality we just so much enjoyed.

### **Sampford Peverell Twinning Association** a report from Janet Astbury

It is with sadness that we have heard from France of the deaths of Therese Bermond and Jean Pierre Suraud they have both been in the twinning for a long time Jean Pierre ( ex French- Canadian air pilot ) who many of you know quite well did most of the translating particularly in the early days of twinning. I have sent a card on behalf of members to Edith expressing our sympathy

We have also heard the Jean Paul Lecoite has had a stroke but is recovering slowly in a hospice in Caen

The recent Jumble Sale made a total of £299 which is brilliant and the Safari supper raised a profit of £193 which again is brilliant ,both events help towards funding this years visit We have had to alter the date of the Car Treasure Hunt as it clashed with the Church Fete - It is now re arranged for **Friday 24<sup>th</sup> August .** and will be finishing with a BBQ at Uplowman Village Hall

For the visit in July we have arranged some details but until we hear from France the details of who is coming this year we have not finalized arrangements. We can accommodate a max. of 30 people

We have applied to Brussels for a grant again (with a theme of Brunel) but as yet we have not heard if we are successful If anyone has any ideas for Fundraising events after September do not hesitate to contact me please

### **Braunton Twinning visit to their twin town Plouescat, France**

On Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> May 22 Members of Braunton Twinning plus 2 students from the local Community College left Braunton on their visit to Plouescat, Brittany. After a comfortable overnight trip on Brittany Ferries Armorique , we were greeted at the Plouescat Community Hall with a welcoming breakfast. After a few hours with our hosts we travelled to Plougasnou to visit a woodcraft workshop. The owner demonstrated how he crafted many items. In their secluded garden many wooden games were laid out for us to try. We were then presented with 'The Challenge' of a type of wooden shove ha'penny Breton style. We lost!

In the evening we returned to the Community Hall where we were entertained and danced with the local Breton dancers , and a buffet meal was provided .

Friday saw us travel to Plougastel Daoulas where we visited a strawberry museum and visited a traditional & modern Strawberry farm. Obviously it was essential for us to sample. We then visited a goat farm where once again the goat's cheese was sampled. Where else in the world can you sample the sweet tasting strawberry's fresh from the ground followed by the strong tasting goat cheese.

In the evening we had the Formal meal in a local restaurant where our students gave a small speech of thanks in French. We ate, drank and danced the night away Breton style.

On Saturday morning we visited the local church and given a talk about it's very old organ. We then attended a Civic reception hosted by Plouescat's Mayor, Monsieur Le Duff. In the afternoon we were free to spend time with our hosts. Several of us visited the local

Agricultural College at Ploudaniel which was holding an open day/ agricultural show. In the evening we gathered with several host families for fun and lots of laughter. Once again after an exhausting 4 day visit had flown by and we were saying 'au revoir' to our friends.



### **Strange Tale**

*From Braunton's chairman Phil Powell*

The night before we left to travel to Plouescat my mother, who lives in Plymouth, phoned to inform me of a newspaper report in the local evening paper.

'On Valentine's Day a young man from Plymouth let a red helium balloon go with the breeze with his name & address attached. He was interested to see how far it would travel. A few days later he received a Postcard from a lady called Patricia, who found the balloon on a beach near Plouescat whilst walking her dog. This lady stated she worked for Brittany Ferries. 'Nothing too startling you might say' However, we stayed with a lady called Patricia, who lives in Plouescat with her family and dog and works for Brittany Ferries. Could this be our Host? On our arrival, on the table at the Community Hall lay our answer ...the Red Helium balloon with the young man's name & address attached. Small World!

### **Crediton Twinning Association**

*News from Pat Sherwood*

Crediton has been busy with various activities since the New Year. January was the Annual Dinner held at a local pub and well supported by members. February AGM followed by a Buffet Supper and a couple of quiz's organized by the committee. In March we held another successful Skittles Evening at the Bowling Club. At the end of April there was an informal visit from CAP (Crediton Avranches Partenaire), eleven members came over with the aim of a guided walk on Dartmoor. Unfortunately the day chosen for this was a Sunday when it poured with rain and it was blowing a gale. Instead they went for a guided tour of Castle Drogo. A group of scouts came over from Avranches to join our scouts for a family camp at the end of May and our twinning association provided a hot meal for the French group on their arrival, which was much appreciated. In return we were invited to the camp site for tea on the Saturday.

Congratulations to Peter Brewer, former Chairman who carried the Olympic torch in Ilfracombe 21<sup>st</sup> May 2012

### **Bishopsteignton - All over too soon!**

"It was all over too soon!" This was the verdict of both the French and British twidders, as Bishopsteignton hosts bade a fond farewell to their guests from La Roche Maurice in Brittany on Monday, 28<sup>th</sup> May.

The weekend had proved just the right mix of formal events and free time to relax "en famille". And the weather had been superb, yet again.

After a late arrival in Bishopsteignton on the Friday night, the French were relieved to learn it was not too early a start on Saturday morning for their trip to Historic Exeter. This year no fewer than 15 French children took part in the visit, so Bishopsteignton Twinning Association

made it a priority to keep them amused throughout the weekend. While the adults were learning about Exeter's Quayside and visiting the antique shops by the Exe, their offspring were enjoying all the thrills of the new "Clip and Climb" facility nearby. Both children and grown-ups then came together for a picnic on the Cathedral Green before going their separate ways again in the afternoon ... the adults on a guided tour of the city by the Red Coats, and the children to the Underground Passages.

It was left up to hosts how they entertained their visitors on Saturday evening and Sunday daytime, although the committee did arrange a two-hour guided walk through the village of Shaldon. From the Ness, the group strolled to the quintessentially English Village Green and then along the River Teign, enjoying views of Bishopsteignton on the other side before returning to the Ness via the Botanic Gardens. The reward for their efforts was a Devon cream tea (of course!)

The final event of the weekend was a Carvery and Disco at Teignmouth Golf Club, where almost everyone was up on the floor dancing until nearly midnight.

All too soon it was Monday morning, and with cries of "*au revoir*" and "*à l'année prochaine!*" ringing in their ears, the French left for Plymouth and their ferry back to Roscoff.

### **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

#### **The European Health Insurance Card (EHIC)**

Replaces the old E111 paper form. The card allows access to state-provided healthcare in all EEA (European Economic Area) countries and Switzerland often for free or at a reduced cost-

#### **Please remember to check your card is valid before travelling.**

Check the date it expires, bottom right hand corner.

Everyone who is resident in the UK should have the EHIC and carry it with them when they travel abroad. Applying for the card directly from the NHS **is free** (Google NHSBSA) and it is valid for up to five years. The application checking services available from the Post Office and the web site incur an administrative charge.