

Devon Twinning Circle



Home to Home

Winter 2012 Issue

Officers and Committee Members elected at The Annual General Meeting
Held Saturday 20th October 2012
At The Sports & Community Hall, Woolsery, North Devon.

Chairman:	Mrs Josie Mardon (Exeter) Tel:01392 253469 email:mandj@heimat.plus.com
Vice-Chairman	Dennis Knowles (Tiverton) Tel:01884254775.email: dennisknowles123@btinternet.com
Secretary	Mrs Pat Sherwood, Littleover Dean Street, Crediton, EX17 3EN Tel: 01363 772103 email sherwoodpuk@yahoo.co.uk
Treasurer	Mr. James Stewart, St. Mary's, Forches Cross, Bovey Road, Newton Abbot TQ12 6PU Tel: 01626 361808 Email: james@jsacc.co.uk
Past Chairman	Mrs Anne Lloyd (Bideford)
Committee:	
Insurance	Mrs Pauline Ford (Tiverton)
Newsletter Editor:	Mrs J Aplin (Tiverton) Tel: 01884 254260 Email: Jeanaplin@live.co.uk
Mr Philip Worsfold	(Sampford Peverell)
Mr Maurice Mardon	(Exeter)
Mr Stewart Philip	(Newton Abbot)
Mr Anthony Barlow	(Kingsbridge)
Micheal Mansfield	(Burnham & Highbridge)
Rob Hooper, County Hall, Exeter 01392 382300 email:	rob.hooper@devon.gov.uk

*There is still another place for a committee member. Are you interested?
Meetings are four times a year, travel allowance paid. Contact Secretary Mrs Pat Sherwood.*



Some of those present at the AGM



Monica Sanders Trophy
Winners for 2012
Chittlehampton



Our new chairman Josie Mardon presenting the Monica Sanders Trophy to Chittlehampton representative. At the AGM
Besides the trophy they were presented with a cheque for £75.00

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 3 entries this year, the other two were from Exeter and Tiverton. It would have been good to have been able to let you read the submission sent in by Chittlehampton but only the one copy was available. Exeter wrote about a Barbecue held at Broadclyst in July and there were many photographs amongst their submission. Tiverton, written by me – was of our events over the year but not good enough to win. Maybe have another try next year, maybe.

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.

Support for the Monica Sanders Trophy has been poor and the committee were seriously considering ending the competition but after much thought and discussion decided that perhaps we should make a new approach with some suggestions – so:

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 2013

The rules are:

A 3 person sub committee to consider the entries.

The cut off date for event content for entries to be January 1st - December 31st 2012

The deadline for entries to be sent to the secretary by March 31st 2013

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 31st. each year.

The sub committee 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 31st March 2013



IPPLEPEN TWINNING ASSOCIATION SOLIERS VISIT REPORT 26 – 28 MAY, 2012

Well, we expected our French friends to arrive in a large 'autobus' and we were not disappointed! This particular behemoth seemed so big it momentarily blotted out the sun. In truth it was probably the same size as their last visit – maybe our village had shrunk since then?

The new families looked expectant, the old hands clucked around like mother hens, greeting here, kissing there, as the whole ensemble renewed ties, many forged over 20 years ago. Saturday was spent in the bosom of the Twinners' families – many meeting up during the evening or visiting local hostelrys.

It was an early start on Sunday for a trip to Morwellham Quay. A plethora of cars joined in the cavalcade. However, it took great skill on the part of the coach driver to extricate his charge from Ipplepen, and even then needed a few Twinners in hi-viz jackets to assist the passage. The narrow descent into Morwellham caused some anxiety for driver and passengers alike, but all was well although for the first hour or so the forecast of showers proved all too accurate. However, the sun reappeared for the picnic in the picturesque surroundings of the Tamar Valley where everyone sampled the attraction's delights, which included a train ride into the Mine complete with English and French commentaries.

It is traditional for all to meet for a communal meal and this year an evening Hog Roast at The Wellington proved a big hit. Members provided platters of salads for all tastes, and the array of desserts left many open mouthed – both in surprise and anticipation! Before the feast began, the Ipplepen Twinners Choir (formed especially for this event) wowed the assembly with several songs. Later, Soliers produced their own singers for a set which included 'Let it Be' and a number of French songs, assisted by much chorusing from the audience. An aura of friendship spread from table to table until the festivities gently folded, as the dusk embraced French and English alike.

All too soon it was Monday morning, 9am and the young 'Chauffeur' gave a blast on the klaxon to signal the visit had only minutes left. Members produced myriad digital cameras to record the visit until we return to France in 2013. With a final blast on the horn, the driver with minute precision threaded through the village to begin the journey leaving the Twinners to wander off reflecting upon another great weekend.

Rod Wilkins



These happy smiling members of **Tiverton Town Twinning** are enjoying a cuppa and cheese scones at Hele Corn Mill just on the outskirts of Ilfracombe. We received a wonderful welcome and the owner of the mill showed us around and explained all the working of the Grade 2 listed mill – the cost was £2.50. How come we were so far from home? We were spending a weekend break at the Royal Hotel, Woolacombe.



STOKE-IN-TEIGNHEAD Visit to Trevieres.

This year, after a lot of discussion and exchange of e-mails, it was decided to change the date of our visit from the usual April/May to September and we were fortunate the weather for our visit was excellent.

Travelling independently, we arranged to meet up for our official arrival at 6.p.m.on the Friday evening. We were welcomed by the Trevieres members at the Mairie with much excitement at meeting old friends and being greeted by our respective hosts. After drinks and nibbles and a lot of chatting, we were taken to the various family homes and had a very pleasant evening, catching up on news and enjoying the wonderful cooking of our host families. Some of us struggled to regain any skill at conversational French!

Saturday morning we met in the village centre to board the coach which was to take us to Vendeuve. This is a delightful family owned and occupied chateau about an hour and half drive south. The house is very grand and beautifully furnished and we were even entertained by the son of the Count de Vendeuve, playing on the spinnet. After lunch we roamed the lovely park and gardens in glorious sunshine, often getting slightly dampened by the “surprise “ fountains strategically hidden around the gardens. We all voted it a really enjoyable day and we returned to Trevieres to another wonderful dinner at our hosts for a party of 10.

Sunday was the official reception with the Mayor of the ville and the Chairmen of our twinning associations Making their speeches of welcome and continuing friendship.This was a very friendly occasion and many old Members of the French Twinning, who no longer travel to Devon, turned out to meet us and chat with old friends from Stoke.The final large group gathering of our visit was a lunch at Vierville on Omaha Beach which around 50 people attended. An afternoon in the countryside with our hosts and another fantastic dinner before our departure on Monday morning for Cherbourg.

Once more we were given a very warm and generous welcome by our French friends in Trevieres.





EXETER / YAROSLAVL TWINNING ASSOCIATION

VISIT TO YAROSLAVL RUSSIA - 18TH TO 27TH JUNE 2012

Yaroslavl is a beautiful, ancient town on the banks of the River Volga and about 4 hours' drive north-east of Moscow. This year a group of 10 of us travelled from Exeter on the yearly twinning trip. We spent a wonderful time with our Russian hosts who could not have been more hospitable and welcoming.

We flew from Heathrow to Moscow on Monday and were then driven by minibus to Yaroslavl where we were given a warm reception by our Russian friends.

On Tuesday, after a formal welcome from the Deputy Mayor, we were taken on an interesting walking tour of Yaroslavl, starting at the golden-domed Alexander Nevsky Chapel and walking along the Embankment with lovely views of the River Volga. Later we visited the museum of Music and Time and had a chance to relax in the Governor's garden before the Welcome Party organised by members of the Yaroslavl Friendship Society.

We spent Wednesday in Vyatskoye, a settlement of preserved old houses. After a fascinating tour of the village, we enjoyed a picnic in the warm sunshine. In the evening we were invited to a delightful concert given by a very talented children's accordion and balalaika band.

On Thursday morning we rode on the children's railway which was, indeed, operated by children who all took obvious pride in their work. This was followed by a visit to the Felt Footwear Factory where we were shown how the traditional Russian felt boots are manufactured. In the evening we were treated to an unforgettable concert of rousing patriotic music to commemorate the 200th anniversary of the Patriotic War of 1812.

On Friday we started off our day's activities with a trip to Tutaev on the River Volga. It was in the district of Tutaev that Valentina Tereshkova, the first woman in space, was born. This was followed by a most entertaining interactive visit to the Sheep Museum. We were told that Peter the Great introduced a special breed of sheep to Russia which could deal with the harsh conditions of the country. To end the day we stopped at the Tolga Convent with its glorious domed buildings and frescoes.

Over the weekend there were many different activities organised by the host families.

Monday took us to the beautiful town of Kostroma and this was followed by a most interesting walk round the Elk Farm. After the visit many of us tasted the elk milk which is the reason for the farming of these animals.

On Tuesday, after a restful morning, we made our way to the Prize Giving for the winners of the Schools Competition. The children had been asked to produce a piece of work about the English countryside. It was then, sadly, time for our Farewell Party at a hotel situated in lovely grounds on the Kotorosl River. We were presented with a mouth-watering array of food and drink, interspersed with singing and dancing from both Russians and English and, of course, numerous toasts! A wonderful end to a fantastic 10 days!

Joyce Burgess (EYTA)



EXETER / YAROSLAVL TWINNING ASSOCIATION
The day we went on the train

Bad Homburg Visit To Exeter

The Good Monks of Exeter.

Coming to Exeter, our German visitors always know that during their trip, there will always be a dollop of Exeter's history to digest. This time it was tales of the Tudors and the Benedictines. Even many Devonians do not know of this hidden gem in the centre of the city. This 900 year old former guest wing of the Benedictine Priory lies just off Fore Street and, thanks to the good planning by the committee, we were treated to a fascinating two hour tour followed by a delicious light lunch.

The heart of the building presents a truly ancient kitchen atmosphere and uses a wide variety of artefacts and furniture typical of the Tudor period. Our enthusiastic guides explained all the features and showed us how the building was used by the monks in its former, complete state. Unlike a Monastery a Priory only housed a small number of monks with a Prior in charge. Apparently, these Monks played an important and very welcome role providing welfare and help to the citizens of Exeter.

Over the years the building was reduced in size and became a family town house after the dissolution of the monasteries by King Henry VIII. One particular panelled room is presented in a glorious array of colours and furnishings showing us the taste and styles of a wealthy family at that time.

Over the following centuries the building underwent changes in use and ownership ending up in the last century as a near ruin. Thanks to the City Council the property was not lost and was saved from destruction. However the modern presentation of the building was only achieved after grants were obtained and sensitive restoration took place under the formal guidance of the City Museum. It is now an exciting city attraction with a very caring staff who show off lots of hands-on activities.

Devon Hotel Dinner.

One of the highlights of the visit to Exeter was the dinner at the Devon Hotel. The guests of honour were the Bürgermeister Herr Karl-Heinz Krug of Bad Homburg, the Lord Mayor of Exeter, Councillor Rob Newby and his wife the Lady Mayoress Mrs Iris Newby and Wolfgang Herder, Leader of the twinning party from Bad Homburg.

Kathy welcomed visitors, guests, and members to the dinner and everybody then enjoyed a superb carvery followed by delicious sweets, coffee, and chocolate.

In his post dinner speech the Lord Mayor recalled his recent visit to Bad Homburg. Bad Homburg had been celebrating one hundred years of being given the title Bad. He stressed that he wanted to see the connections between the two cities flourish.

Bürgermeister Herr Karl-Heinz Krug in reply said that he was delighted to be here and thanked the city for inviting him. He gave presents to the Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress and to members of the Exeter Twinning Circle who had been involved in organising the visit.

In her speech Kathy said that she was delighted to have our Bad Homburg visitors here in Exeter not least because they seemed to have brought some very good, sunny weather with them. She said that Exeter and Bad Homburg had celebrated twenty five years of twinning in 1990 which meant that the fiftieth twinning anniversary will be in 2015. After discussion with Wolfgang they had agreed to move the dates of visits so that there would be an inward visit to Exeter and an outward visit to Bad Homburg in 2015.

Kathy then presented Wolfgang with a gift from Exeter Twinning Circle as a reminder of their time here.

Wolfgang said that the visit had been excellent and that all the visitors had enjoyed themselves. He gave a gift of a picture to Kathy

Killerton House.

Day two of the visit saw us driving across a beautiful sunny early-morning countryside towards Killerton House.

Gathering in the courtyard of the National Trust owned property we all assembled and walked up the elegant driveway towards the main house. Arriving early for the tour we gathered together and had a group photo to commemorate the visit. Splitting into two groups, those requiring a German translation and those eager to practice their English we were shown around the property originally owned by Sir Richard Ackland which he gave to the National Trust because of his political beliefs.

The estate totals nearly 6,000 acres and includes 20 farms and over 200 cottages. Built in 1778 the house brings to life generations of the Acklands, one of the oldest Devon families. Enthralled by the stories and contents depicted on the ground floor we then journeyed upstairs to the costume exhibition for which Killerton is well known. There was fun to be had by dressing up in the period replica costumes. Nevertheless, a good time was had by all.

A stroll through the garden preceded a most enjoyable Plowmans lunch served in the house restaurant.

After lunch the general consensus was to head to the coast and various cars descended upon Exmouth, Budleigh Salterton and Sidmouth where everyone participated by enjoying a traditional English ice cream while strolling by the seaside, a treat for our Bad Homburg friends who live many miles from the sea.

All too soon it was home again ready to put on our best Bib and Tuckers for the formal celebratory evening dinner.



At Killerton House

A Day In The South Hams.

The final full day for entertaining our guests dawned misty and rather cool, especially for a nine o'clock start, but as our coach neared Dartington most of the mist rose and the sun appeared - a good omen for our intended river cruise. At the Cider Press Centre we took in a bit of industrial archaeology, viewing the derelict but still recognizable screw press once used to crush the apples and extract their juice. However the many characteristic red and black shopping bags (homewares, craft and glassware, food and drink) carried onto the coach as we resumed our journey bore witness to its continuing power to squeeze a good customer.

We were then in good time for the 'Cardiff Castle' for the passage down the Dart; the river was well used and we shared it with other river steamers, motor boats, dinghies, canoes and even swimmers, although the resident kingfishers kept their heads (and beaks) down. Our 'voyage' was enlivened by the crew's broadcast commentary - most of it alleged to be true!! Despite the sunshine there was a keen breeze. To give added zest to the 'pasty and lumberjack cake' lunch we enjoyed, and then a striking view on the hillside to our right of the major destination for the day: HMS DARTMOUTH - a 'stone frigate' with a commanding view of the Dart and Dartmouth Castle at its mouth. Better known as the Britannia Royal Naval College (or BRNC for short) - it is here that the Royal Navy's future officers, both men and women, are trained in leadership, boat handling, ocean navigation and naval ceremonies to list but a part of their curriculum. Meeting our guides, Carol and Pam, we took a short coach tour of the grounds to get our bearings, and entered the college by a back door, quickly reaching its main axis - the magnificent passage running the length of the building's façade between the Chapel and the Senior Gunroom, with the flight of steps to the Quarterdeck at the midpoint. Paintings, bronzes and photographs of past admirals line the walls of this passage, now enhanced by a recently executed set of sketches of modern naval personnel and activities. Our guides had carefully choreographed the moves of our visit, so that we should not overlap with the wedding taking place in the Chapel: a quick leap up the stairs to the Junior Gunroom, now a vast refectory hall, and we sat down to a Devon cream tea to fortify us for the rest of the visit. Even here the walls were well filled with evocative paintings - steel squadrons of an earlier battle fleet in line ahead led by HMS SUPERB. Thence past a detailed cut-away model of the 1945 HMS VANGUARD that never fired a shot in anger, to take a peek at the Senior Gunroom, laid out for the wedding reception, and down the full length of the building to see the Chapel and its memorials. Leaving our guides and the college behind, we set off for Exeter after an excellent day out - a fitting end to a great twinning visit.

Next General Meeting

Saturday January 12th 2013 (note date change)

Moorhayes Community Centre, Tiverton. EX16 6TN at 2 pm.

All welcome, we shall be serving lunch at 12.30 cost £6.50 per person. Menu: Gammon Steaks, potatoes and vegetables, selection of Desserts, Vegetarian option available. Book with Jean Aplin, along with payment. by 5th January 13 Crowden Crescent, Tiverton. EX16 4ET

Maybe you do not want to come to lunch, fine but we invite you to join us in the afternoon - meeting starts at 2 pm. We do have a speaker the subject is 'Food for thought' but it isn't what you think! Dennis will also be giving a demonstration of our new Website. **Promises to be a good afternoon - don't miss it.**

Following meetings will be:

April Burnham/Highbridge
July Braunton
October Newton Abbot (AGM)
2014

January Bow

April **Host Association required.** (Speak with Pat Sherwood (01363 772103))

July Ilfracombe

October Crediton (AGM)

Insurance news

2012/13 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 favourable premiums.

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

Contact Mrs Pauline Ford (Insurance Officer)

Email: DennisKnowles123@btinternet.com Tel: 01884 254775

43 Greenway Gardens, Tiverton. EX16 5JL

Forth coming marriage



*Dennis Knowles to Pauline Ford
Saturday 19th January 2013*



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Christmas Greetings to you all



Items for the next newsletter

Please send any item for the next newsletter to Jeanaplin@live.co.uk or 13 Crowden Crescent, Tiverton. EX16 4ET Maybe some information on your fund raising events along with photographs or anything else you feel others would be interested in.