



Home from Home



Number 27

The Newsletter of the Devon Twinning Circle

October 2010

We are now into the 3rd quarter of the year and please accept my apologies for not being able to issue a newsletter in July as promised but for personal reasons and with being at risk of redundancy, my mind and time was used up with trying to secure future employment.

May I also thank those who keep sending me their association's newsletters, either by email or Royal mail. This is the best way to keep articles and updated news rolling in. I would especially like to thank the Secretaries who write a special articles for the Devon Twinning circle news letter, as this helps me allot as the article can be put straight into the newsletter without any editing (which saves quite a bit of time).

The next

General Meeting

Saturday 16th October 2010

At

Bitton House

Bitton Park Road

Teignmouth

From 14:00 hrs

Directions to Teignmouth

From Exeter

Head into the town centre until you reach the traffic lights at the bottom of a steep hill. Turn right at these lights into Bitton Park Road, signposted Newton Abbot. Bitton House is on the left 100 meters or so from the lights reached from Park Hill the second turning on the left.

From Newton Abbot or Torquay direction.

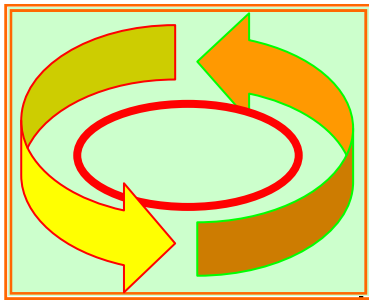
From Shaldon Bridge head into town past the Country House Filling station, then taker the first right. Park hill, at the top of the slight rise, turn right immediately into Bitton Bouse.

Parking:- There is some parking i the grounds, but there is also a car park towards the bottom of Park Hill which should not be crowded at this time of year.

For the SATNAV:- Bitton House, TQ4 9JP.

Bob Ray

The Committee of the sad news that Bob Ray died on 17th May 2010. He was a member of Okehampton Twinning for many years. Probably one of the founder members. He was also very involved for many years with the Devon Twinning Circle. In 1981 four years after the Circle was formed he joined the committee. Then in 1984 he became the Twinning Officer. Vice Chairman was his next role in 1990 followed by Chairman in 1991 and Immediate Past Chairman in 1992. 1994 saw him back serving on the committee and he left it in 1995. He still regularly attended the quarterly meetings. In July 2004 when Okehampton hosted the Twinning Circle he was the speaker and talked about his then recent trip to France as a D-Day veteran. Bob was also an active and well respected member of Club Wesseling. We extend our deepest sympathy to his family.



News from Around the Circle

Bow and District Twinning Association reports:- that in May they had 22 people from their twin village of St Martin de Bienfaite la Gressonmiere over of a 4 day visit. Originally there were 27 coming to visit but due to illness and bereavement 5 were unable to join the trip. They arrived on Thursday morning and in the evening they made a visit to a local church to see and hear some bell ringers in action. Most of the visitors also went up the church tower, which was of great interest to everyone. Friday was enjoyed with a visit to Buckfast Abbey, followed by a ride on the Steam /train and a visit to Totnes. Saturday was spent with the host families out and about in the local area, until the evening when everyone met up in the vottage hall for a meal and dancing. The dancing was under the guidance of Pam and Pete and included Line dancing, old time and modern dancing and proved very successful. Sunday saw the visitors off on their homeward journey, after what was generally felt one of the best weekends ever. The Association, all being well, will make a return visit next May. Thanks to Una Hobbs, Bow Secretary for this update.

Seaton & District twinning Association reports that their chairman Jeff Day, has received a double honour in being made citizen of the year in both Seaton and in its twin town of Thury-Harcourt. Both awards were for his services to twinning and international friendship. Details can be found on their website at www.seatondistricttwinning.blogspot.com

Barnstaple Twinning Association report about:-

Barnstaple Ladies Choir's visitors from Germany

Nearly 20 years of bi-lingual singing and friendship were celebrated in early September, when the twin ladies' choirs from Barnstaple and Uelzen, Germany, were reunited again in a joint concert at St Peter's Parish Church, Barnstaple. Lynne Beer, Secretary of Barnstaple Ladies' choir said friendship with the Bärbel Grosse Chor had

existed since their first concert together at Arlington Court in 1992. "The bond of friendship was formed, and exchange visits have continued from then onwards every two years. This will have been the German Choir's last visit to Barnstaple, and in 2012 the Barnstaple Ladies Choir will be making their final trip to Uelzen. But while the official visits are coming to and end after 20 years, our friendships will never end".

Barnstaple Twinning's visit to Susa

Members of Barnstaple Twinning Association have visited their twin town of Susa in North West Italy. The 11 visitors made the special trip to watch the town's annual two-day mediaeval pageant of the "Palio" which takes place in a restored roman amphitheatre. The Barnstaple party was received by Susa Mayor Gemma Amprino. During their visit they made contact with Susa Rotary Club and attended a concert by a local male voice choir the Coro Alpi Cozie.

North Devon Guitar Ensemble's visitors from Italy

In December, about 20 teenage music students from Susa, Italy, will be coming to Barnstaple to perform with the North Devon Guitar Ensemble. The joint concert will take place on December 4th. The visitors will be hosted by local families, and a 'Young Guitarists Fund' has been set up to cover the cost of their outings.

Thanks to Allan for his contribution ed.

Otter St Mary Twinning Association reports on a very busy couple of months

The Visit from Pont l'Évêque in May, when a group 26 adults and 6 children came for three days was pronounced a great success by those who participated. The French visitors particularly enjoyed their visit to historic Cadhay on the Friday. Our thanks to Otter Nurseries who ensured that the Mayor's reception and Twinning dinner on Saturday was an enjoyable occasion.

The Treasure Hunt in early June was, sadly not such a success. Few people signed up for the event this year and the organisers regrettably had to cancel. Perhaps it was the change of format to this normally popular event that did not appeal to members? With that in mind, we propose a return next year to the tried and tested format of car treasure hunt ending with supper at a congenial hostelry for an all-inclusive price. Former winners

Hugo and Tony will be setting the questions, so be prepared!

Crêpes Stall at West Hill Fête: We had an absolutely glorious day for this event – the crêpes sold well and we made a very satisfactory contribution to Twinning Association funds. Our sincere thanks to all who came to help and to buy!



Our visit to Ilsfeld in July proved memorable for the wonderfully varied programme our friends had prepared for us and the HEAT!!! The World Cup also appeared to have been included in the programme as timing of events was carefully structured to take TV broadcasts into account! But it was the heat that remains the most significant memory, with temperatures 35 – 40 degrees centigrade every day, much of our programme had to be adapted – car journeys replaced walks, talks in the shade replaced rambles through the vineyard. With current temperatures far from torrid, many of us think back to our time in Ilsfeld with wistful nostalgia!

AUTUMN SOCIAL EVENING at West Hill Village Hall on Saturday 16TH October @ 7.30pm

Tickets £8, to include lavish buffet supper

A bar will be available and, of course, a raffle. During the evening we shall have a quiz and also an exhibition of personal photographs from this year's twinning visits. To reserve your tickets please contact their Secretary **by Tuesday, 12th October.**

Exeter Twinning Circle Chair reports on their busy times:- The first of our two outward twinning trips is over and we are looking forward to the next visit to Rennes in September. Sandwiched in between was our summer social event. It's all been rather busy.

The week-long trip to Bad Homburg in early July was thoroughly enjoyed by the thirty twinners who took part. We were a mixture of first timers and old hands and there were new faces amongst the hosts together with many familiar friends. The programme was varied and interesting – something for everyone from culture vultures with a view of Princess Elizabeth's artwork, to techno-buffs with a visit to the airport and to the Freudenburg Palace where we encountered the aesthetic side of physics. Gastronomists were not forgotten as we were introduced to local dishes and treated to a fine wine tasting. In this newsletter we have included several reports on the activities of the week and my thanks go to all the contributors. Our hosts were wonderfully generous

and the week passed in a whirl of official engagements and many impromptu and unofficial evening dinners and gatherings. It was very hot whilst we were there, 36 degrees was reported in Frankfurt one day, and it is a tribute to everyone's enthusiasm that we were all as bouncy at the end of the week as we were at the beginning.

The weather could not have been better for our summer social event at the end of July. Over sixty members and guests enjoyed an inshore boat trip along the Jurassic coast and up the Exe estuary. We were pleased to be able to invite members of the Exeter Yaroslavl Twinning Association and their Russian guests and I hope they enjoyed the trip as much as we did. The food was provided by our own stalwart gang of chefs and cooks and was as wonderful as ever. Thanks to them all.

We are trying a new venue for our autumn social event. The antiques evening will be held at the village hall in Clyst St George. I understand that this is a recently modernised hall with a catering kitchen and good parking. We are delighted that Wakefield Whitton will again be our guide to the fascinating world of old and antique artefacts and I for one will be digging in the boxes in the loft to see what I can bring to the evening.

The Monica Saunders Trophy



Monica Saunders was a member of Mary Tavy and Devon Twinning for many years. When she left Devon she donated a cup to the Devon Twinning circle, to be presented each year, to the group that produced the best fund raising project.

Over the years the criteria have changed and the winners are awarded the cup and a monetary sum up to £150 with emphasis on the promotion of twinning.

Exeter Twinning Circle decided to enter the competition. We thought that our project for 'Dreamaway', our musical evening in the Guildhall, would be suitable as it covered all the criteria. The award requires evidence of Twinning in the community, positive interaction, and the development of friendship.

At the spring meeting of the Devon Twinning Circle we were delighted to find that we had been awarded a prize of £100 together with the trophy.

We would like to thank the Devon Twinning Circle Committee for the award and we are delighted to hold the cup for 2010.

Well done Exeter and thank you for your newsletter but I cannot include everything. Other

associations should be thinking of their entry for the Monica Saunders Trophy for 2011 and send them to Pat Sherwood. ed.

Lympstone Twinning Association report they will be visiting our twin village of Biéville-Beuville, just a few kilometres from the port of Caen by coach, leaving Lympstone at 1800 on Friday 27th May 2011, travelling on overnight ferry from Portsmouth to Caen; returning on 0800 sailing on Monday 30th. We may have between 10 & 24 spare seats. Anyone interested in travelling with us, please contact LTA Chairman, Richard Crisp, r@rgtcrisp.plus.com

Dolton & District Twinning Association have also had a busy time traveling according to their newsletter, but one individual members account of their trip caught my eye.

HILLERSE TRIP 13-16th MAY:

Sandra writes :-

"Our visit to Hillerse this year coincided with the 10th anniversary of the Partnershaft between Hillerse and Amfreville. I arrived on Wednesday and the French who were travelling overnight by coach were due to arrive at 8am on Thursday morning. Mercifully an early morning phone call from Nicole to Inge warned us that their arrival was delayed by at least two hours which meant a leisurely breakfast and a visit to the horses before before we joined the throng in Hillerse.

There was quite a long wait before the French finally arrived looking pretty good considering the journey. There seemed to be a great many children. I, of course had trouble unravelling who was French and who German and many greetings it is always surprising (for me anyway) to discover how many faces I recognise even if I can't always put names to them! Ralf Westercamp who I am sure many of you will recall, took his entire family to Columbia for a month over Christmas and came back with an addition. They have adopted a young Columbian boy who is very lively, and seems to be settling well.

The Germans had laid out a fantastic breakfast (it was elevenses by now) and with the help of a glass of vin d'honneur I managed to force myself to eat yet more as politeness dictated.

I was over there for six days this time, in the course of which I visited Celle – which has a very pretty schloss – and Braunsweig, whose lovely cathedral houses the coffin of George the IV's wife, Caroline of Brunswick. It occurred to me that when the French decided to twin with Hillerse they can have had no idea of how much of English history is ties up in the region, from Henry the Lion onwards.

Every second painting in a museum or ancestral house looks remarkably like our unattractive run of the first four Georges! Indeed, some of them are one of our four Georges. Enough history!

I spent the weekend in the Harz Mountains, where it snowed on Saturday, but we went for a very enjoyable walk on Sunday when the weather finally began to improve. Goslar is a lovely and ancient town, full of traditional timber and brick houses with many narrow winding streets, that is now a World Heritage Site, while soon to receive the same designation is a huge mining complex dating back over 3,000 years that brought the district its original prosperity. And I won't even start on the amazing water control systems, that now provide reservoirs used for recreational water sports.

Perhaps best of all though – it was the asparagus season! Wonderful stuff, served everywhere, with LASHINGS of butter. Bliss!

For this visit I tried Flybe's direct route flying from Exeter to Hannover. On the outward journey I flew via Newcastle – not bad, just about 25 minutes on the ground at Newcastle and then onward to Hannover. For my return I opted to travel via Manchester and this is not so good – you have to change planes at Manchester and there's a two hour wait. It just depends on which day you want to fly. I know some people are happy to drive but, for me, flying is the best option".

Thanks Sandra for a wonderful account of your trip. I also understand a communal meal in Spiro's restaurant was held where members of the group were presented with a tenth anniversary of the twinning, a splendid state of the art illuminated engraved glass sculpture incorporating the twinning logo. Well done Daulton ed

Club Wesseling reports they had a memorable visit in June from Club West Devon, were 25 people from Wesseling in Germany traveled over for a week's stay. Places visited included Tintagel, Plymouth famous Barbican with a boat trip to Mount Edgcumbe, Dartmouth and Kingswear. The Group were also invited to a Civic reception with the Mayor of West Devon at the West Devon Borough Council Offices in Tavistock where a plaque and Tree planting ceremony took place to mark the 25th Anniversary of the friendship between the two groups.