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# Home from Home from Home

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The Newsletter of the Devon Twinning Circle  
Number 12 July 2006

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## Publicity

Some recent personal experience with an urgent and ambitious scheme to raise money, admittedly for a charity, led us to see the benefits to be gained from quite a modest television exposure in one brief programme.

Phil Griffiths' experience is that, even if you have a TV crew following you around, the editing they do on the recordings is so extreme that you lose all sense of the original events.

It depends what they are trying to show. If they record people in a coach, people on a boat, a group of people meeting another group of people, people making speeches, walking round the castle and having a big meal together, it sounds boring and looks boring. (That is, except for the folks involved.)

But what is the real experience? It is a family or a couple getting ready to go, losing the passport, writing to their hosts in bad French, getting to know your own folks on the coach, meeting the French family or couple for the first time (or are they old friends?), and walking into their home. It is learning about the food, struggling to understand each other, finding common interests, giving a little gift and then discovering all the little differences *and* the similarities between cultures. The children do it better than we do.

Do you have a family or two who would let a camera crew (probably two people) follow you around? Would your hosts put up with it? Ask the TV people about it and see how they react to the idea of watching a family gaining an experience. We could gain more publicity from stories of individual experiences than from formal group rituals.

## Previous Meeting.

There was a problem for some folks about getting the newsletter by post. It is distributed by Rob Hooper and he is of great service to us. He may have been given the wrong address for your Association. If you are having trouble, send him your address. His address is on the committee list.

We are also sending the Newsletter by email to anyone who cannot get it that way from

his own Association. If you would like an email, tell Don Leech.

## The Monica Saunders Trophy.

This was presented to Ipplepen as a cup and with a cheque for £50. Congratulations!

## Oldways Mansion.

As part of our meeting in Torquay, we had an interesting explanation of the origins of the Oldways Mansion. It was built by Isaac Singer (the sewing machine man) about 1874 while he lived in a house at the back. It was copied in the style of the palace at Versailles. In fact, it was only completed after the death of Isaac who spent a lot of time in France and America as well as England.

It seems his ability to make money and build houses was matched only by his enthusiasm for the ladies. Isaac managed to have four partners over a period of time and produced (with their aid we guess) twenty-four children.

We were welcomed by Lynn Smith of Torba-Hamelin who shared the hosting with Torbay-Hellevoetsluis. It was a nice arrangement by the two Associations

The main talk was from Tim Keen, the senior Licensing Officer for Mid-Devon, on the new problems of licensing premises, but it is complicated and, frankly, would fill this newsletter if we tried to write it all down. We have one three-page copy of the application form called a "Temporary Event Notice", but we guess you can get this from your local authority.

## The Editor's Job.

Putting information together for the Newsletter is really very easy and you only have to do it once every three months. Nevertheless, poor old Don finds that his eyesight is not so good and he feels that a younger and better-looking person would have new ideas and enough spare time to do the job.

To all of you who are keen to take over; you need a computer and a bit of practice. Don would give backing and guidance as long as necessary. (We found, when we asked a while ago for an assistant, that it can't be done like that with two people living a long way apart.) Maybe there are two members near each other who would like to try.

The Newsletter is now well supported by lots of enthusiastic members from many Associations. They send in letters, emails, newsletters and even telephone calls. All the editor has to do is shorten the news, collect the items all together and then arrange them in the four-page format.

The only "perk" is that you can make outrageous statements using the editorial "we" and it looks sort of authoritative. Still, readers do tell us when we get things wrong.

Would you like to try? Contact Don to ask about it.



## AND OTHER NOTES

### Your Diary Notes: The next four meetings.

Here are the dates and venues.

Next meeting **July 15<sup>th</sup>** at Budleigh Salterton.

This is the **Tout Ensemble** with an evening party that includes a bit of a Barn Dance and a buffet meal.

Then:- **October 21st** at Totnes,

**January 20<sup>th</sup>** at Teignmouth and

**April 21<sup>st</sup>** AGM with Exeter/Yaroslavl.

Details later of course.

### Grants.

There was some discussion at the last meeting about grants and we noted that one source was Guidestar on [www.guidestar.org.uk](http://www.guidestar.org.uk) although we didn't note any details of this or of Fund Finder on [www.fundfinder.org.uk](http://www.fundfinder.org.uk) (We gave these last time; has anyone used them?)

We are more experienced with "**Awards for All South West**" and their Exeter office (01392 849705). You can ring them and ask for an application form. Actually it is a large book. They are a section of the Lottery grant scheme and they give awards to clubs and associations for particular projects. The sum will be between £500 and £5,000 and you need to say exactly what the money is for. They say it must not be "towards" something or for a bit of something. They expect to see bills for declared project for the precise sum. It's worth asking for the form.

### The Monica Saunders Trophy

We have made our apologies to the good folks of **Ipplepen** for trying to be too funny. Peter Bevan asked why their entry was "the worst" entry. Apologies have been given and accepted.

Just by way of trying to dig out of the hole with an explanation; it had occurred to us that a single entry was not only the best of the entries, it was also the most average of quality and, logically, the worst. Sorry about the warped mind.

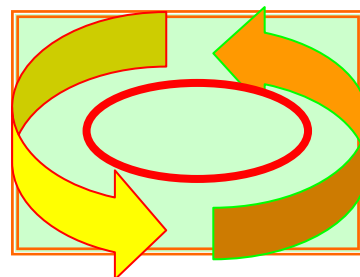
The point was that we needed more entries. We understand that there has been one more now, but there must be other Associations that are proud of what they have done, - - - so why not tell everyone? Anyway, Ipplepen won the award. Sincere congratulations!



### Photos

Our thanks to those who sent photos, but it just isn't convenient with our present technology to use them. Transmission to Emailers would be much too longwinded for non-broadbanders.

## Around The Circle



### 50 Years of Friendship.

We were surprised to hear of **Plymouth's** half-century association with Novorossiysk. The twinning is unusual. There are only two Devon twinings with Russian cities (Exeter-Yaroslavl is the other) and they both have objectives which are rather different from the aims of most of our Associations.

The links go back to 1956 although formal Twinning was not organised until 1990. Then, in 1997, a group from Plymouth visited Novorossiysk and decided to set up a fund for children's homes there. One of their first contributions to the disabled and abandoned children of the town was the supply of bananas, so it is called the Banana Fund. Since then, many other essentials like washing machines and televisions have been provided. Most of the money is raised by holding various events and with the sale of special greetings cards.

### Events for the Year.

A lot of work has gone into the fund-raising events of the year. A photo exhibition of historical Novorossiysk and of visits to the children's homes (May-June) will be followed by another exhibition of Russian art and souvenirs at Plymouth Library.

The new Lord Mayor will be chosen in May and there will be an official delegation from Russia to "partake" in the choosing festivities.

In June-July, some young musicians from Novorossiysk will be staying with twinners here and performing at several concerts in Plymouth and Dawlish. Later (July-August), some Russian films will be shown at the Plymouth Arts Centre. It must be close to the restaurant because they are doing a meal as well.

The Plymouth Maids folk-dance Group are going with some Panel members to the City Day in Novorossiysk in September and we understand that there will be other exhibitions during the year.

Details can be obtained from Janice Cawthorn on 01752 224433

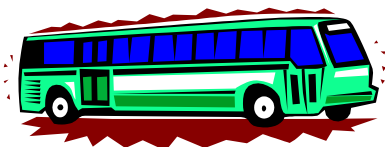
### Novorossiysk

The town was only founded in 1838 on the North-East coast of the Black Sea. It was first a fortress, but is now a town of light industries and the

manufacture of cement. It is pleasantly green despite its industrial sources of income. It compares in size, in beauty and, sadly, in the experiences of heavy bombing in the war. It is a busy commercial port, but we understand that the Russian Navy is beginning to relocate there from Sevastopol.

### Coaches

Only one Association took up our invitation to talk about the coach firm they use. Janet Astbury sent a message from **Sampford Peverel** to say that they had always been very pleased with the service and help they get from Berry's of Taunton. Do you have any other names?



Terry Leadbetter of **Yealmpton** sent us a report and a couple of pictures about the visit of their friends from Milizac . . . all 75 of them!

Actually, it seems that **Holbeton** and **Horrabridge** were able to help out. They had variable luck with the weather and also with the loss of their Breton flag. The visitors didn't seem to mind the French tricolour on the mast.

One of their pictures shows Keith baldry speaking to a group outdoors under the tricolore. Terry wrote that he is the "Paris Council Chairman". We think this is the sort of error we make here in this Newsletter. Could it be Parish Council? Well, maybe not. The other picture is of an animated conversation in Yealpton's Bakery Square. There are plenty of bottles around and a lot of hands waving about. It seems that the universal language is being used. Sorry we can't show the pictures.

One of the highlights of the visit was a disco run by Kate Summers who seems to know just how to choose the right kind of music. If you are interested in this aspect of entertainment, contact Kate on 01752 308460.

By the way, have you ever tried to buy a **tricolore** in France? We did once (for Exmouth) and we found that the French folks don't use the word. We had to ask for *un drapeau français*

By comparison, **Dawlish** had a mere 30 people over from Carhaix, but still had a good time on Dartmoor and lost in the lost gardens of Heligan with a picnic lunch. The Mayor received them officially on the Saturday, then they managed to get along the local MEP, Mr G Watson, who gave an excellent talk on the new proposals from the European Commission. They are going to make a big thing of 2007 because it will be their Thirtieth Anniversary.

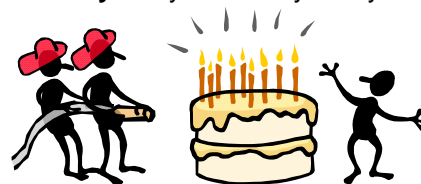
Another Thirtieth Anniversary next year will be when **Ottery St. Mary** go to Pont l'Évêque. A small French group came over at the start of June this year and were taken to the Bicton College (not far away) for their Springwatch Festival. They were then given a very nice reception including

entertainment from local Morris men and some songs after the dinner. The French brought their own singer with them.

Pont l'Évêque have invited the local crafts people of Ottery and district to go to their Christmas Market on 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> December. If you are interested, get in touch with Ottery Tourist Office.

Not to be outdone, **Exeter - Rennes** celebrated their **50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary** this year in May. They had Red Coat

tours, concerts, talks on Exeter, a day at the



University and a Grand Twinning Celebration. The programme was set out in a fine booklet which they sent to our Newsletter. It included a brief history of the Exeter - Rennes twinning as well as a description of the connections between the two universities. There was even a love story. (That's what it said!) Well anyway, it seemed to be a love story about the two cities, so it might not be quite what we expected. It is written by a Frenchman about his first visit to Exeter several years ago. The booklet is very attractively produced.

We must get it right; **Combe Martin** is not operating at present, but some of its members have gone along with **Ilfracombe** - we think. Any contradictions to this are probably right.

**Bow and District** Association said the idea of sharing a coach does have its virtues although they were unable to share in May when they wanted to go to France. They had to postpone their trip because there weren't enough takers. The offer of sharing by another club was taken up by yet another one, so *some* folks got there!

Bow will now go in September in time for the Caen Fair. They would love to know if anyone else would like to go at that time. (Date not yet fixed) Contact Una Hobbs on 01363 82557.

Eleven members of the **Exeter/Yaroslavl** TA are going to Russia in June, then 13 Russians are coming here from July 22<sup>nd</sup> to 31<sup>st</sup>. They don't



have hosts for them all yet, so if you are keen to meet a Russian, ring Celia Smith on 01392 270408 to find out if they are still desperate for a place or two. They have a well-organised programme for the visitors.

The intended visit from some more Russians was equally well organised by the folks of the **Plymouth - Novorossiysk** Twinning Panel for a May visit, but the Russians had some problems and were unable to come. - - Perhaps later.

One of their Group is a Plymouth Maid; one of a group of folk dancers who are going to

Novorossiysk in September. We learn that they are getting new costumes for the occasion.

Plymouth is organising a concert by visiting musicians on 1<sup>st</sup> July in the Sherwell Centre and another by a British combined orchestra on 5<sup>th</sup> July at Plymouth Guildhall.

Any enquiries: Liz Baker on 01752 705985.

We are grateful for all the information and newsletters that you send in, but you will understand that some of the information we get is dated by the time it goes to press in this Newsletter. This is a bit sad when, for example, **Dolton & District** TA are asking for help in *May* with some French children who are/were coming over. Still, it is nice to know that they are getting collaboration from the schools. It is good to know, too, that all the members had a smashing time at Amfréville at Easter.

Their newsletter included a delightful letter from one of the children who went to France. It reminds us that it would be nice to receive (fairly short) letters for publication from any reader who wants to tell us about things. (See below)

Phil Griffiths told us that they had a nice time with the French children here. He was very pleased with the response to an appeal for folks to help supervise the youngsters during their stay. They are a keen lot in Dolton - - - *and* the District of course.

We have a nice note from **Totnes** in which we learned, among other things, that folks from that town are Totnesians. They went to Vire (53 of them) where the hospitality was overwhelming. Bridge players found that a tournament had been organised; ramblers found they had some French ramblers and they all – er – rambled. Twelve of the party were on their first visit and ten were young folks. These included four youngsters from the Sea Scouts.

It is heartening to read that the Association has attracted many new members, but now the French from Vire (“Vireurs”? “Virais”?) are threatening to bring two coaches over next year. It is good, also, to read of the chance for the local Primary Schools to “twin” with their counterparts in Vire.

### Tout Ensemble

Check with your secretary about the meeting and dance at Budleigh Salterton on 15<sup>th</sup> July. This is unusual and you will have a chance to meet fellow twinnings from all over the county. You can bring your friends.

Band and Caller : The talents of REDWING.

After the meeting at

#### **Budleigh Salterton:**

stay for the food and dancing in the evening.  
(It won't go on too late)

Tickets at £12 can be ordered from  
Joyce Smith, 1 Elmside, Budleigh Salterton.

### 15<sup>th</sup> July in your Diary?

Our first get-Together for a Social Event  
It's at Budleigh Salterton after the usual Meeting.  
(See “Tout Ensemble” on this page.)

#### Your Committee **2005 – 2006**

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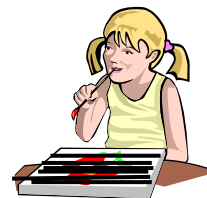
### My Visit to France

*It was the second time I have been to France but the first time I have stayed with a French family. I enjoyed it a lot and would definitely go again. I liked it when we all played French 'Uno' (me and my French family).*

*I just loved the French bread! And of course the 'Confiture de Lait' with it for breakfast. The meals were just gorgeous and they never gave us chips – not once!*

*I had a cool cool time in France and can't wait for them to come to us!*

*Claudine Styles (Aged 9)*



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