



Home from Home



Number 21

The Newsletter of the Devon Twinning Circle

January 2009

From The New Editor

Well, with all the festive activities now over for another few months and the outside temperatures staying below freezing, it's time to get back to normality with thinking of friends of far afield therefore I am issuing your first newsletter of 2009. I was hoping to get this issue out to you all before Christmas but, with December being so busy for everyone, time just ran away and before I knew it the New Year was upon us all. Therefore hoping you all had a good Christmas and I take this opportunity to wish you all a Prosperous New Year.

Just a reminder of my details for send your news and updates. My address is "Fuchsia House" 18 West View Road, Bere Alston, Yelverton, W Devon PL20 7DD. Tel/fax 01822 840862. Thank you all for sending your Club Newsletters and news to me, please accept my apologies if they do not appear in this issue but will be in the next due to space but please keep sending your news to me. If you can send items to me electronically all the better, my email is peter@pdennis8.wanadoo.co.uk as this will help in putting the newsletter together.

From your Committee

To all fellow Twinners.

I hope you all had a very Merry Christmas, and a Happy New Year and all have had a good time. We are very please that we have the newsletter back in Circulation again. Our thanks go to Peter Dennis for taking this on but a Big thank you to Don for all his work over the past few years.

Please can you send in all your events etc, and perhaps we can do a letter's page, if there is enough letters, sent in.

The date for the next Meeting of the Devon Twinning Circle is Saturday 17th January 2009, at Braunton, we hope you will be able to join us.

May I hope you all have a good 2009 and successful fund raising.

Future Meetings in 2009:-

January 17th. Braunton

April 18th. AGM Sampford Peverell

July 17th.TBA

October 17th. Tiverton

We need a venue for July meeting so I ask if there's any association who would like to host this meeting. East, West or South Devon might be nice.

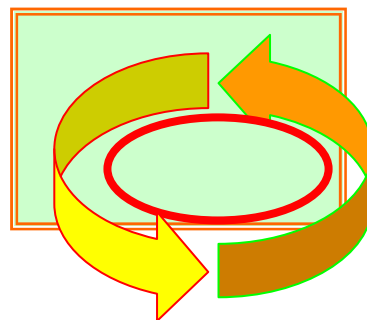
Annual General Meeting

The Devon Twining Circle Annual General Meeting will be held on Saturday 18th April 2009 at Sampford Peverill with Guest Speaker Neil Parish MEP.

Neil is one of three Conservative MEP's in the South West of England and Chairman of the European Parliament Agriculture Committee. Please see his web page for more information about MEP's and their roles.

Nominees for the AGM will be sort at the next General Meeting at Braunton in the St Brannocks Church Rooms at 14:00 hrs on **Saturday 17th January 2009.**

Hazel.
Chairperson



Around The Circle

Lympstone's trip to our twin village, Biéville-Beuville near Caen in November turned out to be less of a celebration of 30 years of twinning, but more like a day's work listening to long speeches in French and German on the subject of their respective educational systems. The outcome of which is that many German families in Margetshöchheim Bavaria (they are twinned with Biéville-Beuville) wish to not twin exactly, but to exchange teenagers for a fortnight or so, both ways each year, for them to speak English. An challenge certainly for us.

Two interesting things emerged, of the three communities with similar sized populations and territories, French & German local mayors' budgets are 100 times bigger than our Parish Council; and when French and German teenagers get together, they speak English!

A week later, our annual big fund-raiser, 'Jazz Brunch' for over 100 people raised over £500 for our Association. Hard work, good teamwork and a satisfying outcome. I hardly had time to hear any Jazz, let alone eat breakfast!

Ottery St Mary seemed to have an eventful time in the Autumn as they set off for their Autumn visits. They were invited this year to participate in the wine festival, so on the first weekend in October more than 35 Ottery residents met up with their German friends in their twinned town of Ilsfeld in Southern Germany. Lets hope the weather was kind for them.

Later in the month, their visitors from Pont l'Évêque arrived in time for the Carnival. In November, they planned a German-style Social Evening for all their members: I hope they had a great time sharing memories of recent Twinning visits and bags of Christmas spirit!

Despite the appalling weather, 2008 has been a good year for Ottery Twinning as they have organised a car treasurer hunt back in June, The CRÊPE STALL at West Hill Fête seemed to raise some valuable funds and advertising for the club. It's nice to see this kind of activity at local events. Thanks Hugo and Keith for your news.

IVYBRIDGE FRENCH TWINNING ASSOCIATION

The Twinning between Ivybridge and St Pierre-sur-Dives was celebrated again this year by our bi-annual visit to Normandy. The Association embarked on the Plymouth Ferry to Roscoff in May 2008. , The Mayor of Ivybridge (Cllr Alan Wright) accompanying us, we left Ivybridge at 8pm by Tally Ho Coaches to be met by an hilarious bureaucratic example at the Security check point, checking out of the country!! They seemed to arrive in Roscoff and enjoyed an eventful time visiting places in the Normandy Region such as Dinan is a very vibrant historical City with lots to see, before meeting their hosts in the L'Abbaye et les Halles de Saint Pierre sur Dives to enjoy the weekend in Arromanches, Honfleur, Caen, Lisieux or places of historical or other interest such as the St Peter's Cathedral in Lisieux. To end their visit we were hosted in the 'Salle de Fetes' to a dinner with speeches from the Mayors of St Pierre and Ivybridge. Cllr Alan Wright presented the St Pierre Mayor with an original framed 'Watermark' given by the paper factory before leaving for home.

The Barnstaple Twinning Association held their Annual General Meeting in November with highlights from the years twinning events before planning the trips for 2009, taking place with their newest twinning visit to the town of Susa, in July and hoping to have

some School exchanges with young Musicians Twinning Project with then in October. The Albert Hall Show band will be travelling to Uelzen, Germany on Friday 24th July. (Look forward to seeing reports of these activities through the year ed.) Civic visitors from South Molton were warmly welcomed in Bad Bevensen, near Uelzen, in October.

Ide/Canteloupe-Cleville Twinning Association. This may well be their first contribution for a long while so thanks and look forward to more, Christine writes that they have had a very successful year especially with the extra work involved in celebrating our 30th Anniversary with our French friends.

"We have a very strong supportive group of twinners who all muck in together to make a big contribution to life in our small village. Each year we hold 3-weekly quiz meetings at our local hostelry, put together by Pete Bishop. This is the mainstay of our funding together with other events including a Sunday Roast in the village hall organised by our lovely lady members. A Summer barbeque and sale of goods. Ide Fete evening shindig with live band. On November 5th a fireworks display and barbeque at The Poachers which is a favourite for the children. Twinners all meet up regularly as friends too and our social lives revolve around one another. We are all looking forward to our trip to France in 2009."



X-Line Travel - I have received some good reposts from fellow Twinning Associations within the region, who have been transported to and from either Airports or Ferry Terminals on visits, therefore have included them in this issue. I have received the following from X-Line Travels web page -:

"We are a small family style transport provider business that has grown steadily by recommendation since 2003. We value our customers, without whom we would not exist, and we are firm believers in the simple values of flexibility, reliability and punctuality. Our courteous and well presented staff adhere to these values, and take a pride in their jobs. We offer a personal service and flexible travel solutions. Our fleet of modern vehicles range from individual taxis and executive minibuses, to luxury air conditioned coaches".

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I look forward to receiving more reviews of travel arrangements and value for money within this economical credit crunch times in the hope we can pass on information and promote the travel companies who give the very best service to their clients. (ed)

Have fun and great friendship through twinning in 2009.