



Home from Home

The Newsletter of the Devon Twinning Circle
No. 17.



October 2007

Who are the Future twidders?

There is a lot of difference between just being a holiday-maker in a foreign country and being a Twinner who lives "at home" with real friends, learning about the ways of the town or village. We know the value of being shown around by friends who can really tell us about the region and take us to places where the character of the area has not been destroyed by tourists.

We offer them the same friendship when we have a "home match"; we have an understanding that is the basis of international collaboration. We think it is a Good Thing.

Why doesn't everybody want to expand his or her range of friendship in this way? Well, some folks, sadly, are just not tuned in to the friendship idea, but there are other practical matters.

Are They Qualified?

We have always understood, in our own TA in our little corner of Devon, that one of the conditions of membership was that you could offer your guests the same hospitality and comfort (more or less!) that you receive when visiting their homes. In other words, you need to live in "your own place" and to have enough space to receive visitors.

Now, the future Twidders are the younger folk, and many of them do not have the means to offer accommodation. Whether they are single folks living with their parents or young married couples with limited space, they seem to be disqualified from joining the Twinning Association. It must be the same in France, Germany or wherever.

A Possible Solution.

Any resolution of the problem will require understanding and agreement between you and your overseas partners.

So they live with their parents? Can parents be persuaded to offer the accommodation for a young visitor? It assumes, of course, that the visitor also has parents who can offer the same facilities over there. It would need some subtle discussion and one would need to find out if there are, indeed, any matching youngsters on the other side who would be willing to play the same

game. Is it worth asking?

The young married couples (or single folks who do not live with parents) present a more complicated problem, but possibly they have parents nearby or friends with accommodation who can deal with the space problem. You could have your twinning friends sleeping out, but otherwise joining in everything.

Well, it was worth suggesting.

The Next Meeting Of the Devon Twinning Circle

Is on
Saturday, October 20th, 2007.

At
KINGSTEIGNTON
At 2.00 p.m.

Details from your secretary

The Last Meeting; snippets. . .

At the July meeting of the DTC at Uffculme, Chairman Stewart Philp elaborated on his proposals for a DTC "folder" that would provide all Associations with a guide to methods, travel, fundraising, design of constitution, publicity, licensing laws, publicity, information, insurance and all the things a lively secretary would need to know. It was suggested that we might have maps of Devon and of France. (Also of Germany we suppose.) It was agreed that we should not publish lists of names and addresses in the folder.

Poland?

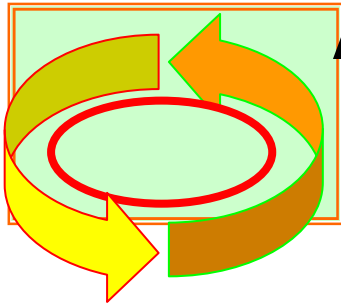
There have been some approaches about possible twinning with a Polish town. We may have a speaker on the subject later.

You want to be on Telly?

The BBC is soon to consider taking a film crew to France with a Twinning Association. Perhaps we can hear more about this at the October meeting.

There were some heated words about the protocol of using ladies' titles as Miss, Mrs or Ms. One lady was heard to remark that she wasn't sure what a "Muzz" was, but she knew that Ms stood for manuscript and she wasn't either of those. The matter was not resolved.

--Which reminds us that Annie and Yvette (Muzzes? – Missuzes?) gave us a very interesting talk about Uffculme.



Around The Circle

Non Stop Twinning in Ottery

Even though the visitors from our twin town of Ilsfeld have only just returned to Germany (writes Keith Spittlehouse of **Ottery St Mary TA** in July), the Twinning Association is already formulating plans for the visit there in October.

Although the July weather was not good, the visitors were taken in a covered wagon to view some of the more exciting activities of Bicton Agricultural College. The truly rural skills included the apparent need to reverse a trailer into the right place using a tractor.



The Pastor from Ilsfeld was there, so everyone went to church as well. The visitors returned home via London. Many earlier friendships were relived and lots of new ones made.

On the social, fundraising side, Ottery is having a bit of a "do" on Saturday, 13th October. We trust they will all come to our DTC meeting the following week!

E-Mails and Websites

Now this is a confession of incompetence, and of being just plain old-fashioned and stingy. Here in the depths of East Devon, we do not have a broad-band modem. The effect is that, if you send us a very long newsletter with lots of photos, or if we try to copy and print your website (What? - - You haven't got one!), then we have to sit up late into the night while the expensive documents trickle in.

It is safer to send us a long text by post; it probably gets here quicker. Tony Harrowell offered us the benefit of the website of **Bampton TA**, but our machine switched itself off before we could get it all in. It is a pity. (Sorry Tony.)



(Not really your editor; too much hair)

Look at it if you can. They are doing very well at Bampton.

www.bamptonwinningassociation.co.uk

Who are you, then - -?

Barbara Mason, who is Chair of the **Exmouth TA**, writes in their newsletter that the trip this year to Langerwehe was very successful, thanks to Maggie Gingell and her sub-committee. The weather was not promising much at the start, but, on arrival in Germany, everyone needed sun cream and funny hats.

Exmouth has decided to ask members at functions to wear a badge giving their names. This was welcomed by the Germans in Langerwehe and seems popular with members at social functions. It helps those of us who forget names regularly; not that we personally ever do of course.

The unexpected entertainment at the reception was by a local "Gospel Choir" who were certainly loud and fervent. So was the praise for the wine-tasting and the dinner that occurred after the walk through the vineyards (about 6 Km).



The gift to the Langerwehe folks was a donation to the local association for disabled people. The visit to the power station was the hottest visit made by some members.

Russian Invitation

We have this paper with a fine heading in Russian. It is an invitation to a barbecue in Plymouth in July, so we have missed it, but at least we could read it. (Most of it is in English) Despite the more esoteric activities of **Plymouth-Novorossiysk** Twinners, it is nice to hear also of their social life.

Ipplepen Twinning Association

Peter Bevan has sent us a lot of copy from the Village Magazine at Ipplepen. It includes an article about the Twinning Association. It describes the celebrations at Soliers when they enjoyed their 20th anniversary amid dancing (Cossack style), a brass band and a range of edible delicacies that were introduced after everyone thought they were replete with three courses of the dinner:- *"Imagine a raft of profiteroles in the shape of the British Isles, with Ipplepen marked out in chocolate - - and next to it a veritable mountain of the same for Soliers, with Roman candles ablaze! - - a pyrotechnic pudding!"*

The editor of the Village magazine obviously has an eye to the publicity and gives names and telephone numbers so that anyone wishing to join the association can get in touch.

We still get news regularly from the **Exeter-Yaroslavl Twinning Association** (EYTA). They hosted a group from Yaroslavl in July. One day was spent in Tiverton. In the morning they had a trip on the Tiverton Canal. They watched the horse being harnessed and then settled for a leisurely ride along the canal. The "olde world" atmosphere was enhanced by the friendly barmaid and the chatty boatman. One of the Russians gamely undertook to translate when he gave them a potted history of the canal.



In the afternoon they visited Tiverton Castle, a place unknown to English and Russians alike. There were visits to the beach and Trago Mills and a day trip sightseeing in London. The Exeter hosts entertained with a pantomime on Sunday evening.

Ideas

And Information

“L” for Organisation

Pat Sherwood has passed on a letter sent by Caroline Nicholson of the APL. It seems that APL stands for Anglo-Polish Organisation of Tiverton. Perhaps it does in Polish.

Caroline hopes to encourage and “promote cultural exchange and healthy social relationships between the incoming Polish peoples and the local Devon community.” She says that, although we can expect more Polish folks here in the future, there are some who have already been here for as long as four years.

There is also a related charity, called Devon Tutoring that is concerned with the teaching of English as a second language and of Polish as a means of better communication between social services and the incomers.

Most of the activities are around **Tiverton** at the moment. If you are interested, contact Caroline on tivyvtutoring@googlemail.com. She is asking how she could start a Twinning between a Devon town (Tiverton?) and a Polish town. She knows of a town called Wisla that is anxious to make contact. We suspect that some EU funding would be available for this (because it is “Eastern Europe”), despite the current restrictions on grants for Twinning.

The Little Pictures



Our appeal for any way of obtaining a new source of “Clip Art” pictures to enliven the Newsletter has not had any response yet. We found one disk, but the pictures still have that American theme

Street Atlas

We promise we get no commission for this, but the information seems worth passing on: did you know that Philip’s do a street plan of the whole of Devon?

It is a convenient size; just like any other paperback, but it covers the whole of the county with clear road-maps with a very useful index at the back. You can find any named street in Devon! OK, so we are the only one who didn’t know about it. Anyway it costs less than £6 (just).



Most of other counties are done in the same way. We know now where to find Orchard Close in 39 places in Devon.

Skittles

Don’t say we didn’t tell you. After the meeting at Kingsteignton, have a good munch on the tea and biscuits and then join **Exeter Twinning Circle** at 7.30 at Longdown Village Hall on the Mortonhampstead Road out of Exeter.

It costs £5.50 per person to get in, but the prizes, including the booby prize, are fabulous.

Ring John Sparks on 01392 216549



Flights to Rennes, Etcetera

Sorry, Exeter, but we can’t resist the three letters on the front of your Newsletter. However the news of flights to and from Rennes may be of interest to readers. “Exeter to Rennes in One Hour” is the heading one one page, then on the next page is “Rennes to Exeter in One Hour”, so it is nice to know you can get back as well.

The service is available on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays starting from Exeter at 1.25 p.m. and from Rennes at 3.50 p.m. It takes less than an hour. More information is given on www.exeter-airport.co.uk or on 0871 7000 123

Pinhoe and Pablo Picasso

Continuing with news from the Exeter TC, there is a school called the Pablo Picasso Primary School in Rennes. They asked if ETC could find a school in Exeter that would like to develop some links and exchange projects and ideas. The teacher, Thierry LeFouille, was put in touch with Pinhoe Primary School and, as a result, when he brought 28 children and two “Mums” of the school over to Exeter for a short visit in May, they were all invited to visit the school and to have a school dinner on that day.

Despite a rough voyage here in which many of the children were sick, the visit was considered a great success. Thierry was able to film the youngsters at certain times with his mobile telephone (Doesn’t everyone?) and show the images to the parents immediately on a website that they could watch in Rennes!

Want to be on the Telly?

We heard at the last meeting that the BBC is soon to make a programme which will show some of the activities of a Twinning visit to France. We wonder what the video editors will make of it. Will they try to show the things that go wrong or the best bits?



Exeter Twinning Circle

The ETC newsletters certainly show how busy they are! There are reports of hosting visitors from Terracina, Italy, from Bad Homburg, Germany and of a school connection with Rennes in France. The Exeter Children's Orchestra were supported in their trip to Bad Homburg and we read that St Luke's College also had help on a sporting visit to Rennes.

No Front Garden!

There is a record of a whole range of social activities by **South Molton TA** in their well-established twinning with Livarot. In their newsletter Simone describes the delights of Monet's garden at Giverny. Those who have visited the house will know that it faces directly on to the road with not even a footpath, let alone a front garden, but you should see the back garden! Simone was particularly impressed by the water garden and the Japanese garden - - - and the footbridge of course.

We think this is the only newsletter with a crossword puzzle, but we could be wrong.

Steam Trains, Prisons and Horses

Twinners do strange things don't they? At least, they probably have a greater variety of experiences through Twinning Associations. In May this year, **Bideford Twinning Association** went to Landvisiau. Quite apart from the strange rites of wine-tasting and skittles (at home) they found the French taking them out in a couple of boats to visit an island where the Chateau du Taureau was constructed as a defence against the aggressive English and, later, as a prison. It seems it is not an attractive place.

Later, in Landvisiau, it was the time of the horse fair where there was a "Horse Spectacular" in which the horses showed how essential they are for log-moving, for clowns, knights, acrobats and chariots. Later (perhaps nobody thought of horses as a means of transport) they all tried out a ride on a steam train when (as one does) they had a stop for refreshment with pancakes and cider.

The French came over in August and received a good welcome, but we bet they didn't get cider on horses - - or was it pancakes on chariots?

Indoor Garden

As for most of us this year, it seemed wiser for **Dolton & District TA** to move indoors for their garden party. Isn't it nice how there is always somebody with the sort of garden or the sort of house that can accommodate us? Dolton's July report is mainly of social activities that have raised funds for other events so they have been busy. For those who like AGMs, they have changed the date of theirs to 4th November, so now we all know in good time.

Honiton Twinning Association

John Williamsen reports that they hosted 19 from Grenau in July. Our Meziden-Canon friends pulled out at the last minute, after considerable programme adjustments to accommodate them! We toured Dartmoor in thick cloud and driving rain (umbrella fashion parade at Widecombe) followed by a memorable (and expensive) dinner at Escot. Honiton's 750th Market Charter anniversary celebrations provided much activity during the rest of the week.

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2007 - 2008

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