

Launceston & Plestin Packet



Occasional newsletter of Launceston and
District Twinning Association

web-link: launcestontwinningassociation.weebly.com

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Planning for a bumper visit

PLANS are well underway for what promises to be a great gathering over the weekend of 8-11 April when we entertain our Plestin twins.

For the first time-ever, the French will need a larger, 75-seater coach to accommodate their party and the visit will involve several new families from both sides of the Channel. Full details of programme, timings, costs and how to book will be published in the March issue of The Packet. But so you can make your own arrangements for your visitors, here is the...

Outline Programme

Friday:

It will be an evening crossing for the visitors and Launceston hosts should be prepared to greet their guests at approximately 11.30pm in the Launceston College car park on 8 April.

Saturday:

There is a choice of planned activities for Saturday – either a visit to Paignton Zoo or to Greenway, the National Trust property on the Dart. A coach will leave Launceston at 10am to arrive at Paignton Zoo for 11.30am and from the zoo twinnings can make their way to the station for the trip to Greenway.

Paignton Zoo: With over 2,000 animals across 80 acres – visitors can get up close to some of the animal wonders of the world across specially designed habitats – from the savannah to the wetlands and the tropical forest. The zoo is a registered charity and part of a worldwide network of zoos which cares for and breeds rare species thanks to visitors who help fund the work. Eating places range from a restaurant to eating kiosks at different locations. More information at <http://www.paigntonzoo.org.uk/>

Greenway house and garden: The beloved holiday home of author Agatha Christie and her family. This relaxed and atmospheric house is set in the 1950s, when Agatha and her family would spend summers and Christmases here with friends. The family were great collectors, and the house is filled with archaeology, Tunbridgeware, silver, botanical china and books. Included in the many different ways to get there is a steam train from Paignton as well as ferries across/along the river Dart. More information at <http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/greenway>

Sunday:

A free day to enjoy with families and celebrations will conclude in the evening with the now-traditional lively dinner dance at Launceston Town Hall. The evening will follow the same successful format as last time with music by the Cornish group Choughed to Bits. Given the extra numbers involved in this year's exchange, it will be important to book your places early for this very popular event. Numbers at the Town Hall are limited to a total of 180. Priority will be given to our French visitors and their hosts, so while non-hosting twinnings will be welcome, places will be allocated on a first-come, first-served basis.

Monday:

As this will be a school day, the French coach will leave from Martin's Cash and Carry in the morning.

Get your walking boots ready

OUR winter walk promises some spectacular sights for those hardy enough to brave the wintry conditions on February 20 and head for Rough Tor – on Bodmin Moor, near Camelford.



As the days draw to a close at this time of year, about 2 million starlings come home to roost in spectacular displays in the woods around Rough Tor. The Rough Tor murmurations are among the largest to be witnessed in the UK and the sight – and sound – in the moorland setting is positively eerie.

Those interested in the walk to Rough Tor should meet up at the National Trust car park at 3pm. And, in case there's a wait between the return from the walk and before the starlings start their air show, organiser Jenny Worth has said she will put some flasks of soup in her car. Afterwards, if people want they could go to the Wilsey Down at Hallworthy for food

Those planning to venture forth are requested to let Jenny Worth know – so that nobody gets left behind! Jenny can be contacted at jaw53@hotmail.com and if there is a problem/bad weather on the day, call her on 07766592519.

Directions -

From Launceston turn left before the A39 go past Davidstow Creamery - turn right at T junction then left past Crowdy Reservoir and at crossroads turn left to Rough Tor.



FILM FOCUS

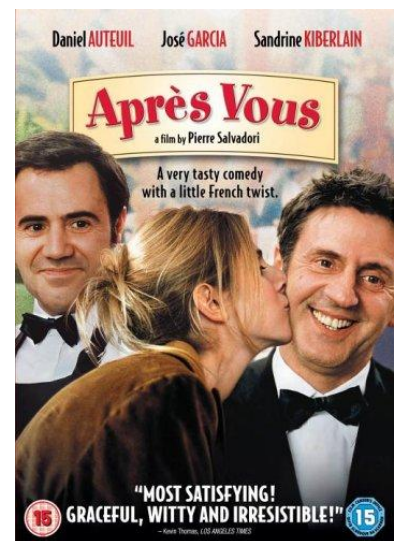
Après vous - Tuesday 1 March 2016

MAITRE d' Daniel Auteuil serves up a tasty comedy of love and fine dining, in a role for which he won a César (French Oscar equivalent) for Best Actor in 2005.

A random act of kindness snowballs into vivid proof that "no good deed goes unpunished" in this. Antoine (Auteuil), a restaurant headwaiter, takes a shortcut through a park one night and spots Louis (Jose Garcia), a despondent, lovelorn stranger, attempting to kill himself.

Antoine intervenes – despite Louis's vehement protests – and hustles him home to his apartment. And it isn't long before Antoine has decided to fix all that is wrong in Louis's life.

He artfully intercepts a suicide note to Louis's grandparents...riotously attempts to land Louis a job at his posh restaurant...and boldly tries to mend the rifts between Louis and his former girlfriend, Blanche (Sandrine Kiberlain).



But an unexpected twist of fate upsets Antoine's grandiose plans for Louis's "rehabilitation."

No prizes for guessing the outcome, but it's a feast of fun. Bon appétit!

To book your meal and film deal, please tell **Carolyn Burch** carolynburch@btconnect.com (01566 785171) which meal(s) you want:

- Spicy sausage and bean casserole – Bray Farm Shop sausages, bacon, kidney and haricot beans in a mild spicy tomato sauce with mash or roast potatoes
- Lemon & thyme chicken with winter roasted vegetables
- Gratin of lentils, spinach and ricotta in rich tomato sauce – tomatoes, red wine, green lentils topped with toasted breadcrumbs and parmesan

and send a cheque (£15 per person) to Jean Mansell at Nighthoak, 2 Stourscombe Wood, Launceston PL15 9JP.

The deadline for booking your meal(s) is the evening of Wednesday 24 February.



Bowling at Trethorne

OUR drive towards introducing some interesting new activities into the twinning calendar got the New Year off to a striking start when we held our first ten-pin bowling event in January.

As well as the ten adults and 14 children, who made up four teams and enjoyed some good-hearted rivalry, there were other adults who went along to enjoy the food and the social evening.

“The atmosphere was great, everyone enjoyed the evening and I think they’ll be up for it again,” said secretary Jenny Birkett. “As usual, the staff at Trethorne were very pleasant and helpful.”

Find us on Facebook

There’s a new way to keep abreast of what’s happening in twinning and what members are up to! Just go on to Facebook and look up the Launceston Twinning Association Group.

The Facebook link was the brainchild of twinner Tamsin Worth, who thought it would be a great way for members to keep in touch with each other. “We can chat about who’s going to events and make arrangements for transport, meeting up and what to take,” said Tamsin.

“So many people use Facebook these days that I thought we were missing out and a really good way to communicate. It’s not a public group, just for our twinners. So, if you’re interested in joining the group, go on to Facebook, search for Launceston Twinning Association and then ask to join.”

Note the date: April 22

That’s the date set for our Spring Wine and Wisdom evening. We’ve set the date well in advance this year to avoid clashes with other groups who find that the evening quizzes are a really popular social event.

Much-in-demand Quizmaster Peter Birkett will be pulling together an eclectic mix of brain-teasing questions and, as usual, there will be wine, French cheeses and nibbles to stimulate the grey cells.

So, mark Friday, 22 April, in your diary now, gather your team of six and get them to put the dates in their diaries too.

Full details of how to book your tables will be published in the next issue of The Packet.

A warm welcome to our new members

Several new members have already joined twinning this year, and more applications are in the pipeline. We look forward to meeting and welcoming them to our spring activities and over the weekend of April 8-11 when we entertain our Plestin families.

The new members are:

Alan and Lois Atkin;
Rebecca and Daniel Brewer with Mercy and Caleb;
Emma and Adrian Jose with Jonathan, William and Amelia;
Mrs Allison Knowles; and
Roger and Joanna Thomas
Rachael Dewis

And finally...

A sincere thank-you from the editors goes to all the twidders who acknowledged receipt of the last issue of The Packet. It has allowed us to go through the mailing lists and identify where there might have been gaps. Hopefully, all members should receive The Packet henceforth.

Diary Dates

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| February 20 | Rough Tor winter walk 1pm or 3pm at Rough Tor car park |
| March 1 | French Film Night, <i>Apres Vous</i>, Jericho's Launceston, 7pm |
| April 8-11 | Visit by Plestin twidders to Launceston |
| April 12 | Launceston Twinning Association's annual coffee morning at the Central Methodist Hall |
| April 22 | Wine and Wisdom evening at the White Hart, Launceston |
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