

# Launceston & Plestin Packet



Occasional newsletter of Launceston and  
District Twinning Association

web-link:

<http://launcestontwinningassociation.weebly.com/>

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## **AGM Special issue!**



*RELAXING – twidders get down to doing justice to the fantastic food at Trethorne*

## **More members mean it will be a two-coach visit**

INTEREST in our visit to Plestin next year is so great that – for the first time ever – we have had to book two coaches to take the Launceston contingent to Brittany at the end of March.

Twinning Association chairman Jill Whitechurch described the increasing demand by families and couples to take part in twinning as amazing.

Jill said the fact that we will need two coaches had presented visit organiser Jenny Worth with some logistical problems because our demand for extra capacity came at a time when Brittany Ferries will be reducing the number of crossings.

So Jenny had to act quickly when she found a weekend crossing that could accommodate the two coaches. She put in an immediate call to Plestin chairman Bruno Philipé, who came back with good news that the weekend was suitable for the Plestin twidders, and Jenny booked the coaches and the ferry.

And that, explained our chairman, was why the Annual General Meeting was not offered a choice of dates as has previously been the case.

Jenny told the meeting that the coaches would be a 53-seater and a 29-seater and the overnight outward ferry journey on Thursday, 30 March, would be on the ferry Pont Aven while the return, on Monday, 3 April, would be on the Amorique.

Plans for Friday

Because the French children would be at school during the day on Friday, Bruno had suggested that the Launceston twidders might like to make a visit somewhere before arriving in Plestin in the afternoon.

“Nearer the time, we’ll be asking twidders what they would like to do that day,” said Jenny. “Those who won’t be going with children might like to speak to their twidders in advance because some might like us to go straight to Plestin.

“Perhaps we’ll end up with one bus going straight to Plestin and the other taking a group for some other activity.”

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## Future demands...

A WARNING that the time has come for twidders to look seriously at fund-raising activities was given by treasurer Jean Mansell.

The meeting heard that the auditor had commented on the fact that the Twinning Association’s bank balance had dropped by nearly £2,000 over the year.

Jean explained that the reduced balance was the result of a decision at last year’s AGM that the emphasis of twinning activities should shift from serious fund-raising to social events because we would no longer be hosting an exchange every year.

**She warned however that the encouraging increase in participation in twinning brought with it extra financial demands.** The Twinning Association had funded the visits and Town Hall meal for a record number of French twidders this year.

And Jean pointed out: “Although we are not hosting a visit next year, we shall have to pay out quite a lot of money for the children who will be going to Plestin.” This is because Association is committed to encouraging families with children to take part in the exchanges and twinning activities and subsidises their trips.

Social events and fund-raising had brought in £2,503 this year compared with £4,184 in 2015. Although it had been agreed that there would be more emphasis on social activities, Jean said twidders were no longer giving the same level of support to activities.

It had been decided to drop the Wine and Wisdom evenings because they were not being supported by twidders and the French film evenings were now only just breaking even.

Jean urged twidders to support the Association’s social and fund-raising activities this year. It was agreed that a call for volunteers would be published in The Packet when twidders could help to set up events or prepare food, cakes, etc.

The Association’s bank balance was £2,013 compared with nearly £4,000 in 2015. The Stepsaver account remained at £942.

## ...any ideas?

**AS WELL as events that have proved popular in the past – like Call My Bluff and the Murder Mystery Evening – the Association is looking for ideas for new and interesting social/fund-raising events.**

**Suggestions at the AGM included: a kids’ party, bingo in French, a beetle drive, a safari supper, a table-top and plant sale, and a raffle. It was also suggested that it would be fun to have an entry in the carnival.**

**If you have any ideas, the committee would love to hear from you. Contact George at the email address at the top of the newsletter.**

## 'Actors' wanted

IT is planned to stage another Murder Mystery Evening in March. Is there anyone out there – man, woman or child – who is prepared to take to the stage for an evening of awful deeds (and, possibly, awful acting)?

Those interested in serious acting careers are advised not to apply because our murder mystery evenings inevitably turn out to be a delightful cross between detective work and pantomime.

Several names were put forward at the AGM but there may be others out there who would be prepared to join the intrigue and mayhem.

If you'd like to be a member of the cast, please let Patty Taylor know. Auditions won't be necessary – all that will be required is a rough knowledge of the plot and a basic understanding of what your character is supposed to say and when. Ad-libbing is quite acceptable.

Patty can be contacted at pat@pmurray-pr.co.uk We will try to find a part for all those who want to take part, but we can't promise.

## Keeping in touch

SECRETARY Jenny Birkett appealed to members to make sure they let her know of any changes in contact details. "I emailed a reminder about the AGM to everyone," said Jenny. "I had lots of bounce-backs and undeliverables. We haven't got many people here tonight."

She reported that 15 adults and six children joined the Twinning Association during the year which brought the total membership to 81 members and 23 children.

All members should be receiving copies of The Packet, the Association's newsletter which provided regular up-to-date information on activities – another reason why accurate contact details were important.

The website, which received about 200 visits every month, was another way of getting information and – since the summer – members could find us on Facebook.

## Officers and committee

CHAIRMAN Jill Whitechurch, secretary Jenny Birkett, and treasurer Jean Mansell all agreed to stand for another year and were re-elected. Jill recorded her thanks to vice-chairman Carolyn Burch who had stepped down from the committee. Jean Mansell was elected vice-chairman.

Jason Thorns was elected to the committee where he joins Dy Vivian, Jenny Worth, Lucy de Glanville, Tracey Carmichael and George Taylor.

## France's highest honour for Stan

IT was reported that life-member Stan Mincher has received the Legion d'Honneur, the highest decoration in France, in recognition of his services to ensure the country's liberation during the Second World War.

Stan, who was this Association's first treasurer, has yet to be formally presented with the medal, but he was able to wear it at the Launceston Service of Remembrance on Sunday.

It was unanimously agreed to send a letter of congratulation to Stan on behalf of twinnings.

## And finally...

**...ANNUAL subscriptions were due on or before the AGM. The good news is that they have been pegged at the same rate for yet another year!**

**Individual membership is £7.50; family or corporate membership £15.**

**So, if you haven't paid yours yet, please send a cheque to treasurer Jean at Nighthoak, 2 Stourscombe Wood, Launceston PL15 9JP.**