

Launceston & Plestin Packet



Occasional newsletter of Launceston and
District Twinning Association

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

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INVITATION

**You are cordially invited to the Relaunch Party
of Launceston Twinning Association
at Trethorne Leisure Centre
on Friday, April 29, at 6.30 for 7pm**

Tickets, to include buffet meal, £5 per adult/child

RSVP: Paul Smith at Springfield, Truscott, Launceston, Cornwall,
PL15 8LA, by 19 April, with cheques payable to Launceston Twinning
Association and noting numbers attending

Planning for the future

AFTER two very quiet years, Twinning is springing back into action with a relaunch party at Trethorne on Friday, 29 April.

The evening will be a long-awaited opportunity for twinners to get together and socialise - and there will be a subsidised buffet meal.

The get-together is the idea of our chairman, Jason, who wanted an opportunity for everyone to get into the twinning mood again and give members a chance to discuss how they feel about the proposed visit of our Plestin twins in October.

This event follows the email from Bruno earlier in the year saying that, all being well, the French would like to make their long-postponed visit around the time of the October half-term.

“With the summer coming and people feeling more confident about socialising, I felt this would be a good time for us all to get together and have a catch-up,” said Jason.

“In addition, during the two years that life has been restricted because of covid, several members have left the area and this will be an ideal opportunity to find out how many members we still have in twinning.”

The relaunch means that an action is required from everyone who receives a copy of this issue of The Packet!

- **If you are coming to the relaunch party, please reply to Paul by 19 April stating number of guests and a cheque.**
- **If you are unable to come to the party, but want to remain in twinning, please respond to Paul giving the names of members (with ages of children) and, if you've forgotten to pay your subs, please enclose a cheque (£7.50 for individuals and £15 for each family).**
- **If you no longer wish to belong to twinning, please send Paul an email to paulsmithtruscott49@gmail.com so we can bring our records up to date and not bother you with unwanted information.**



French film night: Tuesday. 26th April

Trethorne, from 6.30pm onwards and 7pm start of the food



It's sink or swim for these chaps

“Le Grand Bain” (English title: “Sink or swim”) is a 2018 comedy/drama about a motley group of 40-something men, all on the verge of a mid-life crisis, who decide to form their local pool's first synchronized swimming team ... for men.

It is in the corridors of their municipal swimming pool that they train under the relative authority of Delphine, former queen of the pool.

They will put all their energy into a discipline previously owned by women - a weird idea, but this challenge will allow them to find meaning in their lives ...

Shown with English subtitles.

To book your meal and film deal please contact Paul Smith at paulsmithtruscott49@gmail.com with your meal choice by Wednesday 20th April. Cheques (£15.00 per person) payable to Launceston Twinning Association should be sent to Paul Smith at Springfield, Truscott, Launceston, Cornwall PL15 8LA. Please note on the back of the cheque that payment is for the French film night and the number of people.

The meal choices are (and garlic bread can be substituted for chips, if preferred):

Turkey & Ham Pie of the day with chips, peas & gravy
Beef & Blue Cheese Pie of the Day with chips, peas & gravy
Ham, eggs and chips.
Beef Lasagne with salad, coleslaw, chips or garlic bread
Vegetable Lasagne with salad, coleslaw, chips or garlic bread.
Wholetail scampi with chips, peas, tartare sauce and lemon wedge.
Cajun Chicken with curly fries, salad and coleslaw.
Vegan sweet potato, chickpea & spinach Korma with long grain rice, mango chutney and a poppadom.
Vegan Red Lentil Chili with long grain rice & guacamole.

NB: chips available as a gluten free alternative to curly fries.



And finally...

... Maureen Amy's reminiscences of the 21 years she and Peter had enjoyed with twinning prompted Mike Warne to recall some musical memories associated with Twinning. He writes:

'Pete Brown had travelled with the town band on two or three occasions previous to 2000 as its bass drummer.

I organised trips for the town band to Plestin in 1985, and 1994 as well as the return trips to Launceston. On the first two occasions we were invited to play at the "Nuit de la Saucisse" (the celebrated "Sausage Night") in July. The first year was best and the band played two or three 30-minute slots on one of the two stages in the market car park in between jazz and pop bands, a fire eater, Vietnamese dancers and an escapologist!

On the second occasion it rained all evening so it was not possible to do a sit-down concert outside. Instead, we and the Plestin "fanfare" played the only two marches they could play, "Jeune Fanfare" and "Retour de Liege" through the streets of Plestin on three or four occasions, getting wetter and wetter.

The Launceston "harmonie" use a double tap on the bass drum to signal when to stop playing but Roger le Bihan, who took the Plestin band, had to come to the front of the fanfare and wave his arms and shout "Eh Oh!" to get the Plestin band to stop.

The Lanson Town Band was always described as an "harmonie" as we could put on a sit-down concert which we did twice on our 1994 visit. The Plestin Band was always described as a "fanfare" as it was a marching band with bugles and a corps of drums and both their marches had sections for bugles and drums alone.

I also remember the millennium 2000 visit when Roger, by now conducting the OK Chorale, invited Lanson twidders as well as their German, Belgian and Romanian twinning groups to sing in a joint concert.

His idea was that each group would sing something of their own and would then join together to sing Handel's "Hallelujah" chorus from Messiah. I remember rehearsing groups of twinnings, some of whom had never sung in a choir, to sing the Handel at our home.

Brenda Hooton and John Wadge sang tenor with me while Martin Vivian, Mike Hooton, Merv Dawe and Dave Shrimpton sang bass with Andy Dunning. We also had 14 ladies singing so, when marching through Plestin, we had 7 ranks of 3 singers with the men in the middle flanked by 7 women on each side with Pete Brown at the rear keeping us in step.

We looked quite good dressed in black and white with Cornish tartan ties or sashes and Cornish and Breton flags and the marching was very enjoyable as the Plestinians came out to cheer us. The German group did not enjoy the parade for obvious reasons and shambled along in front of us trying to avoid marching, especially along the Rue de la Libération!

The concert was a bit disappointing. A week before the trip, Roger rang to say that the OK Chorale would not be singing the Handel as it was too difficult. The few Belgians and Romanians who came to Plestin were not singers. We were expecting the Germans to join us but for some reason most of them were in dispute with their conductor and refused to sing. So, it was down to Lanson Twinnings to sing it with help from the German conductor and one or two German loyalists plus Bernard and Martine Henry and Roger from the Plestinians.

Roger had invited a good organist from somewhere to play for us but he could not see Margaret Parfitt, who was conducting, or vice versa as somebody helpfully moved the conductor's music stand to a different position before we sang. We were still asked for an encore.

We also sang some Cornish songs I had arranged in three parts with the alto/tenor part moving around alarmingly to fill in the harmony. We also had not rehearsed them as the Handel took up too much time and the planned rehearsal on the boat didn't work. However, the audience seemed to enjoy them.

The following year Roger and I arranged a visit in each direction for Launceston Choral Society and the OK Chorale when we sang concerts together in both countries.

Happy days!