

Launceston & Plestin Packet



Occasional newsletter of Launceston and
District Twinning Association

web-link: launcestontwinningassociation.weebly.com

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Nº 108 - May 2014

May visit special issue

more photos on our website at launcestontwinningassociation.weebly.com



Thirty years of twinning were celebrated in style...

...when more than 60 guests from Plestin were entertained by their Launceston hosts during the weekend of 2-5 May with picnics and parties and shared memories and hopes for the future.

Launceston chairman, Jill Whitechurch, summed up the 30-year friendship when she said the original aim of twinning between the two towns was to “develop close ties, shared viewpoints and to understand differences.

“It represents a long-term commitment with active participation on both sides,” said Jill. “I’m sure you will agree with me that we have succeeded superbly on all those points.”

She was speaking at the reception hosted by Launceston Town Mayor Cllr Dave Gordon in the grounds of Lawrence House Museum (pictured above). It was an opening event that set the tone for the weekend.

Congratulations and thanks to all those involved in organising such a special weekend – especially Jenny Worth, Jenny Birkett, our committee and all those who helped in so many ways.

The president of the Plestin twinning committee, Mado Menou, brought laughter to the event when she called on people to share their memories of twinning and Cherry Warne, Martin Vivian and Plestin Mayor André Lucas - all founder members of twinning - supplied anecdotes that spanned the years.

The Mayor, in welcoming the visitors, said: "We are two communities separated by sea, language and history but one thing is shared by these communities and that is a strong friendship. It's wonderful now to see some of the younger generation taking an active part in twinning and I give a very warm welcome to these young people."

The theme encouraging the younger generation to engage with twinning was reinforced by the Mayor of Plestin, André Lucas, who said he was pleased that 12 children had come from Plestin this year and he looked forward to many more successful years of twinning.



In fact, young people played an active part in twinning events this year; none more so than at the families' picnic in the grounds of Launceston Castle that followed the reception.

An informal football match saw the English kids narrowly defeat their French friends and then Dads went on to beat the kids.

Later, many explored the castle - with two

French dads getting into the spirit of things; one emerging wearing a Robin Hood hat and the other with chain mail.

The weather stayed dry, but breezy, for the outing to the Green Man Festival in the delightful setting of Mount Edgcumbe on Sunday.

Many twinnings took the opportunity to visit the stalls, tour Edgcumbe House or try their hand at the various sports and activities on offer. Most finished up eating their picnics or buying light meals to eat 'en plein air' at the water's edge (right).

It was another welcome opportunity to relax and catch up with friends.



The final event of a busy weekend was a cream tea in the gardens of Breckenreid, the home of Jilly Grigg and Chris Skipp.

Our visitors have come to expect some rain during their visits to Launceston, so it was no surprise when the threatened rain materialised during the afternoon.

But it takes more than May showers to dampen the spirits of twinnings and out came the umbrellas and rainwear (left) and the tea party went ahead.



But the high point of the celebrations was the Sunday evening dinner-dance party in the Town Hall which brought together well over 100 twinnings from both sides of The Channel to chat, eat, drink and dance the evening away.



Eighteen children joined in the fun and, in line with their active involvement in the event, some got together to organise their own table.

All age groups enjoyed a delicious buffet prepared by Something Nice Catering and great music from Cornish band Choughed to Bits, which had toes tapping and a full dance floor.

On a formal note, our Plestin visitors presented Launceston twinnings with a delightful watercolour depicting scenes of Plestin (left). It was painted by Plestin artist Christiane Le Gleau – who is now interested in joining twinning.

Impromptu entertainment was provided by young dancer 10-year-old Isabelle Thorns, and six Plestin ladies performed a selection of songs to the delight of the audience.



Photos in this issue by Patty Taylor and David Rogerson, but copies of those that appeared in the Cornish and Devon Post can be obtained through paulhamlynphotography.co.uk



Photos bring back memories

Thanks to the efforts of twinnings who raided their lofts and garages and dug out their photo albums, the display of photographs covering the past 30 years revived a lot of memories – and produced quite a lot of laughter!

“I would really like to thank Pat Dawe, Janet Dew, Margaret Parfitt, Dy Vivian, Cherry Warne, Jenny Worth and Dave Shrimpton for sharing so many happy memories,” said Patty Taylor, who organised the display.

And finally... Our Chairman Jill was a guest at the Launceston Mayor-choosing ceremony on Thursday – as were Francoise and Jean Yves le Bras as twinnings from Plestin. They received a personal invitation from the Mayoress when she discovered they were staying on after the twinning weekend and would be in town for the ceremony.