

Launceston & Plestin Packet



Occasional newsletter of Launceston and
District Twinning Association

web-link: launcestontwinningassociation.weebly.com

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In this issue our visit to Plestin...

(see more photos on our website launcestontwinningassociation.weebly.com)

...and other news

CRITICAL DATE THIS WEEK!

Wednesday – 1 October

THIS Wednesday is the deadline for booking meals for next week's French film night on October 7 – designed to welcome in a golden October with *Autumn Tale*, a lovely romance with gorgeous scenery from the south of France. (Details of the film and how to book on Page 3.)

A memorable weekend in Plestin

The orange tree – symbol of a growing friendship between two towns



**Closer inspection: Mado
has a good look at the tree**

A SONG from Plestin sung at the first get-togethers between our two towns 30 years ago was the inspiration for our gift to our hosts in Brittany to mark the 'pearl' anniversary of our twinning link.

Launceston chairman Jill Whitechurch explained: "To mark our long friendship we were inspired by your singing of the song The Orange Tree, whose last two lines are a good description of our 30 years' twinning: *It has flourished and it has produced the sweet fruits*

She thanked everyone who contributed to the warm welcome we received, which represented a great deal of work and organisation.

A group of more than 60 from Launceston – including ten children – enjoyed a weekend of memorable meals, singing, dancing, discovery, chatting and sharing memories during the weekend 19-22 September.

Saturday was spent with families but everyone came together in the evening for a reception hosted by a founder member of twinning, Andre Lucas, in his capacity as Mayor of Plestin, followed by a traditional Breton dinner.

Warm welcome

The Launceston visitors received a warm welcome from Mado Menou, president of the Plestin twidders, and the Mayor – both looking forward to a continuing long and strong friendship. On behalf of the Launceston association, Jill handed over a framed photograph of a huge group of twidders from both sides of the Channel which was taken at the Lawrence House Museum during the 30th celebrations in May.

A traditional Breton pot au feu provided the main course of the meal which ended with some rather special gateaux. They consisted of three cakes – chocolate, mango or strawberry – each beautifully decorated with edible fruit and flowers.

The table decorations were a series of brightly wrapped pots of flowers and foliage – and the Launceston guests were invited to take home one of the pots which had been specially planted and prepared by Mado.

Children's games

After the meal, several of the children set up their own table and once again it was France v England in a series of friendly, noisy games.

During the evening, the Plestin twidders displayed a beautiful, locally-made pottery bowl which was put up for raffle and won by one of the French twidders.



No twinning evening would be complete without singing, dancing and music. A group of Launceston twidders performed a selection of traditional songs – a couple in French with an interesting Breton twist - and Plestin responded with a medley of well-known songs.

Valley of sound



The final day offered some fascinating opportunities to explore the Valley of Sound – a success with the children and a touch of second childhood for the adults.

For hours the wooded valley echoed with extraordinary sounds and laughter. At every turn there were pipes to blow down – each group producing different sounds, tubes to listen at, pumps to stamp on, and arrays of every sort of material on which to tap, bang or drum.

Alongside the valley was a 'park' laid out to represent the inner ear. It was an educational experience both for showing the working of the ear and for trying to decipher the French explanations along the way. The interesting sanitary-ware waterfall (right) shows how waste is flushed from the ear to the nasal passages!

There was also a separate art trail to be explored during the day. Some French hosts arranged other activities for their guests – and there were a lot of stories swapped on the way home.

SAD NEWS

Twidders paused during the Saturday evening event to express their sympathy to Mme Anna Disez on the loss of her husband, Pierre, who was one of the founding members of Plestin-Launceston twinning, and also to M René Le Muzic on the death of his eldest daughter.

A taste of successful twinning



A COPY of the recipe book *Bon appétit! - Bon anniversaire!* was given to all French hosts by their Launceston guests over the twinning weekend.

Bon appetite! was compiled to celebrate our 30th anniversary. Jill said: "From the start, one of the highlights of twinning has been the meals shared in each others' homes, the formal dinners, and the lovely picnics. So what better way to celebrate our anniversary than with a collection of recipes from both sides of the Channel? Thanks to all those who contributed their recipes, and to Jenny Worth and Carolyn Burch for the translation and editing.

The book, which contains recipes from both sides of The Channel, will be on sale to all Launceston twidders at the annual general meeting in November.



FILM FOCUS

Conte d'automne (*Autumn Tale*)



ERIC Rohmer directed a series of four films, 'Tales of the Four Seasons', and Carolyn thought it might be nice to welcome in a golden October with Autumn Tale, a lovely romance with gorgeous scenery from the south of France.

The story of the film, to be shown on 7 October (meal 7pm), is a matchmaking one: Magali is a widowed wine producer in her 40s, from the Ardeche. Her best friend, Isabelle, decides to play matchmaker and find

Magali a new husband.

By putting an ad in the newspaper Isabelle finds a nice man, Gerald, to pair with her lonely friend. However, she is not the only one playing matchmaker. Magali's son's girlfriend, Rosine, introduces Magali to her former philosophy teacher and ex-lover, Etienne. It all comes to a head at Isabelle's daughter's wedding, when both prospective suitors are to be introduced to Magali. What will be the outcome?

The deadline for booking your meal(s) is Wednesday 1st October; please tell Carolyn Burch carolynburch@btconnect.com (01566 785171) which meal(s) you want out of the following 'autumnal mellow' selection:

- **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**
- **Chicken sauté - chicken casserole with carrots & leeks in a white wine mustard cream sauce**
- **Roasted vegetable moussaka – aubergines, fennel, peppers, onions, potatoes and tomatoes topped with cheese and herbs {may not be available, depends how many people choose it!}**

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

COMING SOON!



It's going to be murder...

... so why not join the fun and see whether you can work out 'who dunnit' at our Murder Mystery evening at Launceston Cricket Club, Lawhitton, on Friday, 7 November. Numbers will be limited, and we'll be giving details of costs and timings in The Packet to be issued shortly - so make a note in of the date in your diary now so you can book early and be sure of a place.

Theme of the evening will be a reunion of members of a Launceston school's French set. During the evening you'll meet some extremely interesting characters – and get caught up in some unusual events. The story will unfold during a 'Pot Luck Supper'. There will be a hot meal (main course and dessert) and guests should bring their own drinks and glasses.

And finally...

DID you hear the story about the blocked road, the English coach and the French bus? Well, as our sleepy band of travellers made their way by coach from the ferry at Roscoff sometime after 8am on Saturday morning, they discovered that their road was totally blocked by protesting French farmers. No diversions were sign-posted and many surrounding roads were unsuitable for coaches...

However, a French bus was parked nearby while the driver took his morning break. Jenny Worth, Cherry Warne and our driver, Stephen Tilley, went across to ask him for directions. After much arm-waving, the French driver offered to show the way.

So, the French bus (serving route No 3) set off around Morlaix followed by the English coach. The French driver took them non-stop around Morlaix until they could re-join the route to Plestin, much to the relief of the Launceston travellers – and the chagrin of a bewildered lady at a No 3 bus stop who had confidently stepped forward with her arm outstretched, only to see her bus whizz by!

Diary Dates

Oct 6	30 th anniversary of twinning charter signing with unveiling of Plestin painting in Town Hall (morning, time to be confirmed)
Oct 7	French Film Night, 7pm at Jericho's
Nov 7	Murder Mystery evening, 7pm at Launceston Cricket Club, Lawhitton
Nov 19	Annual General Meeting, at the White Hart, Launceston
