

Launceston & Plestin Packet



Occasional newsletter of Launceston and
District Twinning Association

web-link: launcestontwinningassociation.weebly.com

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Wednesday is booking deadline for film night

One more film night this year – a crazy girl-on-girl comedy to give us a laugh as December gets a grip! Film night is Tuesday 2 December and the deadline for booking your meal(s) is this Wednesday, 26 November.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING



Planning our 2015 visits

After 30 years of reciprocal twinning exchanges with Plestin each year, the rhythm of our annual visits is about to change.

This was the inevitable outcome of a detailed discussion at the AGM when members considered the decision by our Plestin twinnings that they would like to host formal visits – over a longer period – but on alternate years.

Several speakers at the AGM expressed their disappointment at the ending of annual formal trips each way which they felt had contributed to the strong ties between the towns.

Visit to Plestin

Plestin has formally invited us over in 2015 while they will make a formal visit to Launceston in 2016. Discussion about next year's visit related to the:

- best dates for our visit
- length of time devoted to the visit, and
- possibility of arranging informal annual visits between the formal trips.

Dates suggested for our visit were the first and second bank holidays in May (so we would return on a bank holiday Monday thus not requiring people to take time off work/school) or a weekend in June.

To give us longer in Plestin, it had been suggested that we might go overnight on a Thursday or travel during the day on a Friday, but that was considered impractical as it would require people to take time off work or take children from school.

It was finally decided to suggest to our French hosts that we visit Plestin during the first bank holiday in May next year, making the crossing on the night of Friday, 1 May, and returning on the afternoon of Monday, 4 May. This was also one of the cheapest options under consideration, and will allow us to spend 2½ days with our hosts in France.

STOP PRESS – These dates have been accepted by the Plestin twinnings – so the visit is on for the first May bank holiday!

Maintaining annual contact

Despite the decision on the formal visits, Launceston twinnings are keen to continue with annual exchanges both ways if possible – and it is understood that many of our French hosts are also happy to maintain this regular contact.

To explore this possibility further, it was decided that our committee should draft a letter that individual Launceston twinnings could, if they wished, send to their own French ‘twins’ inviting them to visit informally in 2015. This letter will be circulated to twinnings after the next committee meeting.

Healthy balance

Treasurer Jean Mansell reported that the association ended its financial year on 30 September with a healthy balance of £3,118 despite the fact that social and fund-raising events had raised nearly £1,000 less than the previous year. This was due to a variety of factors including fewer fund-raising events and the cost of printing the anniversary recipe books (which we are selling at below cost-price to members). Subscriptions had brought in £473.

The visit to Launceston by the Plestinais had cost about £1,300 (the same as last year) which covered the costs of entertaining our French friends.

Review of the year

Chairman Jill Whitechurch said the Association had had a busy and happy year celebrating the 30th anniversary on both sides of The Channel. She thanked everyone for their strong support for the anniversary activities.

Officers and committee

Officers were re-elected en bloc. They are: Jill Whitehouse, chairman; Carolyn Burch, vice-chairman; Jenny Birkett, secretary; and Jean Mansell, treasurer.

Nicky Gilbert stepped down from the committee and was thanked by Jill for all her work over the years. Lucy de Glanville was elected to the committee where she will join George Taylor, Jenny Worth, Mike Macoun, Sharon Thorns, and Dy Vivian.

Subscriptions for 2014-15 are now due.

They remain unchanged and are:

Individual membership £7.50

Family or corporate membership £15

If you haven't paid, please send your cheque, made payable to Launceston Twinning Association, to Jean Mansell at Nightoak, 2 Stourscombe Wood, Launceston, PL15 9JP.

In remembrance



ONE of the younger members of twinning, 11-year-old Niamh Whitechurch, laid a wreath on behalf of the Association at the town square war memorial in memory of those who have given their lives in conflicts since 1914 on Remembrance Sunday.

Niamh accompanied her grandmother, our chairman Jill Whitechurch, and our secretary, Jenny Birkett, in the formal parade through the town centre by military, civic and community organisations.

The message on our wreath, from both Launceston and Plestin twinning associations, said simply: For all those who gave their lives for us.



FILM FOCUS

Last film night of the year

FRENCH Twist is an uproarious comedy from 1995, directed by and starring Josiane Balasko. You can see it at Jericho's on 2 December, but book your place with Carolyn before close of play this Wednesday, 26 November..

Laurent (Alain Chabat) and Loli (Victoria Abril) are a couple in their twenties who live in the South of France with their young children. He's an estate agent, she is a housewife. Laurent is not faithful to his wife but she is blissfully unaware of this.

One day, a camper van breaks down just in front of their house. The owner of the van, Marijo (Josiane Balasko), a woman of around 40, rather tomboyish, comes to the house and asks if she may use the phone (we're pre-mobile, it's 1995!).

Loli and Marijo are strongly attracted to each other... Laurent isn't happy, but then his friend Antoine lets the cat out of the bag about his affairs, so Loli feels quite justified in her dalliance with Marijo. More than that: Marijo moves in! And that's only half the story... But don't worry - it's a family film!!



To book your meal, please tell Carolyn Burch carolynburch@btconnect.com (01566 785171) by Wednesday which meal(s) you want and send a cheque (£15 per person) to Jean Mansell at Nightoak, 2 Stourscombe Wood, Launceston PL15 9JP. Choose from the following hearty winter selection:

- Country beef casserole, slow-cooked with carrots, swede, parsnips, leeks with herb dumplings
- Lamb tagine with apricots, cous cous and orange relish
- Gratin of lentils, spinach and ricotta in rich tomato sauce - tomatoes, red wine, green lentils topped with toasted breadcrumbs and parmesan

Diary Dates

Dec 2

French Film Night, 7pm at Jericho's, Launceston

May1-4, 2015

Launceston visit to Plestin