

Launceston & Plestin Packet



Occasional newsletter of Launceston and
District Twinning Association

web-link:

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

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This issue:

News round-up from our Annual General Meeting

Launceston twinning bucks the trend

‘WHY is it that Launceston Twinning Association is increasing its membership when membership of so many others is dwindling?’

That was the question asked of our chairman Jill Whitechurch at the last meeting of the Twinning Committee for Cornwall.

The answer was made clear at the Association’s AGM on 10 November when Jill reported on a year of highly successful and diverse events designed to appeal to members of all ages.

“We have been happy to embrace families and change to school holiday time visits and enjoy family friendly social events. For the future of twinning, this has to be the right way,” said Jill.

She said our membership had increased from last year and now stood at 100 adults and 24 juniors – and there was a corresponding wave of increased participation from our friends in Plestin.

Highlight of the year had been our visit to Plestin when two coaches were needed to carry a record number of Launceston twinnings to Plestin. Our hosts in Brittany responded by providing a magical weekend with a day-long visit to explore the fascinating town of Brest and a huge communal evening meal complete with entertainment that needed little interpretation – a magician.

On this side of The Channel, social get-togethers and fund-raising went hand-in-hand with the safari supper, Call My Bluff and murder mystery evening doing well on both counts. French film evenings have continued and the barbecue and clay pigeon shoot was well supported.

Entertaining our French twins

SECRETARY Jenny Birkett highlighted some of the logistical challenges of entertaining a record number of French guests over a weekend from Saturday evening until Monday morning.

The celebration will be on a Sunday evening and finding a large enough venue to seat 200 people was proving difficult. The town hall could only accommodate 188.

Possibilities to be investigated further were Trethorne Leisure Club and Strawberry Fields at Lifton. It was also suggested that one of the schools might have suitable facilities.

Finding places to visit on Monday was also discussed. Suggestions included Devonport Dockyard, Castle Drogo and Bude Segway plus a walk round Bude.

It was hoped that our children would be allowed a day off school. It was also said that the system of using two coaches for alternative destinations had worked well the previous year.

Finances looking good - but need more to cover the Spring visit

TREASURER Jean Mansell reported that our account now stands at £3,846 but warned that we will need more money for entertaining our visitors next year.

Social and fund-raising events had brought in £3,540 compared with £2,503 the previous year. Costs this year had been less than last year at £1,828.

Successful events over the year included the Murder Mystery (£750), Safari Supper (£521), Coffee Morning (£223), Film Evenings (£181), Call My Bluff (£124), and Maureen's Quiz (£60).



Jenny steps down

AFTER nine years in office, our indefatigable secretary Jenny Birkett has stepped down.

To a warm round of applause, she was presented with an Argos voucher and thanked by chairman Jill at the AGM.

Over the years Jenny has devoted huge time and energy to organising the committee, taking the minutes and arranging countless events.

How about a gardeners' question-time, a visit to Sterts Theatre or a crêpe Bake-Off?

THESE were among the suggestions for social and fund-raising activities over the coming year.

The idea of a Gardeners' Question Time with a plant stall and a cake stall was warmly received by the audience at the AGM as was the suggestion of a walk followed by a visit to Sterts Theatre to take in a show.

Other suggestions included a French food and wine evening and a duck race while the idea of a pancake Bake-Off, involving the children, took on a French twist when someone suggested it could be a Crêpe Bake-Off.

These suggestions will be investigated by the committee and, meanwhile, Patty Taylor was asked to devise the plot for another Murder Mystery.

We have a new secretary and vice-chairman

NEW member Vicky Williams was elected to take over from Jenny Birkett as secretary and committee member Jason Thorns was elected vice-chairman. The other officers and committee remain unchanged.

The line-up for 2017-18 is:

Officers - Jill Whitechurch (chairman), Jason Thorns (vice-chairman), Jean Mansell (treasurer), Vicky Williams (secretary),

Committee - Dy Vivian, Lucy de Glanville, Tracey Carmichael, Jenny Birkett, Jenny Worth, and George Taylor.

And finally...

...A suggestion that Launceston Twinning Association consider twinning with a town from another country was kicked into touch. There was an unenthusiastic response from the audience and the committee felt it was a no-goer. The meeting was told that Launceston had once been twinned with Bremen, North Germany, but that had not lasted very long.