



Falmouth Twinning Association

Newsletter Summer 2016



**Thank You,
Maureen!**

**I'M NOT
BOSSY
I JUST HAVE
BETTER IDEAS**

Editorial & Falmouth Twinning Association Chairman's Report

I think that, overall, the Association has had a terrific year! We have just finished a very successful visit from our German friends and are eagerly looking forward to our trip to *Douarnenez* in September. In between we have had some lovely social evenings that have helped the Association's coffers.

The one major down for the Association was the retirement in March of **Maureen Davis** from our Chair. She has been a dedicated supporter of the twinning for many years with long service as an office bearer and the last seven years as Chairman. Her expertise and experience will be sorely missed but, fortunately, she is still with us as an honorary member. Therefore, when needed, I still have access to the oracle and it was great to see **Maureen** at the *Penmorvah Manor Hotel* for the Official Reception. I'm sure we all wish her well for the future.

If you have any ideas for fund-raising, your committee will be glad to hear from you!

Since taking the helm, it has become very apparent to me that the committee do some arduous and time-consuming work for no recognition and very little reward. The time and effort that went into the planning of the German visit was quite remarkable. I would like to thank the committee, and especially our secretary **Helene Parr**, for all the hard work and diligence in the

preparation of the programme.

In an effort to promote the Association and attract new members, **Pamela Wertzel's** leaflet has been re-vamped and printed. If anyone knows of a fruitful place to leave a few copies, please let me know.

We have also now got a website at: www.falmouthtwinning.jimdo.com

and a Face Book page at: www.facebook.com/falmouthtwinningassociation

A warm welcome to **Viv Robertson** and partner **Liz** who have become our newest members. They joined at the *Flushing Sailing Club* evening where **Viv** was entertaining us.

We are always on the look-out for new ways to raise much needed funds so, if anyone has any ideas, please let a member of the committee

know.

A big thank you to **Pamela Wenzel** and **Kaye Price** for sorting out the accommodation for **Ronan** and the members of the 'Skellig' delegation at very short notice. She had a very bad crossing from Brittany but hopefully the publicity was worth it.



Our illustrious Secretary Helene Parr (centre) seen here with Rotenburg's big cheese Doris Brandt and some other good-looking guy.



The 'Skellig' from Brittany arrived in Falmouth on 15th June to take part in the Classics



Memories of the visit of Landkreis-Rotenburg to Falmouth 2-8 June 2016

Rotenburg

Falmouth

Douarnenez

Visit of Landkreis-Rotenburg (Wümme)



By Helene Parr

A group photo taken at the St Austell Brewery

The Mayor and his wife, the **Town Crier** and the German Flag waving greeted our guests when they arrived at Falmouth Docks Station. They could not have missed the warmth of

and the venue on the water's edge could not have been better.

Saturday morning everyone drove to *St Erth Station* to board the coastal train to *St Ives*. Again we had perfect weather and made an effort to get our guests on to the "Sea" side of the train to enjoy the view. On the way back stories of lunch, ice cream and photography seemed to be dominant. We were home in time to change, eat and meet at the *Athenaeum Club* for a **Donkey Derby**. Our Chairman **Peter** was clerk of the course and he had a rather unruly group of owners and riders to control. The Donkeys behaved impeccably. **Andrew and Sarah** from the *Athenaeum* helped the evening go well by providing bar services for us.

Brewery for a tour, samples and a pasty lunch. There were eight different beers to sample and the comments were many and varied about the properties and drinkability of each. Everyone seemed to enjoy themselves and the lunch. The drivers were not forgotten and took home a free bottle of beer of their choice. We then went off to the *Shipwreck Museum at Charlestown*. The town itself seemed to please the visitors as much as the Museum. After quite a busy day hosts and guests had the evening to entertain themselves and/or others.



Viv Robertson, our newest member entertaining us at the Flushing Sailing Club

Sunday was a family day and **Angela** has been collecting stories about what everyone got up to.

A visit to *Pendennis Castle* on Tuesday started with some confusion but eventually all was well and we were treated to a very interesting and informative talk about the Castle and its history. We had a break for the Noon Day Gun and then a further tour of the *Half Moon Battery*. The view was obscured by heavy mist which was a (continued on page 4)

their welcome. After a few short words of welcome and lots of greetings and hugs everyone went off for a catch up and recovery evening with their hosts.

Friday morning we all went to Falmouth where guests and some hosts boarded a boat for their river trip to **Trelissick** while eight of the hosts drove around to provide transport home. The afternoon was free to visit the house, wander in the garden or anything else they fancied before the evening entertainment. Thanks again to **Harold and June** we had another very enjoyable evening at the *Flushing Sailing Club* with a very tasty supper and entertainment from **Viv Robertson**. The weather was perfect



The Landkreis delegation being greeted by the Town Crier Gemma Garwood

(Continued from page 3)

shame but it did not seem to stop our guests enjoying themselves.

Tuesday evening was the more formal part of the visit with a reception at the *Penmorvah Manor Hotel*. The weather co-operated yet again and we all enjoyed a drink on the Terrace before sitting down to eat. After a delicious meal it was time for speech's and exchange of gifts. We then enjoyed entertainment including the

Falmouth Twinners singing in German. **Len Hatcher** sang several songs while accompanying himself on guitar.

Wednesday morning and it was time for our German guests to leave. The visit seemed to have gone by quickly and we were back at *Falmouth Docks station* to wave goodbye. It would seem we have had another successful visit from the Emails and phone calls received from our German friends on their return to *Rotenburg*.



The Stars of the Athenaeum Club Donkey Derby



The Deputy Mayor Trish Minson speaking at the Penmorvah Manor



The Group photograph taken at the Official Reception at the Penmorvah Manor Hotel.

FTA AGM March 2016

By Peter Downie

The **Twinning Association's AGM** was held at the Council Chambers on *March 15th 2016*. The meeting was so very well attended that late comers had to settle for cheap seats' at the back.

The meeting was opened at 7 p.m. And chaired by the Association's **Vice-Chairman, Nigel Rimmer**. After the apologies for absence and the formalities of passing the minutes of the previous meeting and the financial balance sheet, the agenda moved on to appointing the office-bearers.

Due to ill-health, our long standing chairman, **Maureen Davies**, felt the time was right for her to step down from the position she had so competently held for over seven years. Indeed, Maureen was unable to attend the meeting in person due to ill health. **Christine Barnes** also vacated her position as a committee member. **A big 'thank you'** goes to both for their contribution to the smooth running of the Association.

Peter Downie was voted in as the new Chairman and his wife **Iris** was voted onto the Committee. All other office bearers remain the same and all office bearers were voted in unanimously.

The meeting discussed the forthcoming visit of a delegation from Landkreis-Rotenburg in June. **Helene**, our Secretary, has already done some sterling work arranging the itinerary for the visit and she tasked other office bearers to help arrange specific events and activities for our visitors. Accommodation for our guests have already been arranged.

Helene also told the meeting that the dates for our trip to Brittany this year will be from 4th to 9th of September. Because of the ferry timetable, our only choice is a day crossing so we are in for an early start again. Helene asked for names of members who may like to go to enable her to reserve the correct size of coach. **So please, names to Helene ASAP!**

Coffee and soft drink was available throughout the evening and, after the meeting closed, there was wine, a lovely buffet and the obligatory raffle. Thanks to everyone who helped with raffle prizes and the buffet. The raffle raised a commendable £37.

I apologise, but in my absolute astonishment and gratitude at being elected Chairman, I forgot to take any pictures at the AGM.

Nigel and Fran's new kitchen

Fran and Nigel celebrated their new kitchen by holding a social evening for the Twinning Association. The buffet was sumptuous and the evening very enjoyable. There was, of course the obligatory raffle which, along with other donations helped raise some much needed money for the Association.

However, the star of the show was undoubtedly their new kitchen. Light, spacious and spanking new, we are all sure it will go down a treat with Rudolph, Doris and Heide when they arrive!



Sag Mir Wo die Blumen Sind



The 'Choir' performs during the Official Reception at the Penmorvah Manor, accompanied by Len Hatcher

On Saturday 14th March 2016, fourteen members of the Association met at the Chairman's house to learn and practice a few German phrases in preparation for the impending visit of *Landkreis-Rotenburg*. After a lovely 'sausage roll buffet', everyone practiced a few stock phrases and tested their pro-

nunciation against a computer. This was followed by everyone learning and singing 'Where have all the Flowers gone?' in German. Unfortunately, someone forgot to take any photos of the German evening so I can't show you Helene's flag, Peter's guitar or the 'choir'. It was a very enjoyable night though, with lots of

food and drink. By the end of it we could speak perfect German and sing 'Sag Mir wo die Blumen sind'! Much fun and much enjoyment. Thank you to everyone who contributed and especially to all those people who donated sausage rolls! All proceeds went to the Association's coffers.

'Twinners' Enjoy a Cracking Christmas Luncheon at The Penmorvah Manor Hotel.

By Peter Downie



After the way we were royally dined there during the visit of our Douarnenez guests, The Falmouth Twinning Association returned to the **Penmorvah Manor Hotel** on December 17th for the annual Christmas Luncheon meeting. Around twenty members and their guests attended another spectacular culinary event.

Personally, I can only vouch for the prawn cocktail, roast turkey and Bakewell tart washed down with wine, but everyone commented on the quality and choice offered. The festive table decorations, Christmas crackers and hats created a warm, friendly and very enjoyable start to the Christmas period. It was lovely to see so many members there.

The delicious three course meal was followed by coffee. The Chairman, **Maureen Davies**, gave a short speech thanking the hotel for putting on such a lovely spread, and thanked everyone for coming. She wished all members a very happy Christmas and a healthy



The start of the draw for the magnum!

New Year.

Nigel and Fran ran a raffle for a magnum of French wine that was kindly donated by **Pamela Wenzel**. The raffle was started at **June and Harold's** coffee morning and continued at the Christmas lunch. The winner was drawn at the end of the lunch. Congratulations to **Ms June Houston** (non-member). Oh well! It makes a



Nigel ensuring no one escapes the ticket sales



The superbly decorated table before we devastated it.

change from **Nigel or Fran** winning the hooch! - She is a close friend of theirs though! He total proceeds from the raffle of the magnum were £39.40.

Over all, the lunch was very enjoyable but the drive back home down the back lanes was **fraught!**

Same again next year??



Fund-Raising Coffee Morning.

By Peter Downie

On Friday 13th November a fund-raising coffee morning was held. It was hosted by **June and Harold Martin** at their lovely home near Kimberley Park.

Coffee and tea was provided along with a fabulous array of **June's** home made cakes. For a small 'entrance fee' we eat and drunk our fill surrounded by like-minded Association members and friends.

Although our Chair, **Maureen Davis** was, sadly, too ill to attend, and others were *gallivanting* in France, there was still a good turnout which allowed **Nigel** to squeeze every penny possible out of unsuspecting wretches within his grasp.

There was a raffle for a good magnum of French wine, which looked well worth winning. The winner was to be drawn at the Christmas Lunch and will be announced elsewhere in this newsletter.

There was the usual raffle, the tickets were sold by **Fran, Nigel** conducted the draw, the first prize was picked up by **Fran**. *Who said nepotism was dead!* (only joking! It couldn't have gone to a more deserving person). Incidentally, several people, me included, went home without a prize for a change!

Being *Friday the Thirteenth*, there was also a competition to find who knew the weirdest superstition. The prize for this was a full bottle of whiskey. I bet that **Fran** got drunk that night because she won again!

Her superstition was drawn from personal experience and involved pavement cracks and pain. A deserving winner.

The morning was a very successful fund-raiser. The total from the raffle, book sales and a donation from Pamela was a fantastic £55.50!



Our hosts for the morning -Harold and June

A Family Day Full of Fun!!

By Angela Barton

I am sure we are all grateful for the varied and interesting programme which the Twinning Committee put together for our German visitors. However we all had to rise to the challenge of entertaining our guests on the free family day and yes we were lucky with a hot sunny day to make the best of what Cornwall has to offer. The group scattered far and wide while others made the most of Falmouth and its environs. Rita probably travelled the furthest to Boscastle to revisit a much loved area with Sheila and Harold. The slate headland was climbed and her artistic flare was inspired by the beautiful scenery. I am sure there are a lot of photographs to be poured over from this visit. As there will be from Pia and Reinhard's walking tour of the gardens and beaches of Falmouth. Now Reinhard was truly a man attached to his camera. Pia also managed some shopping but her highlight was the roast beef enjoyed at Iris and Peter's. Falmouth was also explored by Doris, Rudolf and Heidi and no doubt photographed extensively while some of them attended church. Their day was topped by a Chinese meal at one of Fran and Nigel's recommended restaurants. Maybe a venue for a Twinning get together???

I am sure we all know of the bargains to be had in our charity shops but Angelika and Ute went beyond the call of duty and really helped our economy by purchasing lots of

items, no doubt encouraged by Pat. The steal of the day was a brand new computer/business bag valued at £200+ and bought for £2.99. Then they recovered from their exertions over a roast dinner at the Duchy Hotel with the superb view of the bay. Meanwhile Heike was relaxing having a lazy day with Harold and June, before having a cream tea with Vera, Russell and Ian. One of Heike's highlights was walking the neighbour's dogs - a home from home!

Sigrid and Christiana were introduced to the delights of the Lizard Peninsula by Helene and Angela commencing with a wander beside the pretty thatched cottages of Coverack overlooking the harbour, where Nigel's sterling efforts swimming for charity were applauded. Then onto Roskilly's to see the baby calves and to enjoy an ice cream before a happy hour on the beach at Cadgwith. Amazing how pebbles can entertain us at all ages! The stunning wild flowers at Lizard Point were a perfect end to the day. Also on a similar route was Gesa with Yingnapa and Mam, however we did not encounter each other. Their day was topped off with a cream tea and rock cakes with Kaye.



Doris and Heinz at Grebe Beach

Yummy.

Doris and Heinz had a true family day with a barbeque on Grebe beach with Mike and Sheila and 8 of their family including baby Ysella who at 4 months old must be the youngest potential member of the Twinning. The Helford river epitomises what Cornwall has to offer- as Mike says "just a bit of heaven" - even though the tide did mean there was a bit of paddling before trekking through the woods to the cars. Thank you to all the hosts for being so imaginative with their ideas as it sounds like an unforgettable family day for all of us.

Disaster Hits the Telephone Box!

LA CABINE ANGLAISE A EU TRÈS CHAUD !



An exasperated Ronan tries to explain the problem!

outside the visitor centre. In September 2010, **Mark Williams, Philippe Paul, Nigel Rimmer** and **André Carn**, placed a plaque on the telephone box to celebrate our friendship and the twinning.

Let us hope that the box is restored properly and replaced in its rightful position.

The Missing Football Cup!

There is concern about the whereabouts of a cup that should be annually awarded to a football team in Landkreis-Rotenburg.

The date of the last presentation and the team that had it are unknown.

Nigel Rimmer has spoken to Peter Schmöe, former chairman of Rotenburg Twinning and a well-known sports organiser. He cannot, however remember where or when.

If anyone reading this has any relevant information on this cup, please contact a member of the committee. Thank you.

The telephone box donated by Falmouth to Douarnenez in September 1992 by the then town Clerk, **Eric Dawkins**, was mistakenly removed by their telecoms company.

When the historic reason for the box was explained, it was returned but so damaged it is now undergoing repair in the workshop before being returned to its rightful place

News in Brief

- *The dates for the visit to Douarnenez are from September 4th to September 9th.*
- **Our new website is up and running at www.falmouthtwinning.jimdo.com**
- **You can now find us on Facebook at ; facebook.com/falmouthtwinning**
- *Any suggestions or ideas for entertaining or trips/visits for our visitors will be greatly appreciated. It gets increasingly harder to think of new venues.*
- **We need to raise the profile of the Association and attract new, preferably younger, members. Any ideas on accomplishing this please contact our Secretary.**
- *Fund raising ideas. We need some!!*
- *Please submit contributions for publication in the Autumn2016 newsletter to:*

falmouthtwinning@btinternet.com

Falmouth Twinning Association: Officer Bearers – March 2016

Chairman:	Peter Downie	01326 311676
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