

Falmouth Twinning Association News

Winter 2017



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..... And lots, lots more!





Editorial and Chairman's Report.

Since the summer edition, the life of the FTA has been somewhat hectic. To start with the French were coming as normal, then to increase the numbers the dates were changed, and, following that, the trip was cancelled due to cost. A few weeks later several members of the Jumelage made private visits. During one visit, about 18 of us enjoyed lovely fish and chips with **Ronan** and **Andrea**.

At the end of October seven visitors arrived including four members of the current Jumelage committee. During their visit school exchanges between **Falmouth School** and **Lycée Jean-Marie Le Bris** in **Douarnenez** were instigated. Students from **Douarnenez** will be arriving next Easter for a week-long visit. Class to class letters are also being exchanged.

The visitors also worked to arrange close ties between our respective local radio stations. They gave an interview on **Source FM** which was broadcast shortly after they left. They also strove to set up more cultural exchanges. Some of the projects in the planning stage are: 1. The **Cercle Celtique Korriged** - a 30 odd strong Breton Dance troupe that wants to perform in Falmouth and run some workshops. 2. We are attempting to send a team to participate in the annual Douarnenez Beach Rugby competition. 3. Cornish fayre stalls at their local festival.

So, contrary to some reports, there is indeed life in the old *chien* yet! We have already been invited to visit Douarnenez next September as usual and we are expected by our usual hosts. **Françoise**, the

chair of the Jumelage, has said that we can be sure of a warm welcome!

Also since the last edition, we've had the pleasure of visit from **Rolf Wille and his wife, Gudrun**. Their visit to **Mike and Sheila** coincided with our coffee morning at the Town Council Chambers so we made them the guests of honour. It was a lovely pre-cursor to the visit of our friends from **Rotenburg**. This year is the fiftieth anniversary of the twinning with **Rotenburg** and it is planned to make their visit a very special one. Their visit coincides with the Sea Shanty Festival and Falmouth Classics Week so there should be ample opportunity to entertain them.

We have been very active socially and have tried a few new ideas. We dined out at the **Upper Deck** which was a success and we've had a fireworks extravaganza that will live long in the memory, and lots of other entertaining evenings together. With the increased level of social activity, the greater involvement from the Council, contact with **Falmouth School** and our higher press profile, the stock of the FTA is higher than it has been for some years. However, we are still finding it hard to attract new members and we must make it our New Year's resolution to correct this.

Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year to you all!

Peter Dawson



Our illustrious Secretary really enjoyed her fish'n'chips in the Harbou Lights on the evening that we all met to say hello to Andrea and Ronan. It was an exceptionally nice evening. Thanks to Angela for organising it, arranging the venue and for sorting out the ensuing billing problems with the restaurant. That's a fair-sized portion Helene has there! How much do you think she left uneaten?.....

Forthcoming events

Festive dinner at the Penmorvah Hotel on 6th January 2018. Evening dress optional.

Come along and enjoy a sumptuous dinner in refined surroundings. The hotel is also giving very favourable rates to anyone wishing to stay over and enjoy its fabulous breakfast.

Don't forget that this year we are celebrating the 50th anniversary of our twinning with Rotenburg. Their visit this year coincides with the Sea Shanty Festival and Classics Week. At their request, we will again have an evening, with music, at the Flushing Sailing Club. There will also, hopefully, be a reception at the Council Chambers and a dinner evening.

Douarnenez are trying to arrange a performance of Breton Dancing in Falmouth featuring *The Cercle Celtique Korriged* their Breton Dance troupe.

We have been invited to visit Douarnenez during the first weeks in September 2018.

Rotenburg

Falmouth

Douarnenez

Visit of the Douarnenez Delegation 29th October—1st November 2018



Members of the visiting French delegation and the Twinning Association with the Town Mayor, Councillor Grenville Chapple

A small delegation from **Douarnenez** visited **Falmouth** between **29th October and 1st November**. It comprised of two teachers, one council official with responsibilities for tourism, the new head of the Jumelage, **Françoise** and her husband **John** and two teenage daughters.

by our Mayor, **Grenville Chapple**. after that they visited the *tourist office* and exchanged information and a plethora of posters, etc. The day finished with a visit to **Source FM** where they were interviewed by **Phil Shepherd**. They also started to set up links between their local radio station and ours. Overall, the visit was very successful and a way forward for the twinning between our towns was agreed. The *school pupil exchanges* should start at Easter and the **Twinning Association** has been invited to visit **Douarnenez** in *September 2018*.



Françoise tries on the mayoral chain for size.

Their mission was to set up or improve contacts between **Falmouth** and **Douarnenez** with emphasis on schools and tourism.

Having arrived on the Sunday, the party spent the day hosted by **Mark Jones** at **Falmouth School**. After a welcome by the Head, there was a tour of the school, a visit to a primary school and after lunch, they sat in and helped with a French lesson.

The Tuesday started with a reception in the Mayor's parlour hosted



Françoise, Isabelle and Peter with Source FM's Phil Shepherd

'Wish you were here' Dinner at The Upper Deck

Just as well that we Twinners are not superstitious because, on **Friday 13th October**, the Association had a get together in lieu of the French twinning visit that normally takes place around this time of year. Fifteen members and guests met at the **Upper Deck Restaurant** at **Falmouth Marina** and enjoyed a lovely meal in very pleasant surroundings.

It was lovely to meet some of Mike and Sheila's family and it really made a change to have some new faces at the function.

With a choice for each course, the food was lovely, even if the chocolate pudding was a bit too 'chocolaty' for some. Perhaps the clue was in the title?

The whole evening seemed to fly by! Even though the table lay-out made it difficult to speak across the table, everyone circulated and conversed; especially after the meal finished.

The whole evening was very enjoyable and everyone present remarked that we should do it more often! - *Any takers?!*



We enjoyed ourselves anyway!!!



Eyes down and tuck in!!



It was really better than June and Harold's expressions



Pat and Helene enjoying their fish'n'chips at the Harbour Lights during Andrea and Ronan's visit.

Fish & Chips with Ronan and

Andrea

By Peter Downie

Monday 25th September, members of the Association met with **Andrea and Ronan** in the Harbour Lights restaurant for a very enjoyable fish and chips supper. **Ronan and Andrea** were both paying private visits to Falmouth and staying with **Pamela and Angela** respectively.

The portions were very large as can be seen from the photo of our lovely Secretary, **Helene** on the editorial page. It is

rumoured that even **Nigel** had a problem finishing the main course!

Helene, in between eating her fish'n'chips, also found time to take some photos. All the photographs in this article are Helene's so, for a change, I manage to get in a couple!!!

Thanks to everyone who took the trouble to attend. I know the guests of honour both enjoyed and appreciated it.



Hosts Angela and Pamela with Ronan and Andrea



Nigel takes a nap whilst waiting for his cod. Fran very happy



Nigel happy that his food finally arrived and Iris looking for divine inspiration to help her finish hers.

Photo Evening of the Rotenburg visit



Helene, Fran and Nigel enjoying the buffet with their wine

At 7.30 on the evening of 22nd July, eleven members gathered at **Peter and Iris'** house to show their photos and videos. There were contributions of photos from **Reinhard, Peter, Helene, Angela, Nigel & Fran, June & Harold** and **Sheila & Harold**. The evening went down very well. Everyone enjoyed re-living the lovely time we had in Rotenburg.



Sheila, Angela, Iris and June during a break from the photos.

A couple of videos, produced from the stills and videos taken, were very much the centrepiece of the evening. Copies of these videos have been sent to Rotenburg. Members attending supplied the buffet and the drink. no one went home hungry or thirsty! **nor early!!**

A very enjoyable evening!

A Successful Twinning Coffee Morning in the Council Chamber.

By Peter Downie

The **Mayor, Councillor Grenville Chappel** hosted a coffee morning on Wednesday 9th August in the council chambers for the benefit of the Falmouth Twinning Association. A surprising number of people dodged the 'Red Arrows day' traffic and inclement early weather to help raise some much needed funds.

Coffee, juice and a variety of delicious cakes were laid on by the **Mayor** and served with a friendly smile by **Val Rogers**, the Mayor's secretary. There was also the obligatory raffle to raise extra funds. The main raffle prize was a litre of very good gin donated by **Pamela Wentzell**. **Councillor Marcella Martin** waltzed off with this. **Marcella** is the newly appointed Councillor with responsibility for town twinning.

During the morning, the **Mayor** presented a Falmouth tie to **Herr Rolf Wille** and a town lapel badge to his wife **Gudrun**. **Rolf** and **Gudrun** are members of the **Rotenburg** twinning who are on a private visit to Cornwall. They spent several weeks in Cornwall, staying for much of the time with **Michael and Sheila Young**.

Thanks to the **Mayor** and his wife **June, Mark Williams** the town clerk, **Val** and everyone who attended, it was a very enjoyable and successful morning. All the proceeds will help towards making next summer's visit of our twin **Rotenburg Wümme** go with a swing. It will be a very special visit indeed as it will commemorate the 50th anniversary of our friendship.



Rolf and Gudrun Wille in the Council Chamber with the Mayor, Councillor Grenville Chappel



Helene, Pamela and June in conversation with Councillor Marcella Martin with Tony looking on



Still talking.. June and Marcella and Sheila. With Val and Mike in the background

Rotenburg

Falmouth

Douarnenez

Coffee morning at Pat's

On **Saturday 16th September**, Committee member **Pat** hosted a coffee morning at her lovely home. The well-attended function started at 10 a.m. and ran on much longer than the designated finish time of 12 noon.

The tea and coffee was accompanied by some lovely home-made cakes and biscuits and there was also a very tasty fruit dessert provided by **Mike** and **Sheila**. **Nigel** and **Fran** ran a *book sale* and a *raffle* with the prizes donated by members attending.

It was lovely to see **Vera** and **Russell** there after **Vera's** medical problems and, during his short speech to thank **Pat**, the **Chairman** remembered **Harold Smith** who at the time was in hospital following a stroke. **Harold** is now back home in the loving care of **Sheila** and everyone in the FTA wishes him a continuation of his well-deserved recovery.

The coffee morning, attended by eleven members, raised £62.70 for the Association!



Nice to see Russel and Vera! Seen here with Angels, Mike, Peter and Nigel



The host, Pat, with Iris, Fran and Mike

Strawberries and Bubbles Night



At least Pamela and Harold didn't turn their back on me!



Heather and Iris discussing a banana? Fran's off!!

On **Friday 30th July**, a good crowd gathered at **Fran and Nigel's** for Strawberries washed down with Cava and prosecco. The event started at 4 p.m. to take in the early evening sunshine in the garden but, the weather being unkind to us, we were confined to the parlour. However, the evening was very good with about twenty people attending, quite profitable. With the entrance fee and the obligatory raffle, the evening made in excess of £70 for the Twinning Association. Thanks to everyone who contributed food and drink. It was a great evening. It was nice to see some new faces.

BBQ and Fireworks Party

4th November saw a **Fireworks BBQ** at **Peter and Iris'** house. 18 members gathered for the fireworks extravaganza managed by **Nigel** and **Viv**. Luckily the weather broke kindly for us and the display was only briefly interrupted by rain. Although there was no bonfire except for a digital one, we still had a **Guy Fawkes** in the shape of **Mike Young** who decided it was a fancy dress occasion. People attending the evening brought food and drink to supplement the BBQ of pork steaks, bratwurst and various

kinds of chicken. There was more food than we could possibly eat and **Peter** had some of **Pat's** sausage rolls for breakfast the next morning. The buffet also fed the wildlife at **Pulla Cross** for at least the following week! After the fireworks and BBQ, we practised a few sea shanties to entertain the Germans when they come over, and **Viv** led a sing-sing, playing his guitar with **Pete** trying valiantly to follow on his! Overall it was a fabulously enjoyable night. **Brilliant!**



Rotenburg

Falmouth

Douarnenez

Joy Thomas

By Angela Barton

We were saddened to hear of the death of Joy this autumn. Joy had been a true supporter of the Falmouth Twinning Association for many years. She and her husband Clarence were long standing members and always enjoyed welcoming both German and French twinningers to their farm in Mabe. Many friends have appreciated the stunning views across their cattle filled farmland to Falmouth bay and St Anthony's Lighthouse.. There would always be a warm welcome to strangers who became friends including providing pyjamas and a nightdress for Gerd and Uta when their suitcase didn't arrive in Cornwall. Much laughter ensued with mis-matched sizes and all formality forgotten.

In addition to Twinning trips, after retirement Joy and Clarence travelled extensively. Following Clarence 's death Joy

continued to travel and particularly enjoyed cruises with Dennis who became a firm favourite with Twinners in Falmouth and abroad. A provider of delicious homemade cakes and savouries to support numerous Twinning fundraising events, Joy was also a talented artist, an avid reader and a proud mother and grandmother. She took great delight in all her friends and brought a gentle humour to every situation, including bringing her school teacher skills to persuading one set of her French hosts to boil water for tea rather than taking it from the hot water tap.

Whenever asked on her state of health "nearly normal " would be her response. However many of us would surely agree that Joy was "perfectly extraordinary " and truly lived up to her Joyful name.

Some memories of Joy.....



Joy with her husband Clarence



Rotenburg

Falmouth

Douarnenez

Carols and Mince Pies



An unlikely pairing!!



Judge Parr, Santas Angela, Fran and Mike. Pat the elf and Magi Nigel. Peter the penguin and ris the angel looking on.

What an evening to finish our social events for 2017! Our motley crew got together at the home of **Nigel and Fran**, on Friday, for a festive evening of 'Carols

and Mince Pies' -washed down with lashings of wine!

from the man except the angel whose halo had obviously slipped. This upset **Tony** so much that he promised to buy her something sparkly and get it to her before Christmas!



Mummy & Daddy elf

It was the evening of December 8th that we gathered together in their dining room to exercise our vocal chords on some of the best loved carols and Christmas songs. The room was full of Christmas cheer, including several Santas, an angel and a wise man that turned up to help. The standard of the fancy dress this year was so high that the judge, **Helene**, donned a very convincing wig and gown to do the judging. Much to the elf's chagrin, the prize of a litre of Baileys, donated by the judge, was given to a penguin with a split personality! The angel is still not talking to the penguin!

The whole evening was very pleasant. However, the only little downer was our hostess **Fran** not feeling too tip-top.

On the way out at the end, I tripped over a 'bleddy' camel someone had left outside!!!

The buffet was more than we could possibly get through on the evening. Thanks to everybody that contributed. The pasties, mince pies and other fayre was very much appreciated.

After the buffet and another round of collective choral murder, we had the 'secret Santa' present giving. Everyone went home with a lovely little gift



Heather, Pat, Iris, Fran & June singing with great gusto

Memories of 2017



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



Rotenburg

Falmouth

Douarnenez

Falmouth School is now 'Twinned' with a school in Douarnenez



Peter accompanying visiting teachers and 'twinners' from Douarnenez with pupils and teachers from Falmouth School, including Mark .

Falmouth School welcomed visiting teachers and twinning officers from the town's French 'twin' - **Douarnenez** in Brittany. The visitors had a tour of the school and were impressed with the students' attitude to learning, the facilities and how calm the school was.

Next Easter the school hopes to welcome students from its twin school **Lycée Jean-Marie Le Bris** for a week's visit, with the students due to stay with host families in the town. Falmouth School students will no doubt benefit from being around fluent French speakers, which will help provide extra preparation for year 11 and 12 students taking speaking examinations after the Easter break.

Meanwhile, the school is planning a return visit next October for year 13, 12 and potentially year 11 students. Other projects include a year eight visit in the summer of 2019. "We have just started exchanging class to class letters but this visit was about taking the next steps towards trips and exchange visits," said languages teacher **Mark Jones**, who is leading this new venture.

"The advantage of working with the **Twining Association** is that the links are already in place. Thanks to the **Falmouth Twinning Association**. Also the town of **Douarnenez** can provide economical transport, which makes trips and visits more affordable.

Taken from the West Briton and the Falmouth Packet.

Falmouth Twinning Association:

Office Bearers – March 2017

Chairman:	Peter Downie	01326 311676
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News in Brief

- **The Twining Association now has a strong on-line presence!**
- **Our website is www.falmouthtwinning.jimdo.com**
- **You can find us on Facebook at ; [facebook.com/falmouthtwinning](https://www.facebook.com/falmouthtwinning)**
- **Our friends from Rotenburg are visiting us during Classics week and the Sea Shanty Festival. This will be the 50th anniversary of our twinning so lets make it special!**
- **We have been invited to visit our friends in Douarnenez during the first week of September 2018. Please keep your diaries free!**
- **Don't forget our Festive Dinner at the Penmorvah Manor Hotel on the evening of 6th January 2018. Evening wear optional**
- **Fund raising ideas. We need some!!**
- **Please submit contributions for publication in the Summer 2018 newsletter to:**
falmouthtwinning@btinternet.com