

DEVON & SOMERSET TWINNING CIRCLE

HOME FROM HOME

Spring 2025

The next meeting of Devon & Somerset Twinning Circle will be a General Meeting, hosted by Dawlish Twinning Association, on **Saturday 12th April** at 2 pm at The Cockhaven Arms, Cockhaven Road, Bishopsteignton, TQ14 9RF.

A two-course lunch will be served at 12.30 pm and costs £18 pp to include tea and a 10% service charge. Please make your choices from the menu below.

Full payment can be made by BACS to Dawlish Twinning Association, Sort code 30-96-06, Account number 01400275. Please put your name as a reference and send your menu choices to mklowther@btinternet.com

Or send your menu choice and payment by cheque, payable to Dawlish Twinning Association, to Mary Lowther, 49 Brook Street, Dawlish, EX7 0PP.

Menu choices and payment by 5th April please.

Following the business meeting we will be entertained by David Force who presented a fascinating "Call My Bluff" antiques quiz at our April meeting three years ago.

And do remember your purse/wallet (with real money!) as there will be a chance to win yourself a prize in the raffle.

Menu

Main course:

Mushroom & lentil stroganoff

Mushrooms & puy lentils cooked in a homemade stroganoff sauce served with mashed potato

Honey and Mustard glazed ham

Topped with a fried egg and chips

Salmon Fillet

Pan seared salmon fillet with sauté potatoes, buttered broccoli & hollandaise sauce

Desserts:

Normandy Apple Frangipane Tartlet

Served warm with vanilla ice-cream

Lemon meringue pie

Served with vanilla ice-cream

Berry Eton mess

Berries, meringue & Chantilly cream

Steamed jam sponge pudding

Served with custard

Directions to The Cockhaven Arms

From the A380, approaching Newton Abbot, take the A381 Teignmouth Road. After about 4 miles turn left into Cockhaven Road (immediately past Metro Motors). The Cockhaven Arms is on the left at No16.

There is plenty of parking in front of the restaurant and at the back of the property.

Future meetings.

July 19th General meeting hosted by South Molton TA

October 18th Annual General Meeting hosted by Tiverton TA

Offers to host further meetings will be warmly welcomed.

Chanteuse parisienne

Thanks to Judi (Ashburton Clever Twinning Association) for the following feedback.

Judi reported that quite a number of their group went to see Fifi la Mer and thoroughly enjoyed the evening. "Fifi and her partner are an extremely talented couple and put their all into their performance. We highly recommend seeing their act if it comes your way".

Looking at her website <https://www.ohlalamic.co.uk>, there are events currently scheduled this year in Torrington, Paignton, Bude & Exeter.

This newsletter contains

Two articles on twinning visits, some information from Brittany Ferries regarding trade & groups concessions 2025 and the result of the newsletter competition

Contributions to the newsletter

Articles are invited for anything relevant to twinning – how you undertake your fundraising, some historic stories and/or photographs from years gone by or just something you think will be entertaining or useful.

Remember you will be entered into the Monica Saunders Competition and could win £50 plus another £50 if judged the overall winner of the year.

Please keep the articles coming

**Please send articles, reports, photographs by email to babenton52@gmail.com
Or by post to Mr B Benton, 5 Silver Street, Bampton, EX16 9NR**

45 years of Kingsteignton Twinning!

2024 was the 45th year of our town twinning so Kingsteignton Orbec Twinning Association (KOTA) marked the occasion with quite a flourish.

This year was our turn to host so almost 50 French friends aged 8 to 88 arrived from Calvados, Normandy in July for our customary 4-day extravaganza. Alongside original members it was great to see a number of first timers among the visitors and the hosts.

Our 4-day hosting included the following



Friday 26th July

French arrived in Kingsteignton

Mayoral Reception at the KTC Community Hall

Tea & Cake Reception with Mayoral Speeches

Watched the Paris Olympic Opening Ceremony in the pub



Saturday 27th July

Sightseeing excursion to Plymouth

Morning - Plymouth Walking Guided-Tour

Lunch - Traditional Fish and Chips at Boat House Café, Plymouth

Afternoon - Scenic cruise – tour of Plymouth Harbour

Sunday 28th July

Family Day

Guests spent the day with their host families

Monday 29th July

Banquet, Morris Dancing and Line Dancing.

Newton Abbot Rugby Club in Kingsteignton

Raddon Hill Clog Morris demonstration

Ceilidh dancing with live music provided by local Ceilidh band

Rugby kicking competition

Kingsteignton Orbec Twinning Association are keeping the strong tradition of Town Twinning vibrant and attractive to Kingsteignton residents. This ensures that current and future residents of Kingsteignton have an opportunity to partake in a very low-cost, high-value cultural exchange.

While nationally, twinning associations are in decline, KOTA is thriving with over 50 members of all ages. Hosting a biennial visit on every 'even' year, it is Kingsteignton's turn to visit France in 2025.

We are always looking for new members to join in the fun. This year we are especially keen to recruit younger families to balance the Kingsteignton members with young families in Orbec and La Vespriere. Please contact kingsteigntonwinning@gmail.com if you are interested.

Totnes to Vire Twinning Visit December 2024

In late summer of 2024 Totnes Twinning received an invitation from our friends in Vire to take a choir to Vire for their Christmas Carol service. Several local choirs were spoken to, but they all had the same reply, “would love to come but it is too near Christmas and we are committed to concerts”.

Not wishing to let our French friends down, we sent out members of the committee to see if they could find several singers who would come to France and sing Christmas Carols. November came and we had, by this time, found a makeshift choir but getting them together to rehearse was impossible. It was eventually decided that we would make the arrangements to go to Vire and we could practice before the concert.

The next thing was transport, Brittany Ferries do not sail from Plymouth in December and so we had to make travel arrangement from Portsmouth. It was agreed that we go over in cars as a coach was far too expensive.

Bookings were made and we agreed to meet in Vire on the morning of Friday 6th December. 8.30 on the Friday morning we met our French hosts at the Vire Museum and had breakfast. The Choir then went off to have a quick practice and we met our families again and went for lunch.



After lunch we were taken by minibus to a roundabout on the outskirts of Vire where the Mayor of Vire conducted a naming ceremony, naming the roundabout after the British Liberator of Vire in 1944. There were speeches and then back to the town hall for drinks and canapes. We had a talk from the local branch of the Royal British Legion and French veterans.

Late in the evening we went to the centre of town to see the switching on of the Christmas Lights and the fireworks and then back to our hosts houses for dinner and a quiet evening.



On the Saturday morning the choirs went off for a rehearsal while the members of the Twinning committee met with their opposite numbers in the town hall to discuss how Twinning was progressing.



At 11am we then met outside the town hall to name a passageway in honour to the past president of Vire Twinning and a former Mayor of Totnes Jame Parkes, then back to the town hall for more speeches, drinks, and nibbles.

Lunch was again with the families, and we then made our way to one of the local churches where the Christmas Concert was to take place.

Our choir opened the concert followed by one of Vire's choirs and then a choir from one of the local primary schools. Our choir finished the concert and was joined for the final carol by the children's choir. They were given a standing ovation, and it was obvious the everyone had enjoyed the performance.



Later in the evening we went to a local Farmhouse Restaurant for dinner with traditional Normandy fare, then very much later we went home to bed after having a most enjoyable day.



Sunday, we went to Bayeux to see the Tapestry, then to a restaurant for lunch. While we were having lunch, we heard that Storm Darragh has landed in the South-West of England and that Brittany Ferries had cancelled all ferries to and from France. Some of our party had planned to return on the evening ferry and so alternative arrangements were made and eventually everyone got home safely after one of the best Twinning visits we have had in years. Many of the choir were new to twinning and could not wait to go back, so twinning in Totnes seems to have been given a boost.

Brittany Ferries - Travel trade & groups concessions 2025

Concessions are valid for all routes including during 2025. All concessions are subject to availability. There will be certain sailings where no discount will be available, but where possible, we will endeavour to inform you if this is unavailable.

Concession fares apply to one vehicle plus occupants, one motorbike and rider, two passengers on foot/bicycle/moped. Additional passengers, roof boxes, trailers and caravans would receive a discount. On board accommodation, motorhomes, bike carriers, pets and extras on board will be charged at public rate.

Destination & discounts To France

Please note that due to limitations on space, concessions will not be granted on Friday night sailings during peak season.

Discount

Low season [01/01/25 to 31/05/25 & 01/09/25 to 31/12/25]: - 50% public rate/3 tiers

High season [01/06/25 to 31/08/25]: -25% public rate/3 tiers

Excluded period: 23 May to 15 June & 11 July to 4 September 2025



Congratulations to Karen Halls for winning the newsletter competition

Karen is a member of Taunton Twinning and hopefully she will be able to attend the April meeting to collect her prize.