

Devon Twinning Circle



Home from Home

Summer 2023

DEVON TWINNING CIRCLE

The next Devon Twinning Circle General Meeting

Saturday 22nd July 2023

2pm. In Woolsey Village Hall, EX39 5QT

The lunch will be a 2-course meal: Normandy pork with new potatoes and seasonal vegetables followed by a selection of desserts and tea or coffee at a cost of £12 per person.

Please send your booking no later than 15th July preferably by email to carol.bertie@btopenworld.com with bank transfer to Bideford Twinning Association, 40-10-17 acc no. 71408224 with reference "twinning circle meal" and your association name. Alternatively, by cheque to Carol Bertie, 10 Bassetts Close, Northam, Bideford, EX39 1SZ. Please make your cheque out to Bideford Twinning Association and mention the name of your association with your booking. Carol would like someone from each association to send her the names of those who have booked, please.

There will be a raffle so please bring some cash with you for a chance to win a prize.

Jean has asked me to take over the editing of the newsletter, so here I go.

I am Bruce Benton, currently the secretary for Bampton Twinning Association.

After a wet and chilly spring, Summer suddenly arrived with above average temperatures, so I hope you made the most of it.

Several twinning visits have already taken place this year with other associations still in the planning stage - passport and health insurance rules and especially customs rules since Brexit!

There are a few write-ups of recent visits are included in this newsletter and I hope going forward, all visits can be reported as it is useful for all of us to see how we entertain our guests when they visit us and how we are spoiled when we go abroad. 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 Sanders Competition and could win £50 + 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



DEVON TWINNING CIRCLE INVITE TO ALL ASSOCIATIONS

Devon Twinning would like to invite some of your group to a BBQ on Sunday 10th September at Uplowman Village Hall.

Arrival from noon with the food being served from 1pm.

There will be a free glass of Pimms or soft drink on arrival. Please feel free to bring your own drinks if you want more than one.

There will be outdoor games like Splat the Rat, Giant Jenga and Quoits to keep you entertained plus some quizzes for indoors if its wet or cold.

We are limited to 100 guests and would like as many associations as possible to attend. Please let me know by 15th July how many of your group would like to come and we will try to accommodate you all. However, if this event attracts more than 100 people, numbers may have to be reduced. I will confirm the number allocated to your group by 30th July.

This is a great opportunity to socialise with other members of the Devon Twinning Circle.

Kind regards

Claire

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NORTHAM TWINNING ASSOCIATION



Mondeville Twinners Visit Northam May 2023.

For the first time in four years, Northam Twinning Association was delighted to welcome to Northam, members of Mondeville Twinning Association, with whom they will have been twinned with for 50 years in 2024.

The group arrived in the early evening of Thursday, 18th May, after a day's journey by coach and ferry from Mondeville, a suburb of Caen, Normandy, via Portsmouth. It was wonderful to see old friends again, and to meet new ones too.

Friday was spent at the beautiful RHS Garden Rosemoor, where everyone had time to explore at their leisure. The gardens looked beautiful in the late spring sunshine and the cafes provided a welcome chance to relax and catch up on everything that had happened since the last time we were all together.

In the evening the group was invited to have supper on Northam Burrows at the Pebbleridge Kitchen Cafe. It was a delightful evening and many of the group took the chance to explore The Burrows, some even risking a paddle in Sandymere!

Saturday was the day of the official luncheon which this year was held at Moreton House, a beautiful Georgian Manor near Bideford. Not only was the group very impressed by the beauty of the house and gardens but also by the wonderful food prepared by The Royal George of Appledore. Following luncheon and the official speeches and toasts and the cutting of the anniversary cake albeit a little in advance, many took advantage of the croquet lawn. As one member of Mondeville said: 'You can't get more English than this!'



On Saturday evening Northam Town Council laid on a cheese and wine evening with entertainment at Northam Hall. Despite it having already been a long day, entertainer, Deano,, soon had everyone on their feet dancing to music from bygone eras. It was a lovely, informal opportunity to reminisce about the past and to talk of the future oo.

Sunday was largely spent with families but quite a few took the opportunity to go on a horse-drawn canal-boat trip on the Tiverton Canal, having had lunch at Knightshayes. George, the beautiful and gentle Shire horse clip-clopped along the tow path and the rhythmic noise of his hooves together with the tweeting of the sparrows in the hedgerows, was just so peaceful.



The final evening was spent en famille and many hours passed whilst twinnors from Northam and Mondeville talked and reminisced over a glass or three of wine! The group departed just after 8am on Monday 22nd May. When will we next meet up? Well Northam Twinning is hoping to go to Mondeville next June, when huge celebrations for the 80th anniversary of the D-Day Landings will take place.

Lesley Shaw,
Secretary

BAMPTON TWINNING ASSOCIATION

Villers-Bocage visit to Bampton 2023

After several months of planning, Bampton hosted twenty-eight people, including 3 children, from Villers-Bocage, Normandy, France at the end of April, over the Bank Holiday weekend.

Despite a delay with the ferry and traffic on the A303, the French were greeted in the Church on Friday evening with a glass of Wellhayes Sparkling Wine.

<https://www.wellhayesvineyard.co.uk>

Whilst enjoying the ambience of the building and the wonderful displays of the Heritage Centre incorporated into the church, welcoming speeches were delivered, in both French and English, by our Chair, Brian Smith and Heritage Centre Chair, Judi Thomas, before our visitors spent the evening with their respective families.

A 10:30 start on Saturday morning saw fifty-eight people head off on two coaches to Bovey Tracey. Thankfully the weather behaved itself and our first stop was the House of Marbles <https://www.houseofmarbles.com> where we spent a couple of hours checking out the Teign Valley Glassworks, the museums of games and pottery, the history of glass and marbles, and the hypnotic marble runs, especially the giant-sized one. A bit of shopping proved difficult to avoid, prior to us taking a relaxing drink in the sun-drenched garden.

After a short drive into town, we found Fore Street was closed for the Green Man festival, necessitating the coaches to park alongside the river. After a gentle stroll up the street to the old Town Hall, taking in the stalls and Morris Dancing, we ventured into the Dartmoor Whisky Distillery <https://dartmoorwhiskydistillery.co.uk> for a whisky (and gin) tasting.



Prior to the tasting in the distillery, we feasted on local cheeses and charcuterie, sourced and delivered by the local delicatessen. <https://wildmoor-deli.co.uk>

The whisky tasting was complemented with a video of the history of the distillery and the owner, Greg, enhanced the visit with his French speaking so our visitors were kept informed. A wise member of the Bampton contingent, was presented with a bottle from Greg's first distillation, having made an investment when the distillery opened several years ago.



Arriving back in Bampton at six o'clock, it gave everyone a short time to change into their glad rags for an evening in the Riverside Hall, where we were richly entertained by Wivelele, the ukulele band from Wiveliscombe – all 19 of them squeezing onto the stage.



A several-course meal, provided and served by the Toucan <https://toucanrestaurant.co.uk> was enjoyed by everyone.

After a leisurely Sunday, spent with our families, it was time to all get back together for a farewell buffet with entertainment from our own Bampton couple, Duo Tonic.

An 8:15 start on Monday morning was all too soon to say 'adieu' -involving lots of kissing of cheeks- before the visitors reluctantly clambered onto their coach and headed off back to Portsmouth to catch the ferry.

Next year, Bampton Twinners will travel over to Villers-Bocage to celebrate the fiftieth anniversary since our first meeting together.

Bruce Benton

Secretary

🇺🇦 **до побачення** 🇺🇦

At the time of writing, a certain Ukrainian family is returning to their mother country with all our hopes and wishes for a peaceful future. So it's **до побачення** (goodbye) and big "thank you" for that wonderful buffet to which they treated us in May.



Svitlana, Anna and Diana (+ a friend, Diana) served up 3 courses starting with Borshch, then a variety of salads and savouries, finishing with a selection of desserts.

The meal was attended by some 48 diners, quite the largest number for many months. Judging by the clean plates that were returned to the kitchen, the food was enjoyed immensely. It is exciting to try new or different cuisine with an explanation from the chef of what we are eating. And it was interesting to note that most of the ingredients were familiar to the British palate, just prepared in a different way.



SPECIAL BUFFET MENU

For those of you wishing to recreate all those Ukrainian treats at home, here's what we were offered:

Borshch: beetroot soup + rye bread + salo

Varenky: potato + cheese dumplings

Golubtsy: cabbage rolls

Olivye: potato salad

Shuba: herring salad

Pechinkoviy Tort: chicken liver cake

Medovik: honey cake

Syrnyk: baked cheesecake

Blackeyes desserts: with prunes + walnuts



There is some debate as to whether Borshch (or Borscht) originated in Ukraine or Russia, but it is a simple staple food that dates back centuries. What is it? It's a beet-based soup that can be combined with whatever else you've got growing in your garden to create a hearty, healthy meal that also stretches your food budget and weekly meals just a little bit further. I'm sure we detected celery, onion, carrot and potato in Svitlana's own creation, plus various herbs and spices, and a dollop of sour cream.





In Devon alone over fifty towns and villages have European 'twins'. One Mag's Bruce Hetherington looks at the shared bonds forged and how you can get involved

Twinning of cities, towns and villages across Europe took off in the aftermath of WWII when the driving force was a shared history and a desire to forge bonds of friendship and help each other get going again.

The bonds forged have lasted well in most cases, however these days the motives for joining a local twinning association are as much about affordable and enriching ways to travel, especially for young families keen to introduce their children to other cultures, languages, and friends.

"We were a little nervous about joining Twinning," says Kate McAlpine of the Kingsteignton Twinning Association who are twinned with Orbec in Normandy, "but we now feel that as a family it is one of the best things we have done."

"Our Twinning family are now lifelong friends and we have created wonderful memories on



our Twinning trips that as a family we cherish," she says.

Each association organises trips to and from its twin – giving members the chance to both visit and host.

This September the Newton Abbot Twinning Association is hiring a private bus which will leave Newton Abbot, making stops for members in Kingsteignton and Exeter before heading across the channel for a night in Bruges, before rolling through the French and German countryside to their twin town of Besigheim, for the bi-annual Winzerfest (Wine Festival) where host families will put everyone up free of charge.

Secretary Doug Tomkins describes Besigheim as the loveliest medieval wine town, standing at the confluence of the Rivers Neckar and Enz. It is surrounded by steep vineyards and beautiful half-timbered buildings adorn the streets.

"These festivals are great fun. There are groups and bands from all over including Belgium, Italy, Hungary and friends

from our other twin town of Ay, Champagne will be there too."

When asked whether knowledge of a European language is important Brenda Kite from the Exeter Twinning Circle says "No, absolutely not!". Her association is twinned with Rennes in France, Bad Homburg in Germany and Terracina in Italy.

There will always be lots of people around who speak English or who can translate – and that's part of the experience. You might not know any languages when you first take part but you will definitely have a few words when you get back.

The Exeter Twinning Circle also has a trip planned later this year to their twin city Bad Homburg, on the southern slopes of the Taunus mountains.

Brenda says it's not just the individual and family exchanges that are so fulfilling. The twinning associations also encourage cultural exchanges.

"Introducing organisations to their counterparts in our twin cities is an important part of our activities. We've had many successful exchanges involving the Exeter Music Group, Exeter Flying Club, Exeter Camera Club, Exeter Rowing Club, Exeter Festival Chorus and many more," she says.

If you'd like to join your local twinning association, most have websites and can be found with a quick online search. Alternatively, the secretary of umbrella group Devon Twinning Circle will put you in touch. They can be reached via the current secretary, Jenny Worsfold on jenworsfold@tiscali.co.uk or at www.devontwinningcircle.com/contact-us

Local Twinning Association Contacts

Newton Abbot – Doug Tomkins: dieseldoug@btinternet.com

Kingsteignton – kingsteigntonwinning@gmail.com

Exeter – Brenda Kite: Brenda.kite@yahoo.co.uk