

Summary of the Chairman's Report at the ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING in the TOWN HALL, MARCH 12<sup>TH</sup> 2009

We have had a very busy and successful year and I think all of you will agree that the visit by our friends from Morlaix, and our own visit to Morlaix, was once again worth all the effort that motivates us each year to maintain the very special relationship that we have between us. We have seen an increase in membership as well as an increase in our activities, using a combination of new and old ideas and, thanks to you all, we saw a very positive increase in our finances.

We decided to apply for a grant from the City Council to help us finance what we feel is a very special year. For 30 years our Association has maintained the friendship, promoted our City and our County to our fellow twinningers in Morlaix. On receiving the news that the Council had awarded us a grant of £1500 there were cheers all round. It was **such a** boost to our morale. We have also managed to get the interest of Totally Truro, the BIDS team [ business improvement district] led by Neil Scott, to try to promote our Twinning Association within the city, and to schools and businesses. The businesses have, in principle, agreed to become involved in our 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations in one way or another to promote the Cornish - Breton Link. The Totally Truro team have a wealth of experienced personnel with which our association could work.

We also requested help from Truro City parks department in commemorating our anniversary to which they kindly agreed. The display will be on Trafalgar Roundabout and, in anticipation, we would like to express our thanks to the Council and **Mr. Budge**, the Parks Manager. Whilst we are on the subject of thanks there are many to whom I must say thank you on behalf of our association as a whole and from me personally:

Our thanks go to the following City Councillors;

1. **Sue Callen** - Councillor, Mayor of Truro, President of Our Association - for giving us tremendous support, personal guidance, and facilitating our successful coffee morning in the Town Hall and the Mayor's Charity Fund Raising event.
2. **Pat Young** – City Councillor - for her wisdom, guidance and enormous support both here and in Morlaix.
3. **Roz Cox** – Councillor, Deputy Mayor - for her support here and in Morlaix.
4. **Mr. Bert Biscoe** – for his help in fundraising at the Cornish Variety Evening, giving his time and talent freely, providing contacts, advice and a wealth of knowledge.
5. Not least of all - the **staff in the Town hall** who have put up with my constant badgering through my visiting, phoning, e-mailing.

I find it difficult to express how lucky I am to have had the support of such a wonderful team on the committee over the past year, in fact, over the past two years. Collectively they have been enthusiastic, committed, hard working, full of ideas, knowledgeable, resourceful, and one could say a little tenacious at times but not without a sense of humour! As well as giving my thanks to them all I thought it may be interesting for you to know just what their roles have entailed and indeed what jewels we have in the Association

**Barrie Anthony** –Vice Chair - has been extremely supportive and resourceful, and always full of encouragement. He has frequently succeeded in brokering a good deal to get discounts. He is the one who uses every opportunity to get the last penny out of anyone at one of his instant auctions. Recently, on our behalf, he has managed to obtain a sponsor for our new boules trophy which will be ready very shortly.

**Anne Moodie** - Hon. Secretary - has been a stalwart through thick and thin. Her workload has included sending out scores of letters, timely reminders etc. She has shown us her brilliant organisational skills, and excellent communication skills including French. Anne has had the responsibilities of not only organising some of the events but the immersion courses, travel for twinningers, and the boules in the summer. Her help has been immeasurable.

**Robert Moodie** - Treasurer - started in July when Peter Coxwell resigned. Our thanks to Peter for remaining as our auditor. Meanwhile Robert has already demonstrated his skills superbly and always seems to have any information we need at his finger tips. At present he is investigating how we can maximise any interest on our account ...he has been such a stalwart, always willing and able, helping at every event especially behind the bar!

**Sandra Anthony** - Hosting and Raffles - has successfully matched twinningers as hosts, organised our BBQ, collected numerous prizes for raffles, negotiated prices, visited venues. Her commitment to the Association has never faltered and she continually works in the background as well as at every single event. **Continued over the page.....**

YOUR NEW COMMITTEE

Chairman	Anne Moodie	01872 277854	robert.moodie@btinternet.com
Vice Chairman	Barrie Anthony	01872 520288	
Secretary	Valerie Flatt	01872 271593	johnorval@talktalk.net
Treasurer	Robert Moodie	01872 277854	robert.moodie@btinternet.com
Minutes Secretary	Ann Burnett		
Membership Secretary	Ann Burnett	01726 68896	ann.burnett@freenet.co.uk
Twin Link Editor	John Flatt	01872 271593	johnorval@talktalk.net
Hosting	Sandra Anthony		
Raffle Organiser	Sandra Anthony	01872 520288	
Assistant raffle organiser	Helen Moodie	01872 277854	
Extra hand	David Hoskin	01326 376474	rdhoskin.mylor@btinternet.com
Boules Co-ordinator	Jean Anderson	01872 320121	jeananderson47@hotmail.com
Press & Publicity Officer	Carol Heginbotham	01872 864121	carol.heginbotham@btopenworld.com

Helen Moodie is also co-opted as a Youth Liaison Officer, representing the youth of the association, as a non-voting member

**Val Flatt** – Twinlink Editor - has continued the innovative ways which were started last year and the results have been amazing as you will all have seen. Her talents and her ideas for improvement are endless. Both Val and John Flatt have contributed to the savings we have made over the year through their offer of printing at an extremely competitive rate for cost only. Their time and effort in doing the printing has been given freely. They are both very supportive and have such a variety of skills which they offer regularly.

**Ann Burnett** - Minutes Secretary and Membership Secretary - who has taken over from Nikki Dawkins in the last few months. Ann has been another amazing asset. She has been so efficient at minute taking so was an obvious choice for membership secretary. We only needed to give her arm the smallest tweak to persuade her to take on an additional role. She has begun the task of compiling an up to date register of all our members, writing new membership letters and documents and has exceeded our expectations by designing a pamphlet which we hope when completed will be on display this year to provide information on what Truro Twinning Association is about. Her support as a member and as a team player is invaluable.

**David Hoskin** - prior Chairman - David has given us wisdom, a wealth of knowledge, generosity, and even an orchestra who have become our newest Corporate member. He has worked hard organising an exchange of orchestras. The French Orchestre Du Patio are visiting us on 18<sup>th</sup> April, holding a free concert here in the Mayor's Parlour. The Cornish Sinfonia will make a return visit to Morlaix for a concert on June 6<sup>th</sup>.

**Lee-Anne Higgins** – Association Hostess - one of our newest members, kindly stepped in to host at some of our functions and has shown us her skills producing culinary delights at functions and a warm welcome to both Truro and Breton twidders.

On behalf of Truro Twinning Association my thanks must also go to the non-committee members who have given their time, welcomed other members to their home and have always been there when we have asked for help. I must thank **Jean and Bill Anderson** who have held such successful crêpe evenings in their own home, helped at various events, and given so much of their time and effort. I would also like to thank **Lilian and Mike Polkinghorne** for all their help and participation in events in particular the Beetle Drive, the Mayor's Charity fund raising event, and for their never failing support. Thanks also goes to **Gareth and Trudie Wilcox** for their organisation of our quiz night.

The Association also needs to say a **big** thank you to **Andrew Moodie** who, despite the demands of study and university life, has so kindly found the time to set up a new **website** on our behalf which is both extremely informative and lively.

You are all probably aware that our association has planned their yearly trip to Morlaix at Easter. There will be about 28 people on the trip so Truro will be well represented. The Morlaisiens are due to come to Truro on August Bank holiday weekend. This could pose us with a few problems with venue bookings but enquiries have already been made and are in hand - just subject to final confirmation at the next committee meeting. The itinerary for the French visit will also be confirmed at a later date, but some excellent ideas have been forthcoming from committee members. I am sure all association members will be notified as soon as details have been finalised.

This evening I am resigning as Chairman of the Association as from May 1<sup>st</sup>.

For me personally it has been a very positive experience. I have made friends within both our and the Morlaix Twinning Association, met people from all backgrounds and professions, young and not so young, worked with some tremendous people, sampled a different culture, and I have been given the opportunity to visit places I may never have seen. I am convinced that the Association will continue to flourish and I wish your new Chairman and you all well for the future.

**Christine Ward**

**Immersion 2009 February 15th—20th**

How to improve our French?? As new members, Immersion seemed the obvious opportunity! Thus Richard and I, together with five other compatriots, embarked on the pristine new ship Armorique and spent four days with seven incredibly hospitable and generous families, covering a wide range of experiences. I learned about modern dairy farming (at very close hand!), the linen trade (including several Breton words which I can't quite envisage the situation in which to flaunt them...), prehistoric cairns, and, most importantly, how to deal with the moles in our garden. In addition we underwent two formal sessions of lessons together delving into the mysteries of French grammar (I now sympathise wholeheartedly with 'real' students), acquired between us a bewildering range of advice on crêpe production (trust you all enjoyed the results at the recent evening at Bill and Jean's) and settled most of the world's problems over a glass of vin rouge. The whole experience was rounded off in style by a splendid evening chez Michel and Danielle.

Did our French improve? Emphatically yes. However the opportunity to converse and genuinely immerse oneself in some of the hitherto less familiar aspects of French life resulted in so much more: a truly fascinating, exhausting and enjoyable visit. We are currently experimenting with the mole traps.....

Carol Heginbotham

At Roscoff ferry port



Having a French lesson!



Enjoying a social evening chez Michel Cocheril.



The participants are given their Diplomas



Our **Beetle Drive and Silent Auction**, held at Kea Church at the end of January, was another great success. Ann Burnett won the prize for the best Beetle player. There were many good 'lots', and the evening made £153.58 profit.



### Crêpe evening.

A good number of us enjoyed a social evening at the home of Jean and Bill Anderson, where we had crêpes—made with real French flour! - with various accompaniments. We had a successful raffle, there was also a bar, and the event made a profit of £138.95. Many thanks to Jean and Bill for their hospitality, and thanks to Carol and Val for making the crêpes as Jean had not fully recovered from a badly broken arm.

A good choice of toppings for the 'crêpes', and plenty to chat about!



Mike Polkinghorne acquired the following article during his recent Immersion:

#### Which logs for firewood should I use?

It is the time of the year when you should be thinking about buying and drying next winter's wood for your fire. If you are new to having a 'real fire' and finding it difficult to choose the right wood to burn, then let this simple old poem help you choose.

*Beechwood fires burn bright and clear,  
If the logs are kept a year.  
Chestnut's only good they say,  
If four years it's stored away.  
Birch and Fir burn too fast,  
Blaze too bright and do not last.  
Make a fire of Elder tree,  
Death within your house will be.  
Flames from Larch will shoot up high,  
Dangerously the sparks will fly.  
But Ash green or Ash brown,  
Are fit for a Queen with a golden crown.  
Oak logs if dry and old,  
Keep away the winter's cold.  
Poplar gives a bitter smoke,  
Fills your eyes and makes you choke.  
Elm wood burns like churchyard mould,  
Even the very flames are cold.  
It is by the Cornish said  
Hawthorn bakes the sweetest bread.  
Apple wood will scent the room,  
Pear wood smells like flowers in bloom.  
But Ash wet or Ash dry,  
A King shall warm his slippers by.*



**Please note that your annual subscriptions are now due. Please send your cheque to Ann Burnett, 2 Mullion Close, St Austell, PL25 3SS**

We would like to extend our grateful thanks to **Penrose Touring** at Scorrier for their very kind donation of a trophy which will be awarded to the best runner-up in our Eddie Jones Boules Competition. This will be held at our Boules pitch in Boscawen Park in September.

If you don't know where the Boules pitch is.....it's at the back of the cricket pavilion, accessed through the entrance at the Malpas end of the park.

#### **Obituary**

A long-term member of the Truro-Morlaix Twinning Association, and a founder of one of Cornwall's best musical groups, Mrs Janet Prisk recently lost her fight against blood cancer. We extend our sincere sympathies to Gerald and the family.

I am sending this edition out in pdf format to all those whose e-mail address I have. You should then be able to print it yourself. However, if you have a problem, or your printer isn't up to it and you would prefer me to send you a paper version, just let me know—your wish is my command! A laser printer should produce an excellent copy, but for an ink-jet it depends on the paper used! Val

#### **Latest 100 Club results:**

January winners: 1st David Hoskin, 2nd Lilian Polkinghorne, 3rd Sandra Anthony

February winners: 1st Sandra Anthony, 2nd Anne Moodie, 3rd Mrs Fisher-Davis

March winners: 1st Barbara Woodall, 2nd Anne Moodie, 3rd Mrs Fisher-Davis.

Have you joined the 100 club? The more people who join, the bigger the prize money, and the better the benefit to TMTA. The 'TMTA Super 100 Club' is like a club lotto, open to all over 18 years of age. It is only £12 per year per ticket and there is a draw once a month. The more people who join, the larger the prize fund, as there is more in the pot to share out. Also, the more we can then undertake to do for the association and for our guests from Morlaix. Pay by cash, cheque or standing order, whatever is convenient to you. Contact Robert Moodie 01872 277854

# EVENTS DIARY AND WHAT'S ON

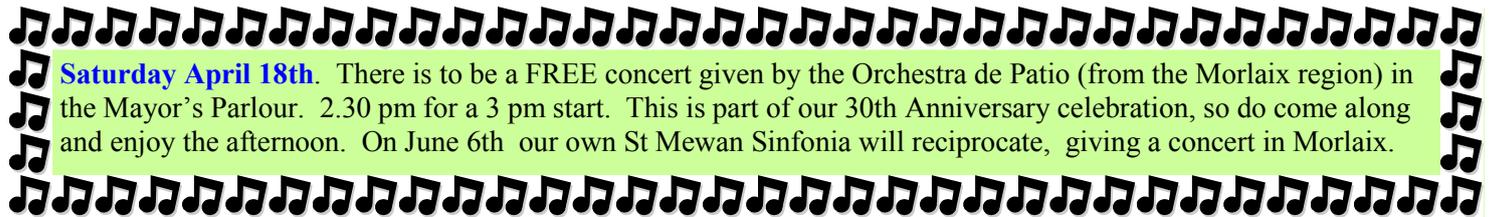
Everyone is invited to all events. If you need transport please contact one of the committee.

Thursday April 9th to Monday April 13th.

Our Easter visit to Morlaix.

## BOULES

Although quite a few members will be on their way back from Morlaix on Easter Monday, the Boules pitch at Boscawen Park will be available for all those who wish to use it. Please take a rake if you can, to make sure the pitch is usable, and someone will need to take a boules set, or two! Be there from 11 a.m. and take a picnic if the weather looks good. After that there will be the opportunity to play Boules in Boscawen Park on the **first Sunday of every month** from 11 am, weather permitting. Come along, bring a picnic, and enjoy the fun!



**Saturday April 18th.** There is to be a FREE concert given by the Orchestra de Patio (from the Morlaix region) in the Mayor's Parlour. 2.30 pm for a 3 pm start. This is part of our 30th Anniversary celebration, so do come along and enjoy the afternoon. On June 6th our own St Mewan Sinfonia will reciprocate, giving a concert in Morlaix.

Your new committee.  
What a happy lot we are!

**Sunday afternoon, June 14th.** Cream Tea at the home of Carol and Richard Heginbotham, Hope Springs, Carnon Valley, Carnon Downs, TR3 6LG, Tel. 01872 864121. Please phone if possible as it helps with the catering. We don't want to run out of cream!



**June 28th** County Boules Tournament at Boscawen Park. 10 for 10.30 am. Bring a picnic lunch. Stay until about 4 pm!

**We have some other ideas in the pipeline, which we will let you know about when details are finalised!**

You can keep up to date by logging on to our web-site, which Andrew Moodie has created. He is doing a superb job .

[www.truromorlaixtwinning.weebly.com](http://www.truromorlaixtwinning.weebly.com)

You can see all the latest photos, and read past editions of Twinlink etc.

## A CHOICE OF ACTIVITIES ON A TUESDAY EVENING!!

Do you live anywhere near Falmouth? If so, you may be interested about a group of people who get together on a Tuesday evening from 7 pm, once a week at The Shed at the Events Square, the main purpose being to speak French. It is informal so it is a case of joining in if you want to, for as long as you fancy. So far those who have gone along have met new people, spoken French and learnt some new words. Each week it varies as to who is able to come along, and abilities vary, but everyone so far has been very enthusiastic. We have had such a great time. We have been to see a French film together and have plans for more exciting evenings including food tasting and a crepe night, as well as discussing a short trip to Brittany. Anyone is welcome. For more information contact Alison on 01326 318848, [alisoncameron@talktalk.net](mailto:alisoncameron@talktalk.net) or call The Shed 01326 318502.

## URGENT:

**We desperately need good quality Raffle Prizes. Unwanted gifts, home-made fare and/or craft, job (e.g. an hour's gardening, baking a cake etc.) Please contact Sandra Anthony 01872 520288 Many thanks in anticipation!**

Don't forget the monthly get-togethers on the first Tuesday of each month at 'The Riverbank' (previously the Barleysheaf) in Old Bridge Street, Truro, near the Shopper's car park. Come for a drink and a chat at about 7.30 pm. Can members please contact other members to see if they would like to meet up there, as this is an event arranged for members to meet informally and it is felt that there is no particular need for a committee member to be there!