Association Reports: April 2023

**Bodmin**

We undertook our first trip to Le Relecq Kerhuon post-covid in October 2022 which was a very emotional and enjoyable trip despite the weather. We are now gearing up for the return visit from our French friends which will take place over the Coronation weekend in May.

Membership continues to be a problem with the older members now finding it difficult to take part in the visits. Our chairman and secretary had a zoom meeting with their counterparts in Le Relecq to discuss the future of the *jumelage* as they are experiencing similar membership problems; it was

agreed by both sides to carry on with the hope of attracting new members. To this end a publicity campaign was undertaken with appearances on Radio Cornwall and Facebook advertising which did attract a couple of new members at least. The other positive development is a renewed interest by the town Mayor and the council as a whole who have been extremely supportive with the upcoming visit during which we will take an active role in the town celebrations.

**Callington**

*Annual Dinner, 12th November 2022*

We broke with tradition and went to a local hostelry for our dinner this year. This meant far less

work for the committee and an excellent 3 course meal cheaper than we could have provided in the

Town Hall with outside caterers. The one drawback is that there is a maximum of 28 covers as the

pub restaurant is very popular on a Saturday night but very successful and we have booked again for

this year.

*Epiphany Supper, 6th January*

Always an enjoyable start to the new year, this is a bit of self-indulgence just for the committee and their significant others and is a great help with team building for the strenuous year ahead.

*Burns Night, 21st January*

We returned to the Town Hall with outside caterers providing the food but decided to only charge the cost of the caterers and absorb the hall hire, piper etc with proceeds from the raffle and the bar. We did make a loss but it kept the tradition going and the piper at £150 was a bit of indulgence, but all present agreed he had the best legs of any piper we had had in the last 20 years!

*AGM, 3rd Feb*

We had the best turnout in years which is a reflection on members’ desire to start mixing again, and the quality of our cheese and wine.

*Quiz, 25th Feb*

Again, a bumper turnout with an excellent quiz prepared by our secretary. The profit of £210 was donated to the DEC Earthquake appeal.

*Poisson d’avril, 1st April*

A smaller gathering of 12 people at the Lumley household held on April 1st with a distinctly fishy theme to the three-course meal catered by members of the committee. Awaiting financial report at our next meeting but a lovely chance to catch up with members we don’t see too often.

Preparations are in full swing for our visit to Guipavas 26th -29th May. 27 people will be travelling

either on a group ticket or taking private vehicles for an extended stay. Our visit coincides with a

celebration weekend in our twin town so a good time should be had by all.

**Newquay**

Following the TCC AGM in November, much enjoyed by ourselves, we were fortunate to receive an invitation via our Dinard counterparts, to attend the 50th Anniversary Brittany Ferries Celebrations, during which we took the opportunity to meet old friends and new from Dinard, a truly memorable experience.

Our final fundraising event for 2022 was a Christmas Buffet; a relaxed occasion to begin the Festive Celebrations. On Friday we began our 2023 fund raising with a Cornish Night with a speaker from Old Cornwall Society, followed by a pasty supper and Cornish dancing.

Prior to our first visit to Dinard since 2018, shortly to happen in May, this week we will have the pleasure of welcoming the new President of Dinard Twinning to Newquay; her first ever visit to Newquay when she will be meeting the Mayor and a member of Newquay Tourism, following Newquay’s first ever success at the Tourism Awards at Eden earlier this year.

Much to look forward to before we again meet up with members of the TCC at the Annual Bowls event.

**Penzance**

Various social events have taken place over the last 12 months. The Mounts Bay Club hosted 3 very

successful quizzes and raffles, our best fund-raisers, in May, November and February. The club very kindly

donated £50 from their August quiz, which was their own charity fund-raiser. In May, a few of us got

together for boules in St Anthony Gardens. Our Penzance treasure hunt was held in July, based at The

Bath Inn. September’s boules evening had to be cancelled because of the weather. In December we had our

Christmas get-together at The Bath Inn. We had a quiz and everyone contributed to the buffet. In

January we were back at The Senara for lunch; as ever, a very popular event. The food and service were

great; the students did very well. The March cakey tea walk at Tremenheere was also a victim of the

weather. The photographic group continues to meet regularly.

In June, a delegation of 8 came from Concarneau. They took part in the Mazey Day parade, had meetings

with Penwith College and the local schools and did a book exchange with Morrab Library. We hosted meals

at Senara, The Alverne and a barbecue chez Caroline Peers and Nigel Walker.

In August, an official delegation of 4, accompanied by 5 others who went for a holiday, attended Filets

Bleus. The delegation was the Mayor Jonathan How, Councillor Stephen Reynolds plus Karen Bennett and

Peter Crumpler. Stephen took the opportunity to cycle from Roscoff to Concarneau to reccy the route for

future trips, arriving very hot and very tired to act as interpreter for our first meeting.

Monthly committee meetings have continued. The committee have been very grateful for the continued

support of the mayor and deputy mayor, Jonathan How and Will Elliott, our president and vice-president.

Also many thanks are due to the town councillors who opted to be on our committee; Stephen Reynolds,

Richard Sorrell and Zach Lawlor. Our thanks also go to Monique Thomas for her hard work as treasurer

and Maurice Stuckey for auditing the accounts. Thank you also to Dick Cliffe for taking the minutes at all

our meetings.

We continue to be members of the Twinning Committee for Cornwall (TCC). This enables us to have very

reasonable rates for public liability insurance. They also have a bursary scheme for young people and we

were able to get a travel grant for one of our students who spent a month in Concarneau last summer,

working as an au pair and improving her French. She has since obtained another post with a family near

Paris.

A group of 25 students from Concarneau are arriving on 23 rd April to spend a few days improving their

English and getting to know Penzance. They will spend Thursday 27th at Mounts Bay Academy and the fire

service has again very kindly agreed to host the group for games and a barbecue in the evening. The group

will also spend their first morning, Monday 24 th , doing a round Penzance quiz, organised by Peter Crumpler.

We’ll be looking for volunteer helpers. They depart on Friday 28 th April.

A group of 4 walkers from Concarneau are arriving in early June and a return visit is planned for September.

A delegation of 6 from Concarneau has been invited to attend this year’s Golowan festival. It will comprise

2 from their twinning committee, 2 from the town hall and 2 from the tourist office. We are awaiting

details from Concarneau so that we can organise accommodation and a programme.

A group of 6 are attending this year’s Filets Bleus festival, as a holiday, not an official delegation.

**Plans for 2024:**

* Concarneau would like to bring some of their bagad (Breton band) and dancers for Golowan. There will not be an official delegation that June but some may choose to come as a holiday.
* Buccas Four have been invited to take part in the Filets Bleus festival. We hope also to include the Golowan Band and Kernow Pipes and Drums. It will be our turn for an official delegation visit too.
* We plan to take a larger delegation to Concarneau, not during the festival; we need to start

putting this in place soon. The idea is to hire a minibus from Penzance to Plymouth and then

another from Roscoff to Concarneau. We hope that some accommodation will be available *en*

*famille* as an exchange for those who are able to accommodate the Bretons here. Otherwise, there are several hotels and *chambres d’hôtes*.

* Mounts Bay Academy are very much hoping to take a group of students over to Concarneau in

June.

* Both sides are keen to promote sustainability. One idea is to have a cycle ride between the two

towns. As we don’t have a dedicated cycle path to Plymouth, the ride would probably commence in Roscoff. They have a voie verte cycleway all the way from Roscoff to Concarneau. It’s been

suggested that some of their group could meet at Roscoff and everyone could cycle together. In

the past, the fire service intended to do a ride. Maybe they can be encouraged to think about it

again.

* Hopefully the walking group exchanges will continue.

**Future plans for promoting both towns:**

* The photographic group continues. There are keen wildlife/landscape photographers on both sides and it is hoped that, at some future date, there can be exhibitions in both our towns.
* We are very hopeful of a link between artists and are looking for a possible exhibition space in

Concarneau. An artist’s residency exchange is another idea being discussed. Councillor Richard

Sorrell has invited an artist to stay with him and work together for a week. This could be the

start of artist exchanges.

* Moving forward with the planned library exchange between Morrab Library and Concarneau.
* Encourage younger members of the twinning.

**Restormel**

We had our AGM earlier on this month and committee was re-elected to same posts so nothing has changed there.

I am pleased to announce that the 33rd Town Twinning with Dithmarschen will be happening from the 09th September - 16 September 2023 and we have 18 Germans coming to Newquay and St Austell. We are busy arranging a programme, and are particularly pleased to see so many of our friends coming back to Cornwall, in light of them now having to have passports to travel to the UK.

We are planning a couple of socials for members but no fixed dates yet.

**Truro-Morlaix**

Finally, Truro Morlaix Twinning Association is back on track.

We cancelled the trips to and from Morlaix in the Spring of 2022, but managed an Official

Visit to and from Morlaix in September and October 2022.

We have been able to continue our committee meetings in person with some people still

using ZOOM.

We have managed to have our regular fund-raising events and have a programme planned

for the remainder of 2023. We will be visiting Morlaix next month but alas our numbers are down to 13 from our usual 25 to 30 in the past!

We have attracted 11 new members, but along the way have lost some as well and so our

numbers are fairly stable.

We continue to enjoy significant support from the Mayor and City Council and Jean Paul

Vermot – Mayor of Morlaix has asked that we celebrate our 45 th Anniversary in 2024 and he

very much wants to come to Truro with the group next year.

We always have a splendid welcome in the Pays de Morlaix and are hosted in turn by the 4

Mayors.

**Saltash**

We had a very successful meeting when we hosted our French guests. Highlights included a champagne reception, a Social Club meeting and a Hog roast which included a wine input from France! A visit to Fowey was organised, benefitting from the use of the French coach.

The production of a photo book is in progress, and we are putting our minds to the creation of a *boules* piste.

We are pleased that our younger members seem willing to contribute time and energy to the association and look forward to the outcome of their enthusiasm.

Our AGM has been booked at the Sailing Club.