



Friendship Force of Cornwall



- Newsletter for December 2012 -

**A HAPPY CHRISTMAS and A PEACEFUL
and
HEALTHY NEW YEAR TO YOU ALL!**

From the President....

On behalf of the committee, I would like to wish you a very Merry Christmas and a healthy and peaceful New Year.

As I mentioned at our recent Annual General Meeting, we approach the end of another year which included such a successful summer of sport and memorable events, including the Queen's Diamond Jubilee, the Olympics, the Paralympics, Tour de France and Ryder Cup successes. One wouldn't think it could get any better. However, to cap a truly Annus Mirabilis, Friendship Force Cornwall achieved this by winning an award at the Truro Carnival procession. We brought home second prize in the Adult Walking category! (See below for details.)

The committee have been working hard to put together some exciting events for 2013, as well as many exchanges which, hopefully, will be of interest to everyone. I hope you will try and get involved in some way.

Our membership is now quite healthy, but we mustn't be complacent as any club is only as strong as its active members. New faces and ideas will also keep the club a fresh and enjoyable, one to be a part of. So please, continue the fantastic work into 2013.

Thank you for making our club so special.

Gavin



Annual General Meeting

At the meeting in Probus, attended by over 40 members, the following committee was elected:

President: *Gavin Adams*; **Vice-President:** *Shirley Anderson*

Secretary: *Pam Dungey*; **Treasurer:** *Ian Windsor*

Committee Members: *Martin Buck, Christine Cartlidge, Carole Pyatt and Roger Simpson.*

It was also agreed that we would ask Atlanta to consider a possible 2014 exchange to Manitoba, Canada, the club we hosted a couple of years ago. If granted, this will be a great chance to meet some old friends and to see a new part of their magnificent country.

Also, we are to offer another gardeners' exchange in 2014, to individual Friendship Force members. It is planned to put on a repeat of the hugely successful event we arranged in 2011, when Jennie, Maggie, Liz and Sue worked tirelessly to create a week to remember for the visiting ambassadors from around the world.

Pam has worked hard to compile the minutes from our 14th AGM and these have been sent out to everyone. Please have a look at them and let any committee member know about activities you would like to see or be a part of in the coming 12 months.

2013 Exchanges

Next year, we have no less than **four** exchanges planned!

The first will be in April, when eighteen club members will be visiting **FF Urla, Greater Izmir in Turkey**, followed by four nights in the fascinating city of Istanbul. Please see the latest update below from our ED, Shirley.

From 13th - 16th June, FF Wessex will be visiting us for a short four day visit. This will be our first visit, apart from Devon, from a UK club for some time. It will be nice to meet and make friends from another beautiful part of the country.

At present, we have been told to expect three couples and five singles. Hosts will be required and more information will follow in the New Year. Please make a note in your diaries.

September will see **FF Ottawa from Canada** arrive. We expect a large group, possibly twenty four ambassadors. Christine has agreed to act as Exchange Director with Roger assisting her, together with a small organising committee.

The visit will be between **4th and 11th September**, so again, please make a note in your diaries, as we will be needing many hosts, day hosts and helpers to ensure we maintain our high level hospitality for which we have become so well known throughout Friendship Force.

Finally, a short visit to Belgium, **a four night stay from 2nd to 6th October**, has been agreed with FF Brussels-Payot. Our thanks go out to their club for agreeing to host us.

This will be an ideal opportunity for new members and those who have not been on an exchange to experience the delights of being an ambassador. Of course, all members will be welcome, so if you are interested please let Gavin or Shirley know.

We are looking at flying from Bristol to Brussels, but more information will be available shortly. The Belgian club have just told us that they are planning special activities during our stay as part of their 20th anniversary celebrations and will be inviting Friendship Force clubs from around the world to attend, so it promises to be an exciting and different exchange!



Bournemouth weekend, 8th -11th March 2013

A recent e-mail from FF Devon

Please find attached a further letter about our Bournemouth weekend. We are hoping that now the summer breaks are over, your members' minds will be turning towards what to do in Spring.

I hope as many as possible will be able to join us.

Please would you circulate to your club members? With many thanks, on behalf of Jean Hopkins, Gladys Vickers and myself.

Let's give it a go! At £110.00 we can't go wrong. We can't guarantee

the weather, but can guarantee good company all round.

We will need a deposit of £30.00 made payable to "The Friendship Force of Devon", also stating the type of room you require, single, double, twin etc. and if sharing, who with. The balance of £80 per head will be due by 22nd January 2013.

There have been some enquiries about bringing dogs. One room has already been booked and the hotel is happy to accommodate well behaved dogs at a cost of £10 per night, if they are not too big.

Please speak to Gladys if you wish to bring your dog.

The hotel will require owners to sign an undertaking that they will be responsible for any untoward damage.

Deposit cheque and room details should be sent to:-

Mrs Loraine Chudley, Willow House, 26A Ide Lane, Exeter, EX2 8UR, Tel 01392 258802

Email enquiries to loraine.chudley@btinternet.com or ring Gladys on 01395 222575, as she is our oracle and more in touch with the hotel!

Jean and Gladys have asked me to take on the finance and correspondence to spare Terry!

If anyone needs directions please let me know.

In friendship, Loraine Chudley



Outgoing Exchange to Urla FF, Izmir, Turkey 2013

Plans for our visit to Urla are progressing well.

Eighteen of our members will depart from Cornwall on 18th April for Gatwick, where our hotel and dinner reservations are already booked. We fly to Izmir via Istanbul the following day, flights all booked, for the start of our week's stay with members of Urla FF.

Their Exchange Director has organised hosting and all our members have been given details of their hosts in Turkey.

The programme she is proposing sounds excellent; a visit to Ephesus and the Virgin Mary's House are just two of the activities for the week.

We leave Izmir on 26th April for Istanbul, where we shall spend four nights at the Star Holiday Hotel overlooking the Blue Mosque and the Marmara Sea.

A Bosphorus cruise, visit to Dolmabache Palace and Princes' Island are amongst many other fascinating places included in the package.

We return on 30th April!

Shirley

Donations from visiting clubs

FF Hamburg kindly gave us a donation of £100 at the end of their incoming exchange last year. This was sent to ShelterBox and allocated the box number UK0065447. ShelterBox wrote to me in September to say that the box has been sent to the DPR of Korea to assist those affected by flooding.

FF Greater Atlanta also kindly sent us a donation which was forwarded to ShelterBox. The Box number is UK0067606 and we are waiting to hear of its destination - www.shelterbox.org

Josie

Truro Carnival

A hardy band of club members, friends and young supporters assembled in Truro in September for the carnival night procession. Flags used in our many exchanges, as well as costumes and hats from around the world, made an impressive sight. So much so that we achieved a glorious second place in the Adult Walking category; a stunning achievement!

Lots of thanks must go to Dawn, Christine and other members of the organising committee. In fact Dawn and Ian made it into the West Briton, as they led our display.



Part of our group getting ready for the parade

It is hoped that our involvement helped to raise the club's profile just a little bit.

Courts of Justice visit

A big thank you must go to Pam for organising this event on 25th September. Over thirty of us were let into the courts after hours to experience what it must be like for accused and accusers, judges, court officials and others involved in the legal processes at Truro Crown Court.

Pam brought her many years' experience to tell us many stories about her working life there. We sat in the largest court which had witnessed many famous and notorious cases in the past. We were told to expect forthcoming murder trials, much to our surprise.

A few of us were planning to revisit the court, but only as members of the viewing public.

A memorable visit was followed by a pleasant meal and drink at the Ask restaurant.

Should anyone else wish to organise another informative visit, maybe to a past employer, please let a committee member know.

Future events

There have been some changes to planned events for January and February listed in the last newsletter. These were mentioned at the AGM.

The first social event of 2013 will now be the popular **Skittles and Lunch at Porthbean Lodge**, Porthbean Road, Newquay, TR7 3LT on Sunday 27th January. Meet at 12 noon for skittles, followed by a three course lunch at around 1.15pm.

Please let Christine know before Sunday 20th January if you plan to come along. **Cost for both is £12.25.**

We have experienced many great evenings at the Hall for Cornwall, Truro over the past years. Our next visit there will be on Wednesday

20th February to see **Yes, Prime Minister**. This will be preceded by a meal at 6pm at a venue to be arranged.

Tickets and a meal will be reserved on a first come first served basis. Please let Christine or Gavin know if you are definitely coming along. The theatre tickets will cost £21; cheques payable to 'Mr GJ Adams'.

For the first time, it is planned to take a group trip to Exeter **on Tuesday 26th March**. We will travel by train together and, depending on what you wish to do, explore the underground passages, shop in the city centre including the new John Lewis store, take the historic walking tour, visit the canal basin area or other ideas you come up with. Please contact Christine for more details.

Please try and bring along a friend, neighbour, work colleague or relative to our social events to show them what a great club we are!

And finally....

"Friendship...is not something you learn in school. If you haven't learned the meaning of friendship, you haven't learned anything."
Muhammad Ali



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Sunday 27th January - 12.00 noon

Skittles and food at Porthbean Lodge, Porth, near Newquay

Wednesday 20th February - 6.00 pm, Performance at 7.30 pm

Pre-theatre meal and visit to Hall for Cornwall, Truro to see "Yes, Prime Minister".

Friday 8th - Monday 11th March

3 nights Friendship Force weekend in Bournemouth

Saturday 16th - Sunday 17th March

Leadership Forum – FF Leicestershire

Tuesday 26th March

Trip to Exeter – possible visit to Underground Passages, shopping, walking tour

Friday 19th - Tuesday 30th April

Exchange to FF Urla, Greater Izmir & Istanbul, Turkey

May - Tbc

Thursday 13th - Monday 17th June

FF Wessex visit FF Cornwall (4 nights)

Wednesday 4th - 11th September

FF Ottawa, Canada to FF Cornwall

Wednesday 2nd - 6th October

FF Cornwall to FF Brussels, Payot (4 nights)

To avoid having to phone around, it would be extremely helpful if members could let the relevant person know by the due date whether or not they will be attending any of these gatherings. If we don't hear from you we will assume you don't want to come along! Please check your e-mails regularly so as not to miss advance notifications, changes, alterations etc.