

NEWSLETTER - October 2007

Visit from Tottori, Japan

After feeling quite nervous about taking complete strangers into our home, the moment Keiko and Kiyoko stepped through the door all my worries disappeared. They were two delightful ladies, who were full of fun and very appreciative of all our efforts, no matter how small.

Having lived in South East Asia for many years and having travelled in Japan helped to break the ice. We laughed and joked, talked about life in England and compared this with the Japanese way of life.

They were willing to try out different food and cleared their plates at every meal. They were amazed at having freshly made apple juice at breakfast, using apples picked from the tree in the garden. Keiko even took a photo!

They were generous in every way. Even an afternoon cup of tea brought out Japanese crackers and chocolates.

We had a busy Saturday showing them the coast at Bedruthan Steps, sampling pasties at Padstow and a tour around Lanhydrock, followed by a very entertaining evening at Playing Place with many local Friendship Force members and the rest of the visiting group; what a sociable lot! They sang and danced for us and had everyone in the room dancing by the end of the evening.

On Sunday the hosts took the group to St Michael's Mount, the Nine Maidens near Mousehole, the Minack where we had a picnic lunch, followed by some impromptu singing. The ladies thoroughly enjoyed entertaining the rest of the visitors there.

Finally, on to Lands End for the obligatory picture and then home.

The fun didn't end there, as it was time for some serious Japanese cooking. We had a delicious meal of miso soup, tempura, squash and sushi. Keiko and Kiyoko cooked, while I watched and was general skivvy.

The evening ended with origami, more chocolates and gifts.

With offers of accommodation in Japan at any time, we said goodbye. It was sad to see them go. Keiko and Kiyoko had arrived as our guests, but left as our friends!

Sandra Buck



Annual General Meeting

Notice is given that this year's AGM will be held on Sunday 25 th November 2007 at 13.30 at the home of Margie Lundie (Penvro, Grampound). Food and drink will be provided from 12 noon.

This is your chance to put forward your suggestions regarding club activities, exchanges, social events etc. The AGM will deal with the club accounts, auditors, the election of officers and constitutional matters. Any proposals for amendments to our constitution must be sent to the Secretary and President by 4 th November. If you are unable to attend the AGM in person but would like to make comments or send apologies for absence, please let me know by Sunday 18 th November.

Under the constitution, all committee members will resign at the AGM and all may stand for re-election. Positions are President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer and up to eight committee members. We hope that members not currently involved will agree to stand for election.

Following the AGM we will have an informal discussion about club activities, future exchanges, exchange directors and any other matters members wish to raise.

John Baughan (Secretary)

Christmas Dinner

Please note that the date is now Thursday 6 th December. Also please send payment to Christine by Friday 30th November, at the latest but make cheques for £15 per person payable to Trennick Mill.

Margie

Incoming Exchanges 2008

7 th May Sunshine Coast of Australia.

5 th September Lake Hartwell, USA.

Please consider helping in the organisation of these visits. We will need an Exchange Director and 2 others for each visit. If you are new to this, there will be ample support throughout from "old hands". Offers of hosting will be appreciated as both groups are likely to be around 20 ambassadors.

14 th -17 th March 2008 Short incoming visit from FF Cardiff.

29 th October to 17 th November, 2008

Outgoing to Comitán, México and Phoenix, Arizona. Initial thoughts are to have one week in Comitán followed by three nights in Mexico City before going on to Phoenix.

Final flight schedules and prices will not be available before December, but it is hoped that the full trip, door to door and including all but personal money, should be possible for somewhat less than £1400 per person for a total of about 18 days.

Your committee agreed to this exchange because of the members desire to have a long haul trip in 2008. Mexico also came near the top of the popularity list in votes so we are optimistic that there will be no problem in ensuring that we can make a large enough group. However, if it does turn out that we fail to get enough people then I feel that we owe it to those who do want to go and also to our potential hosts to give them maximum notice so that they can try to make alternative arrangements.

Accordingly may I ask that all members let me know what they feel about making this trip, as soon as possible. It would be good if we can get everyone's response by the time of the Christmas dinner on December 6 th . This should permit me to firm up on quotations for group bookings and we can make final decisions early in the New Year.

If you do have any questions please ask and we will do our best to find the answers.

Robin