



Friendship Force of Cornwall



**CHANGING THE WAY YOU
SEE THE WORLD**

- Newsletter January 2011 -

www.ffcornwall.org.uk/

A VERY HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Presidents' Message

2010 was an extremely productive, busy and satisfying year for FF Cornwall. Not only did we host two excellent incoming exchanges from Manitoba and Costa Rica, but we were also able to treat nearly eighty of our South West FF friends to a sumptuous picnic at Lanhydrock.

We enjoyed performing in Sally's innovative entertainment in the form of a pictorial history of England and regaled over a hundred guests at the Brazilian Evening for World Friendship Week. Some of us were fortunate to be able to spread our friendship through the exciting exchange to Brazil.

All of these occasions and events only happened because **YOU**, our wonderful members are so supportive and loyal.

Thank you all and Robin, as President, for a great year. We can go forward in strength to 2011, determined to spread our message that we **can** make a difference by promoting international understanding and making new friends through our unique Cornish hospitality. Keeping our own members happy is very important, so if anyone has ideas for events or would like to organise something for us, please get in touch. Let's make 2011 even better!

We are delighted to welcome new members Christine Cruse, Else Hedges, June Jones and Margaret and Roger Simpson.

Jennie and Margie

Successful coffee morning with Friendship Force Cornwall and Truro U3A

Some thirty members of our two groups met and mingled on 21st October. This was following on from the National initiative to recruit new members through liaison with the U3A. The morning was a great success and we are delighted to be welcoming several new friends as members, some of whom will join us on the trip to Pau. We plan to extend this strategy to other U3A groups in Cornwall.

Incoming Gardeners' Exchange

We are looking forward to hosting an International group of Garden Lovers from **10th-17th May**.

The exchange team, Jennie, Liz, Sue and Maggie have finalised an attractive programme; four days of garden visits, by coach, including a full day at Cothele. We have planned an evening river boat trip, plus welcome and farewell parties.

Host, Day Host or Dinner Host, all offers will be greatly appreciated. If any member has friends who enjoy gardening who might be interested in helping with the exchange, this may be a good way of introducing them to FF.

Let's show our visitors Cornwall at its best with true FF Cornwall hospitality. Take a look at **www.ffcornwall.org.uk** to see the advertised exchange. **Jennie 01872 510260.**

CHRISTMAS DINNER! What a shame that the weather beat us, but we can look forward to enjoying a festive meal together on 18th Feb.

2011 Exchanges

Outgoing to Pau 19th-26th June

This exchange is now fully subscribed, with 22 ambassadors; the largest group to have travelled from FF Cornwall. The majority are flying from Bristol to Toulouse, while some are making their own way by ferry.

Incoming from Hamburg: ED Josie expects a large group sometime after **19th September**. As many offers of help as possible will be needed and will be much appreciated.

Incoming Garden Exchange 10th-17th May

Please read Jennie's piece. Please forward details to any friends at home or abroad who might be interested.

2012 Exchanges

Outgoing to Prague

This is in the early stages of planning and will take place in September/October. This will be a "short" exchange for 3-4 nights and places are limited to 12-15 as the Prague club is small. It is possible that the Prague club would want to visit us in May or June. We are awaiting FFI's response to our request to join with Cleveland to visit our friends in West Alajuela, Coast Rica.

Friendship Force Cornwall to FF Santo Angelo and FF Cascavel, Brazil

After more than 12 months planning, it was finally time to board the plane to Sao Paulo and on to Porto Alegre.

Communication with our two host clubs had been good and sure enough, the EDs from Santo Angelo were waving and smiling at us at the barrier as we waited for our luggage. Edwino and Eva had made the eight hour journey down overnight with the coach which carried us back through beautiful rolling countryside, stopping en route for our first taste of Brazilian food at a roadside restaurant. This was one of many all you can eat or paying for your plate of food by weight lunches, which we enjoyed. We broke the journey at the famous Lodi slate and crystal factory, where some enormous and magnificent specimens were on display. On our arrival in the Cathedral Square in Santo Angelo we were greeted by our hosts bearing a red rose for each of us.

The week's programme was full and varied, getting off to a lively start at the Welcome Party, where young boys and girls dressed in Gaucho style danced to traditional music, encouraging us to join in. Visits to Edwino and Eva's farms, now also a rehabilitation centre for addicts, the Cathedral, the University to plant a tree, an audience with the Mayor and a day trip to the ruins of Sao Miguel (c.1720) followed. A central part of the history of this region, Jesuit priests had come to this part of Brazil to catechise the Guarani Indians, building

communities at whose centre were the majestic and towering Missions. A dinner at the Youth Hostel was followed by an evening Sound and Light show at the Mission.

Continuing the Gaucho theme, the week concluded with a visit to Fazenda Lago, a huge soya and maize growing farm, where the hospitality was out of this world. We were regaled by the owners with enormous skewers of barbequed beef and pork and copious Caipirinhas and beers. Dave was so impressed, that he bought his own set of skewers! Gaucho food featured at the Farewell Party in a restaurant belonging to one of the members. It was a memorable week, where Vera, the President, had put in much time and effort and had encouraged some very able and gregarious young people to accompany and entertain us.

It was time to board the coach again for the even longer journey to Cascavel. Once again, lovely FF members accompanied us to ease the way, travelling back again overnight after we had safely reached our new hosts. A larger city, born in the 1960's, it now has almost 300,000 people with 6 Universities and numerous hospitals and clinics. EDs Camilo and Rose wanted us to see aspects of the political, cultural, educational and industrial life of the city. Thus the visit to the Mayor, very informative, the University, a famous sculptor and a chicken factory, followed by lunch in the canteen, were the more serious side of a feasting, partying and fun programme.

A highlight was a glorious day at Carlos and Meri's holiday home by the lake, enjoying boat rides, swimming and more delicious barbeque and caipirinhas. The hosts were very good at sharing the hospitality, resulting in many visits to other hosts' houses to share food and drink.

Camilo's membership of Rotary International was a bonus in gaining access to business, such as Globoaves, the chicken firm, and André Vu, the Vietnamese boat survivor, who had established a very successful noodle making business and who cooked up the most enormous and delicious stir fry lunch for 40 people.

Again we were impressed by the involvement of the younger generation, who expressed a real interest in us and Friendship Force.

Camilo and Rose's imaginative programme and excellent rapport with their members ensured a delightful week.

Sadly, it was soon time to say farewell and take the 2 hour ride to Foz do Iguaçu. Our tour guide met us at the hotel and who from then on gave us a first class experience of the Falls. We visited the Itaipu Dam on the Paraná River, the border between Brazil and Paraguay. The largest in the world when it was completed in 1991 and still the biggest producer of electricity, providing over 90% of Paraguay's and 20% of Brazil's.

The Iguazu Falls is a renowned natural site on a par with Niagara and Victoria, but celebrated as the largest in the world with 275 individual falls with a combined length of about 2 miles. On the border of three countries, Brazil, Paraguay and Argentina we crossed the border in to the latter for our first day viewing the magnificent torrents of water. A train ride and lengthy walk brought us to The Devil's Throat end, where we got thoroughly, but refreshingly soaked by the thundering spray. The visit ended with a thrilling boat trip into the very base of the Falls, which ensured we were really drenched but exhilarated.

Our final day took us by coach to the Brazilian side of the Falls, where their full vastness could be appreciated. A leisurely stroll around a Bird Park full of colourful native specimens ended the day.

It was time for one last swim in the hotel pool before heading for the airport, full of wonderful memories of a beautiful, vibrant country and delightfully warm and welcoming people.

For a day to day account and photos, view the Diary on the website: www.ffcornwall.org.uk



Committee 2011

It was pleasing to have such a good response for the new committee, which comprises:

Joint Presidents: Jennie Dyson and Margie Lundie

Secretary: Shirley Anderson

Treasurer: Iain Fraser

Social Secretary: Christine Cartlidge

Pastoral: Gavin Adams

Eckla Andrew, John Baughan, Josie Mather, Harry Nicholls, Carole Pyatt, and Yvonne Williams.

Thanks to the retiring members: Liz, Maggie, Mike and Martin for their hard work and support.

Many thanks too, to Sandra and Martin for their continued work on the Newsletter and Website.

The members of the committee invite all our members to offer suggestions for social events also for new ideas for exchanges. It is **your** club and we would like everyone to participate as fully as possible. Please put on your thinking caps!

Dates for your diary

Sunday 23rd January at 12 noon

Bowling and Sunday lunch at Porth Lodge, Porth Bean Road, Newquay, TR7 3LT. **Lunch and bowling approx. £12.00**

Please let Christine know if you want to go by **19th January**.
on 01872 277928 or email: christinecartlidge101@googlemail.com

Thursday 10th February at 7.00 pm

Committee Meeting at Margie's

Friday 18th February at 6.30 for 7.30.

Rescheduled Christmas Dinner at Killiow. Menu as before.

Liz and Maggie will be in touch. Please reconfirm by **11th February**.

Friday 4th March to Sunday, 6th March

Weekend away at Moonfleet Manor, Weymouth

Sunday 20th March at 11 am

Heritage Centre, Grampound, then Bangers and Mash at Margie's. Park at Margie's. Coffee and biscuits, presentation on History of Grampound, plus Video. Lunch afterwards. **£5 per person.**

Please let Margie know that you are coming by **13th February**.
01726 882714 or margielundie@me.com

Sunday 10th April

Town Treasure Trail & supper in Wadebridge. **Cost of meal £9.50.**

We had to cancel this event last year, **so need numbers to**

Christine by 28th March

10th-17th May

Incoming Gardeners Exchange.

The organizing group has done a fantastic job on the programme and we all need to ensure it is a success. Details to follow.

Saturday 4th June

Inter-club picnic arranged by FF Somerset. Details to follow.

Saturday 11th June

Brazilian Style Barbeque. Venue to be confirmed. **Numbers please to Margie by 4th June.**

19th-26th June

Outgoing exchange to Pau, France

Sunday 17th July Walk

September Incoming Hamburg

October AGM

Date to be confirmed.

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.

Thank you.

[A reminder from Iain]

If you still need to pay your subs., send a cheque for £15 (single) or £25 (couple) to Iain, made payable to Cornwall FF. Thank you.