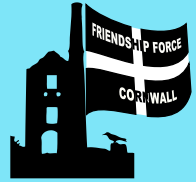


April 2013

Friendship Force Cornwall NEWSLETTER



News and information about our club



from the president

Firstly, what links the recently discovered bones of King Richard III to Cornwall? Please read the newsletter to find out!

Soon, many club members will be off to warmer climes in Turkey. The weather here really has been disappointing so far this year and I am sure those of you who have managed to escape to find the sun and warmth have really made the most of the opportunity. However, you may have missed some excellent club outings including the bargain rail journey to Exeter and the fantastic shops and mysterious Underground Passages. For those of you who didn't go just ask Roger and Margaret about their own experiences of the day!

"Yes Prime Minister" at the Hall for Cornwall proved to be an hilarious evening out and one we won't forget. The actors playing The Rt. Hon. James Hacker, Sir Humphrey, Bernard et al provided wonderful memories of the original TV cast of Paul Eddington, Nigel Hawthorn and Derek Fowles. The new cast were terrific in a truly magical West End production.

It also seems an age ago that many of us were at the bowling alley in Porth enjoying the activities, the meal and each other's company. It was so popular we have decided to do it all again in November (see Dates for your Diary).

For this year we have many social events lined up for you as well as a variety of exchanges. Details are in this newsletter so please have a look and make sure you get involved to keep the club flying.

Gavin

ff bristol 30th anniversary lunch

Josie and I were delighted to be invited to be the FF Cornwall delegates to this event held on 24th February. Other clubs represented were: Oxford (1); Herts (2); Isle of Weight (2); Devon (2); South Wales (3); Somerset (4); Bergen, Norway (2); Schwerin, Germany (2) and Tbilisi, Georgia (3).

Bristol FF has the office of Lord Mayor as a permanent patron. One of their members is a former holder of that office and it is hoped that the present one will join after he steps down. The lunch was attended by both the present Lord Mayor and the Lord Mayor elect. Josie and I had included the present Bristol FF president (Reg Williams) and his wife (Jill) in our exchange to Brazil and we are good friends with the previous President (Bob Ross) and his wife Mary. Maybe this was how we found ourselves on the top table. The photo shows Josie with Mary, Jill, Reg and the Lord Mayor.

Several of those present have visited Urla, where we go in April and they have been very helpful in providing contacts and information. Dennis Martin (whom we took to Mexico and who is now treasurer of the South Wales Club) assured me that it has not been forgotten that it is the turn of his club to host the five club picnic this year – but they have not yet had time to organise it. When it does take place, it will be great to support them with a big attendance from Cornwall.

Events like this lunch are always very enjoyable get-togethers of many old friends and provide



opportunities to make new ones - all united in the easy going spirit and objectives of Friendship Force. I do believe that it is very important to maintain and build on these relationships as they can be very useful not only in exchanging ideas, encouraging and helping those who are new to being members or, especially, exchange directors but also in making contacts which can be a great help in filling outgoing exchanges.

Our thanks for an excellent organisation (and birthday cake!) go especially to Carole Duckett and all the Bristol FF members.

Robin



outgoing exchange

Our well-laid plans are about to come to fruition! We have had a meeting with the ambassadors on this exchange when a draft of our programme in Urla was distributed – a very full and interesting week awaits us. Whilst we are in Istanbul for four nights, we shall spend two days on tours and an evening at a belly dancing night club has been included!

We hope to arrange an evening after our return to which all members will be invited to share our photographs, memories and maybe watch the video!

Shirley

visit of ff wessex, 13th-17th june

We will be hosting 16 ambassadors 15 from Wessex and 1 from California U.S.A. (a friend of a member of Wessex) during this short exchange. Hosts and day hosts are being set up for this unique 4 day visit.

A varied programme has also been planned which includes visits to a National Trust property as well as to Treilissick Gardens with a boat ride to Falmouth (time to explore) and back to Treilissick.

Yvonne has kindly agreed to hold one of her famous pasty making evenings which, I am sure, will delight our visitors as much as it will do for all of us.

A pot luck supper is also planned as well as a farewell party/BBQ and quiz at Margie's home on Sunday 16th June.

I still need volunteers for the pot luck suppers and would love to hear from anyone who can help with the hosting and day hosting.

Our friends from Wessex are really looking forward to their visit and I am sure we will all have fun too.

Roger

visit of

ff ottawa, canada

The Ottawa incoming exchange takes place between 4th and 11th September.

We now have everyone hosted but I need offers for day hosting and pot luck suppers.

I have offers from Jennie, Clive and Caroline, Robin and Rachel and Chris Caton. If there is anyone else or people I have forgotten to list please let me know and what you can do to help. Thanks.

We have an excellent programme but haven't yet finalised dates except for the Minack on Friday 6th September when Truro Operatic are performing a mixture of Fairy Tales woven into a musical story. We hope to have a picnic on the beach before the performance (weather permitting).

Our Canadian friends have asked for a visit to St Ives. We would like to use the Park and Ride from St Erth. Also, a visit to Trelice followed by a visit with lunch at the Cider Farm and possibly followed by a visit to Calestick Farm. On one day we hope to



have a tour around Truro and the cathedral followed by a trip on the river to Falmouth. The Ottawa club have asked for singing and Roger is investigating a visit to a pub with singing which should be quite an evening!

So, it will be a busy exchange with much work still to do. We are expecting 23 ambassadors and their club seem very excited about the prospect of visiting Cornwall.

Christine

now the answer to the question posed in my opening remarks

It always amazes me how often national stories are somehow linked, often quite tenuously, to Cornwall.

Well, here is another one and I apologise to anyone who has taken my attempts to make any such link seriously in any way!

The next heading will give everything away but both Shirley and I represented our club at the Leadership Forum in Leicester last month and were shown the very car park where Richard III's bones were found as well as the cathedral in the city where it is planned to lay them to rest.

So, there you have it. Probably the worst claim in linking Cornwall to a national event ever!

Now to the important stuff...

Leadership forum hosted by FF Leicester

Over 30 delegates from UK clubs and a healthy 7-months pregnant Pallie Savoie from FFI in Atlanta attended the event last month. Gavin and Shirley, who attended on behalf of FF Cornwall, produced a report. It is available for any club member to read and is held by our Club Secretary, Pam. Issues and topics discussed included:

- The way exchanges were allocated i.e. the size of clubs for hosting and travelling, previous history (i.e. whether clubs cancel or cannot fill exchanges).
- Short domestic exchanges which are becoming more popular i.e. 3 nights in England and 4 in Europe.
- Themed Exchanges which are very popular both for travellers and hosting. Cornwall's Gardeners Exchange experience in 2011 was explained to the representatives by Gavin.
- Ambassadors with disabilities. It was most important that EDs should be notified about issues and, if it was felt that the ambassador would not be able to cope, the EDs should suggest they were not suitable.
- Falling Membership. Gavin told the meeting of our thoughts on why we are doing better than most clubs and the ways we try to recruit members. Examples of good practice were given and we gained a lot from this knowledge. New FF leaflets were given out.
- FFI are being affected by the US financial situation, the weak dollar and the US government's grant programme. More Clubs are asking for additional host fees in order to provide a good programme for ambassadors. This is fine providing it is agreed and known in advance of the exchange. The basic \$100 club fee is to remain.
- There will be a new fee structure from 2014. Atlanta's fee will rise from \$125 to \$140 to help FFI's financial situation. This will be the first rise in 3 years.
- UK club membership fees varied, but £18-£20 were the highest. Our fees represent good value for money.
- Clubs seemed to hold similar activities to ours. However, soup and pud lunches seem popular as well as coffee and raffle mornings. Fund raising ideas were discussed with ideas exchanged.
- FFI are setting up an on-line club for those people who do not live near an existing FF club. FFI would be responsible for checking these members. EDs would ask for references for these applicants for exchanges.
- The importance of keeping club profiles up to date was stressed. Andy Kelly (Manchester FF) runs the UK website (www.friendshipforce.org.uk). It was agreed to use the UK Facebook page to ask questions, share ideas, input exchange info etc.
- The FF European Conference will be held in the Netherlands East from 8th-11th May 2014. It was agreed that a UK Leaders' Forum should be held every other year with the next one in 2015 and the venue to be agreed.
- Pallie Savoie will continue to co-ordinate the UK clubs and Lesley Pratt will continue to manage the FF UK's bank account.

exchanges

short exchange visit to ff brussels-payot, belgium

Many of you have asked about this forthcoming visit in October and I have just received this e-mail from the Belgian club's President. **Please note that the revised date is Wednesday 9th to Monday 14th October.**

"The programme for our celebration isn't set yet. We intend to organise a plenary session where also members of other Belgian clubs are invited, followed by a formal dinner. One of the days we will go to the Champagne region in France by bus. We also have a farewell dinner. Every day we'll organise another event with lunches in restaurants. Only at night you will spend some time with your hosts.

The total price will be € 250 per person all-in (also drinks during activities)."

Therefore the total cost will be around £380-£400 which would include the events, flights to and from Bristol to Brussels, travel to Bristol and airport parking.

As the club will need to know numbers so they can organise the full range of activities please let either Margie or Gavin know of your interest in travelling before the end of April.



2014 exchanges

The club has agreed Atlanta's proposals for the outbound and inbound exchanges in 2014.

OUTBOUND

- Cornwall and Devon, UK to Manitoba, Canada - June

*We will work to find you a second week in Canada as exchange matching progresses.

INBOUND

- Discover the Gardens of Southern England to Cornwall, Wessex and Isle of Wight, UK - May
- Curitiba, Brazil to Cornwall, UK and Varel, Germany - September

So, FFI have agreed to our request to travel to Manitoba and we await details of the other Canadian club who will be hosting us. They have also agreed for our request to co-host, along with FF Wessex and FF Isle of Wight, the incoming Gardeners Exchange. With regard to the inbound exchange, some members will remember the outbound exchange to Brazil in 2001 which included a homestay in Curitiba.

Exact dates and the appointment of Exchange Directors will be agreed in the months ahead so please watch this space. Jennie has kindly agreed to act as ED and co-ordinator for the Gardeners Exchange in May 2014 and she has already been in contact with the other UK clubs involved.

Gavin

and finally...

"The only way to have a friend is to be one" (Ralph Waldo Emerson)

dates for your diary



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

Thursday 18th - Tuesday 30th April

Outgoing exchange to FF Urla, Greater Izmir and Istanbul, Turkey

Thursday 25th April

11.00 am - Coffee morning at Maggie's home, Playing Place. A warm welcome for all those not going to Turkey. New members or those thinking of joining especially welcome. Please let Maggie know by 23rd April if you want to come along.

Tuesday 14th May

7.30pm - FFC committee meeting at Pam's home.

Sunday 19th May

Treasure trail around St. Agnes followed by a meal at the Driftwood Spars. (Time to be decided)

Thursday 13th - Monday 17th June

FF Wessex short exchange to Cornwall

Full details from Roger. All members are especially invited to a BBQ with members from Wessex on Sunday 16th June. Main course, desserts and wine included. Venue - Margie's home. Cost £10 per head. Names to Margie by 9th June, please.

Saturday 27th July

Swap Shop at Dawn and Ian's home. Bring along anything not needed and go home with something new. Contributions to the drinks and nibbles appreciated.

Wednesday 4th to Wednesday 11th September

FF Ottawa incoming exchange to Cornwall

Full details from Christine but programme includes a matinee visit to the Minack on Friday 6th September with our Canadian friends to see Truro Operatic Society "Into the Woods" based on Grimms' Fairy tales. Tickets £9.50. Further details in Exchange programme to follow. Farewell dinner on Tuesday 10th September - details to follow.

Tuesday 8th October

Japanese Ikebana (flower arranging, Japanese style) demonstration followed by light lunch with sushi. Venue Sadie and Gordon's home at Mitchell. Cost £6 - £8 depending on numbers.

Sunday 20th October

AGM - date and location to be confirmed.

Sunday 10th November

Bowling at Porth Lodge followed by Sunday lunch £12.50.

Friday 13th December

Christmas Dinner at The Merchant House, Truro. 4-5 courses £19.95.

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!

Also, please check your emails regularly so as not to miss advance notifications, changes, alterations etc.

FRIENDSHIP FORCE SONG

(with thanks to FF Greater Atlanta and sung to the tune of Auld Lang Syne)

Through friendship Force we make new friends

Throughout the whole wide world

We come to know each other's way

We share our flags unfurled

You visit us - we visit you

We're sad to see it end

But the world is now a better place

For we call each other "Friend"

The world is now a better place

For we call each other "Friend"