

HELSTON AND DISTRICT TOWN TWINNING ASSOCIATION NEWS LETTER

ISSUE 11

Helston signs twinning pact with second European town.

Helston has been twinned with Sasso Marconi, Italy for 43 years and the union has gone from strength to strength. However, Helston's Mayor Councillor John Boase and a delegation from HDTTA have recently visited Brittany to seal a new alliance with Plougasnou.

In March 2010, HDTTA answered an advert in the Western Morning News newspaper, from the town of Plougasnou in Brittany. A small delegation from Plougasnou visited Helston in May 2010 and a return visit took place in September 2010. Following months of organising the two town councils agreed to the union and a twinning agreement was drawn up.



25 June 2011 was set for the date of the official signing ceremony and The Mayor of Helston, Councillor John Boase, The Mayoress, Councillor Nicola Boase, Secretary of the Helston - Plougasnou Twinning Committee, Councillor Vicki Matthew and Treasurer of the Helston - Plougasnou Twinning Committee, County Councillor Judith Haycock were among the delegation. The rest of the delegation consisted of The Chairman of Helston - Plougasnou Twinning Committee Philip Hanman, Keith Matthew, Robert Haycock, Pamela Blackburn, Dee May and secretary of Helston - Sasso Marconi Twinning Committee Ruth Bywaters.

The new twinning agreement was read out in French, English and Breton prior to being signed by The Mayor of Helston, Councillor John Boase and Monsieur le Mayor de Plougasnou Yvon Tanguy, during a dedicated ceremony in the Municipal Hall, Plougasnou at 11.00am, 25 June 2011. Councillor Boase was dressed in a Cornish Tartan kilt and Monsieur Tanguy wore a Cornish tartan tie, presented to him as a gift from Helston.



DIARY

09 May 2011

Twinning meeting 7.15pm
Guildhall Helston (**Plougasnou**

Committee) Cancelled

16 May 2011

Twinning meeting 7.15pm
Guildhall Helston (**Sasso Marconi**
Committee)

11 July 2011

Twinning meeting 7.15pm
Guildhall Helston (**Plougasnou**
Committee)

18 July 2011

Twinning AGM 7.15pm
Guildhall Helston (**Sasso Marconi**
Committee)

12 September 2011

Twinning meeting 7.15pm
Guildhall Helston (**Plougasnou**
Committee)

14 November 2011

Twinning AGM 7.15pm
Guildhall Helston (**Plougasnou**



Pamela Blackburn

needs donations of buttons, fabric, etc. She make bespoke handbags and has offered a financial donation to twinning from every bag sold. Her contact details are in the Friendship book, alternatively email hdttta@hotmail.co.uk



The group stayed with local families and enjoyed the friendship and overwhelming hospitality on offer.

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Plougasnou has much to offer the people of Helston, a warm climate, a warm welcome, white sandy beaches and an enthusiasm for the future of twinning. The Helston delegation has returned having made new friends and a resolve to promote the twinning alliances.

There was also an opportunity to visit Duchess Anne's House, 33 rue du Mur, Morlaix, built approximately in 1530. This magnificent 'Lantern' emblematic architecture was principle of the town of Morlaix during the Renaissance.

The final evening of the visit provided an opportunity for the two twinning committees to meet and discuss the future. It has always been the intention of the twinning association to bring like minded people together and this new link is no exception. Clubs, associations, affiliations, youth groups and schools in particular are encouraged to contact HDTTA and explore the possibilities of visiting Plougasnou, Brittany and Sasso Marconi, Italy. Individuals are also encouraged to join the Twinning Association and enjoy the benefits of alliances with our European neighbours.

During a celebration lunch at La Maison de Kerdès the delegation were entertained by Fanch le Marrec, a traditional Breton folk singer.



Following the meal, the delegation was invited to try their hand at Boules Plombees, where an exchange of gifts took place, Councillor Boase accepted two Boules on behalf of Helston Bowling Club.



The visit to Plougasnou was scheduled to coincide with the ancient festival of St. Jean du Doight, in the sweltering heat of the weekend the feast day started with Mass in the church of St Jean or St. John the Baptist. The Helston delegation joined the villagers dressed in traditional Breton costume and processed through the village streets to the fountain of St John the Baptist. A short blessing took place before a 20ft bonfire was lit and the procession made its way back down to the village. The fountain of St John the Baptist is said, according to legend to have healing qualities.



A Breton evening provided an opportunity for the delegation to meet more people from the community of Plougasnou and join in with Breton dancing. The evening finished with a poetry recital and harp performance.

