

# NEWS LETTER

ISSUE 5

*Plougasnou*  
**SPECIAL**

## Background....

When Helston Town Council received a letter from Plougasnou requesting a possible Twinning with Helston, it was passed to Helston and District Town Twinning Association to investigate. Consequently a delegation from Plougasnou was hosted by HDTTA in May 2010. In September a delegation from Helston was invited to visit Plougasnou.



## Leisure....

There is a municipal camping ground near one of the beaches and several privately owned sites in the area. The commune has its own large community hall, sports halls and even a workshop where the residents can bring furniture and learn how to reupholster them!

There is a diving school, a sailing school and boat trips to visit the Bay of Morlaix, the Ile de Batz and the Chateau du Taureau (a fort built in the bay to protect Morlaix from attacks from the English)!

**Plougasnou** is a commune or local government district, which includes several other smaller villages and has a population of 3,417, spread over an area of 34 square kilometres. It is a holiday destination with a number of second homes and the population trebles in the summer. It has 21 kilometres of coast line, 2 harbours and 480 moorings, which are used for both leisure and fishing activities.



The sea and coast is important economically for the area, providing employment and revenue through the 'Viviers de la Méloine' which supplies live crabs, lobsters, crayfish and shellfish to all the Intermarché stores throughout France and other European countries. There are also small scale producers of oysters and other shellfish in the bay.

Major employer, Primel Gastronomie, is a local frozen food factory, making and supplying frozen food to the supermarkets. Plougasnou has its own lifeboat, but the fire service is supplied from Morlaix. There is a police presence during the summer but it is policed from Morlaix the rest of the year.

The area has approximately 40 commercial outlets and a similar amount of small scale agricultural producers.



## Associations.....

*Plougasnou has the following organisations, which may be suitable for links with associations in Helston:*

**Yoga** **Boule Plombées /bowling** **Archery** **Clubs for older people** **Sports** **Football club** **Associations to promote art and cultural activities, artists, potters** **Community Choir** **Judo** **Music groups** **Cycling**



# HELSTON AND DISTRICT TOWN TWINNING ASSOCIATION NEWS LETTER

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## Programme for our Visit....

### Wednesday 29.9.10

8.00. Arrived at Roscoff, and met by a welcoming committee. Escorted to Plougasnou via the coastal route With a stop in Morlaix for coffee.



12.30. Lunch at St. Samson with members of the proposed twinning committee of Plougasnou.

14.30. Presentation by the Mayor and Councillors. regarding the Plougasnou Commune.



18.00. Reception at the Town Hall with the Council and the Youth Council. Presentation of plaques from Helston Town Council and Cornwall Council and a gift from HDTTA.



19.30 Dinner at Le Diben, with The Mayor, Deputy Mayor, Councillors and people interested in twinning.

### Thursday 30.9.10.

9.30/10.00. Visit to the Kerenot primary school (a small rural school), followed by a visit to the sports halls and other community facilities near the Collège.

11.00. Visit to the Collège, meeting the principal and the teacher of English.

11.45. Lunch in the Collège canteen.

13.30. Visit to the primary schools' canteen, serving both primary schools. Visit to the main primary school.



14.30. Trip around the Bay of Morlaix in the lifeboat.

## Education....

There are two primary schools in Plougasnou, one being a very small rural school with approximately 20 pupils. Both primary schools teach English and the children from the larger school were very keen to practise this on visitors.

The College is small and takes students from the ages of 11 to 15, after which they are taken by bus to the Lycée in Morlaix. All the schools were very anxious to establish links with schools in Helston.



15.30. Visit to Viviers de la Méloine'.

16.30. Visit to an oyster producer.



18.30. Dinner at a crêperie.

20.30. Reception at the Municipal Hall with the community choir, Breton dancers and representatives of various associations.

### Friday 1.10.10.

9.30. Visit to the frozen food factory, Primel Gastronomie.



11.00. Visit to the Tourist Information Centre and shops.

12.00. Coffee with members of the proposed twinning committee and hosts, before departure for Roscoff and the ferry to Plymouth.

## Support Expressed in Helston.

Preliminary discussions have been made with many Helston residents. concerning the possible twinning. They have expressed the view that such a twinning would be an advantage because:

- 1 Many people in Helston either speak or are learning French.
- 2 The Plymouth to Roscoff crossing is so convenient.
- 3 Many Helston people frequently visit Brittany and would like to be involved in a twinning.

Helston Community College and Parc Eglos School provided material about their schools for the delegation to take to Plougasnou. They have also expressed interest in establishing exchanges of information, material and possible students, should a twinning be arranged.

## Conclusions....

Throughout all the meetings attended by representatives for HDTTA and the people of Plougasnou, the friendship and rapport felt between the two groups have been obvious. To quote from a recent email from one of the proposed Twinning Committee members, 'At Plougasnou we're all so glad with your coming and how contact and communication were so fluent, so natural. Everybody is expecting this twinning to come true!' The enthusiasm and level of commitment shown by everyone more than makes up for the difference in population size between the two communities.

## DIARY

**30 October-1 November 2010**  
*Tartufesta, Sasso Marconi.*

**6-7 November 2010**  
*Tartufesta, Sasso Marconi.*

**15 November 2010**  
*Twinning meeting 7.15pm*  
*Guildhall Helston*

**16 November 2010**  
*Meeting regarding Plougasnou,*  
*7.15pm Guildhall Helston*

**26 November 2010**  
*Helston Christmas light evening.*  
*Mulled wine served in The*  
*Guildhall.*

**17 January 2011**  
*Twinning meeting 7.15pm*  
*Guildhall Helston*

**19 February 2011**  
*Twinning dinner, Mullion Golf*  
*Club, 7.00 for 7.30pm*

**21 March 2011**  
*Twinning meeting 7.15pm*  
*Guildhall Helston*

**16 May 2011**  
*Twinning meeting 7.15pm*  
*Guildhall Helston*

**18 July 2011**  
*Twinning AGM 7.15pm*  
*Guildhall Helston*