



Friendship Force of Cornwall



**CHANGING THE WAY YOU
SEE THE WORLD**

- Newsletter September 2010 -

www.ffcornwall.org.uk/

John Vian

Those of us who knew John and Della Vian as stalwart members of FF Cornwall from its early years and until recently active in the club, will have been saddened to learn of his death in July. Having just celebrated his 80th birthday, John was still working full time and was very well known throughout the Cornish farming community. Della has written to thank all the FF Cornwall members who had sent their condolences.

Exchanges 2010 to 2012

The Costa Rican incoming exchange went really well, as did the earlier Manitoba exchange. Congratulations to Christine and Shirley, hosts, Sally and Liz for organising the Farewell Party entertainment and all who did so much to make the exchanges so enjoyable for all. Most probably all of the ambassadors from Costa Rica, have invited their hosts to visit them and I am awaiting a reply from Marco, their President and ED, to check whether there is a possibility of hosting an official exchange to them in 2012, or whether this should be left to individual visits.

Our applications for 2012 exchanges must be submitted before the end of November this year, so please think about where you feel we should apply for, how many weeks you will be able to host etc. We will go over all this at the meeting immediately after the AGM as there will be little time before we leave for Brazil. If you need more details on the clubs worldwide please look on the FFI website:

www.thefriendshipforce.org

This also contains information on a number of global and themed exchanges.

Thanks to considerable effort by Andy Kelly, the UK web site, **www.friendshipforce.org.uk** is now operating and it is hoped that all UK club outgoing EDs will insert information on their Exchanges. You are free to apply for any of these. Please do support Andy by using this site. You will also see that Harry's article on the Costa Rican exchange is on this site as well as on ours and that of FFI.

When we applied for the 2011 exchanges we committed to host 20 to 24 for a one week incoming exchange and this has now been confirmed to be from the Hamburg club and due to start close to the 20th September. We already know that there have been over 30 applications and that these are either from couples or women who are prepared to share accommodation. Josie has agreed to be ED and clearly it will require full hosting support so please make a note of the date in your diary and Josie will be in touch at the AGM.

FFI also asked us to host an incoming themed exchange and Jennie has agreed to organise this as a gardeners visit for approximately 10th to 17th May. Hosting will again be required and this will also be followed up at the AGM, so please do come prepared to advise of your availability.

Membership

FFI has put considerable effort into trying to define and assist ways of increasing membership in the UK. One particular target has been members of the U3A and advertisements were placed in their magazine. More recently, I am delighted to be able to report that Harry Nicholls, who is a relatively new member, has picked up this project and you will find a piece from him later in this newsletter. Please do all that you can to support him. Your committee also agreed that we should have visiting cards made for each of you, containing both your details and our web site address. These will be distributed either with this newsletter or at planned events. We all know that personal contacts are far the best way of increasing awareness of our club so please do tell others about it and encourage them to follow up by giving them your card. If more are required please let me know.

5 Club Picnic, South Wales Anniversary UK Conference and Moonfleet Hotel

Our hosting of the picnic this year was an excellent event and much enjoyed by all. Continuing the theme of building and strengthening relations with other clubs in our region, we now know that the 2011 picnic will be organised by Somerset on Saturday 11th June, somewhere on the Devon Somerset border, so there will be no home hosting.

The Cardiff club, which changed its name to South Wales, has invited us to participate in their 30th anniversary celebrations to be held at Caldicot Choir Hall on 19th September. Unfortunately, this clashes with our Wadebridge trail but I do know that some of us will be attending.

There has been much debate about the future of the UK conference. There is unlikely to be an all UK event in 2011, but it is possible that there may be a regional event nearer to here and targeted at maximising attendance from members in our region. I have put provisional dates on our web site, but no final decisions have yet been made.

Mary Wickes, who is organising the hotel weekend, tells me that all rooms are now taken, but if anyone wishes to go on a reserve list please let me know.

AGM

As required by our constitution, Shirley will issue the calling notice, including proposed constitution amendments, two to three weeks before the 10th October. Some of the present committee have already indicated that they will not be standing for re-election and I know that I am not alone in thinking that, for the future good of the club it is important that we be replaced by others and especially those who have not previously been committee members. Please do think about this before the AGM.

The format will be the same as in previous years, soup and sandwiches at 12 noon at Margie's, with the formal AGM at 1:30 followed by informal discussions about exchanges and what you wish to see happen in future. Margie will need to know how many are attending in advance, so please let her know by the 30th September.

Robin

Reaching out to U3A

Pau? A place in France; a planned visit by FFC and an ideal opportunity to spread the FF message in a friendly way.

Hundreds of people, similar to ourselves, are members of U3A, (University of the Third Age). and many of them know nothing about Friendship Force. Look into just one of their branches, Carrick U3A, and you'll discover a very successful French Conversation group meeting every week. Twice a month you may go to Gyllingvase Beach and see fifty or more playing petanque (boules). Read their magazine and there are three different walking groups going out weekly. In addition you find coffee mornings, lunching, dining and general enjoyment of good food, wine and chat.

For these people, Pau may represent a chance to speak French within a family, to play pétanque with the experts, to roam among spectacular mountains or to become un gastronome français.

We plan to share these interests with them, at a coffee morning in October, nothing formal, just a mingling of U3A and FFC members with lots of relevant information (ours and theirs, a 2-way process) on display.

The coffee morning will be at Christine's on Thursday 21st October. Although everyone would be welcome, we will need FFC members who are comfortable talking about the various aspects of FFI, past and planned exchanges, etc.

Before that, Margie is meeting the French group and I will talk to the petanque players. There will be other approaches to the walkers and the bon viveurs. Let's try reaching out in friendship.

Harry

Sunday 19th September

Treasure Trail

Meet at 2.00 outside Wadebridge Town Hall, from where the Murder Mystery Trail begins. This should last about 2.5 hours and is about 2.5 miles long. We should be in groups of 3 or 4 to follow the trail. We are booked in for supper at 'The Granary', 34, Molesworth St, PL27 7DP Tel: 01208 815530, at 5.30 for 6. Please let me know if you are coming by 12th September. Should we have really bad weather, we will have to abandon the trail and just do the supper. I have bought 4 trails so far, so I think if everyone attending puts in £1 this should cover costs.



Saturday 20th November

Brazilian themed party 7pm at Christine's

This is following the outgoing trip to Brazil, but all members are welcome. Please bring a dish and make an effort to dress up.

Sunday 23rd January

Ten pin bowling and lunch

Porth Lodge, Porth Bean Road Newquay TR7 3LT

Meet at 12 for bowling followed by Sunday Lunch. We did this last year and it was great fun. Everyone got into groups of 4 to bowl. Again, please let me know in advance if you are coming.

Christine

Outgoing Exchange to Brazil

The 15 ambassadors are all set for this exciting exchange, departing on 27th October and returning on 13th November. We will spend the first week in Santo Angelo and the second in Cascavel, followed by two nights in a hotel near the Iguassu Falls.

There will be a pre exchange briefing on Tuesday, 28th September at 7:30 at my house.

Margie

Outgoing Exchange to Pau

Communication with the ED in Pau has been excellent and planning for the exchange is underway. Pau is situated in the Basque region of South West France in the foothills of the Pyrenees mountains. FF Pau is able to host 20-24 ambassadors. We shall use the exchange as a recruitment drive and will be making presentations to French Conversation groups within Carrick U3A to begin with.

It is proposed that there will be no extension to the exchange week, leaving it up to individuals to arrange add-ons for themselves. Similarly, ambassadors will need to make their own travel arrangements, with guidance and various options provided.

There are flights from Bristol to Toulouse and from Exeter to Bergerac. Prices for next summer are not yet available. Some may wish to take a ferry and drive to Pau. The core cost will be approx. £150-£200, to which the cost of travel would be added.

The date of the exchange will be around the week beginning 20th June 2011. Please let Margie know by or on the 10th October (AGM) if you wish to participate in this exchange. We shall discuss further at the AGM.

Margie

Xmas Dinner

This will take place at Killiow Golf Club, Playing Place on Friday December 3rd at 6.30 for 7.00pm. The cost will be £17.50 per person and this will include a 3-course meal with a choice of items for each course, plus wine.

Details of the menu will be available soon for everyone to study and make their selection at the AGM on Sunday October 10th. Maggie and Liz will be on hand at the AGM to make a note of your choices and collect the money.

Maggie

Dates for your diary

Sunday, 19th September

Wadebridge Trail. 2pm at Town Hall; supper at 5:30 pm at The Granary. Please advise Christine by 15th September if attending.

Sunday, 19th September

Anniversary party of South Wales FF at Caldicot.

Tuesday, 28th September

Pre-exchange meeting for those going to Brazil 7:30pm at Margie's.

Tuesday, 5th October

Committee meeting at Margie's 7pm

Sunday 10th October

AGM at Margie's, 12 noon for 1:30. Please advise Margie by 30th September if attending.

Thursday 21st October

Coffee morning with U3a members at Christine's

27th October to 13th November

Outgoing exchange to Brazil

Saturday, 20th November

Brazilian themed evening for all. Christine's at 7pm

Friday 3rd December

Christmas dinner

2011

Sunday, 23rd January

Bowling and lunch at Porth Lodge, Newquay. 12 noon

Late February

Visit to Grampound Historic Centre

Friday, 4th to Sunday, 6th March

Moonfleet Hotel Weekend

10th to 17th May (provisional dates)

Incoming gardeners' exchange

Saturday 11th June

5 Club picnic near Somerset/Devon border

20th June (approximate date)

Outgoing exchange to Pau, France

20th September (approximate date)

Incoming exchange from Hamburg