



Friendship Force of Cornwall



- Newsletter for December 2009 -

<http://www.ffcornwall.org.uk/>



friendship force
INTERNATIONAL
Changing the Way You See the World!

Message from the President

Many of you have told me just how much you appreciated having a copy of our Newsletter, but it did take quite a lot of work and too much waste paper when the mistakes were found only after printing! I am delighted to be able to report that Sandra Buck has volunteered to take it forward and I am sure that you will join me in thanking her for what, I know, will be an excellent job, with much less waste paper!!

In recent weeks, I have had many communications with George Brown, the President of Friendship Force International, about how best to increase membership in the UK. I hope that you will see some of the results of this over the next year or two, but one of the key points is to make better use of exchanges to attract new members and to ensure that members of all UK clubs are welcome to apply to join any outgoing UK exchanges.

There is a list of these on the FFC Website, so please contact one of the committee if you would like further details.

Several of you are taking advantage of these opportunities, so this will probably mean that fewer of you will be participating in our own outgoing exchanges. Therefore, we will need to make extra efforts to attract both new members and those from other clubs in order to maintain the numbers. Jennie has taken on responsibility for publicity, but word of mouth from all of you is the best publicity of all.

Christine and her team are also putting much effort into **World Friendship Day on 6th March** and the target is to have one hundred people there. It will be held at Archbishop Benson School, with a Latin American theme including guitar music and dance demonstrations. This fits well with our memorable exchange to Mexico last year, Costa Ricans coming here in July and our outgoing

exchange to Brazil next autumn.

Food and soft drinks will be provided, but it will be 'bring your own' if you require anything stronger. The event will be well advertised in order to attract non members, so a good turnout of our own members will help to give them a real welcome and demonstrate what Friendship Force is all about. The target for total attendees is one hundred so this will be a major event of our year. Please do all you can to both promote and attend.

If any of you have ideas for other club activities, please contact Christine.

The Five Club Picnic on 22nd May is aimed at both having a good time and strengthening the links with the other clubs in our region; Devon, Somerset, Bristol and South Wales. Please do make a note of this date as it will be really excellent if we can achieve 100% of our own members and a total of one hundred or more with the visitors.

Yet again, we owe thanks to Margie for her hospitality for the AGM. It was really good to have almost all of you present and to have so many volunteers to be on the committee. We now have over forty members and are one of the strongest and most active FF clubs in the country.

Many of you will already have met Carole Pyatt who is a welcome addition to our numbers and we now have membership applications from David and Gillian Reid and Harry Nicholls. I know that you will all give them a very warm welcome as well.

This year, we are very fortunate with our **Incoming Exchanges**, because it looks almost certain that we will have two dozen Ambassadors from Manitoba in April and then a similar number from West Alajuela in Costa Rica in July. This should permit us all to play our parts in home or day hosting and again experience the pleasure which belonging to FF can bring, even without going abroad.

Full details of the April exchange will be issued by Shirley in the New Year.

**Happy Christmas to you all,
Robin**



At last it is FF Cornwall's turn to host the **Five Club Picnic**. Those of us who have attended the picnics in the past know what a great opportunity it is to meet up with members of other clubs in the South West, FFs Devon, Bristol, Somerset and Cardiff, now known as South Wales and enjoy a great day out.

Breaking with tradition because of Cornwall's traffic problems in August, we have fixed the date for **Saturday 22nd May**. The venue will be the Memorial Hall in Lanhydrock, just off the A30 and within a mile or so of Lanhydrock House.

We plan a lunch, and with Yvonne in charge it is bound to be delicious and plentiful. Afterwards, there will be free time to visit the National Trust property or walk in the grounds before returning for tea. It is hoped to attract a large number from the other clubs and those coming from far afield will be offered home hosting for either or both the Friday and Saturday nights. Margie will be in touch after Christmas to ask for help on this.

Past picnics have drawn attendance of around 60 members. We are aiming for close to one



hundred, so do keep this date clear and join in. We want to make this a day to remember.

Outgoing Exchange to Brazil October/November 2010

Good contact has been established with both EDs in the hosting clubs of Santo Angelo and Cascavel. With their help, we shall be putting together a PowerPoint presentation to show potential participants early in the new year.

Robin is doing much research into air fares and obtaining prices of transportation within Brazil, together with costs for adding on 2-3 days at the Iguacu Falls. With so many changes in airlines, taxes, routes and exchange rates, it is still too early to be definite. Present indications are that the approximate cost will be in the region of £1100 to £1200 for all travel, fees etc plus an extra £250 to £400 for three nights accommodation and sightseeing at the Falls for those who wish to add this. This is very good value for almost three weeks away with such good company.

Our target for the exchange is a group of 20-25 ambassadors and we will be advertising to recruit new members, in the spirit of FFI, as well as encouraging present members to join what will be a unique experience.

Our proposed World Friendship Day celebration on March 6th, with its Brazilian theme, will help promotion. It is time to assess numbers, so please inform Margie asap if you wish to join the exchange.

Quiz evening Monday 25th January at 7pm

Come and enjoy a social evening at the Plume of Feathers, Mitchell. The Plume has kindly offered us the exclusive use of the new conservatory and the services of Quizmaster Charlie Scully, Hugh Scully's son who lives in Mitchell. He is a great entertainer and the regular Tuesday evening quizzes

are always packed, so it should be a fun evening. There is plenty of room for everyone, so come and bring friends to make up your teams.

Food is available in the pub from snacks to a full evening meal. The Plume has a reputation for excellent food. All we have to do is turn up. Basket food is available without pre ordering, but it will be necessary to let Christine know, 01872 277928, a week before if you wish for something more fancy. She has the menu.

Margie

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Diary Dates

7 Jan

Committee meeting at Margie's - 7:00 pm

25 Jan

Quiz Night at Plume of Feathers, Mitchell - 7:00 pm

19 - 22 Feb

Bournemouth Hotel Weekend

6 March

World Friendship Day

16 - 23 April

Incoming Exchange from Manitoba, Canada

22 May

5-club picnic at Lanhydrock - 10:00 - 5:00

20 - 27 July

Incoming Exchange from West Alajuela, Costa Rica

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Committee 2009/10

Robin Mather (President)

Margie Lundie (Vice President)

Shirley Anderson (Secretary)

Iain Fraser (Treasurer)

Christine Cartlidge (Social Secretary)

Maggie Adams; John Baughan; Martin Buck

Jennie Dyson; Liz Haynes; Carole Pyatt

Mike Williams