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St. Ives, who were inspired to join after meeting FF members while in New Zealand. As you see, our geographical spread is growing and the committee will try to ensure that our social events take into account the distances involved

Websites

Martin reports that the FF Cornwall website is being regularly accessed. He is continually updating it and has incorporated the new FF International Logo. Do take a look on www.ffcornwall.org.uk. If you have any items, photos or news you would like to put on the site, it is very user friendly, or send to Martin and he will do it for you.

Friendship Force International has been working on a new strategic plan, one of whose goals is for Friendship Force to "Get the World's Attention". They say that for too long we have been a best kept secret. As is our own experience, few people outside our membership are aware of Friendship Force. To become better known around the world they have produced new promotional materials, a logo, mission statements and slogans and launched a new website: www.thefriendshipforce.org

We will keep you abreast of the initiatives and hope that the new drive will result in a higher profile for the world wide organisation and for FF Cornwall.

FF Sunshine Coast of Australia

It was a real pleasure to act as Exchange Director for this visit and also a valuable experience in discovering how detailed and precise all the arrangements need to be. It was made all the more enjoyable and less onerous thanks to the invaluable help of all our members and in particular of Michael and Maureen Cole. Their local knowledge and advice was indispensable in planning the programme. As well as acting as hosts and providing the magnificent venue for the Welcome Party, they accompanied the group on every outing! Many, many thanks Michael and Maureen. Feedback from Tom Ledwidge, the ED is very positive and the Helston Flora was a big hit – even more so our attempts to reproduce it at the Farewell Party. (It has been suggested that we need to sharpen up our performance if we are to keep it as part

of our "entertainment"! The thought is to have 8 volunteers, 4 couples, preferably not with 2 left feet, to perfect. Any takers?) Tom has put together a DVD containing key aspects of the exchange, including the Flora. If you would like to see it, please give me a call. I am sure that you will agree that the Australian ambassadors were an easy going and appreciative group, whose friendship is highly valued.

Peter

Up the Creek Boat Trip

Again, very many thanks to Maureen for organising what was a fantastic and most interesting evening visiting places which are accessible only at the highest tides.

FF Lake Hartwell Exchange

Carol and Mac have been working hard on our next hosting of 18 ambassadors and have planned the programme as shown overleaf. They will be needing members to help with Day Hosting, Pot Luck Suppers and Cottage Pies for the Farewell Party etc. I am sure they will be well supported. Members not hosting are very welcome to join in some of the events. There will be a Workshop for all hosts at their house at 7:30 pm on 25th August. The draft programme is given overleaf but please note that this may be modified later.

2009 Exchanges

Your committee is starting work on the following proposed exchanges. Outgoing to **FF Tallin, Estonia in June**, Incoming from **FF Friesland, Netherlands in September** and a short exchange coming in from **FF Limbourg, Holland in July**. For any of these to take place we will need Exchange Directors. Please consider helping with this. There will be experienced support to guide you through.

Maureen

The mission of Friendship Force International is to create an environment where individual friendship can be established across the international barriers that separate people.

THE FRIENDSHIP FORCE OF CORNWALL

NEWSLETTER JULY 2008

President's Introduction

The generosity, goodwill and team work which characterise the Friendship Force of Cornwall are never more apparent than when welcoming an incoming exchange group. It was this and the exceptionally good weather during their visit in May, which contributed to a most successful and enjoyable exchange.

For those hosting, day hosting and helping with functions it was a busy week but a very rewarding one. I am sure that Carol and Mac can look forward to the same support when FF Lake Hartwell arrives in September.

Membership Recruitment

Your committee has been very pleased with the response from the advertisements placed in the local press. That, together with the trusty word of mouth, has resulted in several new members. It is a great pleasure to welcome to our club Cliff and Eckla Andrew from Wadebridge, Vic Edwards and Margaret Phillips from Par and Adrian and Lesley Sumner from

Committee:

Margie Lundie (President)
Christine Cartlidge

Robin Mather (Vice President)
Jennie Dyson

Shirley Anderson (Secretary)
Martin Buck

Iain Fraser (Treasurer)
Sandra Buck

Minack Theatre "Under Milk Wood" 18th July

The seats have been booked for 17 people and as groups are requested to enter together, we will aim to meet up at 1:30 pm at the pedestrian exit from the car park, near the top of the slope.

National Fireworks Championships, Plymouth 12th & 13th August 2008

Several of us have been to this free event before, and we may again share cars for a spectacular evening but you will not be home much before mid-night. Let me know and we will try to arrange car sharing as these things are always more enjoyable as a group.

Membership List

There have been several requests to re-issue this, together with the events programme. I have therefore enclosed a card with this newsletter. From past experience, there will be some mistakes so please do let me know so that the source spreadsheet can be updated.

Visit from Rainer & Heike (Vogtland) 6th to 13th September

Our hosts from Vogtland will be staying with us for that week and we will aim to have a BBQ sometime whilst they are here and probably depending on the weather. All members, not just those who went to Germany, will be very welcome but we will not be able to decide exactly when until the visitors are here.

FF Cornwall Exchange to Comitan, Mexico and Central Arizona

The much publicised fuel surcharges have increased our airfare costs but I am optimistic that we should still stay inside the total budget. All flights, tours, hotels and the evening meal near the Heathrow Hotel have been booked, or reserved with a deposit, for all ambassadors.

After some months of concern caused by email problems, I am now communicating with both our host ED's via Atlanta and am re-assured that both clubs are looking forward to our visit.

We will have a visit from a Mexican travel specialist on 19th August. She is also the UK agent for the Mexican airline and it is she who has organised our transfers, accommodation and sightseeing in and around Mexico City so she is well able to answer any questions on this

and Mexico in general. This visit will form part of our workshop, at our house at 7:30 and all ambassadors should aim to attend. We will provide food and drink.

For those of you who have not yet paid in full, please also bring your cheque books as I expect to be collecting the final payments that evening!!.

Robin

Lake Hartwell Exchange 13th - 20th September 2008

Outline Provisional Programme

- Sat. 13th** Arrive Truro 17.00 – 18:00 hrs. (2 couples coming by car from Wales; 1 couple coming by car from Devon). Evening: With hosts.
- Sun 14th** Morning: Free with hosts
Afternoon: Welcome Tea Party at Boswiddle.
- Mon 15th** 10.30hrs: Meet Mayor - Sue Callum followed by guided tour of Truro. Lunch and tour of the Cathedral. Evening: Pot Luck Suppers
- Tues 16th** Coach trip of West Cornwall with picnic lunch
- Wed 17th** Morning: Car trip to Lanhydrock and Charlestown
Afternoon: Padstow.
Evening: Ambassadors' wine and dine hosts
- Thurs 18th** Morning: St Ives by car
Evening: Pasty making at Yvonne and Mike's
- Fri 19th** Morning: Wheal Coates walk
Lunch (pasties?) with hosts.
18:00 Farewell Party at Playing Place
- Sat 20th** 07.55hrs Newquay Airport: 14 Depart for Newcastle (Air Southwest)

Dates for Your Diary

Friday 18 th July	Matinee "Under Milk Wood" at Minack. Meet at 1:30 in Car Park
Friday 25 th July	Walk (if wished) at Bedruthan Steps with meal at 7pm.
Sunday 10 th August	Walk at Cadgwith. 11am at NT Car Park, Poltesco. Picnic lunch or find a pub if preferred. Share lifts if possible.
Weds.13 th & Thurs 14 th August	National Fireworks competition in Plymouth. A spectacular event. Contact Robin if interested.
Tuesday 19 th August	Workshop for all going to Mexico.19:30 at Robin & Josie's
Monday, 25 th August	18:00 Committee mtg followed at 19:30 by workshop for incoming exchange. Both at Carol & Mac's
Sunday 31 st August	Inter Club Picnic hosted by FF Cardiff at Caldicot, just over the Severn Bridge. Contact Margie
September 6 th to 13 th (exact date to be advised)	Weather permitting! Barbecue with Rainer and Heike from Vogtland at Robin & Josie's
Saturday 13 th to Saturday 20 th September	Incoming exchange from FF Lake Hartwell. See programme.
Wednesday 24 th September	Tour and Wine Tasting at Camel Valley Vineyard. 5pm. Cost £7.50. Contact Christine.
Sunday 26 th October	AGM at Peter and Margie's. 12 noon for soup and sandwiches followed by meeting at 1.30.
Sunday 2 nd to Saturday 22 nd November	Outgoing exchange to Comitan, Mexico and Phoenix, Arizona
December	Christmas Dinner (details to be advised)