

Llandoverly Twinning News letter Summer 2014

The first event to take place this twinning year, was the Pluguffan Minority Language Festival. Each year the festival chooses a minority language to focus on, their choice this year was Welsh. Towy Youth actors were invited to take part through Dany and our Committee. Llandoverly College were also involved, along with Wyn Morgan their music teacher. The youngsters sang both Friday and Saturday, renditions of Welsh and English songs. On Sunday TYA performed a trilingual performance, telling the story of the Lady of the Lake. All the youngsters joined with local school children to perform a Welsh song conducted by Elizabeth Jennings and Louise Wood showing the true spirit of twinning.

A very successful annual dinner, was held in March in the Castle Hotel . I have to say it was lovely to see so many children involved and lots of new friends, which has helped pave the way for a fantastic summer.

During the Easter holidays, Wyn Morgan , from Llandoverly College was invited by Dany to spend the week teaching the Pluguffan Committee Welsh. Wyn held two lessons per day, 12 people took part at the classes, it was a huge success, even if he says so himself !!! Every one who took part should be commended as they completed an intensive Welsh course of five weeks in five days. Wyn was hosted by several families during the week , who all gave him a true taste of Brittany.

On June 2nd, Aina Lancien, a 15 year old schoolgirl arrived from Pluguffan to spend a month in Llandoverly. Aina assisted the French teacher in the college. Aina stayed with Nadine Barrell, our present Treasurer and became a part of the family. Aina had visited Llandoverly on previous youth visits so had already made friends with some local girls, Caitlin Morgan, Morganna & Abi Ghiani, Lily Fox & Zoe Young to name a few.

On Saturday 5th July, Brecon Twinning invited us to a BBQ, Dorothy and Nigel along with Nadine and 2 grandchildren attended, it was a enjoyable afternoon.

Aina was back in Llandoverly on 16th July with the Pluguffan Youth Trip along with 2 youth workers and Dany and Michel who acted as bus drivers. Michel is Aina's father, he opted out of camping and stayed with Nadine.

Everyone was welcomed to Llandoverly by our mayor Mrs Gill Wright who kindly provided refreshments at The Level Crossing. The group spent a wonderful sunny week camping on Llandoverly College Sports Field in front of the pavilion. What an ideal spot.

Mike Powell did a wonderful job of organizing a week of events, we are very grateful to him for all his hard work.

Guy Ayling, Warden of Llandoverly College kindly gave us the facilities of the pavilion and lots of the equipment needed, we are very grateful for his generosity.

A fantastic time was had by all involved during this week. One of the aims of the Pluguffan Youth was to promote the word "HAPPY" from the song by Pharrell Williams. They asked members of both communities to do something HAPPY to the song. A video was made and can be seen on Llandovery Twinning Facebook page and also on the web in France.

A group of Llandovery youngsters, Lloyd & Dylan Morgan, Cerys & William Jones, Molly Dennet and Matthew Jennings spent most of the week with our visitors joining in with all the activities and camped overnight.

On Sunday afternoon the committee provided a BBQ for the visitors at the pavilion. Dan was Head Chef for the afternoon and what an excellent job he did too.

I would like to thank every body who was involved during this week from walking trips to Llyn y Fan, ringing church bells and providing the food and red wine! to mention a few things.





On 15th August it was the Llandovery trip to Pluguffan to celebrate the 30th birthday of this wonderful friendship between the two communities. We were greeted with a great welcome at The Red Dragon Pub, which was made especially for us and even had a supply of The Reverend James from Brains Brewery. It was great to see so many friends old and new and a few three generation families.

The Llandovery age range was from Harri 5 to Edgar 91 years. Dany and her committee had a busy weekend of events arranged. After a slow lazy start on Saturday we all met up at a distillery/ ciderie. We were given a talk and a guided tour by the owner who was 3rd generation and looking to hand over to his sons. It was very interesting and it was then on to the sampling, delicious! He made a whiskey from buck wheat and an aperitif Pommeau de Bretagne which is delicious. We all left a few Euros lighter.

Later that afternoon we all met up again at the Mairie for the formal ceremony and the handing over of Llandovery's gift. With the formal bit over, we all had a few refreshments and made a procession following on behind the Breton pipes. Our next venue was the civic hall where we had a 4 course meal, a quiz followed by traditional Breton music and dancing, we eventually went home around 1am, phew.



Sunday morning we set off for the beach and a picnic. After food all the young people from both communities decided they wanted to make their own entertainment and stayed on the beach with three adults for supervision!! The remainder of the party headed off to Plozvet to watch a festival of music and dance from around the world. This festival is held every year. The street is closed off and small groups dance through the street. There were groups from South Africa, Russia, Ukraine, China and Native Americans to name a few. After the parade we were able to browse through an amazing collection of stalls. Every one then spent the evening with their host families.

Monday during the day we again spent time with our host families, some having a tour around Pluguffan. The evening's entertainment was a BBQ at the Red Dragon, which was very enjoyable, lots of Pluguffan locals just dropping in. The pub was very busy and included singing in both Breton and Welsh. The perfect end to a brilliant weekend.

