

PORTHCAWL - ST. SÉBASTIEN TOWN TWINNING ASSOCIATION



NEWSLETTER No. 4 JUNE 2001

Editorial

I am compiling this newsletter in early June, with the weather sunny, and almost continental! It hasn't always been so.... Just before Easter PSSTTA hosted a group from Saint Sébastien-sur-Loire, and I can still remember, on 14th April, the day that the group left for home, the heavens opening and almost drowning the gallant volunteers who were pushing that bed around town for *Saint Sébastien Day*. But they raised a respectable amount of money - £74.80 - and earned all of our respect!

I have received several contributions, so thank you! Remember, it really is up to you to make this newsletter yours.
Steve Moon

European Union Grant

Those of us who took part in the visit to Saint Sébastien in July 2000 will be interested to know that we have now received a grant from the European Union towards its cost. The sum received means that every individual who went is entitled to a refund of £33.80 each. I will be writing out cheques in about a week's time, so if you **don't** want the refund (i.e. by donating it to PSSTTA funds) please let me know as soon as possible.
Neil Sumner (tel: 768477 or 772314).

LIMITED EDITION T-SHIRTS!

There are still a few of the special Porthcawl-Saint Sébastien T-shirts available for purchase. Please contact John or Janice Bunker soon to avoid disappointment!

Forthcoming Events!

The next social gathering will be a combined (French) **quiz** and (French) **bingo** evening at Silures Art Gallery, next **Friday 15th June** starting at 7.30pm. Come and help us finish off the remaining bottles of wine from the St Sébastien reception at the rugby club! Please bring lots of bread and (French) cheese.

Two days later, on **Sunday 17th June**, we will be having a fund-raising stall at the **car boot sale** at **Rest Bay**. **Any contributions of any saleable items to John or Janice Bunker** please; otherwise your support at the stall would be welcome!

We will also be having a stall at the **Porthcawl Carnival** on **Saturday 21st July**. Again, **contributions and support** would be welcome.

The following weekend we understand will be the **Sea Festival**, and there will be another stall! Details to follow.

PSSTTA Web-Page Plan

A web site is an easy way for members of an organisation to advertise themselves worldwide - and it's a great way to communicate with people in both Porthcawl and Saint Sébastien. Consequently, I've started to develop a Town Twinning web site. This will be my first attempt at setting up a web site, so if anyone has any experience of web design, I would be very grateful for some advice!

My plan is to try to have the first three pages in English, French and Welsh, covering the history of the Twinning Association, and information on the towns of Porthcawl and Saint Sébastien. Other pages could include News & Events, an online version of the newsletter, up-to-the-minute news, and perhaps a Guest Book that people can use to leave questions or comments. These pages will need constant monitoring and updating, so will be in English!

There will also be links to other Web sites that people may find useful e.g. Saint Sébastien's own Town Twinning page, both towns' tourist board pages, the Silures Art Gallery page, etc. There could also be an interactive 'Fun Page' with competitions and quizzes to encourage people to keep re-visiting the site. If we can also include a counter we can see how many times the site is visited and will hopefully tell us from which countries they have come!

So, if you have any photographs or suggestions for links to other web sites, or would be happy to volunteer to trial it, please contact me at ruthjones@bigfoot.com or phone me on 773794. Thanks. *Ruth Jones*

Morceaux de Choix - some memories of the Easter Return

The Monophonics!

One of the highlights for the younger element of the party from Saint Sébastien, who visited in April, was the concert at the Grand Pavilion on the Wednesday evening. In aid of a charitable relief fund, the "Monophonics" (a Stereophonics tribute band) provided excellent entertainment, which crossed any possible language barrier. Whilst their young guests "bopped 'til they dropped" in the safe hands of the Porthcawl Comprehensive School organisers, some of the wrinklies (Stewart, Gaye, George, Donna, Agnes & Dominique) enjoyed a pleasant and QUIET meal before picking up the excited youngsters who had even managed to get some autographs. An enjoyable evening all-round!

George & Donna Goddard

A Poem re-discovered!

Whilst entertaining our new friends from Saint Sébastien, Jean-Michel and Marie-Odile, one evening last April, we persuaded my mother to recite her party piece, a French poem which she had learned in school over seventy years ago. Jean-Michel, a teacher, was intrigued by this poem, and when he returned home he did some research. He found the complete poem in an old book, and sent over a copy for my mother. If anyone would like a copy of "La Laitière et le Pot au Lait" (Jean de La Fontaine 1621-1695), please let me know!

Marilyn Richards

Cricket in Saint Sébastien?

Whilst les Françaises went shopping in Abergavenny, Gilles suggested we went for a coffee. Bonne idée!, I said, and bizarrely we almost immediately found ourselves inside a café which felt more French than at home in a Welsh market town. It turned out that the café had only opened that morning, and its owner was a Frenchman! A short strong coffee later, we were in Woolworth's helping Véronique to choose an armful of videos for the Saint Sébastien English club. Gilles and I then embarked on a rapid search for a plastic lacrosse set for his sons Briec and Baptiste both of whom had to stay at home. (The previous afternoon my daughter Alice had shown V, G and Bérénice around her primary school and we chanced upon a children's lacrosse match.) Unfortunately none of Abergavenny's shops could oblige, so Gilles settled upon a real cricket bat, stumps and ball set. So, be warned Glamorgan CCC- right now two sons of Saint Sébastien are spending their summer evenings practising hard!

Neil Sumner

Linguistics!

Jean-Michel, who spoke excellent English, had difficulty getting his tongue around the word 'beard', and announced with great excitement when returning from a tour of St John's Church that he had seen for the first time a painting of a "beardless Christ"!

Marilyn Richards

Richard's Diary!

I was looking forward to the visit of our French friend Yvonne because she and her friends Anne and Roger had made me so very welcome on our visit to Saint Sébastien. Her English had definitely improved from that visit and she enjoyed her conversations in "franglais" with my family!

Tuesday, our first day together passed very quickly. The morning was taken up with a quick tour around Newton and the Porthcawl sea front. We ended up in Nottage and had lunch in the Rose and Crown. This was made more enjoyable by the unexpected arrival of Ken and Sandi Miller and their French family, who joined us.

With all the planned visits and limited time available we did seem to be forever rushing to meet deadlines from then on!

Our evening visit to the Silures Gallery followed by the Porthcawl Choir's performance at Arlington Church was very worthwhile, however, and enjoyed by all who were there.

It was left to my family to get Yvonne to the Jolly Sailor on Wednesday evening after their visit to the Millennium Stadium. When I got there after our Town Twinning meeting the evening was in full swing and was a most convivial occasion!

Although I didn't go on the excursion to the Big Pit on Thursday I know Yvonne and the others were very impressed by it. Unfortunately heavy traffic on the way back made them late and gave us little time to get to our next rendezvous, the Lifeboat Station.

Steve's educational talk with slides on local flora and fauna was very interesting including as a bonus, a brief visit to Poland as well!

On Friday, lunch was arranged at the Globe in Newton for our family, Yvonne, Anne, Roger and their hosts Stan and

Maureen Howells, and their
granddaughter Angharad.

We should have gone to play boules with George and Megan afterwards, but due to a misunderstanding that fell through. Our French friends came back to our house with us and spent a lively hour or two socialising and listening to French songs instead.

And so to the high point of the visit - the Grand Finale in Nottage Primary School in the evening. It was a great success as I am sure everyone would agree and it ended what had been a very busy and fruitful week. Firm friendships were cemented and future visits planned.

Vive l'entente cordiale!

Richard Rowe

Advance Notice

The next meeting of the Association will at 7.30pm on the evening of **Friday 13th July** at the Porthcawl Town Council offices. Confirmation to follow.

The editorial board of the Porthcawl and Saint Sébastien-sur-Loire Town Twinning Association Newsletter is composed of :
Steve Moon (643170-work & 786571), *Neil Sumner* (643159-work, 768477 & 772314), *Janet Hanbury* (786936) and *Ken Miller* (786903). Please send contributions for the next newsletter to Steve Moon (see address and e-mail address in membership list).

The secretary of PSSTTA is Alana Davies (771594).

