

The Crier

July 2026

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Great Torrington & District Community News & Events

TREG Welcomes Brittany Visitors to Mayfair

I would like to thank everyone in the town for the way they welcomed our visitors from Roscoff over the Mayfair period. They arrived on Wednesday afternoon and left on Sunday evening, and they attended the Mayfair crowning ceremony, the Round the Tree Race and the Carnival.

We also showed them around the town, and they visited several of our pubs and bars including The Torrington Arms, The Royal Exchange, The Cavalier and the Cabin. I'm very grateful to you all for the friendly and warm way they were treated wherever we went. A special thanks to the Town Hall staff especially Helen, Sandra and Nigel and to our Mayor, Phil Cloke for the official welcome ceremony on Friday at the Town Hall.

While they were here, we also showed them around the town visiting the Commons and the river, Dartington Glass, the car boot sale and treated them to visits to Bideford, Appledore, Instow and Westward Ho!

The climax came on Saturday evening when we watched a little of the carnival and then had a 'bring and share' party in their honour at the Scout Hut in Gas Lane.

Some of our Breton guests are accomplished musicians and they always play for us and sing and dance when we go the Roscoff, so I thought that it was only fitting that we returned the favour. Accordingly, we acquired the services of Winkleigh Morris and their musicians to



put on a display during the evening. The Bretons also had their flutes, accordians, bombardes and binioùs and we were also lucky in having several local musicians like John Golightly, Rob Darch and Liz Nabb to add to the mix. The result was a fantastic evening of food, dancing and music. We are so grateful to Averil, the Winkleigh Morris Squire, for agreeing to entertain us. They put on an excellent display and invited us to try our hand at a stick dance and then joined us, sharing our meal and joining in the music and Breton dancing that followed. I am assured that all our French visitors were very impressed and a very memorable evening was had by all.

I think that we were all sad to see them go as we wished them a fond farewell

on Sunday afternoon, with a cream tea before they boarded their Taw and Torridge bus for the journey back to Plymouth and their awaiting ferry.

The Twinning arrangement with Roscoff has been in place for 50 years now, and seems to be experiencing a resurgence in popularity. If you could offer a spare room and would be happy to host a Roscoffian maybe once every two years and maybe join us in a few enjoyable days in their lovely part of Brittany, then please join us. Contact our secretary Christine Cocks chrisieacocks@yahoo.co.uk if you are interested.

Jay Nicholsson, Chairman, Torrington
Roscoff Exchange Group