

DEVON & SOMERSET TWINNING CIRCLE
MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MEETING
HELD IN THE COACHING INN, SOUTH MOLTON, ON SATURDAY JULY 19TH 2025

- 1. Chairman's opening remarks and report.** Sue welcomed everyone to the meeting. She presented two suggestions for a new logo now that Somerset is in our title and members present chose one of them by an overwhelming majority. She pointed out that we are still seeking a new secretary to be appointed at the AGM in October. This is not as much work as being secretary of your own association and could be shared between someone taking minutes and someone keeping the list of members for emailing information. It is not necessary to be a member of your own association's committee to be an officer or committee member of Devon & Somerset Twinning Circle.
- 2. Attendance and apologies.** There were 29 members present representing 15 member associations: Bampton, Branton, Chard, Chittlehampton, Clevedon, Crewkerne & District, Cullompton, Dawlish, Exeter, Exmouth, Northam, Sampford Peverell & District, South Molton, Totnes, and Uffculme, Apologies were received from: Abbotskerswell, Burnham-on-Sea & Highbridge, Holsworthy, Newton & Noss, Portishead, and Taunton
- 3. Minutes of the April 2025 General Meeting** were approved and signed.
- 4. Matters arising.** None.
- 5. Chairman's report.** Covered in Chairman's opening remarks
- 6. Secretary's report.** I have received some queries e.g. Taunton asked if we had any information about taking young people abroad without their families. I think they already knew more about it than we do, but we wish them well. Bruce very efficiently pointed out that the constitution needs a little bit of tidying up since we added Somerset to the title. That will have to come to the AGM so I will make sure all associations have a copy of the proposed revision 28 days before the AGM. Northam suggested advertising for bus share through our newsletter. This was passed on to Bruce as editor. Tiverton will be hosting our AGM in October and I have an offer from Uffculme for April 2026. Any more offers will be very welcome.
- 7. Treasurer's report.** We have £478.23 in the current account and £9,687.68 in the reserve account. This year we have paid a little more for insurance than we have received although there are still a few associations who have not yet responded. The importance of risk assessment before any event was stressed. Claire will see if our insurers have a form we could put on the website for use by any of our associations.

- 8. Webmaster's report.** I have made updates to the website: added the latest newsletter, updated News & Minutes, the Monica Saunders Award pages and the membership lists with new recruits and leavers.

Following Northam's request to advertise for a group to share transport to France to reduce costs, I could set up a page on the website collating details from twinning groups wanting to travel by coach. I would need to know travel dates and details.

In the last 30 days there have been few visitors to the site, 28 in total (17 from Devon & Somerset) – 18 new, 10 returning.

If you have comments on the website, good or not, or any ideas on what can be included, please let me know.

Following this report members present suggested for the newsletter and/or website: recipes, memories of visits long ago, differences between the countries, ferry experiences. It was suggested that as there have been some problems downloading the newsletter because of its size, some photos could appear on the website edition only.

- 9. Matters arising from committee meeting.** The award for best article in the Summer Newsletter goes to Crewkerne TA.

- 10 Winner of the Monica Saunders Award 2024-5.** Bampton TA.

- 11 Any other business.** Brittany ferries now have a new reduced charge for coaches carrying less than 40 passengers.

The Business meeting ended at 2.50 pm.

We then shared ideas relating to twinning visits. Summary below.

SIGNED

DATE

Chairman

Summary of post-meeting discussion.

Good places to visit:

Knightshayes NT. Exmouth have a French translation available. Can picnic in the grounds. A tour of Exeter football ground is free and interesting even to those not interested in sport. The lace museum at Honiton is recommended and only asks for a donation. The Vines is a good pub nearby.

A visit to the Fleet Air Arm is recommended.

Meals for large numbers:

Lunchtime can be better than evening.

The Drum at Cockington caters for large numbers.

Insurance on buses. Some groups have found that they can travel on their French visitors' buses so long as they are not paying passengers. This may vary from country to country so check before doing so.

Souvenirs. South Molton TA obtained some very nice inscribed pens at a reasonable cost to give to members to celebrate 50 years of twinning.