

DEVON TWINNING CIRCLE
MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MEETING
HELD AT THE COACHING INN, SOUTH MOLTON, ON SATURDAY JANUARY 21ST 2023

- 1. Chairman's opening remarks.** As Mike was unable to be present, Josie chaired the meeting. She welcomed everyone to the meeting and told us about the excellent reception she attended on board a Brittany Ferries ferry at Plymouth to celebrate their 50th anniversary. Several others at our meeting had also been present with other guests from both sides of the channel. They were entertained and dined in style and Josie declared it to be "the best party I ever went to".
- 2. Attendance and apologies.** There were 30 members present representing 10 member associations: Bampton, Bideford, Bradninch, Braunton, Chittlehampton, Clevedon, Exeter Twinning Circle, Exmouth, North Petherton, Sampford Peverell and South Molton,.
Apologies were received from: Committee members Mike Boyle, Mary Lowther, Claire Benton and Jean Aplin, and from the following Associations: Abbotskerswell, Bampton, Brampford Speke, Burnham-on-Sea & Highbridge, Crediton, Holsworthy, Instow, Kingsteignton, Northam, Portishead, Tickenham and Uffculme .
- 3. Minutes of the General Meeting** held in July 2022 were approved.
- 4. Matters arising.** None.
- 5. Chairman's report.** In the absence of the Chairman there was no report.
- 6 Secretary's report.** The Secretary has been receiving both good and bad news from the various associations. Torrington is now a "dormant association" but Abbotskerswell has stepped back from the brink and formed a new committee. Several other associations are experiencing problems.
Since Torrington will no longer be able to host the April meeting, Clevedon are seeking a venue. Exmouth may be able to step in if Clevedon cannot find anywhere suitable that is available. Bideford offered at the meeting to host the July meeting and we do have an offer from Barnstaple for the AGM in October. Offers for meetings in 2024 will be welcome. It was pointed out that the meal can take any form: hot or cold, self-catering by the hosts or at a hotel, but the price should be considered as we do not want members to be kept away by the expense.
- 7. Treasurer's report.** The accounts prepared by the Treasurer were circulated. It was pointed out that we have a new account with NatWest which means we will no longer pay bank charges. Printing and postage will also be greatly reduced by increased use of email.
- 8 Insurance Officer's report.** Unfortunately the Insurance Officer had to leave after this morning's committee, but she had explained that an unintended profit was made on insurance this year as we pay for a single overall policy and then have to estimate how

much we will receive from the groups. This profit will be taken into account when setting the amount paid by groups next year.

9 Matters arising from committee meeting. Sue Moreton has volunteered to join the committee and was co-opted at this morning's meeting.

The winner of the Monica Saunders award for the best article in the winter edition of Home To Home is Clevedon TA.

We have a volunteer to help Dennis with the DTC website. If anyone else would like to be involved with that, please let us know.

10 Any Other Business. Exmouth TA will be taking a bus to Langerwehe, in Germany, from 16th to 21st August. They would be happy to take extra passengers if anyone would like a short break in this area close to Aachen and Cologne.

The meeting closed at 14.50 after which Sue Moreton led a session in which we shared information and ideas about subscriptions, fund raising, and how we spend our money.

Next Meeting: this will be in April, date and venue still to be confirmed.

SIGNED

DATE

Chairman