

DEVON TWINNING CIRCLE
MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MEETING
HELD IN THE RIVERSIDE HALL, BAMPTON, ON SATURDAY JULY 13TH 2024

- 1. Chairman's opening remarks.** In the absence of the Chairman, Mary, the vice-president welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked the team from Bampton for an excellent lunch.
- 2. Attendance and apologies.** There were 29 members present representing 10 member associations: Bampton, Boniface Link, Chudleigh, Clevedon, Dawlish, Exeter, Sampford Peverell, South Molton, Tiverton and Totnes.
Apologies were received from: Pam Bines, Sue Moreton and from the following Associations: Abbotskerswell, Braunton, Burnham-on-Sea & Highbridge, Chard, Cheriton Fitzpaine, Chittlehampton, Crewkerne, Exmouth, Holsworthy, Newton & Noss, Northam and Uffculme.
- 3. Minutes of the April 2024 General Meeting** were approved, with the addition of Clevedon to the list of apologies, and signed.
- 4. Matters arising.** None.
- 5. Chairman's report.** Nothing to report.
- 6. Secretary's report.** I have heard from some groups about their twinning visits. There appear to have been no travel problems associated with changed regulations. Sadly Yealmpton is now no longer able to continue as an active association but has gone into "hibernation", leaving way for a revival perhaps in the future. The AGM will be hosted by Clevedon on 12th October but I have so far had no offers for 2025.
Following this report, we received offers from Dawlish for April and from South Molton for October 2025, and agreed to cancel the January meeting. Host still needed for July.
- 7. Treasurer's report.** The accounts prepared by the Treasurer were circulated prior to the meeting. Our balance on 1st April 2024 was £10,537.85 and on 11th July 2024, 9391.39. As little money as possible is kept in the Current Account as we now gain interest on the Reserve Account.
This shortfall is due to a number of groups having not yet paid membership or insurance for 2024-5. Although a few may no longer be members, we expect more to be paying. A problem may be DTC emails going into junk boxes. Secretaries, please make sure we are on your list of contacts to prevent this happening. Claire reminded us that, following the success of last year's barbecue, we hope to hold another one on 11th August, but she does not yet have many bookings.
- 8. Insurance Officer's report.** Pam was unable to be with us today but insurance matters have been dealt with in the Treasurer's report.

As mentioned at the last meeting, Pam will be standing down as Insurance Officer at the AGM in October. Please consider whether you, or someone you know, could take on this, not too onerous, task.

- 9 Webmaster's report.** Bruce asked everyone to look at the website and to let him know, via email or the contact page on the website, what you found useful, would find useful, or believe that new twinners would need. At the moment the website has very little traffic.
Please check that your information is accurate and take a look at what other groups are doing. Bruce would like to show more information about places to visit and means of fundraising. Please send in information about what works for you.
There followed a brief discussion on different ways to use Facebook.
And if anyone is a confident user of WIX, please get in touch as some help with the website may be needed at a later stage.
- 10 Matters arising from committee meeting.** The committee have been working on a fairly minor revision of the constitution to be approved at the AGM in October. The proposed amendments will be sent out to groups in advance of the required 28 days before the meeting.
- 11 Winner of best article award in the Summer 2024 newsletter**
Bampton TA.
- 12 Winner of the 2023-4 Monica Saunders Award and Don Leech Trophy.**
Crewkerne TA.
- 13 Any other business.** The suggestion was made that among the other proposed changes to the constitution, we should incorporate "and Somerset" into the name of the Circle. After some discussion as to how this might affect other issues, such as the bank account, it was agreed that we should become "Devon & Somerset Twinning Circle", subject to approval at the AGM.

The Business meeting ended at 2.45 pm.

We were then entertained by Jim Causey with songs and stories about Devon.

Next Meeting: this will be the AGM on October 12th, hosted by Clevedon Twinning Association.

SIGNED

DATE

Chairman

