



## DEVON & SOMERSET TWINNING CIRCLE

# HOME FROM HOME

SPRING 2026

The next meeting of the Devon & Somerset Twinning Circle will be hosted by Uffculme Twinning Association, on **Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> April** at 2 pm.at Uffculme Village Hall.

The event will start at 12:30, to give us time to socialise, before lunch is served around 13:15. After lunch, there will be a talk by Martin Halse, CEO of Coldharbour Mill. For those who don't know the Mill, it was originally owned by Fox Brothers and started producing woollen cloth in 1797. Today it's one of the finest working wool museums in the country.

If you plan to only attend the meeting and not take lunch, it would be appreciated if you inform Amanda Weldon to ensure there is sufficient seating.

### How to book and pay for your lunch

The 2-course lunch costs £15 per person and includes tea or coffee

The menu choices are as follows:

#### First Course

Chicken and leek pie with seasonal vegetables

or

Mushroom Stroganoff (vegetarian option)

#### Dessert

Sticky Toffee Pudding

or

Pavlova

Please contact us if you have any dietary queries and we will do our best to help you.

**Inform** Amanda Weldon, if you want to attend, and tell her the number of places you require and the menu choices for each attendee. Please provide a contact email or mobile number in case of queries. Her email address is [ajwmjk@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:ajwmjk@yahoo.co.uk)

AND

**Pay** for your lunch(es) by making a bank transfer to the Uffculme Twinning Association account.

Payment in full is required by Friday 10 April.

Please include **a reference** as follows "DTC +number of tickets + part or all of surname"

eg DTC2Eagles

Bank Details: Uffculme Twinning Association 09-01-51 90849401

### Address and Parking

Uffculme Village Hall, Bridge Street, Uffculme EX15 3AX

There is very limited on-street parking near the Village Hall

Additional parking is available at Magelake Pavilion EX15 3DP which is located further along Bridge Street, heading out of the village towards Craddock/Ashill

## **The July Twinning Circle meeting will be held in Braunton on the 4<sup>th</sup> July**

### **This newsletter contains**

- Research briefing on Twinning
- Sharing travel costs – Reminder
  - Twinning member news
- Map of our Twinning Circle members
- An appeal for a secretary...please volunteer!
- Details on a French singing workshop in Exeter
- Information on a North Devon speaker

### **Contributions to the newsletter**

Articles are invited for anything relevant to twinning – how you undertake your fundraising, some historic stories and/or photographs from years gone by or just something you think will be entertaining or useful.

Remember you will be entered into the Monica Saunders Competition and could win £50 plus another £50 if judged the overall winner of the year.

### **Please keep the articles coming**

Please send articles, reports, photographs by email to [babenton52@gmail.com](mailto:babenton52@gmail.com)

# House of Commons Library

## Research Briefing – Town Twinning

### 12<sup>th</sup> December 2025

<https://commonslibrary.parliament.uk/research-briefings/cbp-10425/>

Reminder – if you need help with reducing travel costs, then you can advertise your trips for others to join with you, whether a Twinning visit or maybe you just fancy a mini break!

#### SHARING TRAVEL COSTS?

<b>Twinning Group</b>	<b>Mode of Transport</b>	<b>Dates</b>	<b>Outward</b>	<b>Return</b>	<b>Contact</b>
<b>Clovelly</b> to Cesny Bois Halbout, Nr Caen, France	Coach & Ferry	Thursday 09/04/26 to Monday 13/04/26	Leave Clovelly 08:00 09/04/26 for 15:00 Portsmouth to Caen	13/04/26 08:30 Caen to Portsmouth	<a href="mailto:brian.nfu@gmail.com">brian.nfu@gmail.com</a>
<b>Bampton</b> to Villers-Bocage, Normandy, France	Coach & Ferry	Thursday 30/04/26 to Monday 04/05/26	Leave Bampton 18:00 30/04/26 for 22:00 Plymouth to Roscoff	04/05/26 18:15 Cherbourg to Poole	<a href="mailto:babenton52@gmail.com">babenton52@gmail.com</a>
<b>Northam</b> to Mondeville, Nr Caen, France	Coach & Ferry	Thursday 14/05/26 to Monday 18/05/26	14/05/26 for 15:00* Portsmouth to Caen	18/05/26 08:30* Caen to Portsmouth	<a href="mailto:lesleycshaw@btinternet.com">lesleycshaw@btinternet.com</a>  *– Flexible on ferry times
<b>Upper Culm</b> to Marais Grees area, 30km North-east of Nantes	Coach & Ferry	Wednesday 27/05/26 to Sunday 31/05/26	Leave Upper Culm 18:00 27/05/26 for 22:30 Portsmouth to Cherbourg	31/05/25 16:30 Caen to Portsmouth	<a href="mailto:kazapinder@hotmail.com">kazapinder@hotmail.com</a>

[https://www.devontwinningcircle.com/files/ugd/07f836\\_9cf1f109493a41aea5e5c85918b55b67.pdf](https://www.devontwinningcircle.com/files/ugd/07f836_9cf1f109493a41aea5e5c85918b55b67.pdf)

## **TWINNING MEMBER'S NEWS**

### **Ipplepen**

In the Winter Newsletter, it was reported that Ipplepen had not subscribed but I am pleased to report that they have now paid their subscription to remain in the fold.

### **Cheriton Fitzpaine announcement**

I am really upset to have to tell you but unfortunately, we have had to close recently. Our Twinned village closed at the beginning of the year which has forced us into doing the same. We both have the same problem of no new members joining us. Bonnebosq couldn't host anyone last year, so I had the unfortunate job as Chairman to have a final meeting with our French Twinners. I am incredibly lucky to be able to see them all as my youngest Daughter lives 1 hr 15 mins from Bonnebosq and has still remained friends with them.

We have divided any leftover money up between 2 village Charities and Crediton Twinning Association. Myself, and 2 other members have belonged to the Twinning from the very beginning in 1982 and we have felt very upset and struggled to have to close after all the wonderful visits we have enjoyed and all the fundraising events, but it had to be. Times have changed and people of any age can now for less money than a visit to Bonnebosq go anywhere for their holidays. A few of us have joined up with Crediton to see what things they do. So one never knows what will happen next.

I am so sorry to be the bearer of this sad email.

Brenda Fowler (The last Chairman)

### **Brampford Speke Twinning Association Dates for Diary**

Saturday 18th April 2026

2-5pm Cream tea and belated Easter egg hunt afternoon at Brampford Speke village hall.

Saturday 30th May 2026

12-5pm Table-Top Sale at Brampford Speke village hall. £10 per table.

### **CAN ANYONE HELP BIDEFORD?**

I really hope you can help.

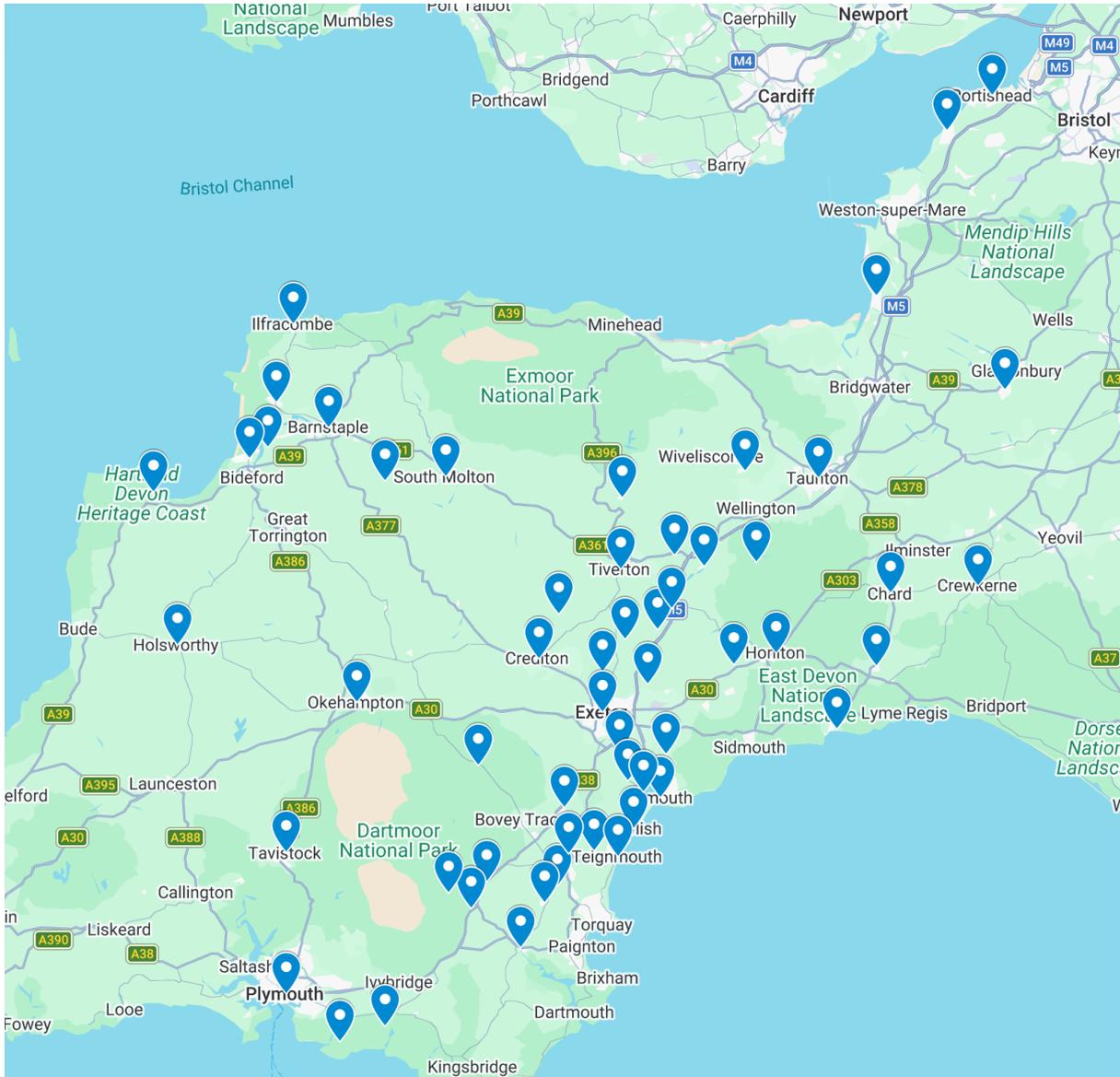
Bideford is planning to twin with a town in USA called Biddeford and I have been tasked with organising a Charter.

As you have established twinning associations, I am hoping you could advise as to who designed and produced your charters.

Claire Heller

office@bideford-tc.gov.uk

## TWINNING CIRCLE LOCATIONS



# WANTED!

## A Secretary for the Twinning Circle

This role is not too time consuming  
(honest)

- Maintain the contact list for the Circle
- Liaise with groups hosting a meeting
- Prepare and issue agendas for the Committee and General meetings.
- Take the minutes at the meetings
- Respond to any queries from the website

Please let me know if you wish to take up  
the mantle

[babenton52@gmail.com](mailto:babenton52@gmail.com)

*Je chante - Tu chantes - Nous chantons*

# French singing workshops

To find your singing voice  
To improve your French  
To meet other Exeter francophiles  
To have fun and grow your network  
Experienced choir master, fluent in French  
No audition or language test

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**When?**

3 Mondays - 7pm to 9pm - 9/16/23 March 2026

**Where?**

Exeter Community Centre - EX4 3RG

**How much?**

£30 for the block of 3 workshops /£15 for students  
Contact us if cost is a barrier

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**For more information  
and to book your place:**



[allezonchante.exeter@gmail.com](mailto:allezonchante.exeter@gmail.com)



**Allez...on chante!**



## HISTORY SPEAKER

My name is Lisa Chanter and I am an historian and family history researcher. I grew up in North Devon and have lived here all my life. I have always had a keen interest in local history and began researching my family history approximately 25 years ago, when I wanted to know more about my grandfather who came to this country as a POW. I was also given a box of documents from the family business, which were intriguing! I have also researched local villages and properties, businesses, organisations, war memorials and interesting local people. I wanted to share my research and passion for local history with others and so have written a range of talks covering many of the topics mentioned previously, but also including the Devonshire Dialect, Highwaymen of North Devon and Heroic Animals in History to name a few. I have been giving these talks to local groups for approximately 5 years now and thoroughly enjoy doing so. I think the groups seem to enjoy them too! I also carry out research for anyone interested in their family history, the history of their house or particular ancestors.

**HISTORY  
SPEAKER**

Are you looking for a speaker for your local history group, social group or to hold a fundraising event? If so, I have the following talks available:

- History of Chanter's Bakery (Bishop's Nympton & South Molton)
- A WWII Prisoner of War in North Devon
- The Story of a North Devon Coaching Inn: The Angel Inn, Ash Mill
- The Life of Frederick Chanter - Barnstaple Butcher, Councillor, Alderman, Mayor and MBE.
- Ancient Order of the Foresters in North Devon
- A Look in the Devonshire Dialect
- Lost Country Houses of North Devon
- The Journey of a First World War Soldier
- Highwaymen of North Devon and Exmoor
- The Temperance Movement in North Devon and Exmoor
- Elizabeth Askew South Molton's Lady Photographer
- Heroic Animals in History

**Contact Lisa Chanter: 07341258102**  
lisa\_chanter@hotmail.com | Facebook @familyhistoryND