

**DEVON TWINNING CIRCLE**  
**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**  
**HELD AT HALBERTON VILLAGE HALL ON SATURDAY OCTOBER 28TH 2023**

- 1. Chairman's Opening Remarks.** Mike welcomed everyone to the meeting; it would be his last as Chairman. He has enjoyed his time as Chairman and hopes that his successor has as much fun. He told us of a recent visit to his own town, Totnes, by a delegation from the council of their twin town, Vire, in Normandy, where each council member has a specific area of responsibility e.g. sport, culture, etc. It seems they expected to meet up with their opposite numbers over here but found they do not exist. None the less, an enjoyable visit took place.
- 2. Attendance and apologies.** There were 27 members present representing 12 associations: Bampton, Chittlehampton, Chudleigh, Dawlish, Exeter, Exmouth, Sampford Peverell, Taunton, Teignmouth, Tiverton, Totnes & Uffculme. Apologies were received from 3 committee members: Pamela Bines, Josie & Maurice Mardon, and 11 associations: Abbotskerswell, Bideford, Brampford Speke, Clevedon, Crediton, Crewkerne, Holsworthy, Horrabridge, Kingsteignton, Newton & Noss, South Molton.
- 3. Minutes of 2022 AGM.** These were approved, p: Sue Moreton, s: Maggie Gingell
- 4. Matters arising.** There were no matters arising.
- 5. Secretary's report.** Mary Tavy and Ottery St Mary Twinning Associations have recently closed down.  
I have been contacted by Jin Causley of the Boniface Link Association, who specialises in traditional Devonshire songs, music and dialect tales & poems. He offers his services to any twinning associations who might find a use for such an act to entertain their French guests or any other event the DTC has. Bampton hopes to have him at the July meeting.  
There have been no offers to host the January meeting so, as it is a time of year when travelling could be difficult, we have agreed to cancel that meeting. The next meeting will be hosted by Braunton on 27<sup>th</sup> April and the July meeting, hosted by Bampton on 13<sup>th</sup> July'
- 6. Treasurer's report.**  
Claire circulated the balance sheet for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023 which has been checked and signed by an independent competent person, and the balance sheet from 1<sup>st</sup> April showing a current balance of £11,074.12
- 7. Insurance Officer's report.** The number of member associations last year was 60, with 56 taking out insurance. This year there are 56 associations, with 53 taking out insurance. There have been no claims this year.
- 8. Matters arising from the Committee Meeting.** The Monica Saunders award for the best article in the autumn edition of the newsletter was difficult to decide, as three

articles received an equal number of votes. The committee agreed that, on this occasion, we would award £50 to each association: Bampton, Crediton and Portishead.

**9. Election of Officers and Committee.**

The following were elected,

Chairman: Sue Moreton, who took the chair and thanked Mike for his work.

Vice Chairman: Mary Lowther

Secretary: Jenny Worsfold

Treasurer: Claire Benton

Insurance Officer: Pam Bines

Committee members: Jean Aplin, Dill Cameron, Josie Mardon, Maurice Mardon, Philip Worsfold . There remains one vacant place on the committee.

Mike Boyle remains on the committee as immediate past chairman and the newsletter editor, Bruce Benton also serves on the committee.

**10. Presentation of the Monica Saunders Award and Don Leech Tankard.**

The Monica Saunders trophy for the best newsletter article 2022-3, was presented to Exmouth Association for their article telling us of the help given to their German twin town affected by serious flooding. The Don Leech tankard was presented to Maggie Gingell, the author of that article.

**11. Any other business.** None.

Meeting closed, 2.50 pm.

There followed an informal session of news from the groups including several recommendations for twinning visits. These appear with other suggestions in the attached notes.

**SIGNED**

**DATE**