Romsey Twinning Association

Minutes 31st July 2026

1. PRESENT: Roland Matthews (Chair), Denise Amery, Angela Bernhardt, Karen Bolton, Debbie Evenhand (Minutes), John Parker, Judy Phillips, Phil Thomas.
2. APOLOGIES: Kathrina Gwynne

The Meeting started with a moment of silence for Catherine Blaise who sadly died of an aneurysm a few days after she had visited Romsey as a member of the twinning party from Paimpol.

3. Minutes of the meeting of 8th May 2026 were approved. Thanks were given to Judy for taking them.

4. Matters Arising:
   a) Ukraine Twinning: Roland reported that there had been little development since the last meeting. A speculative approach had just been made however by a member of a community in Ukraine to explore possible twinning arrangements. Geoff Cooper is leading this initiative. Roland stressed that whilst Romsey Twinning is giving the initiative its support he has not agreed to any formal involvement.

5. Treasurer's Report
   As at 28/7/2026, the balance was £2,253.52. The Treasurer is still waiting for the invoice from Unity for the Paimpol transfers (estimated at £110). £300 has been paid to Crosfield Hall and £75 to Age Concern re the hall hire deposits for the autumn Quiz Night and AGM respectively.
   The Paimpol visit cost £485 compared to the earlier budget of £775. Karen was congratulated for the positive financial outcome.
   John reported that he had recently renewed the association's insurance. The premium for the year is £27.
   a) Signatories & account update: to date, the change of Treasurer has still to take effect. John suggested that this would be better enacted once the annual accounts were closed and the costs for the visit from Paimpol finalised. To enable the change from Barclays to the Co-op Bank, an HMRC number is required but HMRC is stipulating changes to the Constitution. Roland will contact Unity for advice. He has agreed a revised deadline of 30/11/26 for the application with HMRC.

6. Membership: There are two new members: Andrew Monk-Steel and Peter Jordan.

   Currently, there are 43 memberships and 66 members. No members are in arrears.

7. Twin Town Updates:
   a) **Paimpol:** Karen gave a review of the visit and thanked everyone for their support. The evening of skittles and visit to the Sea City Museum in Southampton were enjoyed by everyone. Karen thanked Denise for hosting afternoon tea in her garden, especially as it was her birthday that day. Roland thanked Karen for organising the event which came in well under budget. Dates for a return visit to Paimpol in 2027 had not yet been agreed. It was reported that Jean-Luc Glory would be standing down as Président of the Comité du Jumelage at their general assembly later in the year.
   b) **Battenberg:** Debbie reported that a group of 7 (possibly 8) will be travelling to Battenberg from Friday 11th to Tuesday 15th September by various means of transport. Beate Schneider, who has taken over liaison between Battenberg and Romsey from Fred Inacker has arranged for those travelling as a group from Southampton to be collected from Frankfurt Airport with a minibus driven by Dagmar Schneider.
   c) **Treviglio:** Phil reported that a group of 13 will be travelling from Thursday 1st to Monday 5th October. Several members will be staying on after the visit. A list of hosts and pairings has been sent by Gian Battista, but no other information as yet about the visit.

8. Diary Dates 2026: The AGM will be held at the Age Concern Hall, Linden Rd on 28th October 2026 and the Quiz Night at Crosfield Hall Annex on 14th November 2026. Mike Bull has kindly offered his services as Quiz Master again.
   Karen will put a request in the Newsletter for raffle prizes for the Quiz.
   Angela has offered to buy the prizes for the Quiz.

9. Publicity and Website: Karen reported that Lime Signs have not yet responded with signage ideas and quotes for Twinning.
   An article covering the visit by Paimpol had been published in the Romsey Advertiser.
   Karen asked for any photos taken during the visit to be sent to her by email and gave a deadline of Friday 7th August. She also reported that the next Newsletter would be out by mid-August. It will include a mention of Catherine Blaise's death.
   John reminded everyone that there was also a Romsey Twinning Facebook page.

10. Karen gave a brief account of the Twinning Conference she attended in Bristol on 29th April. A full written report is attached as an appendix to these minutes.

11. A.O.B: None

12. Date of Next Meeting: 25th September 2026 at 2p.m. at 70a Winchester Road.

Appendix: 'City Twinning and Partnership Working in as Changing World' – Report of Regional Twinning Conference held in Bristol 29 April 2026