

Appendix B



16 December 2025

To the mayor and councillors of Saltash Town Council,

Further to conversations between the council and our committee, we would like to invite the mayor of Saltash to hold an honorary position on the Saltash-Plougastel Twinning Association Committee. The French group include their mayor in their activities and he has joined them in their visit to Saltash several times.

You may know that Saltash is twinned with the town of Plougastel Daoulas, which is linked by a splendid bridge to the neighbouring town of Brest and which, in turn, is twinned with Plymouth. 2026 marks 40 years since the twinning agreement between Saltash and Plougastel was signed in Brittany. This gives us the opportunity to make their visit to Saltash this year a rather special one.

Over the 40 years, the Saltash Twinning Association have made long-term relationships with many families in Plougastel. The French and English groups make biennial trips to visit each other (usually in May), staying for 3 days (Thursday to Sunday), travelling on Brittany Ferries and staying with local families who are part of the Twinning groups. Many families have been hosting each other for years, but we also encourage new members to come as well and younger families are particularly welcome. We currently have around 20 young people who enjoy these cross-cultural trips and who stay in touch with each other, outside of the organised trips.

All French visitors are hosted by local families, with activities and local visits arranged for the visit and paid for from the Saltash Twinners' budget. We have an evening welcome reception on the Friday where the French guests bring wine and their famous strawberries and we host a less formal buffet and party on the Saturday, usually with live music. The mayor of Plougastel often joins the trips and we would be keen for the Saltash mayor to attend the formal buffets (Friday and Saturday evenings). Our French guests are due to visit 14–17 May 2026. Reception venues are being confirmed but are likely to be Isambard House for the Friday evening and the party evening to be held at Saltash Sailing Club.

The trips generally take place in mid May, but this can vary due to French and English school exams and bank holidays – we are really keen to strengthen and expand the youth membership so are sensitive to demands placed on them in terms of schooling and exams. The social, educational and cultural benefits for the young people is immeasurable.

The Saltash trip to Plougastel is organised in a similar way with activities arranged on the Friday and Saturday. Travel for us tends to be Thursday evening on the Roscoff ferry, returning on the Sunday afternoon/evening. If the current Saltash mayor wants to visit France with us, that would be a fantastic contribution. He or she would be travelling as part of the Saltash group (usually about 35–40 people) with their family (partner and /or children) would be hosted by a French family and would be expected to take part in the activities including a welcome reception where they would exchange gifts with the French mayor. The ferry travel costs would be met by our own twinning group. The mayor and family would need a full valid passport for travel to France as well as any medical preparations (i.e. vaccinations recommended) and travel insurance. Meals and activities for the weekend would be met by the host family.

We would like the mayor of Saltash to attend our annual general meetings which are generally held in January at Ashtorke Rock, Saltash. We could give six weeks' notice of the date each year and confirm the venue. This is usually held in the evening and is followed by a social gathering with nibbles.

We hold several social events throughout the year with Saltash members, including boules matches – both locally and further into Cornwall – quizzes, crepe afternoons, walks and other social events which the mayor would be welcome to attend. These also have a fundraising element but it's always fun! We hold committee meetings several times a year, although we wouldn't foresee the mayor attending these but we could forward minutes and agendas for information only. If a councillor would like to attend as a rep of the council, this could be considered.

We hope that the town council will give consideration to this proposal, and welcome the opportunity to cement our friendship with our twin town for another forty years. The educational and social benefits of travel are well known and our group seeks to encourage our young people to enjoy different life experiences.

Looking forward to May 2026 we hope that we can arrange a special signing of a new charter of friendship between the two towns, with both mayors and due publicity. In 2027 the same opportunity for signing a new charter of friendship will take place in Plougastel Daoulas between the two mayors.

We look forward to your response.

sincerely yours

Committee, Saltash Plougastel Twinning Association