**PRESS RELEASE:** Devon Air Ambulance marks 33 years since first mission at Founder’s former home

*Devon Air Ambulance recently commemorated 33 years since its first life-saving flight with a reflective gathering held at the former home of its founder, Ann Ralli.*

The Sidbury location carried particular significance - not only as the place where the charity’s journey began, but also as the current residence of a family who themselves were once assisted by the service, creating a poignant connection between past and present.

The garden, which once served as a landing site for the air ambulance during a critical rescue, provided a fitting backdrop for the event. Guests gathered to mark the charity’s evolution and the enduring impact of its work across the region.

Reflecting on the milestone, Ann Ralli, Life President of Devon Air Ambulance, said:

“When we launched our first flight 33 years ago, I could never have imagined the scale of what Devon Air Ambulance would become. It’s deeply moving to return to this home and see how the community continues to rally around the service. This event was a celebration of every life touched, every mission flown, and every supporter who’s helped us along the way.”

The event was attended by long-standing supporters, patients, and community members, alongside guests including the 19th Earl of Devon Charles Courtenay, the Lord Lieutenant of Devon, the High Sheriff, and Lady Nicola Clinton. Attendees enjoyed a traditional Devon cream tea, with locally donated scones, cream, and jam, under clear skies.

The afternoon served as a reminder of the charity’s roots and the community spirit that continues to sustain it. With support from local donors and volunteers, the gathering celebrated the lives saved and the commitment that drives Devon Air Ambulance forward.

Notes for editors:

Devon Air Ambulance provides rapid, life-saving emergency care across Devon and beyond. With two helicopters and a fleet of Critical Care Cars, the service reaches patients in remote and hard-to-access areas, delivering advanced clinical interventions at the scene. Funded almost entirely by public donations, the charity relies on community support through fundraising, retail shops, and a weekly lottery while Gifts in Wills fund one in three missions. Devon Air Ambulance also leads public education initiatives, including CPR and defibrillator training, and was rated ‘Outstanding’ by the Care Quality Commission.