



Christmas 2017

Website: <http://exetertwinningcircle.wordpress.com>



In This Month's Issue

1. **Your Newsletter**
2. **Word from the Chair**
3. **DTC News**
4. **ETC Autumn Event**
5. **Wolfgang Herder on Exeter, Bad Homburg and the British**
6. **New Members**
7. **Sad News**
8. **Dates for Your Diary**
9. **ETC Twinning Groups Contacts**



1. Your Newsletter

We have come to the end of another exciting and challenging year, so let's reflect on the kindness we shared, the hearts we touched and the care we showed. Let the message of love, harmony and peace be spread from home to home, and heart to heart, from one place to another. Let the warmth and joy of Christmas bring us closer to each other.



The ETC Winter Event is a **Christmas Party** at the Cardinal Newman Centre on Saturday, **December 16, 2017.**

The cost is **£13.00** pp for Members and **£14.00** pp for Friends/Guests.

Please fill in the 'Reply Slip' and send it to **Josie Mardon, Heimat, 35 Woodwater Lane, Exeter, EX2 5JY**; Tel: **01392 253 469** by Friday, **November 24, 2017.**

Please make a note in your diaries that the ETC **Annual General Meeting** is a lunchtime event which is on Monday, **February 12, 2018** at the Devon Hotel, Matford, Exeter, EX2 8XU. All the paperwork will be sent to you in January 2018.

We would remind ALL members that subscriptions are due on **January 1, 2018** for the forthcoming year.

The membership subscription is **£11.00** for a single person
£15.00 for a couple or a family

Please make cheques payable to Exeter Twinning Circle and send your subscription to:

David Parsons
5 Spinney Close
Exeter
EX2 5PE
Tel: **01392 278 764**

Members will be deemed to have not renewed membership if their subscription remains unpaid by **April 1, 2018.**

If you have any queries please contact David Parsons by email on **etc.membership@yahoo.co.uk** or telephone: 01392 278 764



Please send items for inclusion in the next newsletter to Julie Parsons, preferably by email on etc.newsletter@yahoo.co.uk or alternatively Tel: 01392 278 764



2. Word from the Chair

The shops are already full of Christmas goods as I write this in late October and you could say ETC will be celebrating Christmas twice this year because 20 of us will be visiting Bad Homburg from November 30th – December 6th with its Advent Market and a full programme prepared by our hosts and here in Exeter there is our traditional Christmas Party in Cardinal Newman House on December 16th.

Our highly successful autumn event was a talk on “Onion Johnnies” with appropriate buffet in Clyst St George Village Hall. This is covered by Item 4. Before this Newsletter appears we will also have had our special welcome evening for new members on November 1st which is, as far as I know, the first time we’ve done this. Next year the main event will be when we welcome our Rennes friends for their visit from June 8th – 12th. We will have to get cracking with preparing the programme and asking for hosts pretty soon! One other event worthy of mention, although ETC was not involved in its preparation, is the joint concert taking place in the Cathedral on Saturday 18th November with Exeter Festival Chorus and the Erlöserkirche (Church of the Redeemer) Choir from Bad Homburg. There is a long-standing relationship between Exeter’s United Reformed Church and the Erlöserkirche. As it happens the Oberbürgermeister of Bad Homburg Alexander Hetjes is on an official visit to Exeter from November 16th – 19th so he will be present. While talking about Bad Homburg I should also mention a light hearted piece (but with some serious comments) by Wolfgang Herder for one of their local publications (see Item 5).

Finally, I should mention the Terracina themed ETC stand which Beryl and I manned at the Italian Festival held in St Stephen's Church on October 29th where we recruited one new member and several others expressed interest. All that now remains for me to say is:
HAPPY CHRISTMAS, JOYEUX NOEL,
FROHE WEIHNACHTEN, BUON NATALE!

John Whitton



3. DTC News

Devon Twinning Circle Annual General Meeting was held at Halberton and hosted by Tiverton. It was well attended, but wish that all groups would send representatives not just committee members. ALL meetings are open to all members. There was a delicious lunch followed by the official business. The committee was re-elected unanimously. The guest speaker was Brenda Loosemore, who is volunteer with the National Trust and an actress. Her talks are hilarious and this one was no exception.

Our Exeter contingent had to sneak away early, because they were involved with the preparation of our Onion Johnnies evening, but as usual found the day useful and informative meeting several new attendees and catching up with old friends from around the county.

The next meeting is on Saturday 20th January in South Molton. Why don't you put the date in your diary and join us for an interesting event.

*Josie Mardon
DTC Vice-Chair*



4. ETC Autumn Event

Talk on Onion Johnnies (Colin Vosper)

The ETC autumn event was a talk in Clyst St George Village Hall given by Colin Vosper, a well-known local speaker and former further education teacher. His theme, very appropriate in view of our twinning with the capital of Brittany, was the story of the “Onion Johnnies” He told all about the history of these intrepid Bretons who were well known all over the UK (including of course the South West) who plied their trade on bicycles selling strings of their pink onions to appreciative customers. The pink onions were very tightly strung to keep them airtight and especially prized as they kept in larders for up to a year. The trade began in the early 19th Century

and only died out with the increasing transportation of fruit and vegetables in large containers since the 1960s. He also spoke of the hazards of the cross-channel trade when, for example, two shipwrecks in 1898 and 1907 claimed the lives of nearly 100 “Johnnies”. One extraordinary twist in Colin’s tale was the revelation that his great-grandfather was the captain of one of those doomed ships. All in all a fascinating, informed and witty presentation with some captivating photographs.

Many in the audience could remember visits by Onion Johnnies from their childhood and in fact 34 of us came along that evening to be regaled not only by learning all about the Onion Johnnies but also enjoying the lovely onion soup and copious buffet prepared by our dedicated and talented catering team. Many thanks to them – and merci les “Johnnies” who certainly knew their onions!

John Whitton



5. Wolfgang Herder on Exeter, Bad Homburg and the British

Very British - Gut Deutsch (Good German)
It’s true that music brings us together. In the 60s we swung around with beat and rock with the Beatles and their songs ‘Let it be’ and ‘Yesterday’ which crossed the Channel and went all over Europe. Now Brexit will divide us once more.

There have been close contacts between the KVV and the ETC for over 50 years. Former Oberbürgermeister Wolfgang Assmann brought our twin cities together at the start of his term of office.

Very British

In the 19th Century the British really pointed the way in our spa town of Bad Homburg. Countess Elizabeth (daughter of George III) resided in the English wing of Castle. Edward Prince of Wales (future Edward VII) made the Homburg Hat with its high turned-up brim a fashion statement. Golf and Lawn Tennis were first played in continental Europe in the “Kurpark” The English Church in

Ferdinandstrasse is now the town’s cultural centre. We’ve been doing some asking round about what’s so special about the English lifestyle. From Exeter Alison says it means first of all standing in a queue. But there’s worse: “It’s better to stay polite than to say the truth bluntly” For John it’s remarkable that his compatriots say “sorry” whether or not they’re to blame! He also agrees with Samuel Johnson that “when two Englishmen meet their first talk is of the weather” Both are committed Europeans.

Gut Deutsch

Irrespective of whether it’s snowing or not, we will soon be receiving our guests from Exeter. They are visiting Bad Homburg at the beginning of Advent in order to experience more of a German Christmas. A splendid programme has been prepared including the Rolls Royce turbine works in Oberursel, the Casino in the Kurpark and lastly an official town reception.

Oberbürgermeister Alexander Hetjes visited our twin city in Devon in autumn 2015 before his term of office began together with Bürgermeister Karl Heinz Krug. He stayed with a family just like other members of our exchange. It’s still like that and where can you learn more about other people’s lives?

After the Brexit decision the KVV showed clearly that “It’s more than ever the time for our partnership with Exeter” at the annual Hoch Taunus regional meeting last September. There’s not much more one can add to that. Unfortunately it’s a hard message to pass on to our young people.

*Wolfgang Herder,
Chairman, KVV, Bad Homburg*



6. New Members

We would like to extend a very warm welcome to the following new members:

Alfredo Gonzalez, Lyn Walsh, Patricia Williams, Bernard Dugdale;

**and a welcome back to:
Exeter Festival Chorus**



7. Sad News

Zena Worters died recently; she was a teacher, an avid gardener and cook just like Mary.

Josie Mardon



As you may have heard the sad news is that my Mary has died. Josie Mardon asked me for a copy of the poem which my son Alex read at her thanksgiving service with a view to putting it in the Twinning newsletter.

Regards Stephen Schlich

Yoghurt Pots and Ice Cream Tubs

My mum's kitchen is full of pots
and pots and pots and pots and pots
I'd say to her "Do you need these pots"?
And she'd say "Yes. I need lots"

I need a pot to store my seeds
I need a pot for all the weeds
I need the pots for making jam
I need the pots for storing ham
I need the pots for bits of string
The big pots are great
to store my small pots in!

So, I'd say "can you do without these tubs"?
And she'd say, "I need those for chitting spuds"
I need some more for freezing plums
And a special tub for collecting crumbs

Then I'd find a hundred jars
stored in the garage where there used to be cars
I'd say, "Do you need so many mum"?
She'd say, "I need them all, believe me son"

Don't throw any of them away
You never know they'll come in handy one day
They're very useful for storing things
Like rubbers, paints and drawing pins

Then I'd say, "mum this smells unpleasant"
She'd say, "Don't touch! That's for the pheasant"
But mum what about this box
Hands off Alex that's for the fox
Mum would never chuck in haste

She loved to recycled and hated waste
She wouldn't change although we'd try
Her determination could make you cry

But now when I think about you mum
It's not the mess I remember, just the fun
I'll miss your jars, your tubs, your pots
Farewell my mum I'll miss you lots

Alex Schlich



8. Dates for Your Diary

**Every Third Thursday of Each Month -
'Coffee Meet' at Ferns Cafe - from 11:00**

**Saturday, November 18, 2017 - Lord Mayor's
Charity Coffee Morning, Exeter Guildhall
from 10:00 to 14:00**

**Saturday, November 18, 2017 - concert by
Exeter Festival Chorus with 'Erlöserkirche
Chor' at 7.30pm in Exeter Cathedral**

**November 30 - December 6, 2017 - Outbound
Visit to Bad Homburg**

**Saturday, December 16, 2017 - ETC
Christmas Party, Cardinal Newman Centre**

**Saturday, January 20, 2018 - Lord Mayor's
Charity Coffee Morning, Exeter Guildhall
from 10:00 to 14:00**

Monday, February 12, 2018 - ETC AGM



9. ETC Twinning Groups Contacts

**Your contact for Bad Homburg
- Alison Sykes alisonsykes14@gmail.com**

**Your contact for Rennes
- John Whitton johnbwhitton@yahoo.co.uk**

**Your contact for Terracina
- Beryl Whidden thewhiddens@gmail.com**


