



# NEWSLETTER



March 2018

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



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### 1. Your Newsletter

Food for thought:

*"The positive thinker sees the invisible, feels the intangible, and achieves the impossible."*

*Anonymous*



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We have started another year, another chapter in our twinning history - new inspirations and hopes.

Our last ETC Newsletter reached our members in November and a lot has happened since then: The ETC visit to Bad Homburg at the end of

November / beginning of December, the ETC Christmas Party in December and the ETC AGM in February.

A coming visit from Rennes in June will be our main twinning event this year – a continuation of a previous chapter or perhaps an introduction to a new one. It is only a few pages from thousands of pages but without them the story wouldn't make sense and wouldn't be complete.

Little did we know that on leaving Exeter on the 30<sup>th</sup> of November 2017 we would bring the first snow to Bad Homburg. Guess what? Our first full day in Bad Homburg was "walking in a winter wonderland".



Our group visited the Freilichtmuseum Hessenpark, a wonderful open-air museum in Neu-Anspach which showcases half-timbered buildings from the land of Hesse.



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This was followed by lunch in Landgasthof Saalburg.



After a very satisfactory (this is, I must admit, an understatement of taste and flavours) and warming lunch our group went to explore Römerkastell Saalburg, the world's only reconstructed Roman fort and archaeological museum. On our trip through time, we got a vivid picture of the history, culture and customs of an era whose heritage – although almost two thousand years old – still shapes our world today.



Next day our group was invited to the VIP marquee to join Alexander Hetjes to open the

traditional Christmas Market at Bad Homburg Castle. Numerous stalls offering Christmas crafts, products, baked goods and hot food together with hot wine and brandy punch got our group into the mood of a real 'White Christmas'.



On one of the days with our ever faithful guide, Heide Delle, we revisited the old part of Bad Homburg.



The Civic reception was most enjoyable and very informal. A warm welcome from Alexander Hetjes followed by few speeches by the two chairmen and other civic representatives proved once again that the twinning spirit is as strong as ever and all of us are full of determination to keep our friendship alive.



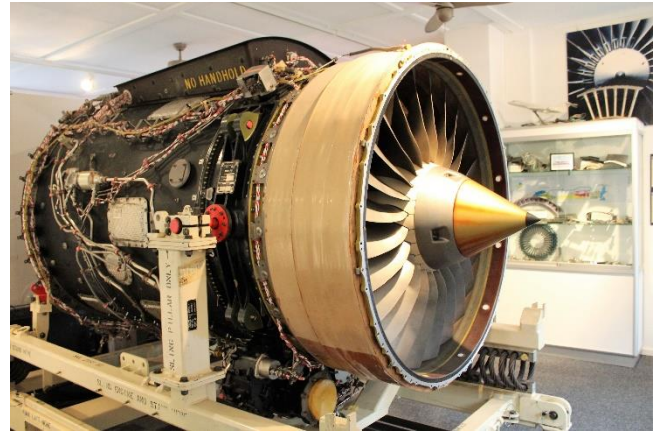
One of our curiosities was a visit to the Casino Bad Homburg, Die Spielbank Bad Homburg, which calls itself the “Mother of Monte Carlo” as the same gentleman who started the Casino Bad Homburg, later founded the Casino in Monte Carlo.



Phileas Fogg did prove that gambling runs in the blood of the English. But it wasn't a game of whist or roulette that rewarded us all. That night we celebrated our lifelong friendship, we toasted to the twinning opportunities, to the feeling of belonging to one community of values.



A visit to Rolls Royce was another highlight of our visit. Rolls Royce is one of the world's leading manufacturers of propulsion systems, represented in Germany with its Civil and Defence Aerospace, Power Systems and Ship Technology businesses. Rolls Royce Germany has had its own locations since 1990 and is active in the aviation industry.



Travelling, adventure, exploration and discovery have always been the driving force of our twinning visits. It stands to reason that the winner in this category is Pam Merrett. At the age of '...', without going into detail, we are just happy to say, she is as active as ever, taking on challenges and living life to the full. We are so proud of having Pam as an ETC member who is always eager to get up and go, go go!!!



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We would remind ALL members that subscriptions were due on **January 1, 2018** for this year.

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

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 278764

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

**David Parsons**  
5 Spinney Close  
Exeter  
EX2 5PE  
Tel: 01392 278764

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

If you have any queries please contact David Parsons by email on [etc.membership@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:etc.membership@yahoo.co.uk) or telephone: 01392 278764



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This year's **ETC Spring Event** will be 'A Munch with Memories, Memorabilia, Merriment and Mental Dexterity', which is being held on **Friday, April 20, 2018** from 19:00 at **Clyst St George Village Hall, Woodbury Road, Exeter, Devon, EX3 0RE**.

This will be a social gathering with an opportunity to see photos, videos and other memorabilia of past exchanges with our three twin cities as well as a quiz.



A buffet and 'bring your own drinks' followed by pudding and tea/coffee during the course of the evening and a charge of **£8.00** for members and **£9.00** for guests has been agreed to cover our costs. All members and friends are welcome! Will you please return the '**reply slip**' together with your payment, by Friday, **April 6, 2018** to **Josie Mardon. Heimat, 35 Woodwater Lane, Exeter, EX2 5JY; Tel: 01392 253469**.



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All ETC members are welcome to attend the DTC Meeting, which will be held on Saturday, **April 21, 2018** hosted by Bideford Twinning. If you would like to come for the lunch and then stay for the meeting or just to attend the meeting, please contact **Josie Mardon**, for full details of venue etc, by email: [mandj@heimat.plus.com](mailto:mandj@heimat.plus.com) or telephone: 01392 253469.

The **ETC Summer Event** will be an all-day coach / train and boat trip to Paignton, Kingswear, Dartmouth and Totnes on Sunday, **June 10, 2018**. This will be included in the Rennes twinning visit programme.

### **ETC Inbound Visit 2018**

Our friends from Rennes will be visiting us from **Friday, June 8 to Tuesday, June 12, 2018**. The programme is currently under development.

*Please make a note in your diaries that on Saturday, **January 19, 2019** Exeter Twinning Circle will be hosting the DTC Meeting*



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## **2. Word from the Chair**

A belated welcome to 2018! That's the kind of date that could have been the title of a science fiction novel when I was a child – and a lot of what we take for granted today would indeed have been science fiction then. Anyway, I hope you all enjoyed the festive season and that 2018 is good to you. The main event since our last Newsletter was our winter visit to Bad Homburg from November 30<sup>th</sup> – December 6<sup>th</sup> which by general agreement was a great success, with the usual warm welcome and of course all those legendary Christmas markets. Our traditional Christmas Party took place in Cardinal Newman House on December 18<sup>th</sup> rather later than usual because of the Bad Homburg visit. We ate, drank and quizzed to our heart's content and I must of course thank all those who were involved in the

catering and generally organising of this most enjoyable event.

If a winter twinning visit was a new departure for us as you could say the same about deciding on having our AGM at lunchtime instead of in the evening. This took place on February 12<sup>th</sup> in the Devon Hotel which always maintains its high standard with their facilities and buffet. We were honoured with the presence of the Lord Mayor Lesley Robson and also John Street ECC corporate manager, a great friend of twinning and who I really envy for his ability to make an off-the cuff speech! The present Committee were re-elected with the exception of Gerry Scarbrough who after many years has decided to stand down. Thank you and all the best Gerry.

Preparations for the visit from Rennes of a group of 28 from 8<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> June are well advanced with a full programme including a steam train + river cruise (Paignton – Kingswear - Dartmouth – Totnes) on Sunday 10<sup>th</sup>. Full details of the programme will be available once everything has been finalised.

From November 16<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> the Oberbürgermeister (Lord Mayor) of Bad Homburg Alexander Hetjes was on an official visit with a small delegation to Exeter and apart from the important business side of his trip had a reception in the Guildhall and was invited to a concert in the Cathedral on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> November with the combined forces of Exeter Festival Chorus and the Erlöserkirche (Church of the Redeemer) Choir from Bad Homburg. Finally, I must mention some very sad news concerning Bad Homburg: the death of Dieter Hoffmann in February. He was conductor of their splendid Ober-Erlenbach Liederkrantz Germania Choir who sang in the Cathedral with Exeter Children's Orchestra on the occasion of the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary Bad-Homburg twinning visit in September 2015. He was a talented musician, an energetic and charming man who will be greatly missed.

*John Whitton*



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### **3. Your Committee for 2018**

The following members were elected to the ETC Committee 2018:

**John Whitton** – **Chairman**  
**Josie Mardon** – **Secretary**  
**David Parsons** – **Treasurer & Membership Secretary**

**Rosalind Beetham**  
**Jane Chappell**  
**Brenda Kite**  
**Marija Lees (co-opted member)**  
**Maurice Mardon**  
**Miriam Michel**  
**Julie Parsons**  
**Christo Skelton**  
**Alison Sykes**  
**Beryl Whidden**



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### **4. DTC Travel Insurance 2018**

Policy No NBT 81863 2016

This Policy will insure against accident, illness, loss, damage or mishap as defined in the Policy, including incidental holiday travel (known as a Period of Travel) commencing during the Period of Insurance, and having a destination outside of the United Kingdom. Cancellation is operative from the date of booking a trip or the effective date of the Policy.

<b>Europe only</b>	<b>Adult</b>	<b>Child</b>
Up to 4 days	£9.00	£7.00

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5 -7 days	£11.00	£9.00
8 -14 days	£12.00	£10.00
15 – 21 days	£15.00	£12.00
22 – 31 days	£18.00	£14.00

All prices include Insurance Tax.

It is further understood and agreed that, in respect of Insured Persons aged 79 years to 83 years, this Insurance excludes all claims arising from physical or mental conditions or disabilities of a recurring or chronic nature, from which an Insured Person suffer and was known to suffer, prior to the inception of this Insurance.

Members over 80 will need to submit their name and DOB to the Insurance Officer.

All claims should be sent to the insurance officer. We shall not be liable for the following:

1. Claims arising out of any trip, which is booked or commenced by an Insured Person:

- (a) Contrary to medical advice;
- (b) Contrary to health and safety restriction(s) from an airline or carrier with whom the Insured Person has booked to travel;
- (c) To obtain medical treatment or convalescent care;
- (d) After a terminal prognosis has been made.

2. Any claim from an Insured Person who is aged 80 years or over at the effective date of this Policy, unless specifically agreed in writing by Underwriters. In respect of Insured Persons aged 75 years to 79 years, this Insurance excludes all claims arising from physical or mental conditions or disabilities of a recurring or chronic nature, from which an Insured Person suffers and was known to suffer, prior to the inception of this Insurance.

**NB: all insurance matters should go through the ETC Secretary.**



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## 5. Dates for Your Diary

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

Friday, April 20, 2018 – ETC Spring Event

Saturday, April 21, 2018 - Lord Mayor's Charity Coffee Morning; Exeter Guildhall

Saturday, April 21, 2018 – DTC Meeting, (Bideford Twinning)

June 8 - 12, 2018 - Inbound Visit from Rennes

Sunday, June 10, 2018 – ETC Summer Event

Saturday, October 13, 2018 - ETC Autumn Event, Clyst St George

Saturday, October 20, 2018 – DTC Meeting, Teignmouth

Saturday, December 8, 2018 – ETC Christmas Party, Cardinal Newman Centre

February, 2019 – ETC AGM, TBC



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## 6. ETC Twinning Groups Contacts

Your contact for Bad Homburg

- Alison Sykes [alisonsykes14@gmail.com](mailto:alisonsykes14@gmail.com)

Your contact for Rennes

- John Whitton [johnbwhitton@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:johnbwhitton@yahoo.co.uk)

Your contact for Terracina

- Beryl Whidden [thewhiddens@gmail.com](mailto:thewhiddens@gmail.com)



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