



NEWSLETTER



September 2017

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

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1. Your Newsletter

Food for Thought:

"There is a harmony in autumn, and a lustre in its sky, which through the summer is not heard or seen, as if it could not be, as if it had not been!"

Percy Bysshe Shelley

All ETC members are welcome to attend the **DTC Meeting** which will be held on Saturday, **October 14, 2017** in Halberton Village Hall, Nr Tiverton EX16 7AF. 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** by email: mandj@heimat.plus.com or telephone: 01392 253469.

Please make a note in your diary that this year's **ETC Autumn Event** is a talk about "Onion Johnnies" by Colin Vosper on Saturday, **October 14, 2017** from 19:00 at **Clyst St George Village Hall, Woodbury Road, Exeter, Devon, EX3 0RE.**



It will be a Breton themed evening, so you are welcome to come with stripy vests, jumpers, berets or anything else to put yourself in the mood. This will be a social gathering with a buffet and 'bring your own drinks' followed by tea or coffee during the course of the evening. A charge of **£7.50** for members and **£8.00** 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, **October 6, 2017** to **Josie Mardon, Heimat, 35 Woodwater Lane, Exeter, EX2 5JY Tel: 01392 253469.**

The ETC Committee is introducing a new event this year - **ETC New Members' Party** for all those who joined our twinning during the past two years. It will be held on Wednesday, **November 1, 2017.**

ETC Outbound Visit 2017

ETC members will be visiting Bad Homburg from **November 30 to December 6, 2017.**

The date of the next **ETC AGM** has been fixed for Monday, **February 12, 2018** at the Devon Hotel. The ETC Committee has agreed that this will now be a lunchtime function.



2. Word from the Chair

Well at least we had a good end to the summer! I hope you all managed either to get away at some point or have a restful staycation here in our lovely South West. My one major trip was a strictly non-twinning visit to my friends in

Rennes in June in the midst of an early summer heatwave. Despite being there unofficially I did spend a pleasant evening with Therese Kilner where inevitably we couldn't help talking a little shop! Therese has suggested that we might change the frequency of our visits in the future. Nothing has been agreed so far but of course we will keep you all informed. We are expecting an inward visit from Rennes next year and, although not yet formally fixed, it seems most likely to take place during the second week of June. As soon as there are definite dates we will let you know.

The main twinning event since the last Newsletter was (or should have been) the visit from Terracina. We were expecting 9 guests including the Mayor from July 20th - 27th but at very short notice this was cancelled. Needless to say after all the hard work of preparation we were not very happy with this turn of events. However, Beryl Whidden and Mara Attwater hosted two charming ladies who did come: Tania Giuffrida and Agostina Paglaroli. They thoroughly enjoyed the programme we laid on for them (including our long-planned summer coach excursion to Rosemoor gardens and Bideford) which Beryl has described in the Newsletter. My opposite number in Terracina Anna Carroccia has contacted me to say that we should nevertheless consider Tania and Agostina's visit as their "official" visit and that we are invited to Terracina in two years' time. As I replied to Anna back in July (but before Tania and Agostina came): *"We are of course still very disappointed that you had to cancel your visit at such short notice, but of course Tania and Agostina will have a warm welcome, with a programme including ... a reception in the Guildhall. Rest assured that our relationship as twin cities will continue, and we note with pleasure that there is an invitation for us to visit in 2019"*

A group of EXCEL ladies and also an official delegation from Exeter City Council visited Bad Homburg over the summer, the latter with the aim of encouraging further links - and there are already some positive signs. From 30 November - 6 December a group of 19 ETC members will be in Bad Homburg to enjoy hospitality from our German friends and of course those legendary Christmas Markets.

Before signing off I have to return to the long-standing gripe of ETC that there are no signs for our twinning links when entering the city. Josie reminded me of the sign on Bideford Quay showing the names of, and the distances from, their twin towns. Recently a Danish friend visited me and on a Thomas Hardy pilgrimage to Dorchester we noted that they also proclaim their twinning with three towns, including, to my friend's delight, Holbaek in Denmark. By the way, if ever you get to Dorchester don't miss the Teddy Bear Museum, a-must for all overgrown children!

John Whitton

3. Inbound Visit from Terracina



Mara Attwater and I went by the very efficient Falcon bus service to Bristol airport to collect Agostina and Tania from Terracina. Both were new to Twinning and so hopefully their visit here was a good introduction. Unfortunately, due to various reasons, other members from Terracina were unable to join us. However, we had a good and busy time!

On **Friday** morning we had the usual welcome from the new Lord Mayor in the Guildhall - it never fails to impress!



In the afternoon Agostina and Tanya were shown the Cathedral and the “centre” of Exeter. In the evening a driving tour of the grounds of Exeter University - which Agostina was particularly interested in. She wished to make contact with the Italians who worked there but unfortunately they had all returned to Italy. She hopes to make contact with them when she returns to Italy.



On **Saturday**, with other ETC members, we went to the very nice open day at St Nicholas Priory, Jo Sinclair very kindly took us around the Priory and 21 The Mint and then we walked down to Tuckers Hall. Lunch was had at Debenhams - with the wonderful view of the Cathedral.



In the afternoon a delicious Devon Cream Tea at the Walled Garden in Dunsford – an excellent choice by Josie! And the Church was well worth a visit. In the evening we went for one of the best pizzas that I have had! At Berto’s in Moretonhampstead. Alberto the owner is from Nettuno - not far from Terracina. Do go - I promise you will enjoy it!! Whilst there we met up, by chance, with Valentina Todino (who teaches in Exeter and is from near Naples) and her children. This was a good contact for Augustina, both teachers, and they had lots to discuss.



On **Sunday** Mara and I took them first to Sidmouth, where we had a picnic in the rain, on the hill. It was a day of pouring rain! Met up with some ETC members who had had lunch at the Bowd Inn. Then on to Budleigh Salterton and finishing with Exmouth. A good example of Devon coastal scenery!



Monday was part of the Summer Outing that we had to Rosemoor and Bideford. A picnic lunch enjoyed in the thatched cottage garden of Rosemoor. The sun, thankfully, shone and we had a lovely day – Rosemoor in all its summer glory and Bideford bathing in sunshine. Burton Gallery and the antique shops in Bideford, a great attraction.



Tuesday was the trip to Dartmoor – enjoyed by the ETC members who came. The weather was reasonably kind and we had a lovely drive across Dartmoor, including a tour of the facilities at Bovey Castle! Very impressive and all the more so as one of the latest recruits to their staff was from Verona! We joined other ETC members at the Ruggleston Inn, which can be thoroughly recommended. Agostina and Tanya’s desire to have fish and chips was fulfilled! A quick tour of Widecombe-in-the-Moor, then on the climb up to Haytor and ending with a visit to the Craft Centre at Bovey Tracey.



Wednesday was a free day with the Farewell Evening at Maggie and Tim Legood’s to which Valentina Todino and her daughter Sofia also came. Excellent food was provided by various members and Agostina and Tanya were duly impressed with the spread, our efforts and the whole evening!

Thursday was an early departure, to catch the 8.15 am Falcon bus to Bristol airport.

The Italians welcome us back in two years time.

Thanks to everyone who helped to make this such an enjoyable visit for Agostina and Tanya. They have gone home with many happy memories.

Beryl Whiddon

4. New Members

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

Heather Dark & Christo Skelton

5. Dates for Your Diary

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

Saturday, October 14, 2017 - ETC Autumn Event, Clyst St. George

Saturday, October 28, 2017 - Lord Mayor’s Charity Coffee Morning, Exeter Guildhall from 10:00 to 14:00

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

Wednesday, November 1, 2017 - New Members’ Party

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

6. 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 Whiddon thewhiddens@gmail.com
