

ETC NEWSLETTER – JUNE 2023



Dear Members

This is the first Newsletter in my capacity as your Chairperson. I took over from John Whitton at the AGM held on 28th February 2023. I would like to take this opportunity to thank John again for all his hard work over a period of 7 years. He was a great ambassador and representative of Exeter to our twin cities. I am glad to say that John is

staying on the Committee in his role as the Liaison/Contact Person for Rennes – so we will continue to benefit from his knowledge, skill and diplomacy. The Committee members elected in February are as follows:

Marija Lees – Chairperson

Josie Mardon – Secretary (also, Bad Homburg Liaison Person)

David Parsons – Treasurer

David Parsons – Membership Secretary

John Whitton – Rennes Liaison Person

Beryl Whiddon – Terracina Liaison Person

Brenda Kite

Rosalind Beetham

Jo Sinclair

Maurice Mardon

Claire Mayer

Jeremy Lees

Shirley Weston

Eunice Popham.

For those who don't know me, I think I should say a few words about myself. I joined the ETC about 8 years ago. I have friends and family in Europe and feel passionate about twinning and promoting better understanding between people of our twin cities. I have lived in Exeter for almost 43 years and I call it my home. I retired last year after 40 years of continuous service in the public sector – the first seven of which were in an administrative role for the Devon & Cornwall Police followed by admin/finance positions in Devon County Council. The last 23 years I spent working as Investment Officer for the DCC Pension Investment Team. My interests outside the working environment and family are centred around languages and photography. I speak 3 languages (Croatian, English, French) and I am currently learning my 4th language (Italian). I have a great passion for photography. I am a member of the Royal Photographic Society and hold a Licentiate Distinction which I was awarded in 2012. I love outdoor activities (cycling/kayaking) and I am a keen swimmer. During my years working for Devon County Council, I was involved with the twinning of DCC and Le Conseil General du Calvados and was Chairperson of the Staff Twinning Association organising regular trips to Caen. I hope that this experience will come in useful to me in my new role as your Chairperson.

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Following my appointment in February, at the ETC Committee meeting in March, it was decided that with Covid restrictions behind us, it was time re-vitalise our activities and our association in general. It was felt that our association needs to reach out and attract new members via our website, Facebook and local press. I am so happy that we have such hard-working members on the Committee who have excellent organisational skills and many years of twinning experience. Below are details of our recent activities:-

ETC WEBSITE

We are currently in the process of developing a new website which will have an up-to-date look and information. This will be of great help to promote our association. The work on the new website is nearing the end and we will notify everybody as soon as it is up and running.

PUBLICITY

One Magazine - The June edition of One Magazine has an article about Devon Twinning Towns with a large section dedicated to Exeter Twinning Circle. Thank you, Brenda for initiating and organising this publicity.

CORONATION LUNCH.



This event to mark the coronation of King Charles III was organised by Beryl, Brenda and Josie. It was held on 17th May 2023 at the Red Ruby Café, Exe Valley Farm Shop Nr. Thorverton with 33 people attending.

We also welcomed our VIP guest, Paul Bristow of the British-German

Association. Paul who is the Regional Representative for Devon and lives in Exeter talked about the work of the British-German Association and various ways we (ETC) could expand/improve our twinning activities.

Paul has since joined ETC and I am sure we will benefit greatly from his knowledge and experience.

OTHER CULTURAL EVENTS WITH OUR TWIN TOWNS

RENNES - Joint Exeter/Rennes Photographic Exhibition – held at Le Jardin du Thabor (22 – 28th May 2023).



This exhibition is a result of continuing friendship and collaboration between two photographic societies – one in Exeter (Exeter Camera Club) and one in Rennes (La Societe Photographique de Rennes). The theme of the exhibition was “Our Countryside” (Devon and Brittany). This is a great example of cultural links between twin towns which we at the ETC like to encourage. Jeremy and I went to the opening of the exhibition together with 6 other photographers

from Exeter. Twinning members in Rennes were also invited to the opening and many came to support this exhibition. Also a meeting to discuss twinning matters was held during our stay in Rennes.

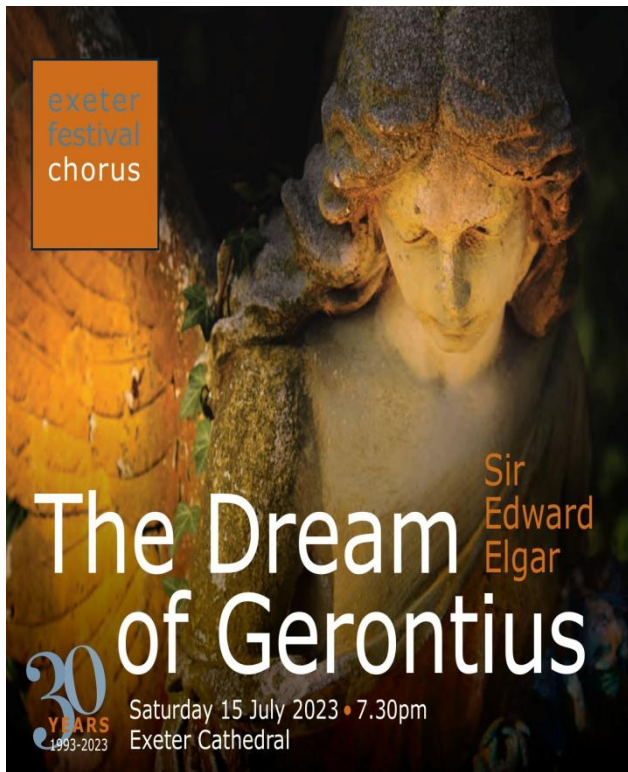


Exhibition in Le Jardin du Thabor – with our Rennes twins, Therese, Olivier, Marie-Emmanuelle and Christian.



The Orangerie at the beautiful garden of Thabor – a fine venue for the exhibition.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS



Exeter Festival Chorus – Joint Concert with the Choir from Bad Homburg and Hanau.

The Exeter Festival Chorus 30th anniversary concert takes place in the magnificent setting of Exeter Cathedral. Edward Elgar's *The Dream of Gerontius* is widely regarded as his choral masterpiece. This concert will be held on 15 July 2023 at 7.30pm. There is a special discount for ETC members. When using the TicketSource system from the

Exeter Festival Chorus website, you will see a box labelled "Use discount code". If you enter 'Twinning' here, the 10% will be applied.

ANNUAL SUMMER EVENT – BICTON PARK

This event is still to be confirmed but it is likely to be in Bicton Park, sometime in July/August. More details will follow soon.

DEVON TWINNING CIRCLE MEETING - JULY 2023

Exeter Twinning Circle is a member of Devon Twinning Circle. There are over 100 towns and villages in Devon currently twinned with communities overseas including France, Italy, Germany, Switzerland, Holland, Russia, Uganda, New Zealand, Japan and Hungary. The Twinning Circle members meet regularly to compare notes, offer ideas on the development of twinning activities and foster contacts in other countries.

These meetings are held quarterly and the next one will be held in Bideford. They are normally held on the third Saturday of the month so it is likely to be on Saturday, 22 July 2023. This is to be confirmed. The meetings are open to all members and everybody is welcome to attend.

VISIT TO BAD HOMBURG – 29 SEPTEMBER TO 4TH OCTOBER 2023

We have been invited to visit our German twin town of Bad Homburg between 29th September and 4th October 2023. More details will follow soon.

Marija Lees
Chairperson
Exeter Twinning Circle