

# CONNECTIONS

## BATH'S TWINNING NEWSLETTER

Autumn 2002

Issue No 1

### New Twinning Associations

The Charter Trustees of the City of Bath were determined that twinning would not cease when the Council decided to discontinue funding for twinning. They initiated the creation of the Twinning Associations. To provide an overview of all twinning activities there will be a twinning forum which will consist of the Chairman of the Charter Trustees's Standing Committee, the Clerk to the Charter Trustees and the Chairmen of the four Twinning Associations. The Mayor of Bath is President of each Twinning Association.

At their respective inaugural Annual General Meetings held in June, the four new Twinning Associations agreed their new constitutions and formally elected their new committees which are listed below.

This is the first year of the activities of the newly formed Twinning Associations, which have been created to promote and encourage twinning links between Bath and her four twin cities. This exciting task includes fostering local awareness of the benefits of twinning.

All the Associations are keen to widen their base of supporters in the area, and in particular to establish a list of residents in Bath and the surrounding area who were born or have lived in one of our twin towns or that country.

If you are able to respond to help by providing names and addresses please contact the relevant Secretary.

To encourage groups and clubs to continue with twinning, each Committee hopes to be able to offer modest financial grants to organisations who become members of the Association. In order to provide this support each committee, either separately or jointly, will be holding fund-raising events throughout the year.

Aix-en-Provence	Alkmaar	Braunschweig	Kaposvar
<p>The Officers are:            Chairman Cllr Marian McNeir            V. Chairman            Secretary Jolyon Laycock            Treasurer Brian Hamlen</p> <p>Other Committee Members are:            Andrew Clarke,            Margaret Feeny,            Roger Mason,            Pamela Medley,            Gervase O'Donovan,            Sylvia Taylor,            Nick Warren</p>	<p>The Officers are:            Chairman Bill Bloomfield            V. Chairman Dennis Toogood            Secretary Alan Gwynn            Treasurer Denis Lovelace</p> <p>Other Committee Members are:            Ian Bamsey            Sue Fry,            Keith Glassbrook,            Peter Gloyn,            Catherine Hobson,            Dennis Toogood,            Frank Wastell.</p>	<p>The Officers are:            Chairman <del>Ch. De Booykes</del>            V. Chairman Don Withers            Secretary Philippa Sondheimer            Treasurer Roger Southgate</p> <p>Other Committee Members are:            Margaret Burrows,            Cllr Marian McNeir,            Ann Pennycuik            Denise Urbahn,            Sandra Tavakoli            Brian Wright.</p>	<p>The Officers are:            Chairman Cllr Jeff Manning            V. Chairman Kean Maslen            Secretary Laura Oliver            Treasurer Christopher Gosland</p> <p>Other Committee Members are:              (Not yet Nominated)</p>
<p>For further information, please contact the Association Secretary:</p> <p>Jolyon Laycock,            1 Paradise Row,            Woollard,            Pensford,            BRISTOL            BS18 4HY            Tel 01761 490378. email:            jolyonlaycock@hotmail.com</p>	<p>For further information, please contact the Association Secretary,</p> <p>Alan Gwynn            Park House,            Pipehouse Lane,            Freshford,            BATH            BA2 7UH            Tel 01225 723270</p>	<p>For further information, please contact the Association Secretary,</p> <p>Philippa Sondheimer            4 Lyncombe Hill,            BATH            BA2 4PG              Tel 07889 750545 email:            philippa@haringtonglass.co.uk</p>	<p>For further information, please contact the Association Secretary,</p> <p>Laura Oliver,            4 Glebe House,            Widcombe Hill,            BATH            BA2 6AA              Tel 01225 312765</p>

## TWINNING OFFICERS IN OUR TWIN TOWNS

<p><b>Aix-en-Provence</b> Sabine Pelletier, Jumelages &amp; Relations Internationales, 2 Place du Général de Gaulle, 13100 Aix-en-Provence, France</p> <p>Tel - 0033 442 27 77 37 Fax - 0033 442 16 11 62 E-mail - jumelages.aix@wanadoo.fr</p> <p><b>President of the Aix Twinning Association</b> Jacqueline Einauldi</p>	<p><b>Alkmaar</b> Hannike Schrijen, Jumelage/mondiaal beleid, Breedstraat 50, Postbus 53, 1800 BC Alkmaar, Netherlands Tel - 0031 72 548 89 82 Fax - 0031 72 548 90 00 E-mail - hschrijen@alkmaar.nl</p> <p><b>President of the Alkmaar Twinning Association</b> Rob van Menen</p>
<p><b>Braunschweig</b> Halina Zahorianskyj, Stadt Braunschweig, Kulturinstitute, Steintorwall 3, 38100 Braunschweig, Germany Tel - 0049 531 470 4847 Fax - 0049 531 470 4844 E-mail - not used</p> <p><b>President of the Anglo-German Society</b> Treve Erdmenger</p>	<p><b>Kaposvar</b> Kinga Futo-Mogyorósiné, Kaposvár Megyei Jog_ Város Polgármestere, 7400 Kaposvár, Kossuth tér 1, Hungary</p> <p>Tel - 0036 82 501 508 Fax - 0036 82 501 500 E-mail - kaposvar@kaposvar.hu</p> <p><b>President of the Kaposvar Twinning Association</b></p>

## AIX-EN-PROVENCE

### My first visit to Aix by Claire Maine

I first arrived in Aix-en-Provence with some trepidation - I had no accommodation, no work and I didn't know a soul in the city, but by the time it came to leaving five months later, I was loath to depart from a city which I had grown to love. As a child I used to visit the south of France for family holidays in out of the way gites, tucked amongst the vineyards and lavender fields of Provence. So when I was given the opportunity to spend some time in France as part of my modern language degree I immediately thought of returning to old haunts after a number of years absence.

It is impossible to talk about Aix without mentioning the Cours Mirabeau -the central avenue of the city. It is the most continental of streets, taken over by the creeping cafes that line the street from top to bottom, with restaurant after restaurant offering food ranging from pizza to cordon bleu. Sheltering all of these cafes are the graceful trees that create the picturesque avenue and make the Cours Mirabeau such a grand setting in which to enjoy the atmosphere, watch those strolling past or just enjoy a drink.

However, there is more to Aix than a typical tourist town. It is a hive of cultural activity and can cater for many tastes. I sang with the Cathedral choir while I was there and was proud to be able to see the statuesque building come to life during services. There were concerts of every type and many festivals visited the city throughout the year. Over Christmas there was a most beautiful market selling goods and trinkets from the neighbouring regions, a must for any self-discerning Santa Claus. This took place on the Cours Mirabeau which became a vast, busy expanse of stalls and gifts for the occasion. And for the market lovers there are many regular markets, including the daily fruit and vegetable market in the town square, which offers fresh produce from nearby farms. As is typical in Aix, you are likely to stumble on it by chance when on your way elsewhere or wandering the narrow streets. Aix-en-Provence, as I rediscovered, is a most beautiful city to visit or live in and I still remember it as one of the most attractive towns in the south of France.

## **Aix on the cheap by Andrew Medley**

Aix-en-Provence has a reputation for being an expensive place, and certainly property prices are steep, but it needn't be an expensive place to visit. I went there for a week in June to escape our soggy summer and I enjoyed constant sunshine and temperatures of 35°C. The budget airlines offer many options for getting there. I flew with Easyjet from Luton to Nice (also from Bristol) for £55 return and took the train along the Côte d'Azur, but other possibilities are Ryanair who fly to Nimes and Buzz who fly to Hyères. Cheap accommodation can be found at Hôtel les Arts Sully, 69 blvd Carnot. The cost per night for a single room is around £23. I also stayed at the Auberge de Jeunesse at around £12 per night, although I wouldn't recommend it as it is a long way from the centre of town and the evening bus service is poor.

The old town is a delight – full of small squares with refreshing fountains, (some spouting water from the thermal springs that give Aix its name – to the Romans it was Aquae Sextiae), shady trees and, of course, plenty of street cafes where you can indulge in the main pastime in Aix which is to sit and watch the world go by as you take a coffee and croissant or a cool beer.

Finally, I must mention one other very good reason for going in late June. June 21st in France is La fête de la Musique and Aix offers two weeks of free performances in the streets and squares. I recommend it.

For those on the internet more information can be obtained from:

[www.aixenprovencetourism.com](http://www.aixenprovencetourism.com) or [www.aix-en-provence.com](http://www.aix-en-provence.com)

Alternatively, write to Office de Tourisme, 2 Place General de Gaulle, 13100 Aix-en-Provence.

## **The Aix Files: a school exchange visit by Alistair Vass**

Summer 2002 saw the fourth exchange visit taking place between King Edward's School in Bath and Sainte Catherine de Sienne in Aix-en-Provence. Each March an average of 40 English boys and girls have welcomed their French counterparts in Bath, and have then spent a week in Provence at the end of May. The visit to France aims at a mixture of cultural and sightseeing activities. This year was no exception and we were accompanied by the Chairman of the Bath-Aix Twinning Committee. One day was spent in school to obtain a flavour of learning in a Mediterranean classroom. Another day was spent visiting the seaside at Cassis, and going on a boat ride to the famous "Calanques", beautiful inlets with turquoise seawater and dazzling white limestone cliffs. This year also included a day at a 'Manade', a ranch where Camargue horses and cattle are raised. On the last day we were given a guided tour of Aix, before picnicking in one of Aix's numerous parks, and finishing off with ten pin bowling. One boy (on his second visit) commented, "I think Provence must be my favourite place in the whole world". A week was enough to enjoy the sunshine, the colours, the tastes and the lifestyle of a beautiful Mediterranean region, whilst also improving French language skills.

## **Making connections by Jolyon Laycock**

From 18 to 23 September I will be in Aix en Provence representing the Bath-Aix Twinning Association as part of the Mayor's official visit. If any Bath-based individuals or organisations want to make contact with like-minded people, or similar organisations in Aix, please use me as a conduit for exchanges of information. Twinning can be about the arts, culture, sport, IT, education, food, drink, gardening - in fact just about any kind of human activity you can think of, as long as it is legal and decent and happening in the City of Bath.

If you have an existing twinning relationship with Aix, you may wish me to convey information about your current activities, or simply greetings and good wishes. If you want to explore the possibilities of setting up a new twinning relationship, please let me have any specific proposals, or simply information about your activities so that I can try to make contact on your behalf. My contact details are on the front page. Nothing ventured, nothing gained! You never know where it might lead. **Deadline:** 17 September 2002.

## **Diary date -**

To mark 25 years of twinning with Aix-en-Provence, come to an evening of wine, French food and chansons at the Guildhall on Thursday 7th November at 7.30 p.m. - the cost will be £15 which includes wine tasting - All are welcome.

Tickets from Jolyon Laycock 01761 490378 or Andrew Clarke 01225 423616 or Marian McNeir 01225 865066

## ALKMAAR

### **Bath Arsenal Junior Football Team**

The first action of the new committee as a facilitator was to provide a grant for the Bath Arsenal Junior Football team to be able to travel to Alkmaar with a group of 16 young footballers and 9 adult helpers to participate in a tournament. This was a great success and continues a contact with young footballers that goes back over several years.

### **Rotary Club of Bath**

The Rotary Club of Bath will be hosting a visit by the Rotary Club of Alkmaar for the period 5th - 8th June 2003.

### **The Silver Ring Choir**

The Silver Ring Choir are hoping to visit Alkmaar and Braunschweig in August 2003. There will no doubt be other visits and contacts and these will be noted and reported in further editions of this Newsletter.

### **Civic Visit by Councillor Marian McNeir**

I was delighted to be invited to visit Alkmaar in April this year when I was Mayor of Bath. It was an excellent opportunity to support our oldest twinning link which goes back to 1945 and is indeed one of the longest twin town links in the whole of Europe.

We were received with typical warm Dutch hospitality by Mw Marie Van Rossen, the Mayor, a charming and dynamic lady, the Chief Executive Mr. Joost Cox and members of the Twinning Committee.

Our group gave talks on various aspects of local government in Bath and not surprisingly perhaps the Dutch presentation I remember most was about traffic problems in Alkmaar! We share many similar problems but thank goodness we don't have the added complication of canals. They seem very happy with the pedestrianisation of most of the main streets except, of course, for cyclists. My abiding memory of Alkmaar will be the cyclists, everywhere and of all ages, mums and dads with tiny babies in baskets and matronly grannies with extra wide saddles!

No visit to Alkmaar is, of course, complete without going to the Friday Cheese Market, where I had the honour of ringing the bell to start off the proceedings. It is a wonderful sight - the great round yellow cheeses, the men carrying the cheeses on their wooden sleighs, the Cheese Father in his boater hat - not to be missed.

And of course the tulips. Field after field of pink, purple, yellow and white - an unforgettable sight in the April sunshine.

I left Alkmaar thinking how lucky we are in Bath to have such a loyal, friendly and beautiful twin city in Holland. I hope many Bath residents will have the pleasure of visiting Alkmaar, perhaps with the help of the Twinning Committee.

### **Honorary Committee Member**

Elizabeth v Zwet Vleeshowverstraat has been co-opted as an Honorary Member of the committee

## BRAUNSCHWEIG

### **Abbey Choirs' Exchange**

Twenty-two girls of the Bath Abbey Girls' Choir (aged 13 - 17 ), accompanied by the Rector, Rev. Simon Oberst, and the Director of Music, Peter King, visited Braunschweig from 6th to 9th June 2002. They were accommodated in families of Braunschweig choir members. They sang in a concert on the Saturday evening and Peter King gave an organ recital. The choir sang also for the Braunschweig Sunday service led by the Domprediger, Joachim Hempel where the Rev Simon Oberst preached in German. The tour leaders were given a banquet by the Lord Mayor of Braunschweig, the Deputy Mayor and Church authorities, who were all very kind and hospitable. The visit was funded by the Abbey.

Later in June, a youth choir of 44 boys and girls from Braunschweig made a return visit, led by their two Directors of Music. They too stayed with local families. The choir sang in a lunchtime Bath-Braunschweig Twinning concert on 22nd June and joined the Abbey choir at the Sunday service on 23rd June. The Mayor gave a reception for the party and they also enjoyed a relaxed evening of 10-pin bowling.

“The visits were highly successful”, said the Rev Simon Oberst, “and have helped to cement the relationship between the two cathedrals and their cities.”

Joachim Hempel will be in Bath again later this year, at the invitation of the Mayor, to open the Christmas market and preach in the Abbey at 11 .00 a.m. on 1st December (Advent Sunday). The Bath-Braunschweig Twinning Association has reserved 20 seats for this service. To reserve a seat please contact the Association Secretary. The candlelit evensong at 6.30 p.m. was very popular last year - do arrive early!

## **Christmas Market**

Last year, for the first time, Bath had its very own German-style Christmas market in Bath. Having visited traditional German Christmas markets, and especially the one in Braunschweig which takes place every year from 15th - 24th December, Councillors Marian McNeir and Gitte Dawson decided that they would like to introduce a similar market to lighten the dark winter days with the white lights of the colourful wooden stalls and the warm smells of glühwein, roasted almonds and Bratwurst.

The market was a great success and will be extended this year to run from 28th November to 8th December. Most of the traders will be local people with a wide variety of stalls and there will also be another lively music programme with local choirs, the brass band from Braunschweig and possibly even a sea shanty group from Alkmaar. The Market will take place around the Abbey so do come along and bring your family and friends.

## **Mayor's Guides**

The Guides of Braunschweig and Bath have been in friendly contact since 1996 and have made three exchanges. The latest visit to Braunschweig took place in April. Eleven people went - all accommodated with families.

“It needed a 7 day visit to do justice to the full programme planned for us”, reports Bill Waterfield, of the Mayor's Guides. “It took in the whole day visits to Celle, Goslar, Berlin and Volkswagen at Wolfsburg. Naturally we also had a guided walking tour of the City of Braunschweig and there was a reception at the Schloss Richmond hosted by a Councillor representing the Oberbürgermeister”.

Looking to the future, the Mayor's Guides expect a return visit in about 2 years' time. “Naturally we want to match the wonderful generosity of our German hosts”, says Bill. “We will be looking to our individual hosts for accommodation and meals, but to provide a comparable programme of outings and functions we need support outside the Mayor's Guides”.

## **Thank you to the City of Bath from teachers of Braunschweig**

Bath, surrounded by beautiful scenery, is a charming city with its own unique character which preserves the Georgian tradition. We experienced many different aspects of the city, for example we had an interesting conversation with the Mayor of Bath, an informative lecture on new ways of attracting people to visit Bath and an insight into forward-looking projects such as the SPA project. We had the great opportunity to visit the city as tourists, students and teachers. Although we had a full programme, arranged by the City of Bath College, there was still time to experience traditional English pubs and modern night clubs. We very much enjoyed our stay in Bath and experienced everything from education to entertainment.

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# KAPOSVAR

## **Grand Hungarian Dinner Evening - 9th October**

As part of our drive to stimulate interest in the Hungarian way of life, the Committee is organising, in collaboration with the Hotel and Culinary Arts Section of the City of Bath College, a Grand Hungarian Dinner Evening, featuring the acclaimed Boros Gypsy Ensemble who are recognised as the best players of Gypsy music in the UK. These virtuoso musicians, Conservatoire-trained in Hungary, promise a musical experience to mesmerise and enchant you, with a wide selection of flamboyant and passionate pieces in the "Magyar Nota" Gypsy style. As for the dinner, this will indeed be a delight for the tastebuds; a four-course gourmet meal of pure Hungarian indulgence, preceded by an aperitif of Tokaji or Palinka and accompanied by some of the best Hungarian wines available. There will be a raffle, drawn before the end of the evening; the prizes will be Hungarian, several specially brought from Budapest for the occasion, so that some of our guests will leave with more than just a memory of the essence of Hungary!

This magical event will take place on Wednesday 9th October 2002 in the "Shrubbery" Restaurant at the City of Bath College, Alan Building, Avon Street, Bath, starting at 6.30 p.m. for 7.00 p.m. The cost for the evening, including an aperitif or glass of wine, will be £ 18 per person; wines and other drinks will also be available at very moderate prices. This will be our first project as an independent Association to foster our relationship with Kaposvar, and we hope for an enthusiastic response from local residents.

To reserve your places, or if you would like to donate Hungarian items for the raffle, please call Kean Maslen at Bath (01225) 328506 (day) or 331273 ( evening).

The Boros Gypsy Ensemble will also be playing at "The Bell Inn" in Walcot Street on Tuesday 8th October, from 9 p.m. to 11 p.m. In addition, they have kindly agreed to present "workshops" at local schools as part of the World Music curriculum during the period 8th -10th October. These will be fascinating occasions, tailored to arouse the interest of children of primary or secondary school age in Hungarian music and the instruments used by the group including the cimbalom; they have received wide praise from schools which have already taken part in other areas. Any schools interested in arranging one of these workshops should contact our Chairman, Jeff Manning, on 01225 840040 or by e-mail at jeff@manningbath.com. or christopher.gosland@btopenworld.com.

## **The City of Bath College - International Art Education Project**

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The City of Bath College has recently received confirmation of approval at European level for the third and final year of Comenius Educational Partnership project entitled: 'Visual Arts for the Millennium - Reflections and Visions'.

The college has two partners for the project:

High School for Fine Arts -Kaposvar, Hungar  
High School for Applied Arts -Bratislava, Slovakia

The project has involved exchange visits of teaching staff between each partner, and the completion of practical project work by students in each country based upon their interpretation of the title.

Two interim exhibitions of 'work in progress' have been held in Kaposvar and Bratislava. The final exhibition of work will be held in the Hotbath Gallery at the City of Bath College in February 2003. The exhibition will be open to the general public between 3rd February and 5th March 2003. Contact Ian Coates, Head of Creative Arts and Community Learning on 01225 312191.