

# CONNECTIONS CONNECTIONS

Spring 2003

BATH'S TWINNING NEWSLETTER

Issue No 3

## Bath International Twinning Forum 2003

The four newly formed Twinning Associations of Bath have been awarded a grant of 20,000 Euro (£13,800) to support an International Twinning Forum from 22 to 25 May.

Delegates from Bath's four twin towns in France, Holland, Germany and Hungary will visit the City for four days of presentations, discussion forums and workshops focusing on different artistic, cultural and educational aspects of European citizenship.

One of the high spots of the long weekend will be the re-dedication of the Alkmaar Garden in Orange Grove at 2.00 pm on Friday 23 May, conducted by the Rector of Bath Abbey in the presence of the Mayor of Bath, Councillor Loraine Morgan-Brinkhurst, and the Burgemeester of Alkmaar.

The Forum aims to create greater awareness of the possibilities of European cultural exchange by creating opportunities for interest groups to meet and discuss collaborative projects. The event coincides with the Bath International Festival and the Bath Fringe Festival when the city is at its culturally most active.

The Aix-en-Provence, Alkmaar, Braunschweig and Kaposvar Twinning Associations were set up last year when a group of volunteers was brought together by The Charter Trustees of Bath who were determined that twinning activities should continue.

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### AIX-EN-PROVENCE

#### Visit by 'Le Club'



*Châpeaux! Marian (standing second left) and the Aix ladies at the Mayor's Garden Party.*

A very lively group of ladies from Aix visited Bath from 7 – 14 May. They are all employees of the Mairie and have formed 'Le Club' to learn English. During an exciting programme of activities they were particularly interested in Bath Central Library, as many of them work in the Aix Library Service.

Their teacher and leader, Sylvie Granier said, "It's been fascinating for us to experience the culture and history of Bath and our thanks to Marian McNeir for organising our host families. Their hospitality was wonderful and we look forward to receiving them in Aix."

Marian McNeir would like to keep a register of people able to offer hospitality for future occasions. She is also hoping to organise an exchange visit next year. Anyone interested please contact her on 01225 865066.

## ALKMAAR



*The Mayor of Bath, Councillor Loraine Morgan-Brinkhurst welcomes members of Alkmaar Firenzo Club to the Guildhall.*

On Thursday 17 April 20 hosts from Bath Dolphin Swimming Club welcomed friends from Holland, continuing a tradition which began in 1946.

The weather was kind the next day when they all met for an excellent bus tour of Bath. Later the swimmers went to Monkton Combe pool for a training session. That evening everyone met at the Victoria pub in Oldfield Park for skittles. This turned out to be very enjoyable - especially for the Club Treasurer as she won the prize for knocking down the most pins.

Saturday morning there was a reception in the Guildhall. The Mayor of Bath

welcomed the visitors from Alkmaar and told them about her year of office. They also enjoyed an interesting tour of the Mayor's Parlour.

On Saturday evening there was an exciting gala between Bath Dolphin Swimming Club and Alkmaar Firenzo Club, at Bath Sports Centre. It was a close competition. Bath do not often win but they snatched victory this year. After the gala there were presentations and a buffet, provided by the parents and club members, in the Avon Suite.

On the sunny Sunday morning they were off to Wookey Hole for a visit to the caves and the next day it was back on the coach again for a trip to the East Somerset Railway at Cranmore. After a train trip and packed lunches they visited Kilmersdon for a trek up Jack and Jill hill. This was a new experience for many Dutch visitors. Most of the younger ones took on the challenge but the older members of the group found a local watering hole in the village instead – much to the landlord's surprise!

Monday evening there was a farewell disco at the Sulis Club enjoyed by all the hosts and swimmers. Everyone was up early on Tuesday morning to wave goodbye to the visitors after another successful visit with many new friendships forged.

Now the Bath swimmers are so keen to visit Alkmaar they are hoping to go next year instead of the usual two-year wait.

## BRAUNSCHWEIG

Fifty enthusiasts had a treat on 13 March at an evening of German food and fun at the Shrubbery Restaurant in the City of Bath College.

The evening began with a tasting of three German wines, organised by Alan Nordberg of Great Western Wine. Everyone became rather cheerful rather rapidly and Mr Nordberg occasionally had difficulty making himself heard above the roars of appreciation.

Next on the programme was the dinner – pea soup followed by dinner-plate-sized pork schnitzels and apple strudel, ably prepared and served by the chefs and staff of the College.

Exhausted by the effort of doing justice to the pork schnitzels, the diners sat back and enjoyed

the high point of the evening. For half-an-hour Jeremy Key-Pugh, a soloist with the Bath Abbey choir, accompanied by Nick Thorne on the keyboard, entertained with a selection of gentle Lieder, sung in German.

A raffle and auction rounded off the evening. Grateful thanks go to the local businesses which donated prizes. The Health and Beauty Centre in Queen Street, Bath, offered a full-body aromatherapy massage. Withy King was willing to draft a will or mirror wills for a couple, and lunch for two was on offer at the Royal Crescent Hotel.

*Lieder at the German Dinner.*

