

CONNECTIONS CONNECTIONS

Winter 2003/4

BATH'S TWINNING NEWSLETTER

Issue No 5

BRAUNSCHWEIG



The Deputy Mayor of Bath, Councillor Carol Paradise (left) and Vice Chairman of the Braunschweig Association, Angela Godfrey brave the elements at the Bath Christmas Market.

The third Bath Christmas Market was held from 27 November to 7 December 2003. The Braunschweig Twinning Association was very fortunate to team up with the City of Bath College on a stall promoting students' work. We are extremely grateful to Alistair McIntyre, Head of Community and Workforce Development and Denise Seward who made this 'twinning' possible. All committee members did their bit selling a wide range of goods despite the extreme weather conditions and raised £120. Handing out past copies of 'Connections' and application forms meant new members signed up to join the association.

Treve Erdmenger, President of the DEG very kindly sent many parcels of goodies for us to sell. These were very popular and included boxes of German straw Christmas tree decorations, wind chimes, sachets of Gluewein, and mixes with recipe cards for delicious spicy Christmas treats.

Bath Christmas Market tries to mirror the annual Braunschweig Weihnachtsmarkt which was held from 26 November to 28 December this year. The historical Burgplatz Square and the Braunschweig

Lion provide an unique backdrop to an event steeped in more than 300 years of tradition. Added to this is the intoxicating aroma of roasted almonds, candy floss and herb wine which entice guests and locals to buy from one of the 100 stalls at one of the most beautiful Christmas markets in the world.

Treve Erdmenger and her merry band were busy again on 7 December helping to organise an International Christmas afternoon when 15 nationalities decorated a Christmas tree. The Bath-Braunschweig Twinning Association sent some typical English Victorian-style Christmas tree decorations and didn't forget a fairy for the top. On the Deutsch-Englische Gesellschaft and the English-speaking Ladies Group stall they offered mince pies, Christmas pudding, which was very popular, and Christmas cake with a nice cup of tea. Even the electric fire was a genuine English import belonging to Katherine and Rolf Kueppers.

Arrangements are being made for the Braunschweig Conversation Group to visit Bath and London from 22 to 29 May for the Bath Music Festival and Fringe Festival.

Planning is also ongoing for the Association to visit Berlin and Braunschweig during the last two weeks in August. Anyone interested in joining this trip should contact Brian Wright by the end of February on 01225 315781.

Anyone interested in joining the Association please contact **Hilary Elms on 01225 837790 or e-mail Hilaryelms@aol.com.**

KAPOSVAR

The Annual General Meeting of the Bath-Kaposvar Twinning Association will take place in the Mayor's Parlour in the Guildhall on Monday 1 March 2004 at 6.30 pm. For further information contact the Chairman Jeff Manning on 01225 840040.

AIX-EN-PROVENCE

In September one of our members, Sheila Geach, represented the Soroptimist International Club of Bath at the Aix Club's 30 Anniversary celebrations. She met visitors from all over the South West Region.

The highlight was a dinner dance with 90 members and guests. Sheila met the Soroptimist President of the whole of France and was invited to light one of five friendship candles during a special ceremony. Sheila also enjoyed visits to the Maison Fouque where the santons are made. These figures form part of the Nativity scene in all the local churches and represent local fishermen, lavender farmers and leather workers. To round off the long weekend Sheila took part in a treasure hunt in the Luberon countryside. The Aix Sorotimists will be invited to a Friendship Weekend at Bath Spa University this summer.



Some of the Christmas Market stalls nestle between Bath Abbey and the Pump Room. Photo courtesy of Penny Coatsworth Productions.

At the end of October Marian McNeir organised a showing of 'Le Placard' at the BRSLLI. It is a masterpiece of the witty social comedy that the French do so well and, for those who did not make

the showing, she would definitely recommend hiring it on video or DVD.

In November members of our association enjoyed a very pleasant evening as guests of the Mayor of Bath, Councillor David Hawkins, in the Mayor's Parlour in the Guildhall.

The third Bath Christmas Market was a great success with more than 300,000 visitors, including several groups from France. Based on a German-style Weihnachtsmarkt, it was the vision of our Chairman, Councillor Marian McNeir, and her colleague Councillor Gitte Dawson who set it up with help from colleagues from Braunschweig.

The Bath Petanqué Group is planning a trip to France from 28 April to 4 May. A student from Aix is organising the cultural programme, including hosting by the Aix Petanqué Club. Anyone interested in

petanqué or visiting Aix should contact Chris Garrett at the City of Bath College on 328540.

For information about the Association contact the Secretary – Sylvia Taylor, 32 Naishes Avenue, Peasedown St John, BA2 8TW, telephone 01761 436727 (evenings) or 01761 432479 (day).

ALKMAAR

2004 is a very important year for Alkmaar as it celebrates 750 years as a city. There will be many events involving its twins – Bath (of course!), Troyes in France, Darmstadt in Germany and Tata in Hungary.

The Mayor of Bath, Councillor David Hawkins will be travelling with a group from the Twinning Association in April on an official Civic Visit.

Bath Dolphin Swimming Club is planning to compete in a swimming gala in Alkmaar during the Easter holidays and the President of the Rotary Club will visit in June.

To commemorate the anniversary Peter McClennan, a local sculptor, is producing a piece to be presented to the City of Alkmaar and placed in the courtyard of their Arts Centre.

We are very grateful to the Silver Ring Choir for helping our fundraising with a concert in the Banqueting Room at the Guildhall in Bath on Friday 13 February at 7 pm. As this is on the eve of Valentine's Day it is billed as an evening of "Love, Songs and Valentines". There will be a wine bar and the featured soloist is the well-known local singer Stephen Foulkes.

Tickets are £7.50 and can be obtained from Bath Building Society in Southgate Bath, The Mayor's Office in the Guildhall or from Alan Gwynn on Bath 723270. Do come along, make up a party and enjoy the wonderful setting of the Georgian Banqueting Room whilst helping to support the excellent work of the Association.

For further information or to join the Association contact the Secretary, Alan Gwynn, Park House, Pipehouse Lane, Freshford, Bath, BA2 7UH, telephone 01225 723270.