

CONNECTIONS CONNECTIONS

Summer 2004

BATH'S TWINNING NEWSLETTER

Issue No 6

KAPOSVÁR

Kean Maslen our Vice Chairman is setting up the next visit to Kaposvár's Catering School. The spring festival in March is an ideal time to make a trip, as there are many groups from around the world keen to visit. Anyone who would like to get involved (either through sponsorship or through past experiences in this wonderful town) would be most welcome. The City of Bath College is also working on a link between Bath, Kaposvár and Sofia in Bulgaria. The art school is visiting Sofia in May to establish a sound connection, which hopefully will be supported through European funding.

BRAUNSCHWEIG



Don Withers our Chairman attended a conference in London on 6th May 2004 hosted by the British German Association. In the evening, he attended a reception at the German Embassy, which rounded off a very interesting and fulfilling day.

The Deutsch-Englische Gesellschaft visited Bath during the Bath International Music Festival from May 22nd to 26th 2004 and enjoyed the Salsa Celtica evening. Their President, Treve Erdmenger, her husband and nine other members of this Anglo-German Association are pictured at their Civic Reception with the Mayor of Bath, Councillor Roger Symonds, and the Mayoress Nic Rattle, before a member of the Mayor's Corps of Honorary Guides escorted them on a tour of the City. They also visited the Roman Baths, Museum of Costume and American Museum before trips to Bradford on Avon, Stratford on Avon and Wells.

AIX-EN-PROVENCE

From 28th April to 4th May a squad of seven players, representing the Bath League de Pétanque was brave enough to travel to Provence to challenge the French at their own game on home ground. They were given a good send-off at a Beaujolais Restaurant lunch party where the squad and sponsors met to finalise the campaign plan.

Chris Garratt of the City of Bath College, who organises the summer league in Queen Square, led the party of Councillors - Peter Metcalfe, Nicole O'Flaherty and Roger Symonds, along with Nic Rattle and Don and Thelma Grimes. They were fortunate to have Alice Merli, a student of tourism in Aix-en-Provence, to arrange the itinerary on the French side and she accompanied the party for much of the tour doing a splendid job as hostess, translator and tour guide.

The group stayed for bed and breakfast at La Baune, a study centre on the outskirts in acres of woodlands. At first, they were no match for the French skill and tactics but, after a few days, they made good progress, won some games and even managed to bring the commemorative trophy back to Bath. The French are already planning to regain the trophy at a return match in Bath.

On the penultimate day there was an official gathering in the town hall where formal greetings and gifts were exchanged, followed by a lunch party for council officials and the Twinning Committee.

The tour was a great success as a new venture in twinning relations and thanks must go to the sponsors for their help and support: *Chatham Clothing Co of Chippenham, The Beaujolais Restaurant Bath, Bath Ales and Be Prepared.*



The victorious Bath League de Pétanque pose with their trophy

Please complete the enclosed form to join an Association or to renew your membership for the current year.

ALKMAAR

In the spring 17 members of our Twinning Association visited Alkmaar to take part in their City's 750th Anniversary celebrations. The Mayor of Bath, Councillor David Hawkins and his Civic Party travelled with us. Most of the members stayed with friends they had hosted during the conference in Bath last May. Everyone received a warm welcome and there was an excellent programme for us.

One highlight was the unveiling of Bath's gift to Alkmaar by the two Mayors before a tour of a new exhibition in the Arts Centre. The sculpture was created by Bath artists Peter McLennon and Pat Panton and presented by them and the Bath-Alkmaar Twinning Association, the Mayor of Bath and the Charter Trustees.

We received an official welcome in the Council Chamber then lunch with the Members of the Alkmaar Twinning Committee in the City Hall. This gave us time for preliminary discussions on how we should mark the 60th anniversary of the link next year. After an interesting tour of the Cheese Museum and Market there was a wonderful trip on the canal. One evening, after dinner at the Sailing Club, everyone sang along with 'The Lake Singers' – a sea shanty choir.

The following day a coach took us past spectacular bulb fields in the Bergen area and on to Saanse Schans (a fascinating open-air museum). Then there was a visit to Keukenhof in warm sunshine where we feasted our eyes on the display of seven million Tulips. That evening we said farewell to our excellent hosts who had entertained our party so well during the whole visit.



At the unveiling of Bath's gift to Alkmaar (l-r) the Artists Peter McLennon and Pat Panton, Chairman of the Bath-Alkmaar Twinning Association Bill Bloomfield, The Mayor of Bath 2003-2004, Councillor David Hawkins, The Mayor of Alkmaar Mrs Marie van Rossen, Vice Chairman Alkmaar-Bath Twinning Association, Albert van Roeden, Chairman of the Standing Committee of Charter Trustees, Councillor Marian McNeir.

Bath Dolphin Swimming Club compete against DAW/Firenzo



Members of both swimming clubs on the steps of the Alkmaar Town Hall

Fifteen adult members and 25 young swimmers left Bath at 6 am on Thursday 8 April and made it to Alkmaar, via the Channel Tunnel, by 8.30 that evening where all the hosts were waiting to greet us.

Friday morning we were up bright and early again for our official welcome at the town hall. After coffee, cakes and speeches we left for the famous cheese market and a boat trip around the canals. Luckily none of the swimmers hit their heads as we ducked under some very low bridges. The next day the swimmers were up for training at 8 am. After breakfast in DAW/Firenzo's club house next to their swimming pool there was a coach trip to Schoorl for dune training before fun and games that evening.

Easter Day we met at the pool for the gala between the two clubs competing for the Thomas Best Trophy. Unfortunately the Bath team were second best this time but it did not spoil their appetite for the excellent Chinese meal in the clubhouse afterwards. Before the disco, we presented a Bath Aqua Glass dolphin engraved 'Bath Dolphin SC Easter 2004' to Firenzo President Mr Hans Masee and received an engraved stone sculpture of two swimmers in return. Host families received a rugby shirt from us and they gave us towels all embroidered with the emblems of the two clubs.

On Monday we visited Amsterdam Zoo in the sunshine. At the party that evening, there were tears as we said goodbye to Bath Coach Mr Phil Brake who had to relinquish his role because of work commitments, after many years of outstanding work for the Club. After final farewells at 6.30 the next morning our Chairman Dennis Toogood and his wife just made it to the coach on time and we arrived back in Bath 12 hours later - spot on time.