

CONNECTIONS CONNECTIONS

Autumn 2004

BATH'S TWINNING NEWSLETTER

Issue No 7

ALKMAAR

The Mayor of Bath, Councillor Roger Symonds, and Mayoress, Nic Rattle, visited Alkmaar this summer to take part in the city's 750 Anniversary celebrations. On 11 June they joined the Mayors from Alkmaar's other twin cities at a service in the Great Saint Lawrence Church. They visited galleries right around the city showing examples of work from all the twin towns and attended the official opening of an exhibition of local art. Then it was off to 'Panorama Alkmaar' - a vast depiction of the history of the city featuring photographs of all the current inhabitants. During a tour of the City Hall they saw the Bath Rotary Club barrel organ. This sowed the seeds of the first Twinning in Europe as money was raised to relieve the suffering of the children of Alkmaar at the end of the Second World War. Late that night the Civic Party enjoyed a spectacular laser light show during an open-air pop concert. In the morning they savoured samples from all over Europe at the world famous cheese market before seeing the sights of Alkmaar on a trip round the canals. Another highlight of the visit was a fancy boat competition organized by the Fire Brigade and a boat ride through the wonderful water meadows in Driehuizen. On Sunday there was just time for a trip to the Sea Food Festival in the inner city and a walk along the seashore before flying back from Schiphol Airport. The Mayor of Bath said the hospitality shown to the Civic Party certainly reflected the special relationship between Bath and Alkmaar.

To join the Association contact the Secretary, Alan Gwynn, Park House, Pipehouse Lane, Freshford, Bath, BA2 7UH, telephone 01225 723270.

KAPOSVÁR

The Mayor of Kaposvár has accepted an invitation to make a Civic Visit to Bath next spring. A delegation of four will arrive on Thursday 31 March and stay until Sunday 3 April 2005. There will be a Civic Reception hosted by the Mayor of Bath and a full programme of events for the party to attend.

Thanks to the City of Bath College, there are really exciting opportunities for young people to gain a wider European perspective, experience different cultures and make new friends in Hungary and Bulgaria in 2005.

Kean Maslen the Vice Chairman of the Twinning Association will take a group of students to Kaposvár's Catering School during the Spring Festival in March.

A year ago, the City of Bath College contacted the High School for Applied Arts in Kaposvár. Bath students on the



(Above):- The Mayor of Bath, Councillor Roger Symonds and Mayoress, Nic Rattle, visit the barrel organ in the Alkmaar Town Hall with the President of Bath Rotary Club, Rodney Hodgman and Rotary Club Member and Secretary of the Twinning Association Alan Gwynn.

(Below):- The Mayor of Bath enjoys the fancy boat competition as the winner passes by.



Foundation Course in Art & Design raised enough money so that two staff from Kaposvár could attend a meeting in Bulgaria with Bath College and their established partners in Sofia. Plans took shape for a three-way exchange next year around the theme of 'Making Time'. In February two students will travel to Kaposvár for detailed planning of the project. The college is looking forward to welcoming a group from the High School, along with their partners from Bulgaria, to Bath during the Easter holidays and to their return visit to Hungary.

To join the Association contact the Chairman, Jeff Manning, Beech Cottage, 32 Combe Road, Bath, BA2 5HY, telephone 01225 840040 or attend the Annual General Meeting to be held in the Mayor's Parlour, Guildhall, Bath on Thursday 11 November 2004 at 6.30 pm.

AIX-EN-PROVENCE

The first ever Bath-Aix Twinning Association visit took place from 26 September to 1 October. Fourteen Twinning Association members left a rainy Bristol for the sunshine of Provence. Our welcome by 'le Club' was as warm as the weather and old friendships were renewed from their visit to Bath last year.



Members of the Bath-Aix Twinning Association and le Club enjoy a visit to sample some chateaux wines.

BRAUNSCHWEIG

This autumn sees many interesting events including Andrew Clarke's exhibition linking the War Poets and the bombing of Bath and Braunschweig, which will be on view at Bath Central Library between 25 and 30 October. Following a performance of Benjamin Britten's War Requiem in Braunschweig on 14 October there will be a repeat performance in the Colston Hall on 30 October by The Bath Choral Society, The City of Bath Bach Choir and Braunschweiger Domchor, with choristers of Bristol Cathedral.

In May Treve Erdmenger, President of a very active German English Group in Braunschweig led a group to Bath to coincide with the Music Festival. The return visit came in August when a party from the Bath-Braunschweig Twinning Association visited our twin town in Germany.

We had a conducted tour of the Cathedral by the Dom Pradiker who was pleased to be reacquainted with two ex-Mayors of Bath, Honorary Alderman Angela Godfrey and Councillor Loraine Brinkhurst. We travelled to the Harz Mountains after a brief stop in Wolfenbittel and the marvellous autostadt at Wolfsburg with its many pavilions dedicated to the motor car. We also visited the site of the old border between East and West Germany, now thankfully long gone. Our hosts chartered a tram to take us on a three-hour trip through virtually the whole of the tram network and provided us with refreshments along the way. We had an official reception by the Burgermeisterin followed by lunch. All this happened between Tuesday afternoon and Friday evening! Our visit was short but there was never a dull moment and it was so nice to see old friends again.

On 12 October the Mayor of Bath, Councillor Roger Symonds, welcomed a group of 12 young people from

We were hosted in grand style and enjoyed visits to a 'calisson' (chocolate factory) and a 'santon' where nativity characters are made. Hopefully both these family-run businesses will be coming to Bath next year.

There was a walking tour of the city and a minibus trip to its larger neighbour, Marseilles. Some made a circuit of Mont St Victoire, Cezanne's great inspiration, to discover the hidden places where he used to paint. This enriched the visit to Atelier Cezanne, for many years his workshop in the country which is now swallowed up on the edge of the city. Many Bath schools will be taking part in the anniversary of his death in 2006.

Mid-week we enjoyed a garden party at Marie-Françoise's lovely house. How novel to be outside eating good French food at 9 pm on an October evening! Another highlight was a ride into the countryside to sample chateaux wines and appreciate the delights of a Provencal village.

All too quickly we found ourselves on the plane home to an autumnal Bath but looking forward to hosting our new Aixois friends in Bath next year.

To join the Association contact the Secretary, Sylvia Taylor, 5 Tynning Cottages, Holcombe Hill, Holcombe, Radstock, BA3 5DJ, telephone 01761 233630.

Braunschweig to a Civic Reception in the Mayor's Parlour. This was the return leg of an exchange trip to Braunschweig from 28 June to 5 July when 12 teenagers from Twerton participated in a Street Basketball Project.

They enjoyed a tour of the city and an official reception with the Mayor of Braunschweig before fun, food and games with local youth groups. After sightseeing in Berlin there was dinner in the Hard Rock Café. At the weekend there was a visit to a mine and then it was off to the Harz Mountains for bobsleighbing and bowling. Sunday saw two teams from Bath come a very creditable 5th in the Braunschweiger Spielmeile – a street basketball and soccer tournament.

To join the Association contact the Secretary, Hilary Elms, Austonley, 208 Old Frome Road, Combe Down, Bath, BA2 5RH, telephone 01225 837790.



The Mayor of Bath, Councillor Roger Symonds and Don Withers the Chairman of the Bath-Braunschweig Twinning Association welcomed Sabena, Barbara and Barbara from Volf Hoch Schule in Braunschweig to Bath and the Mayor invited them to sign the visitors' book during their Civic Reception on 9 August.