

# CONNECTIONS CONNECTIONS

Spring 2005

BATH'S TWINNING NEWSLETTER

Issue No 8

## ALKMAAR

We have been invited to Alkmaar to celebrate the 60th Anniversary of their liberation on 4th and 5th May. Professor Gwyn Prins, the son of Eli Prins who instigated the original twinning, will be there along with the Ambassador to the Netherlands. Representing the Association at a wreath-laying ceremony at the City Memorial will be Bill Bloomfield, our Chairman, Councillor David Hawkins, the Immediate Past Mayor of Bath, and Alan Gwynn, our Secretary, who will be there with 40 Bath Rotarians and their wives.

In 1945 a group of 40 children, who had suffered the depredations of an occupied country, came to Bath to recuperate. To commemorate this we are inviting these 'Bath Babes', who are now in their seventies, to come back in October to meet some of the families who hosted them all those years ago. We are keen to contact anyone who took part.

Forty members of the Alkmaar Shanty Band and Choir will perform at the Friends Meeting House in York Street, Bath at 7.30 pm on Friday 6th May. There will be a retiring collection so all are welcome. The visit and concert is part of Bristol Avon Sailing Club's 50th Anniversary celebrations.

This Association gave a grant which helped Bath Squash Club celebrate their 30th Anniversary with their first visit to Alkmaar Scipio Squash Club for a tournament in March. The warm hospitality made up for the coldest weather for 50 years and a return visit is planned.

Another grant helped Bath Judokwai Club to host 30 young Judo players and 25 of their parents from Rander de Geus and JV Cees Hoebeke during the Easter holidays. The children stayed with the Bath Club families and their mums and dads booked into the

YMCA. They enjoyed a visit to the Roman Baths, a fish and chip lunch and a walking tour of the city.

Language was no barrier during a two-hour lesson when all the Bath and Dutch coaches taught together before a junior tournament. After all the hard work, there was a disco at St John's School with mountains of food prepared by the wives of the Bath coaches.

The Mayor and Mayoress of Bath attended the senior competition and you could hear a pin drop during two Kata (formal exhibitions of the sport) by four English and Dutch coaches. After a superb afternoon of Judo the honours were even.

The Bath Committee had laid on a meal for parents at a local restaurant and they were still there at midnight so there were some bleary eyes as they boarded the coach at 6.30 the next morning. This was the first time Bath Judokwai had hosted their twin club and they felt the visit well and truly marked the 60th Anniversary of the twinning agreement between Bath and Alkmaar.

The Bath-Alkmaar Twinning Association's Annual General Meeting will be held at 6 pm on Monday 13 June 2005 in the Mayor's Parlour in the Guildhall, Bath.

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



*Dutch and English medallists in the under 11 Judo competition.*

**SUBSCRIPTIONS ARE DUE - PLEASE SEND A CHEQUE FOR £5 TO YOUR ASSOCIATION**

# KAPOSVÁR



*Bath students Emma (third from the right) and Tom outside the Kaposvár Town Hall in February planning the exchange with their Hungarian counterparts - Kinga, Eszter and Mercedes.*

The Mayor and Mayoress of Kaposvár, Chief Architect and Co-ordinator of International Relations visited Bath from 31 March to 3 April. The Mayor welcomed the delegation at a Civic Reception in the Guildhall. Five Honorary Aldermen of the City reminisced about visiting Bath's Twin City in Hungary when they were Mayor. The Chairman of the Mayor's Corps of Honorary Guides took the guests on a walking tour around the City. They spent some time admiring Bath Abbey and the Roman Baths before a Civic Dinner with the Mayor and Mayoress of Bath, Chairmen of the four Twinning Associations, and some Charter Trustees of the City.

During a pub meal in The George at Bathampton with members of



*The Mayor of Bath, Councillor Roger Symonds, welcomes the Mayor of Kaposvár, Károly Szita with (l-r) The Mayoress of Kaposvár, Károlyné Szita, The Mayoress of Bath, Ms Nic Rattle and the Chief Architect Éva Fábíán. Photo courtesy of The Bath Chronicle.*

## AIX-EN-PROVENCE

the Twinning Association there was a chance to review some exciting opportunities. Bath Festival Officers are off to the Kaposvár Spring Festival and a delegation will attend the Festival of Painters along with a troupe of Morris Dancers.

There are plans to develop student exchanges and link higher education institutions and the delegation from Kaposvár visited an innovative project based at the City of Bath College. Students from the Foundation Course in Art & Design were hosting the first part of a three-way exchange with the High School for Applied Arts in Kaposvár and the National High School for Fine Arts in Sofia, Bulgaria.

The students worked together and enjoyed a trip to London taking in the Globe Theatre, Tate Modern and National Gallery. Youth hostelling in Swanage and walking the Jurassic Coastal footpath followed thanks to grants from the Twinning Association and 'Connect Youth'.

Over the second leg of the exchange in Kaposvár, there will be a combined exhibition of the students' work on the theme 'Making Time' in Bulgaria at the end of May.

The Bath-Kaposvár Twinning Association's AGM will be held at 7.30 pm on Tuesday 3 May 2005 in the Mayor's Parlour in the Guildhall, Bath.

**To join the Association contact the Secretary, Zsuzsa Jenkins, 5 Avenue Place, Bath, BA2 5EE, telephone 01225 830767.**

Our next social event is a Soirée Française at the White Hart in Widcombe on 9 July. Tickets, including light refreshments and music, are £10 each - telephone Don and Thelma Grimes on 01225 429146.

We are having a lively programme of exchange events including the Bath Boules Club making their second visit to Aix, in April, for three games with local clubs and a reception with the Mayor.

We are happy to welcome back 10 members of Le Club, who will stay with local families from 26 May to 2 June. An interesting programme of activities includes a visit to Wells Cathedral for a Bath Music Festival Concert and, of course, the closing night of the Music Festival.

The showing of "Les Choristes" at BRS LI proved popular and another French film will be shown in the autumn.

Since our visit to Aix last autumn we have had record numbers attending our committee meetings. This has breathed new life into the Association. We hope there will be the usual good turnout for the Annual General Meeting on Wednesday 15th June at 6.00 pm in the Mayor's Parlour in the Guildhall, Bath.



*Members enjoy a lecture on Cezanne at his Atelier during their visit in the autumn.*

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

## BRAUNSCHWEIG

There will be a German dinner with wine and entertainment at 7.30 pm on 15 June at The Shrubbery restaurant in the City of Bath College. Tickets from Angela Godfrey, telephone 01225 338588.

Our Chairman, Don Withers, attended a very informative Twinning Workshop at the German Embassy in March. During a session on publicity, Don impressed the other delegates by handing out copies of 'Connections'.

Members of our Association enjoyed their annual Civic Reception on 1st February. In March, the Mayor of Bath also welcomed a group of students from Braunschweig and Sabrina Braukmeier to receptions in the Mayor's Parlour. Don has been helping Sabrina, a student researching twinning, by providing information on the Bath-Braunschweig exchange. She has now returned to Germany and completed her project with the help of Treve Erdmenger, the President of the Anglo-German Association.

The Dean of Braunschweig Cathedral, Domprediger Joachim Hempel, and his wife Gisela, made a special trip to Bath to be present at the Institution Service of the Reverend Edward Mason as Rector of Bath Abbey on 3 October 2004.

On 14 October the Rector led a delegation from Bath to Braunschweig to commemorate the 60th Anniversary of the worst air raids the city suffered during the Second World War. Members of the Cathedral Council welcomed them and the Rector presented an inscribed Bath Glass carafe. At the Rathaus (Town Hall) he presented greetings from the Mayor of Bath and responded in German to the official welcome from the Oberbürgermeister. Following the secular commemoration ceremony there was a German-English service in the cathedral. Pat Panton explained the meaning of the peace column, which she and her husband had made especially for this occasion. The Reverend Roger Nunn spoke on behalf of Churches Together in Bath and the Reverend Tom Gunning of St John's RC Church, Major Gary Chatburn of the Bath Citadel of the Salvation Army and Miss Susan Matthews of the Orthodox congregation in Bath were also present.

That evening a performance of Benjamin Britten's War Requiem was given in Braunschweig

Cathedral by a combined choir of the Braunschweiger Domchor, the Bath Choral Society and the City of Bath Bach Choir, with international soloists, the municipal orchestra of Braunschweig and the children of the Domsingschule. During the intermission there was an act of remembrance and reconciliation in which the British Ambassador to the Federal Republic of Germany, Sir Peter Torry, spoke and the Rector of Bath Abbey and the Domprediger said prayers. Afterwards the Cathedral Council hosted a farewell supper. The Rector, Paul Perry (Churchwarden) and Ros Key-Pugh, who had sung in the performance, represented the Abbey and the delegation from Churches Together in Bath also attended.

The official delegation left the next morning but the choirs sang again that evening. More than 1500 packed the Cathedral for the two performances.

Fifty members of the Domchor travelled to Bath to sing at the Colston Hall, Bristol on 30 October. They were hosted by members of the two Bath choirs. Not only were all three performances profoundly moving as well as inspiring but the friendships formed between the singers from the two cities will remain as a lasting token of reconciliation.

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



*The Mayor, Councillor Roger Symonds, Mayoress, Ms Nic Rattle, and Chairman of the Twinning Association, Don Withers welcome Sabrina Braukmeier to Bath.*