

CONNECTIONS CONNECTIONS

Autumn 2005

BATH'S TWINNING NEWSLETTER

Issue No 9

AIX-EN-PROVENCE



Le Club's Sylvie Grenier presents the Mayor of Bath, Councillor Peter Metcalfe, with gifts from Aix-en-Provence

The highlight of this year's activities has been the visit of 'Le Club' from 26 May – 2 June. We were able to find host families for the entire group and old friendships were renewed and new ones made. The English hosts were treated to some expert 'boules' tuition in Queen Square, followed by an excellent meal at the Beaujolais Restaurant. The programme was busy and varied, ranging from a glass blowing demonstration by Bath Aqua glass to a VIP visit to the Bath & West Show. Even torrential rain did little to dampen the Gallic enthusiasm. As always, the group was delighted by the warm welcome given by the Mayor, Councillor Peter Metcalfe and there was an equally good send off with an unforgettable party at Marian's home. Everyone joined in singing a fine medley of French and English songs. Le Club was very appreciative of all the hard work by the

Chairman Marian McNeir and other Committee Members. We are already planning a return visit in April to coincide with the Cézanne Centenary. The Boules team from Bath will also be in Aix that month, following a very successful and enjoyable visit here in April.

The French Soirée at the White Hart in July was very well attended and attracted many potential new members. Many thanks to Don and Thelma Grimes for organizing this.

The AGM will be on 12 September at 6 pm. We are a very lively group and new members are always most welcome.

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

BRAUNSCHWEIG

Our AGM was held on 5 July. All Committee members were re-elected with the exception of Julia Moss, who had resigned and her place has been filled by Bill Waterfield.

We enjoyed the visit of Sabine Hochbruck and her party from 21 to 23 March and an abridged account of their trip is printed below.

“It all started in an English course for beginners at the Braunschweig Volkshochschule taught by Sabine Hochbruck, using a textbook called appropriately ‘Network’ with a chapter on twinning between Britain and Germany. Several of the course members eagerly welcomed the idea of a visit to Braunschweig’s Twin City of Bath. Three ‘scouts’ visited in August 2004 and vowed to return with more members of the course (plus assorted family and friends).

So it was that 11 Braunschweigers (six jolly ladies, three teenagers, one child and one reluctant husband) took to the road and were equally overwhelmed by the beauties of Bath and the friendliness and cordiality of its people. The Roman Baths proved particularly fascinating, Braunschweig having been beyond the range of

the Roman Empire in Germany, there is nothing comparable to the Roman Baths in Lower Saxony. With their impressive state of preservation and importance as both a spiritual centre and a health resort, they have no equal anywhere in Germany. Likewise, the Museum of Costume is unique and the Jane Austen exhibition particularly impressive.

Though ours was not an official delegation, we were received by the Mayor of Bath, Councillor Roger Symonds, and all signed the visitors’ book, including first-grader Josephine Hochbruck, who was very impressed with her first role as a ‘diplomat’.”

We are looking forward to the visit of 28 members of the Braunschweig German English Group, led by their President, Treve Erdmenger from 19 – 23 September and hope to arrange some activities once we have received their programme.

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



Sabine Hochbruck (first left) and her party viewing the Twinning Agreements in the Guildhall, Bath.

KAPOSVÁR

In May, we attended the opening of two exhibitions during the 'Town of Painters' Festival in Kaposvar, which helped to link artists of the Twin Cities. Two Twinning Association members were accompanied by Jean Whitley-Smyth of the Bath Artist Printmakers. We started planning a joint exhibition to be held in the Victoria Art Gallery in 2007. In the meantime, an exhibition of work by students from the City of Bath College is planned at next year's 'Town of Painters' Festival. During the visit, we met members of the Kaposvar Twinning Committee, who are keen to arrange family exchanges with us.

Our Committee has been strengthened by new members, including Zsuzsa and Gabor Horvath, two young Hungarians resident in Bath. We have also welcomed Val Inwood who spent five years as a 'Lektor' in Kaposvár grammar schools. Val continues to split her life between Bath and Kaposvár and spends several months each year offering healing and meditation in our Twin City.

In April, our Vice Chairman Kean Maslen, and his fellow Chef Lecturer at the City of Bath College, John Fraser, took 12 Culinary Arts students to the Kaposvár Catering School. The party attended archery and equestrian events, and visited a vineyard with plenty of goulash and strudel (there was a little wine tasting too!). Another highlight was a



Bath Students at the site of a famous battle near Kaposvár

contemporary English dinner created by John and cooked by the students. School Principal, Imre Toth, was guest of honour and there were 50 guests. The whole visit was hailed as a great success by British visitors and Hungarian hosts.

The Kaposvár Committee is pleased with the involvement of students and other young people in twinning events. The latest initiative is between Bath Spa University and the Kaposvár Teacher Training College. A group of students and lecturers in both places will undertake a joint comparative study into how our two countries manage and deliver early years education. Exchange visits will take place and a joint conference is also planned.

Please support our Hungarian Evening on Sunday 9 October at the Green Park Brasserie, when a group of students and lecturers from the Kaposvár Catering School will be visiting Bath. There will be Hungarian and English finger foods, Hungarian music and a raffle. Tickets are priced at £12.50 and are available from Zsuzsa Jenkins on 01225 830767.

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



Bath student Daniel Loxton and Chef Lecturer, John Fraser, testing the famous Hungarian bows and arrows during a visit by the Culinary Arts Section of the City of Bath College

ALKMAAR

Twenty-six of the 50 malnourished children who came to Bath to recuperate in 1945 will be back from 10 to 13 October this year for an emotional reunion with the families who hosted them. The Association is arranging a full programme to make their visit really memorable.

We were honoured to be invited to attend the 60 Anniversary celebrations of the Liberation of the Netherlands, which coincided with the 60 Anniversary of the links between Bath and Alkmaar.

On 4 May, after a Civic Reception in the Great St Laurence Church, Bill Bloomfield, Chairman, Alan Gwynn, Secretary, and one of our members, David Hawkins, joined a procession with 40 members of the Rotary Club of Bath and many Alkmaar citizens. We made our way to a clearing on the outskirts of the city to a memorial to five Dutch resistance fighters who were shot in 1945. After a two minute silence Bill laid a wreath on behalf of the Twinning Association.

The Mayor of Alkmaar, Mrs Marie van Rossen, welcomed us to the City Hall along with the President and members of the Rotary Club and their wives. Professor Gwyn Prins, the son of the founder of the Bath-Alkmaar link – Eli Prins, was there with his wife and representatives of the British Embassy and British Council. We feel the link is very strong and valued on both sides. After this reception, the Mayor invited the visiting officers to ring the bell to announce the start of their world-famous Cheese Market.

On 7 and 8 May, the Bristol Avon Sailing Club



celebrated its 50 Anniversary and invited old friends ARZV – The Alkmaar Rowing and Sailing Club – to share the festivities. The Dutch visitors were hosted by members of the local club and they all enjoyed two days of racing and a full evening of entertainment, which kicked off with the Lake Singers, a Dutch shanty choir and band. Good weather enabled everyone to enjoy meeting old friends and to participate in the hog roast and cream tea. Our Association arranged a visit to the Mayor's Parlour, lunch at the Bath Cricket Club and the Lake Singers gave a rousing public concert in the Friends Meeting House, on Friday evening, attended by the Mayor and Mayoress of Bath. The link between the Bristol Avon Sailing Club and ARZV began in 1940 and is still going strong. It was a great opportunity to renew friendships between the Twin Cities for all ages. The next gathering will be in the spring.



At the 60 Anniversary Celebrations of the Liberation of the Netherlands (l-r) Peter Van Lingen, President Alkmaar Rotary Club, Brian Bishop, President Bath Rotary Club, Marie Van Rossen, Mayor of Alkmaar, our Chairman, Bill Bloomfield, Professor Gwyn Prins, Second Secretary the British Embassy, and a representative of the British Council.

At our Annual General Meeting on 13 June, our Treasurer of four years, Sue Fry, retired. Bill Bloomfield thanked her for her excellent managing of the accounts and presented her with a bouquet of flowers. The new Treasurer is Chris Hyde.

Figures in the Annual Report by the Alkmaar City Twinning Office show 525 people from Bath visited Alkmaar in 2004, so this shows our Twinning is thriving.

The next Committee Meeting will be at 6.30 pm on Monday 12 September in the Guildhall.

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