

CONNECTIONS CONNECTIONS

Winter 2006

BATH'S TWINNING NEWSLETTER

Issue No 10

ALKMAAR

It is very rare that twinning events take over the headlines on the front page of "The Bath Chronicle", but on 13 October the Bath-Alkmaar Twinning Association did just that with the headline "VEEL BEDANKT", - Thank you Bath. This reported the very successful visit of 25 men and women from Alkmaar to Bath from 10 – 13 October. It was a return visit 60 years on from October 1945. As young people, 12 of these had come with another 38 to escape for a few weeks from the privations of occupation of the Netherlands in the Second World War.

The Bath-Alkmaar Twinning Association was able to arrange this visit with the help of the Rotary Club of Bath who were instrumental in helping to set up the original



*Albert van de Kamer and Tina Damste with the Mayor of Bath, Cllr Peter Metcalfe at the Civic Reception.
Photograph courtesy of "The Bath Chronicle"*

twinning in 1945. Some of the families of the original 1945 hosts were also at the reunion. A full programme of events was arranged for their two full days in Bath, including a Civic Reception in the Mayor's Parlour, a visit to the Roman Baths, an open top bus trip, lunch with the Rotary Club and a dinner at the Pavilion in Royal Victoria Park.

This dinner was the main event of the visit. It was attended by the Mayor, Councillor Peter Metcalfe, and the sons of the two founders of the Twinning, Professor Gwyn Prins, son of Eli Prins and Peter Wills, son of Jimmy Wills, of the Rotary Club of Bath. Also at the dinner were members and the committee of the Bath-Alkmaar Twinning Association, The Clerk to the Charter Trustees, hosts and representatives of other allied groups and organisations.

The Association was very pleased to work with the Twinning Officer in Alkmaar to organise this event to celebrate the 60th Anniversary of this memorable milestone in the history of Bath Twinning.

We were pleased to help so many of the 525 people from Bath who visited Alkmaar last year making Bath their top twin. If you have plans for this year, please contact the Secretary.

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



*The Dutch visitors, from left, Tina Damste, Ans Duyn, Lina-Kiewit, Jaap Kaptein, Ralph Heilygersm, Bert Boek, Anton Kooy, Pim Pusch, Philip Jonkek, Leny Vennik and Nel Joostens.
Photograph courtesy of "The Bath Chronicle"*

BRAUNSCHWEIG

A party of 26 people from Braunschweig arrived in Bath on 19 September. Five representatives from our Association met them at their hotel that evening. The next morning there was an official welcome in the Mayor's Parlour with ex-Mayor of Bath, Councillor David Hawkins, attended by our Chairman Don Withers and Margaret Burrows from the Bath-Braunschweig Twinning Association. After this there were visits to the Roman Baths and the Museum of Costume. They also went to Stratford upon Avon, calling at Chipping Camden and later Don had the pleasure of accompanying 20 of the visitors to the Old Farmhouse for an evening of Jazz.

Most spent a day at Salisbury and Stonehenge, but Don took three rail enthusiasts to Swindon Steam Museum by train and then to Bitton for a conducted tour of the site. In the evening there were skittles and refreshments at the Dolphin Inn with valiant work on the chalks provided by Ros Key-Pugh. Thanks to Committee members Angela Godfrey and Loraine Morgan-Brinkhurst for organising this.



The group enjoying their Civic Reception in the Mayor's Parlour.

The Mayor, Councillor Peter Metcalfe, is paying an unofficial visit to Braunschweig in February with Don Withers.

Lorraine Morgan-Brinkhurst organised an enjoyable visit to Braunschweig Christmas Market, from 20 – 26 November with our Vice Chairman, Angela Godfrey and two friends. Although this was a private trip, they were met by the Deputy Mayor and members of the Anglo/German Society, who made them very welcome. The group were introduced to the Mayor of Braunschweig, who opened their Market, and taken out for a lovely dinner! It

was obvious that the hosts were pleased that members of Bath Twinning Association had made an effort to visit them. The photograph at the Christmas Market made the front page of the local paper. Fame at last! It was a nice visit, enjoyed by all.



Don and Lynn Withers take on Treve and Manfred Erdmenger at skittles.

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



The Deputy Mayor and Deputy Chief Executive of Braunschweig (left) and Treve Erdmenger, President of the Deutsch-Englische Gesellschaft (right) welcome Loraine and Angela and their guests to the Christmas Market.

KAPOSVÁR

In early October more than 60 people attended our Hungarian evening in Green Park Brasserie. The guest of honour was The Right Worshipful The Mayor, Councillor Peter Metcalfe. We also particularly welcomed the Principal of the Kaposvár Catering Vocational School with some of his staff and students. Much of the typical Hungarian food was prepared at the City of Bath College by these students.

The Hungarian theme was enhanced with a short film, exhibits around the room and typical classical and folk music played by Zsuzsa Horvath and Gabor Kuti.

This was the final event for the staff and students from Kaposvár, who had spent some days with colleagues at the City of Bath College. One of our committee's top priorities is to encourage and support links between the young people from our two cities who, despite the language barrier, have much in common.

This promises to be a busy year, with one of the highlights being a Civic Visit to Kaposvár by the Mayor of Bath. We have invited a group of primary teachers to pay an exchange visit to Bath and an exhibition of art from Kaposvár is also planned.

Distance makes our link more difficult than those with friends in France, Holland and Germany, but following the accession of Hungary to the European Community the relationship is going from strength to strength. We want to ensure that Bath remains at the centre of this growing partnership so we are making contact with other Hungarian groups around the UK, including Bristol and Oxford.

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

AIX-EN-PROVENCE

This year a small group of us decided to take up the invitation from Aix to participate in their Twinning Christmas Market from 29 November – 4 December. Aix has 13 twin towns and they all love local produce. The market was very well publicised and attracted both French and English visitors. Our Chairman Marian McNeir, Don and Thelma Grimes and Annette Martin from Bath Aqua Glass, took a selection of products to fly the flag for Bath and our local traders. Annette's glass products were much admired as were Mary's Walcot Woollies for children, WI jam, Widcombe Deli Christmas cake and, of course, Bath Ales. Our three new banners looked great and we also handed out more than 500 leaflets on the Bath Christmas Market and Bath Tourism Plus's "Bath and Beyond". Hopefully our posters of the Roman Baths and other famous sites will encourage many French people to visit Bath.

Marian also had extensive talks with the Twinning Association and the Mayor about the invitation for the Aix official civic Twinning visit to Bath in March, which they have happily accepted. She was also able to thank Sylvie officially for all she has done for Bath-Aix Twinning links and wish her and Jean every happiness in their new life in Le Croisic. Fortunately Marie-Claude Salavert will take over from Sylvie and organise the exchange visit next June, to coincide with the Cézanne exhibition.

Marian also had talks about exchanges between youth groups and a choir, which was so much easier to do face to face.

Future Events

- The next Aix meeting will be at 6 pm in the Mayor's Parlour on Tuesday 24 January. It has been really good to see so many members attend our meetings – again refreshments will be provided and all are welcome.
- Following on from the success of our summer soirée, we are holding another French Soirée Dinner on 2 February at The White Hart in Widcombe. Tickets are £20 from Don Grimes, Telephone: 07973342349.
- The next French film is "Embrassez qui vous voudrez" ("Summer Things") on 24 February. A recent romantic comedy with English subtitles in a typical French setting with Charlotte Rampling and Jacques du Tronc. Tickets £5 from Andrew Clarke Telephone 01225 423616. Wine available.

To join the Association contact the Secretary, Sylvia Taylor, The Barn, Old Factory House, Ditchat, Shepton Mallet, BA4 6RB, telephone 01749 860076.



Derek Webster takes a break from running the stall to sample Bath Ales at the Aix Twinning Christmas Market