



OVERVIEW FROM THE CHAIR



Note the Association's brand new name! Members voted, at the May 2018 Annual General Meeting, to expand the Association's remit to embrace any future Guildford twinning as well as that with Freiburg. So we are now the Guildford Twinning Association, or GTA for short. Exciting! And if Guildford Borough Council's negotiations with Versailles, France, do result in a twinning, we will be ready to leap into action.

But that is for next year. What of the year just past? My first year as Chair of the Association has been an exciting and busy time for me. It's also been busy for the Association. Our aim has been to refresh and update, with a focus on the future - i.e. the young - but without losing sight of the interests of all age groups. We want to attract more members and participants and involve more people in the aims of twinning: international friendship and co-operation.

Twinning activities and events this past year have included (for more details, see the reports in the following pages of this newsletter):

- Our participation in Freiburg's biennial Partner Cities Fair in June, combined with a visit by members, of whom I was one this time. With 12 partner cities now, the fair was a really international occasion. As ever, Freiburg City Council was very hospitable and supportive and the whole event was delightful, in spite of the blistering heat.
- At the invitation of Holy Trinity Pewley Down junior school, in July I talked about twinning and Freiburg to 96 Year 3 children (aged 7-8). A wonderful audience, attentive and asking searching questions: they were particularly impressed by the toy duck races in the Bächle of Freiburg.

- A new group from the Goethe Gymnasium visited George Abbot School. We, particularly Committee member Steve Callaghan, are working hard to encourage many more school exchanges by developing a special twinning programme to support them - we hope this will bear fruit next year.
- A boys' football team from Freiburg visited Guildford and played against Guildford City Boys & Girls FC: maybe annual exchanges might revive.
- Our annual public lecture having developed recently into two annual public lectures, this year we pulled the stops out: fascinating and informative lectures by distinguished academics on two aspects of German life - last Autumn, Dr Emanuele Massetti on the political and constitutional system, then in Spring this year, Professor Erik Levi on German music.

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ENTER OUR ESSAY COMPETITION!

2 prizes of £100 each and a beautiful book donated by Freiburg's City Council!

Open to all 16-19 year olds at school/college in the Borough of Guildford

Topic: "Green" lessons from and for Guildford and Freiburg"

Full details and entry form on our website at:

guildfordtwinning.uk/essay-competition/

- We, particularly Committee member Ros Calow, have worked to encourage more arts links. Ros arranged a link between Freiburg artist Tamuna Gejadze and local artist Angela Watson, selling cards made by each at the Christmas market, and then overcame practical difficulties to set up a return visit to Guildford of Freiburg artist Telemach Wiesinger, this time presenting his short films
- The Freiburg side of the churches link visited the Guildford side, to their obvious mutual pleasure. I was honoured to be invited to attend a service and supper with them.
- Our annual members' social events, the Summer lunch party and the Winter dinner party, were both very successful.
- Our annual mini German Christmas market went very well: it was busy and buzzy, raising both our profile and a good sum for our activities.
- Last but not least, we have launched an Essay Competition for Guildford sixth-formers. This year's subject, "'Green' lessons from and for Guildford and Freiburg" (full details on our website) is a meaty and important one and we hope will stimulate some interesting entries - and also of course that it will stimulate young people's interest in twinning and our twin town.

Finally I must thank all the people who have contributed to this work and its success: of course the Association's Committee members, plus their supportive spouses, but special thanks to Diana Roberts, Guildford Borough Council's Marketing and Development Manager, who on top of her regular work has been unflinchingly helpful to us in our modernisation and upgrading of the public face we present to the world.

Barbara Ford

A NEW (LORD) MAYOR FOR FREIBURG



Following the May 2018 mayoral elections, Freiburg has a new mayor, 33-year-old Martin Horn. He takes over from the Green Party's Dieter Salomon, who held the post for 16 years. Dr Salomon was a great friend and supporter of the Guildford-Freiburg twinning partnership, and visited Guildford several times. We wish him well in his future career.

Martin Horn is a political and social scientist, who has been working as the "Europe and Development Co-ordinator" in the Rathaus at Sindelfingen a town of 60,000 near Stuttgart. Previously not an elected politician, he stood in Freiburg as an Independent, though supported by the SPD and by some sort of all-party alliance. His campaign only lasted for four months and a main plank was the building of more affordable housing. Horn is the son of a priest and has been a lecturer at a church school. He has been active in Greenpeace and in welfare and social work in two church communities. He is the youngest Oberbürgermeister of a large German city.

We extend our congratulations to Martin Horn and look forward to a new friendship and the continuation of the warm and fruitful collaboration between our two towns.

COMING EVENTS FOR 2018

- May 30th Telemach Wiesinger Film Evening**
- June 2nd Picnic in the Castle Grounds (activities for children)**
- June 9th -14th 2018 Visit to Freiburg**
- August 19th 2018..... Association Summer Party**
- October/November 2018 (date tba) Public Lecture on a German topic**
- December 2nd 2018..... Association Christmas Market in the Guildhall**

EVENTS TO LOOK OUT FOR IN EARLY 2019 include the Association German Dinner, the Spring Public Lecture and the AGM. Members will be notified of these and other events, and they will also be posted on the Association website: <https://guildfordtwinning.uk/>

YOUNG PEOPLE'S ACTIVITIES

FOOTBALL *A report from Warren LePage
Chairman, Guildford City Boys & Girls FC*

Unfortunately the long-standing regular football matches between Guildford City Boys and Freiburg's Blau Weiss Boys FC, are presently in abeyance. However a group of boys from Freiburg, all of whom play for Blau Weiss, were on a school trip to England last September. They stayed in Kent & had ventured up to London as part of the trip. They fancied playing a football match & naturally thought of us. Arrangements were put together in about six weeks, which was hard to do as most of our committee were on holiday. Guildford was successful in the matches, the Under-16s winning 3-1 and the Under 18s 3-0. It is hope that the regular matches between the two teams will be resumed in the future.



NEW SCHOOLS INITIATIVES

Steve Callaghan reports

During the first part of this year Barbara Ford, the Chair of the Association, and I, the new Committee member for schools liaison, have been working on initiatives to encourage young people in the Borough to become involved in twinning, to refresh the Association's relationship with local schools and to support school visits to Freiburg and Guildford. All the secondary schools in the Borough were invited to a tea-time meeting in May to hear our plans for collaboration with schools and for the Association to understand what schools are looking for in links with Freiburg schools. Barbara and I will be visiting Freiburg in June and will meet teachers from Freiburg schools to have similar discussions with a view to linking schools in Guildford with a partner in Freiburg. Several Freiburg schools have already been in touch to express their interest. Barbara and I have been in discussion with *Visit Guildford* (the Tourist Information Centre), the

Town Guides and Guildford Museum to explore ideas for visits and activities for school groups from Freiburg. To reflect the special relationship between Guildford and Freiburg, we are developing a tailored tour to be exclusive to schools visiting from Freiburg.

At the May AGM, the Association launched its essay competition, aimed at all 16-19 year olds attending schools or colleges in the Borough of Guildford. The competition invites consideration of topics common to Guildford and Freiburg and will offer two prizes of £100 in its first year. In future, it is hoped to make a visit to Freiburg the prize. This year the topic is "Green" lessons from and for Guildford and Freiburg". Full details can be found on the Association website: guildfordtwinning.uk – please encourage young people you know to take part. The Committee has agreed that the Association's public events should admit 16-19 year olds free of charge (our excellent lectures are of course free of charge to all). Furthermore, to extend our activities for local schools and colleges, we are introducing annual 16+ Seminars for young people in the Borough. In the academic year 2018-19 we will hold a seminar with a German focus, aimed primarily at A-level students of German, and a more general seminar, for students in any discipline, to explore ideas relevant to young people in Guildford and Freiburg.



A group from the Versailles school Collège du Sacré-Cœur visited Guildford in March. The possibility of a

twinning partnership with Versailles led to a welcome for them at the Guildhall by the then Mayor of Guildford Cllr Nigel Manning, assisted by Barbara and me, after they had enjoyed a guided tour of the town. The French students were joined by some students from St Peter's Catholic School in Guildford and they explored the town together while staff from both schools, including the Head Teachers, discussed possible future collaboration.



LECTURES

Reports by Barbara Ford

POLITICAL REFLECTIONS IN JUNE 2017

I stood, drink in hand on a sunny June day, on the terrace of the House of Lords, looking over the Thames.



With a few other Association members, I had accepted the British-German Association's invitation to their annual Parliamentary Day luncheon. The venue was grand, the lunch delightful, but the highlight was the speaker – the Rt Hon Hilary Benn, a man at the heart of British politics for many years. This was just after the June snap election, when Theresa May gambled and lost her small majority, and Mr Benn had been re-elected as one of an increased number of Labour MPs. He spoke in an impressively measured and non-triumphalist way.

He said that both the Brexit referendum result and the election result were a “testament to the power of democracy”: he believed that the message given to Parliament and the Government by the electorate was: “we didn't think that you were listening to us – well, you're listening now!” He was, and still is, the Chair of

the Exiting the European Union All Party Parliamentary Select Committee, and from that central role told us simply that the Brexit negotiations would come down to (a) money and (b) market access and that the Government needs to embrace Parliament's role.



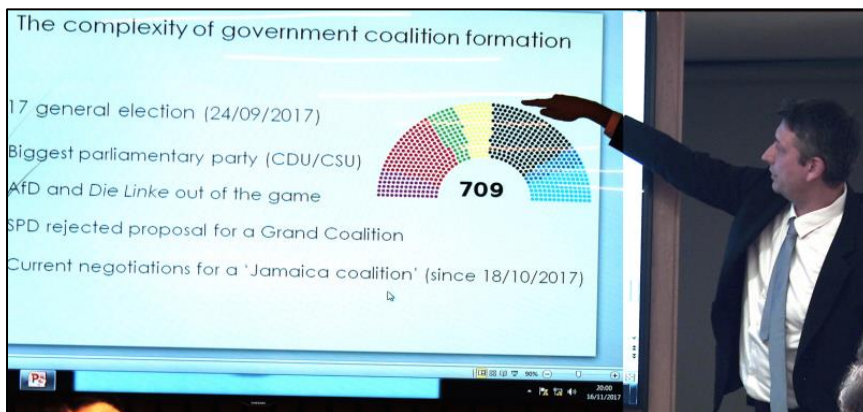
After lunch a few of us went on to another Anglo-German event, a talk given at the Royal United Services Institute (RUSI) by Sir Paul Lever, Vice President of RUSI and former British Ambassador to Germany. The subject of the talk was “Berlin Rules: Europe and the German Way”. Sir Paul, an immensely experienced diplomat with a very wide outlook and an entertaining speaker, examined the reasons for Germany's current dominance of Europe.

He explained how Germany's history has shaped its European policies as well as its economic and political structures. He compared German politicians' rhetoric about the EU with their behaviour within it and speculated on how the German-led Europe which the UK is preparing to leave might look in twenty years' time. Like much of his audience he felt the UK would overall lose in economic and social terms by leaving.

THE SECRET OF GERMAN DEMOCRACY



Jamaica coalition? Grand coalition? Do you know how the German political system works? You'd have a fairly good idea if you had attended the Association's Autumn lecture given last November Dr Emanuele Massetti of the University of Surrey on "German democracy – how is it different?" in the especially appropriate setting of the Council Chamber of Guildford Borough Council.



Dr Massetti gave a clear explanation of a pretty complex set-up: the architects of the modern German constitution based their ideas on the so-called Weimar constitution of post-World War I Germany, but, in order to ensure that post-World War II Germany could never be hijacked by a potential dictator in the way that Hitler had done in 1933, they included in it entrenched checks and balances. For example, some constitutional provisions, the "basic principles" such as human rights, democracy, federalism and the rule of law, cannot be amended at all, while amendment of the others requires a two-thirds majority.

Federalism, one of those basic principles, presents interesting issues. Germany adopted "co-operative federalism", whereby the *Länder* (states) effectively pool their resources which are then shared according to need. This was put under great strain by the re-unification of Germany in 1990 with six East German

Länder all much poorer than any of the ten in West Germany. This great imbalance has been managed by a series of temporary special arrangements, but the Western *Länder* are getting restive, and it is possible that Germany may move towards "competitive federalism" as in the USA, where the states compete for resources.

However, the German system has been a great success story, supporting Germany's rise from total destruction to global economic power. There have been very stable parliamentary terms, with only three snap elections in seven decades, a multi-party system of between three and six parliamentary parties, mostly coalition governments, and generally non-confrontational dynamics.

That Jamaica coalition? This refers to the conventional diagram view of the current political parties in the *Bundestag* (equivalent to the House of Commons), whose currently 709 representatives are elected as to roughly 50% on a first-past-the-post basis, and 50% on a proportional representation party list basis (individual electors each have two votes, one for each type of representative). They sit in the *Bundestag* in a semi-circle, with *Die Linke*, the extreme left-wing party, shown in deep red on the extreme left, on their right the Social Democratic Party (SDP, roughly equivalent to our Labour party) shown in red, next the Greens, shown in green, then roughly in the middle the Free Democratic Party (FDP) in yellow, then further right the CDU/CSU (Angela Merkel's

party) in black and dark blue, with on the extreme right in bright blue, the populist right wing party Alternative for Germany (AfD). To form a government a coalition is needed since, as under the German system, no party usually has an overall majority, and for some time after the September 2017 elections it looked as though Merkel might achieve a coalition with the FDP and the Greens – producing the same colour combination as the Jamaican flag. However, the attempt failed and Merkel subsequently focused on a "grand coalition" of the two major parties, the CDU/CSU and the SPD.

Dr Massetti lectures in comparative politics at UoS, where his areas of research include ethno-territorial politics; devolution, federalism and multi-level governance; electoral and constitutional reforms; the politics of immigration; the politics of European integration/disintegration; and the political ideologies

nationalism and populism. All of those topics seem to have frighteningly more everyday relevance now than ever before, and perhaps on another occasion we could benefit from the charming Dr Massetti's guidance towards an understanding of the underlying mechanisms.

For the slides Dr Massetti used for his presentation, see our website <https://guildfordtwinning.uk/>, under "our files".

WHAT IS GERMAN ABOUT GERMAN MUSIC?

Richard Wagner attempted to answer this question in the nineteenth century. In April, Guildford resident and distinguished musicologist Professor Erik Levi had another crack at it, in a public lecture for the Association to a capacity audience in the Council Chamber of Guildford Borough Council.



Professor Levi started by highlighting how the notion of Austro-German leadership in musical developments has prevailed over the past few centuries and dominated our classical music repertoires. Works by composers from other countries are implicitly measured against universally accepted notions of German music. This has been reinforced by the primacy of "the three Bs" – Bach Beethoven and Brahms. He then showed how the link between music and German-ness and German identity was only occasionally made by the composers themselves, more usually by those writing about the music - writers, thinkers, politicians, educators, commercial interests.

From the late 18th century when Germany was still a disparate collection of small states, German music came to be treated as a national German inheritance, supporting the notion of a German identity and the political movement towards unification in 1871. It was later used overtly for political ends, notably by the

Nazis: for example, Nazi propaganda minister Joseph Goebbels exploited the 1941 Mozart anniversary to serve the war effort, claiming Mozart's music as "part of what our soldiers are defending against Eastern barbarism". Professor Levi went on to consider whether Germans have a specific national character in their music, and if so can we define it? He suggested these characteristics of German music:

- 1) Its depth, hard work and thoroughness (*Tiefsinn, Arbeit, Gründlichkeit*), (less pervasive in the music of other countries.)
- 2) It generally favours intellect over sensuality, harmony over melody, metaphysical over physical, organic over mechanical, development over sequence, ideas over entertainment.
- 3) It is both universal and synthetic, it fuses elements of other musical cultures (such as French and Italian) into something homogeneous. Form and expression are unified, as are the horizontal and vertical in musical writing.

He then demonstrated how these characteristics are evidenced technically, by way of recorded extracts from works of the three Bs. He displayed the written score on the video screen and literally pointing out to us, as the music played, which element did what, an eye-opening, or ear-opening, revelation to members of the audience who were not musicians. You can find Professor Levi's slides and musical examples on our website <https://guildfordtwinning.uk/>, under "events".

Erik Levi is Visiting Professor at Royal Holloway, University of London. He is a worldwide authority and writer on German music of the 20th century especially during the Nazi era. He is a pianist and a music journalist: he has been writing articles and reviewing CDs for the BBC Music Magazine since the 1990s, and is a frequent broadcaster for BBC Radio 3. You can catch his next broadcast talk in September for the Proms. He is now also a member of the Association!



VISITS FROM GUILDFORD TO FREIBURG

MEMORIES OF OUR FREIBURG TRIP – JUNE 2017 by Jennifer Margrave

We decided to drive to Freiburg in June last year, taking in some parts of France we had never visited before and as soon as news of this reached the ears of the committee, we were inveigled to fill our car with beer, an accordion and other goodies, quite apart from Goldenford Publishers books we were taking to display.



We only had a small car, but we managed to fit in our luggage as well and arrived in Freiburg on the Thursday only to discover that the centre of the city did not allow cars into the main area where the Rathaus was situated; the place to where we were to deliver our beer

and accordion. We could see a lovely red building with its corner turret on the Rathaus Platz, and spent some time driving down little lanes, only to find our way blocked and pedestrians looking horrified and gesticulating at us. Eventually I abandoned the car and spouse and ran through alleyways to the Rathaus, where the organisers 'lent' me one of their assistants to direct us to the car entrance to the Rathaus.

Safely divested of the crates of beer and accordion, we mingled with the crowd and soon the angst and heat of our arrival dissipated in meeting friendly members of the Association and enjoying the lovely centre. We made the sensible move of purchasing a 'green ticket' to enable us to drive in the centre of town; a legal requirement in many ecologically-minded cities in Europe now. But our woes were not ended yet. We still had to find our hotel; within walking distance of the old town. Our satnav was no good and it was not until we spotted a small brown sign pointing to our hotel, did we know we were 'home'.

Well, despite all this, once we were settled in, we found Freiburg a delight. The city centre has lovely old buildings, an impressive minster, lovely eating places and good local white wine, but the main enjoyment was meeting the people who were overwhelmingly courteous and helpful. The city is one of the cleanest in the world, with good public transport links and bicycle lanes, etc., and a car is not really needed.

The day after our calamitous arrival I helped out on the Guildford stall and chatted with other members, whom I did not know well, but by the end of the weekend, we felt as if all were old friends.

The highlight for me was a performance of Twelfth Night in Ebneth Castle, a Schloss which was a train and bus ride out of town. This was put on by a travelling group of actors, just as in Shakespeare's time, in the grounds, and before the play started we were invited to a reception organised by the Anglo-German Club, a jolly group who live in and around Freiburg.

Would I go again? A resounding yes – especially as I think I have 'sussed' the place and would be able to find our hotel immediately.

GUILDFORD PARTICIPATES IN FREIBURG'S PARTNERMARKT AGAIN *Peter Slade reports.*

Last June Freiburg held its eighth biannual Partner Cities Market. Our twin city now has twelve partner cities – Tel Aviv is the latest to become one -- and all were represented at last year's event.

As usual the Market was very well organised, mainly by Ariane Hötzer and Martina Ehret. I was delighted to be back in Freiburg, in spite of the heat



Many of the party stayed at the Schwarzwälderhof - where I must have stayed 12 or 13 times out of my 18 visits to the city. A highlight

was the excellent playing on one evening of the "New Orleans Experience" trad jazz band while a group of us dined.

Stalls were set up for participating towns in individual open-sided marquees around the picturesque Rathausplatz and there was a stage for cultural performances. There is always a fantastic atmosphere at the Market and it provides an excellent opportunity to promote Guildford and its attractions and cultural activities to Freiburg citizens and potential visitors. As it has done every year the Guildford-Freiburg Association represented our town.

The weather was sunny and very hot which encouraged many visitors to the market. The Guildford stall displayed a range of publicity literature about the town and county and local attractions and a variety of Guildford souvenirs. It was expertly run by Ros Calow and Frauke Burge, two German-speaking Association

members. Association member John Greenwood ran well-attended tastings of beer from the Hogs Back Brewery and, an innovation this year, representatives of Guildford's Silent Pool Distillery ran a very successful tasting and sale of their gins. Guildford's Goldenford Publishers, represented by Jennifer Margrave, had a display of their books. The cups of English afternoon tea and home-made cakes provided by members of the Freiburg Anglo-German Club led by Penny and Ernst Leube, were very popular as always. The number of people asking for information was generally thought to be rather higher than the previous time. Tony Trent and Annie Messerschmidt played lively folk tunes and ended up, to the delight of the international visitors, leading a rousing "Hokey-Cokey".

As usual we arranged visits for members to local attractions, to coincide with the market. These included an excellent open-air performance by an English touring company of Shakespeare's Twelfth Night at Ebnet Castle and dinner with the Anglo-German Club at the Dattler restaurant high above the town with lovely views in the evening sunlight.



We also visited Vauban, one of Freiburg's world-famous low energy, environmentally-advanced districts. Unusually our very good guide was a Vauban resident. Our tour of the town was led by Bettina Drechsel, a friend of Peter Simpson, who always gives a different and enjoyable slant on the town's history and present compared to most other guides. More sobering was the excellent exhibition on "National Socialismus in Freiburg" at the superb Augustiner Museum, another example of Germany facing up to its past.

This year is the 50th anniversary of Padua's partnership with Freiburg. The excellent celebratory concert that took place in the Kaufhaus included an extremely good tenor, who turned out to be a Chilean living in Freiburg. The copious post-concert food and drink were also very good.

RAILWAY ADVENTURES

A report from Trevor Jones



On Sat 21 April I took part in an international rail passengers' working group meeting at the Café Satz, one tram stop from the Hauptbahnhof, in Freiburg. I had arranged the venue with the help of former Freiburg church visit hosts.



After the meeting I showed some of my fellow-participants around the old town, stopping by the side-stream just outside the city walls. We had drinks in a shady courtyard nearby, saw the River

Dreisam, and took the lift one stage up the Schlossberg, just high enough for a view over the town and towards the very faint Vosges Mountains in France. We enjoyed a distant view of the Kaiserstuhl hill, followed by an evening meal close to the town gateway.

One evening some of my railway colleagues, and on another my former church-visits hosts, joined me for a meal in my hotel, the Schwarzwälder Hof in the old town.

On Friday I took the train to the Münstertal (changing at Bad Krozingen on the line to Basel), stopping off at the nice old town of Staufen. I walked up to its ruined castle, before continuing to Münstertal where I took the bus further up the valley for a light lunch and stopped off again half way back to the station to wander around the imposing monastery-church at St Trudpert. It was all very beautiful in the hot sunny weather, with plenty of wild flowers around. Flowers also abounded in the Black Forest around Triberg, where I spent a night, visiting Germany's highest waterfall.

PARTNER CITIES MARKET 2017



*Left to right from top:
 Some of our group in the Rathausplatz;
 Drinking fountain
 During our tour of Vauban;
 Partner Cities Meeting sign;
 Silent Pool gin display;
 Tasting of Hogs Back Brewery beer;
 Displays by two of Freiburg's other partners
 Ros Calow & Frauke Burge promoting
 Guildford; .
 Dancing in the Rathausplatz*



Left to right from top:
 Jazz evening at the Schwarzwälderhof
 National Socialism Exhibition at the Augustiner Museum
 Our musicians, Tony Trent and Annie Meserschmidt, performing in the Culture Tent
 Shakespeare touring group at the Schloss
 Cooling off in the Bächle
 Schwarzwälderkirchtorte



A few of Freiburg's Gastronomic Gems



VISITS FROM FREIBURG TO GUILDFORD

A QUIRKY VIEW OF GUILDFORD



In December 2017, in a slightly tongue in cheek article in the Freiburg newspaper, the *Stadtkurier*, Freiburg filmmaker Bülent Gençdemir, made some observations about his visit to Guildford. The article was headed "Guildford: truly British". He noted that Guildford is "a small town with English charm". He extolled the green landscape of the Hogs Back and its strangely named beers, which he was "forced" to sample in the morning!



Bülent Gençdemir (extreme right) with Barbara Ford and Hog's Back Brewery staff

Although he loved the "pretty town" with its references to *Alice in Wonderland*, he was "traumatised" by the cathedral which brought back childhood nightmares that resulted from his having seen *The Omen* at the tender age of eight! When invited to the home of Barbara Ford, he remarked how she waxed lyrical about Freiburg, and that, weather notwithstanding, he could say the same about Guildford. He formed the impression that "only one person is loved in Guildford, and that is the Queen. And when I say loved, I mean LOVED!"

He concluded with another quotation from a film: "I'll be back!"

JUNE 2017 GOETHE GYMNASIUM VISIT TO GEORGE ABBOT SCHOOL

(from a report by German pupil Matthias Blank)



As the UK exit from the EU nears, the exchange with our partner school almost seemed like a relic from the past. All the more heart-warming was the enthusiasm with which friendships between the pupils were sealed. We were greeted warmly by the headmistress and taken on a tour of the school with its impressive facilities. Our teachers took us on a tour of Guildford. We spent a rainy afternoon in the cinema before joining our partners and their teachers for a meal at Zizzi's.

On Friday we went to Brighton by bus with our partners. We strolled along the chic promenade, with its Victorian houses to the Royal Pavilion, a country house, converted by the Prince Regent (later George IV) into an eccentrically bizarre party-temple. Two local guides took us on a tour of the town, pointing out important places. We spent the weekend with our guest families, most of whom had organised awesome events: trips to London, Cambridge, Windsor, Portsmouth and to the nearby roller-coaster park. We spent Monday morning in class. Afterwards we went to Kew Gardens. We were particularly impressed by the High Tea there, served on luxuriously laden cake stands. Extremely British!

An absolute high point was Tuesday in London. After we arrived by train at the enormous Waterloo station we strolled through Westminster, past the London Eye, the Houses of Parliament, Buckingham Palace and the South Bank. An actor at the Globe Theatre gave us an insight into Elizabethan Theatre so that we could attend a workshop on Macbeth. Most of us had great fun with the unusual language and practice moves. For the first two hours of our last morning we attended classes. After that it was time to say farewell. After this wonderful week we all hope to stay in touch and continue to visit one another.

The German Exchange from George Abbot would especially like to thank the Freiburg Association, Surrey County Council – Cllrs Graham Ellwood, Michelle Collins & Julie Sanders and the U.K. German Connection for their financial support this year which has enabled us to continue to run this invaluable Exchange trip to Freiburg.

A FEW WORDS FROM A YOUNG VISITOR FROM FREIBURG

I am Julia Nefzger, 14, from Freiburg (Germany) and am staying at Manor House School, in the Guilford area, for three weeks. Everybody is very friendly! There is always somebody helping me translating words I don't understand or showing me where the next lesson takes place.

I am making very interesting experiences- there are lots of things at school very different than they are in Germany, for example the uniform, timetables and the size of classes. But I am also learning lots of things about typical British food, the culture and of course the language! I am very looking forward staying here for two more weeks!

NEWS AND VIEWS

FREIBURG BAROQUE ORCHESTRA AT THE PROMS *Report from Peter Slade*

Fellow Association member, Richard Clarke, and I were delighted to be at a Sunday Prom at the Royal Albert Hall in early September to hear the Freiburg Baroque Orchestra, conducted by Pablo Heras-Casado, in a delightfully-played all-Mendelsohn programme. This consisted of The "Hebrides" ("Fingal's Cave") Overture, the 5th ("Reformation") Symphony, and a lovely performance of the E Minor Violin Concerto by the German Isabelle Faust. At the end of their playing, the orchestra did something I've not seen before – they all turned round and bowed to the bust of Sir Henry Wood, the founder of the Proms, which sits above the playing area during the Proms season.

The concert's programme notes explained that the Orchestra, founded in 1987, gives around 100 performances a year in a variety of formations, from chamber orchestra to opera orchestra, under the direction of concert-master Gottfried von der Goltz. It has concert series at the Konzerthaus in Freiburg, the Philharmonie in Berlin and the Liederhalle in Stuttgart. It has made very many recordings and has won several

awards, including a "Gramophone" Award in 2011, several ECHO Klassik awards, the German Critics' Award in 2009, 2015 and 2016, an Edison Classical Music award in 2008 and a Classical Brit award in 2007. Listeners to classical music will know that the Orchestra is very often to be heard on BBC Radio 3 and sometimes on Classic FM.

CULTURAL AND ARTISTIC EXCHANGES.

Our aim is to encourage more cultural and artistic links between Guildford and Freiburg. This winter we produced our own Christmas cards for the Christmas Market, putting in touch artists Tamuna Gejadze and Angela Watson and using their work. On 30th May 2018 German film-maker Telemach Wiesinger will present an evening entitled "Film and Conversation with Telemach Wiesinger" at the Electric Theatre.



Artist Tamuna Gejadze in her studio:

We are working on the idea of an exchange exhibition between artists from Freiburg and Guildford possibly in 2020. If you are a professional artist and would like to make contact with someone of a like mind in Freiburg, please get in touch.

Email: ros.calow@ntlworld.com

FOOTBALL IN FREIBURG

SC Freiburg are in the First Division of the German Football League (the Bundesliga).

They have not had a good season and finished 15th out of the 18 teams in the league, just avoiding a play-off which might have meant their relegation to the Second Division. As happens every year, Bayern München were in top position, 19 points ahead of the second-placed team, Schalke

OUR MINI CHRISTMAS MARKET IN THE GUILDHALL

Another success! We paid extra attention to the publicity and décor this year and increased the variety of the items sold, to include - as well as the usual wooden toys, bakery, candles, Glühwein and tombola - CDs of an excellent Freiburg amateur choir, cards made by Freiburg artists and their local counterparts, novelties from Freiburg souvenir shops, as well as German interest books by our members and speakers. It was attended by 752 people (we counted!) who browsed the promotional literature and posters and whose purchases produced a healthy profit for the Association, which will be used to help fund our twinning activities.

A buzzing atmosphere at the market in Guildford's beautiful Guildhall



Barbara Ford with Guildford's mayor, Nigel Manning

Some of the weird and wonderful items for sale at the market



ASSOCIATION SUMMER LUNCH



This event was better than ever this year! A new venue was chosen, the historic wood-paneled function room at Merrist Wood College, opening onto lovely grounds – and as ever (well nearly always), glorious weather allowed us to take full advantage of the grounds and the view for pre-dinner drinks and chat. We then moved inside for a delicious buffet and of course more drinks and chat. The delightful event was organised by Association members Ros Calow and Frauke Burge, to whom a hearty vote of thanks was given.

ASSOCIATION GERMAN-THEMED DINNER



This year's German dinner saw a change of venue, to the banqueting room of Weybourne House. Unfortunately the date coincided with the snowiest week in Britain for years, and quite a few people who had booked did not attend. However, the rest of us – 32 diners – made the best of it and had a very enjoyable evening in a very cosy atmosphere, looked after most attentively by the waitresses and waiters and by the chef who remained cheerful and provided an excellent dinner in very difficult circumstances.

MARY LLOYD-JONES

Sadly, Mary Lloyd-Jones, former Chairwoman of the Association, died in December 2017, aged 86. She had many roles during a long career of civic service, including 12 years as a Borough Councillor, 1 year as Mayor of Guildford and 10 years (1996-2006) as Chairwoman of the Association. In January, following a private family funeral, Guildford Borough Council gave her a moving send-off with a memorial service in Holy Trinity Church, attended by a packed congregation of Mayor and Councillors in full regalia, family and friends.

WHAT'S THE POINT OF TOWN TWINNING?

A shortened version of an article Barbara Ford contributed to the online newspaper "Guildford Dragon":

What's the benefit of town twinning for the ordinary Guildford citizen and taxpayer? In short: what's in it for me? The answer is: promoting international friendship and cooperation or, again in short: world peace. Yes, that's a big idea and yes, Guildford is only a small part of the world - but then the world is made up of small parts. The more the small parts know, help, like and value each other, the harder it is for "alternative facts", "fake news", the "big lie", demagoguery, propaganda and so on to get them to hate and fight each other. To get to know, help, like and value a whole foreign country is a big undertaking - but narrow it down to a foreign town and its foreign inhabitants and it's more manageable.

How does it work in practice? Take the twinning with Freiburg, twinned with Guildford since 1979. Freiburg is a city of 220,000 people in the south-west corner of Germany, an hour's drive from France and Switzerland, which has implemented some highly successful and much-praised town planning and environmental policies, from which Guildford could learn a lot.

Over the last nearly 40 years the GFA has arranged or facilitated innumerable contacts, school exchanges, sporting exchanges, cultural, especially musical, exchanges between the ordinary citizens of the two towns and their children, and has fostered good relations between the two local councils, each of which sends a small delegation of officials to the other every two years or so. Last September (2016) there was a particularly grand visit. The Oberbürgermeister of Freiburg and his team visited Guildford, were shown round the sights including our world-class university, and treated to a small formal dinner which I was lucky enough to attend. Naturally there were speeches - and it was very moving to hear both the Guildford and the Freiburg mayors assure each other that the recent Brexit vote would not

alter the relationship between the towns, that our friendship was unaffected and would endure. All those present got quite emotional, helped no doubt by the wine accompanying the meal. And talking of booze, what could be nicer than the two mayors enjoying a brief stop during the visit to Albury Vineyard and the neighbouring Silent Pool gin distillery?



This was followed up in June by Silent Pool's appearance at the Guildford stall at Freiburg's biennial Partner Cities Fair - to their commercial benefit: they made a great hit with the estimated 20,000 visitors to the fair and are understood to have made connections with various Freiburg distilleries. And the presence of the GFA members manning that stall at that Freiburg fair gave us the opportunity to give similar personal reassurances to all those visitors who asked plaintively: "why do you British hate us?" (Of course we don't!)



Who pays for all this activity? I hear you ask. At the Guildford end, the GFA receives a modest annual grant from the Council (£420) and is otherwise self-funded - we pay for our own trips and we make grants to help those school etc exchanges out of members' subscriptions and other funds we raise; the so far fairly minimal (I have hopes they will increase this) Council involvement funds the travel costs of visits for two

or three officials every other year, hosting return visits in alternate years. Freiburg on the other hand has within its council a whole team of salaried people managing its 12 twinings, with activities including hosting a fair for all 12 every two years, and paying for the some delegates' accommodation. They have been taking international relations seriously and investing in their partnerships for nearly 60 years now.

What else might you get out of twinning? Education, for a start: we run two free public lectures a year on relevant subjects – in October 2017 Dr Emanuel Massetti from Surrey University spoke on “German democracy: how is it different?” and in April 2018 Professor Erik Levi of Royal Holloway spoke on “What is German about German music?” And the chance to buy charming and original Christmas gifts from Freiburg: at our annual mini German markets in December. For more about our events, see our website at www.guildfordtwinning.uk



Baldung and Holbein commemorative window in the Rathaus



High altarpiece by Baldung in the Freiburg Münster

A MESSAGE FROM THE COUNCIL

Our relationship with Freiburg has been nurtured over the decades through exchange visits by groups and individuals involved in sport and the arts and links between schools, churches and clubs of all kinds.

The Guildford-Freiburg Association and the hard work of its members have also represented Guildford at events in Freiburg, such as the biennial Sister Cities Partnership Market and organised events in Guildford such as the annual German Christmas Market at the Guildhall.

The various elements of twinning are perhaps reinforced by periodic civic visits between Guildford and Freiburg. Two such visits have taken place relatively recently with a delegation from Freiburg visiting Guildford in September 2016 and a return trip being made by our own delegation in March 2017. These were particularly successful and demonstrated both the strength of our existing relationship and the potential opportunities for further cooperation.

We fully recognise and appreciate the excellent work undertaken by the Guildford-Freiburg Association in sustaining cultural and other ties between our communities.

In response to this hard work, we feel that the Council should also be more proactive in the relationship with Freiburg, particularly in terms of strengthening economic, tourism and business links.

We now have a cross-party Town Twinning Working Group that will be looking into options to develop these links and also about how we might help the Association with its activities.

We're delighted that the Chair of the Association has accepted an invitation to join the group so that we can ensure that our activities are properly coordinated and that we can offer mutual support.

I would offer my personal thanks to members of the Association and we look forward to working with you going forward.

Matt Furniss
Deputy Leader
Guildford Borough Council

CONTACTS IN THE GUILDFORD TWINNING ASSOCIATION (MAY 2018)

To contact committee members please email: guildfordtwinning@gmail.com

Chair: Barbara Ford

Vice-Chair: Peter Slade

Secretary: Hilary Perry

Minutes Secretary: Jennifer Margrave

Treasurer & Membership Secretary: Michael Gorman

School Liaison: Steve Callaghan

University Liaison: Patricia Grayburn

Arts Liaison: Ros Calow

Newsletter Editor: Irene Black

Other Committee members Cllr David Goodwin, Cllr Mike Piper

WEBSITES

Our website (with our newsletters and updates):

<https://guildfordtwinning.uk/>

City of Freiburg:

www.freiburg.de

Freiburg's Anglo-German Club:

<https://sites.google.com/site/anglogermanclubfreiburg>

New Committee members welcome

The Committee meets every other month to discuss matters relating to the twinning and to run the Association's business. A typical agenda includes discussion of schools liaison, forthcoming social activities, ideas for new ventures, arrangements and support for individuals and organisations keen to make twinning visits or arrange events, participation in the Partner Cities Fair, organisation of our Christmas Market - as well as the inevitable discussion of our finances. If any member is interested in joining us please contact Barbara Ford.

Our thanks to all members and friends who contributed articles and photographs for this newsletter