



Editorial

This, the second Newsletter I have edited for the Association, is a bit different from previous issues. As well as including interesting news of visits to and from Freiburg I thought it would be a good idea for members to hear from Freiburg about some of the things that have been going on there recently. I approached Roselies Arndt, who looked after Freiburg's twinning arrangements with Guildford for many years, and Penny Leube, who has long worked alongside the now sadly departed and much lamented Dorothy Elchlepp with the Anglo-German Club and asked them if they would be prepared to write something. I am sure that our readers will be as delighted with their fascinating contributions as I am and I am very grateful to both Roselies and Penny for the effort they put into writing them.

My admiration for Freiburg's green achievements in alternative energy, transport and waste management are well-known and it was good (but not surprising) to learn from Penny's article that Freiburg continues to be a pioneering centre of environmental excellence and its solar power installations are pre-eminent among German cities – an example for us to follow. Also interesting, in view of the recent suggestions in the local press here about the possible revival of senior football in Guildford, is the fact that Freiburg FC has returned to the top division of the German football league after only one year in the lower division. This is like Guildford having a football team in the same division as Arsenal and Manchester United!

The second novel contribution comes from Association member Paul Gillingham. In a chance encounter with him I learnt that he had visited Freiburg in the 1950s whilst still a schoolboy. I did not have to twist his arm very hard to persuade him to write an account of that visit of fifty years ago -- which I think captures the essence of foreign travel in those days and what was obviously a very special experience for him.

The Association is planning some activities to commemorate the forthcoming 25th anniversary of the twinning to raise the public's awareness of it. As a small personal contribution to the latter I give occasional illustrated talks to groups in Guildford. If any member knows of such groups who they think would like to hear about our wonderful twin city please let me know (Tel. 01483 531472). Another way to learn more about Freiburg and what is happening there is to visit the excellent official web-site (www.freiburg.de).

Peter Slade

A Message from the Association's Chairman

As we approach our 25th anniversary, we have received the sad news of the death of Dorothy Elchlepp MBE at the age of 90. She was an inspirational figure in our twinning and had a great love for Guildford and all things British, although she had lived in Freiburg for 60 years. She will be greatly missed. Her obituary appears elsewhere in this Newsletter.

I would also like to pay tribute to Honorary Alderman Sarah Smith, who died in the summer after a brave fight. She was a councillor at the time of the twinning and did a great deal of the preliminary work. Later she was our Membership Secretary.

On a happier note, all members will be delighted to know that Mrs Patricia Grayburn, Arts Administrator at the University of Surrey, was awarded the MBE in the New Year Honours List. We offer her our warmest congratulations. She is a member of our Executive Committee and forms a valuable link between the Association and the University.

To mark this year's 25th anniversary of the twinning there will be official visits to and from Freiburg. We are thinking about what the Association might do to arrange some events in Guildford to commemorate the anniversary and we hope that clubs, schools, churches, groups and individuals will also be able to celebrate this important milestone in their own way.

My best wishes to all who take an interest in, and support, the twinning of Guildford with Freiburg.

Mary Lloyd-Jones
Chairman

Letter from Freiburg

I have been asked by your editor to bring you up to date about what has been happening in Freiburg and give you news from the Anglo-German Club. Perhaps I should firstly introduce myself. I am a born and bred Surrey girl but met my German husband while studying at Exeter University and have been living in the Freiburg area for over 30 years now and have been a member of the Anglo-German Club for as long and of course for many of those years was a very close friend of dear Dorothy Elchlepp.

It is impossible to start this letter without telling you what an enormous loss Dorothy is and will be for the club and not only for the club but also for Freiburg. It must be some comfort to her family to know in what high esteem she was held in Freiburg – christened by the Freiburgers as the “Mutter der Verständigung” (difficult to translate, perhaps “the mother of good-will”) – having brought about in so many different ways contacts between the two countries and of course the instigation of the Guildford Freiburg twinning and many others in the area. However, it was not in the grand civic gestures but in the countless cups of tea and “vierteles” of wine at her home that she made those contacts come alive. Hopefully our club will be able to continue her tradition of “getting to the people” and there will be many cups of tea and glasses of wine still on offer for Guildford visitors.

Looking back on the Anglo-German Club year, it always seems to be punctuated by various seasonal culinary highlights. There is always our Christmas dinner with roast goose, red cabbage, and dumplings (German!!), Marks and Sparks Christmas pudding (Anglo!!), followed in May by our annual asparagus dinner with local thick white asparagus served with different hams and sort of torn up pancakes (“kratzete”) and much Baden wine. This year’s dinner will hopefully include Guildford guests, over to celebrate the silver twinning anniversary. In October we always have an autumn walk through the vineyards and sample the new wine and eat onion quiche which is its traditional accompaniment. Last October we walked through the vineyards of Eichstetten in the Kaiserstuhl (an old volcanic area, just outside Freiburg, noted for the excellent wine produced there) and afterwards enjoyed a very merry wine-tasting in the cellars of a local wine grower. In between these culinary and bacchanalian delights there are events of a more cultural nature i.e. visits to English theatre productions (last year *Wind in the Willows*), or English art exhibitions, Turner in Zürich, and this year a planned visit to Francis Bacon in Basle.

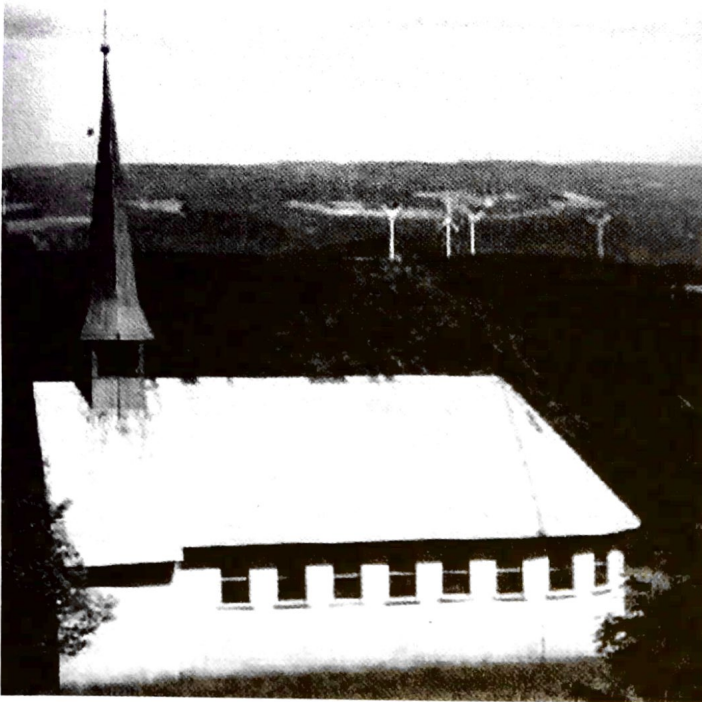
We also try to support any Guildford events and last year in June two of our members, Davina Ranft and Almuth Schulz, were very busy welcoming a delegation from “Guildford Churches Together” led by Stanley Hemming-Clark.

The club continues to offer a free English conversation class to its members and is planning to offer a similar German conversation class to attract more Anglo members into the club.

One special event of the club’s 2003 calendar has to have been Dorothy’s ninetieth birthday celebration. It was held at the club’s usual venue of Schwärs Hotel Löwen in Freiburg-Littenweiler, with Dorothy and her family as our guests of honour. Dorothy looked so fit and well in spite of her week-long birthday celebrations that had almost rivalled the Queen’s jubilee! She gave a moving speech thanking the club for her special evening and all its support over the years. It was impossible to imagine on that wonderful occasion that a few months later, on a snowy December day we should be saying our final good bye to that very remarkable lady.

From club news to news of Freiburg. Reviewing the events in Freiburg in 2003 it is impossible not to mention the financial crisis which has affected and is affecting Germany. Although Freiburg is not in such a bad way financially as some other cities, as Berlin for example, nevertheless we are told the coffers are empty and hard times are ahead. Many planned projects have had to be shelved or ruled out completely, and last spring in order to make us realise how serious the situation was they even turned the fountains off to save money. However, there was so much public outcry that some firms stepped in and put up the money and, hey presto, the fountains were back in action again! Fortunately in November an unexpected tax bonus of 24.5 million Euros has eased the budget a bit, so perhaps there will be some champagne for the silver twinning celebrations after all!!

Freiburg continues to be considered Germany’s greenest city with the Lord Mayor Dr Dieter Salomon of the Green Party at its helm. In June it was awarded first place in the “solar league” of cities. Visitors now coming to Freiburg will not only see solar panels in great abundance but a different skyline with four enormous wind turbines towering over Freiburg which started generating electricity last November. More are planned but at the moment there is a legal battle and so everything has come to a full stop. Perhaps everyone in



Wind turbines in the Black Forest near Kandel mountain. These are similar to those recently installed nearer to Freiburg.

the city isn't as green as they should be! Some people feel that these turbines are an eyesore and the tourist industry could be seriously affected by them spoiling the natural beauty of the Black Forest.

Another unfamiliar sight to visitors in the summer would have been the dry 'Bächle' (the small waterways that run through Freiburg's streets) as after weeks of extreme heat, temperatures in the forties, and low water tables the water supply had to be shut down. Freiburg wasn't quite the same, the town felt hotter and we missed the toddlers and their paddling, and the dogs certainly missed their watering-holes.

There were also quite a few changes in Freiburg. Dr Oskar Saier stood down as Archbishop due to ill-health and in July Freiburg witnessed the consecration of his successor, Dr Robert Zollitisch, in the Münster. His diocese is the second largest in Germany. There were enormous crowds, and those that could not fit into the cathedral watched on wide screens in the cathedral square. Freiburg's chief music conductor gave his last concert in July and has been succeeded by a woman conductor, Karen Kamensek. The theatre is also coming to terms with the loss of its very successful theatre director, Amelie Niemeyer who is leaving for the brighter lights of Düsseldorf. She has successfully raised Freiburg's theatre profile and the size of its audiences and the town is rather fed up as she is leaving before her contract expires.

Very big audiences were also drawn to an exhibition at Freiburg's Augustiner Museum. In fact in just the three weeks of the exhibition more than 10,000 visitors came to see the 800 year-old St Trudpert crucifix on loan

from St Petersburg's Hermitage. This beautiful medieval cross, that has relics of Christ's original cross, had originally belonged to a nearby monastery but during the "secularisation" it had been taken to Paris and from there had been sold to the Tsar. Judging by the great success of the exhibition Freiburg was very happy to welcome it home, if only for a few weeks.

Large crowds, too, are now a regular part of the Freiburg sporting scene as Freiburg Football Club is again in the first division after a spell in the second division. Everybody was very pleased when they were promoted in May and there were great celebrations and noisy hooting of horns. Luckily there is no tradition of hooliganism in Freiburg and the crowds up until now have always been very good tempered. Perhaps it is because it is still very much a family afternoon out.

Fortunately too, since the opening at the end of 2002 of the 2 km tunnel (which runs from close to the town centre eastwards) Freiburg's traffic problem has certainly eased – compared with your M25 we have nothing to complain about – but nevertheless it is not advisable, even with the tunnel, to be on the roads just before or after Bayern Munich is playing Freiburg.

One other thing perhaps worth mentioning is the establishment of a second Euro-district. Following the example of Strasbourg and Kehl, Freiburg, Colmar and Mulhouse are now trying to work together on a regional level and with a nuclear reactor just across the border in Fessenheim, which has more than its fair share of hiccups, closer co-operation can only be a positive development.

Well, that was the year that was!! All in all, in spite of cut backs and the dodgy nuclear reactor across the border, Freiburg is still not a bad place to have to live. In fact, looking out of my window at the snow capped mountains it is indeed a beautiful part of the world. Here's hoping that with Easy-Jet now flying to Basle and Ryan Air to Baden-Baden many more of you will be able to hop over and visit us here and join us for that viertele or two!!

With my and the Club's very best wishes to you all in Guildford

Penny Leube

Committee member of Freiburg's Anglo-German Club

Editor's note: Penny wondered if there would be any Guildford entries for Freiburg's first marathon on the 28th of March. Unfortunately the newsletter is too late to alert them. Next year perhaps?

A Visit to Freiburg Fifty Years Ago

I was in my first year at grammar school when my Dad announced that he was taking me with him on a trip to Germany as a present for passing the eleven-plus. It was the spring of 1954 and the destination was Freiburg im Breisgau. I'm not sure why my father chose Germany, but I know he had a fascination with all things German. One of my earliest childhood memories was being taken to see the German prisoners of war – with coloured patches, circles and triangles, sewn onto their black donkey jackets - at their camp in Richmond Park. My Dad ran the family shoe business and he employed three of them, Gerhard, Herman and Erhardt, in his workshop in Fulham, where they were able to swap their POW patches for workshop overalls and their POW status for some measure of freedom. Gerhard was a special hit with me as for Christmas 1945 he made me a pull-along German dachshund, whose body was made from three pieces of plywood fastened together with strips of leather and with wheels made from sewing-thread reels.

They had all been members of the Wehrmacht. Gerhard and Erhardt returned home after the war, but Herman settled in England, became a tailor at Harrods and was my Dad's best friend until he died in the seventies. He was a quiet and gentle man with sadness in his eyes, especially when he spoke of the parents, brothers and sisters he never heard from again because his family home in East Germany was behind the Iron Curtain.

To a twelve-year old the prospect of a trip to Freiburg was unbearably exciting. I had never been abroad -- in fact I didn't know anyone at school who ever had – and the preparations took me into another world. I well remember my Dad coming home with Thomas Cook travellers' cheques and a wad of German marks, a first indication that things were different outside England. But most exciting of all was the booklet of train tickets for the boat train from Victoria to Dover, wagons-lits tickets from Calais to Strasbourg via Metz and reservations for seats "back to engine" as opposed to "facing engine" (Dad knew that even though we saw the scenery backwards, a leeward seat protected us from eyefuls of steam engine grit and the ash of his cigarettes!).

Our steam train emblazoned with its final destination

– Milano – was waiting at the quayside in Calais and I remember climbing up the high steps into the carriage, so different from British trains where you stepped straight across from the platform.

It was sleeting when we arrived at the Freiburg Bahnhof and booked into the Hotel Victoria. The first thing we did was climb to the top of one of the two spires of the ancient Münster up a spiral staircase, with sheer drops from its stone latticed windows. In the square below we got somebody to take a photo of us with a policeman in his leather greatcoat and bought a bierstein music box with a picture of the Munster on it from a souvenir shop in a medieval building. Today it is one of the knick-knacks on my mantelpiece in Guildford and when you pick it up it still plays 'La Vie en Rose' as freshly as it did fifty years ago.

As LP Hartley famously wrote of the past, they do things differently there, so with Europe in the days before the Euro, Gap, Bodyshop and MTV had the effect of homogenising travel. I don't recall much detail of Freiburg itself, but was left with vivid impressions of its otherness which remain with me fifty years on.

I remember the ancient town gates and the open gulleys in the streets raging with pristine water brought down from the mountains, whose snowy tops were shrouded in mist. What seemed so exotic was that people looked and dressed differently from England and there was a different sort of smell in the air, probably from German cigarettes and Balkan sobranies. The bicycles were fat-tired and the ladies' bikes had dress protectors across the back wheels like spiders webs. The shops and the goods in them seemed so very FOREIGN, as did the food. After a diet of porridge and post-war austerity in England the bratwursts and sauerkraut of Freiburg were difficult but interesting. I remember gagging when the Hotel Victoria waiter brought us two glasses with raw eggs in them for breakfast.

Being a shoeman my Dad couldn't resist Freiburg's shoe shops. He bought both of us a pair of shoes, which were very German and unlike anything you could get back home. I wore mine until my toes were jammed tight against the ends and then wore my Dad's until they fell apart. I also came home with a dark blue peaked cap and a pair of plus fours, as worn by Freiburg's youth. In fact I wore those plus fours on my first date two years later! No wonder she didn't want to see me again. Thanks, Freiburg!

On a day's hike into the Schwarzwald we reached a point above the city where my Dad took some photos with his Brownie Box camera. On the way down, beside the river, we struck up conversation with a Freiburg



Paul Gillingham with his father and a policeman in Münsterplatz, April 1954

who was on his way up with a Zeiss. He later sent us some of the photos he took, of us and of views of the town. Looking in the photo album today the difference is marked; our black and white photos are small and slightly blurred while his are big, visually sharp and sepia tinted. Even at the time I thought they reflected German technical superiority.

We took the cable car – the Schauinsland schwebbahn – up into the mountains. The summit was largely deserted, but we met a boy of about fourteen who was skiing. Although I don't actually remember it, there's a photo of me flat on my back in the snow wearing his skis. My father said the boy insisted that I have a go, a gesture that confirmed to both of us the friendliness of Germans.

The trip to Freiburg was for just a few days – we went on to Strasbourg and Berne afterwards – but it made a great impact on me. For most of my adult life I have lived or travelled around the world and I blame it all on Freiburg! In the lyrics of Rod Stewart, the "first cut is the deepest" and that magical tour, that first experience of another country, another culture has remained a potent influence.

When I eventually settled down in Guildford I was amazed to find that the town was twinned with Freiburg. Things had come full circle. My Dad would have been delighted.

Paul Gillingham



In the spire of the Münster

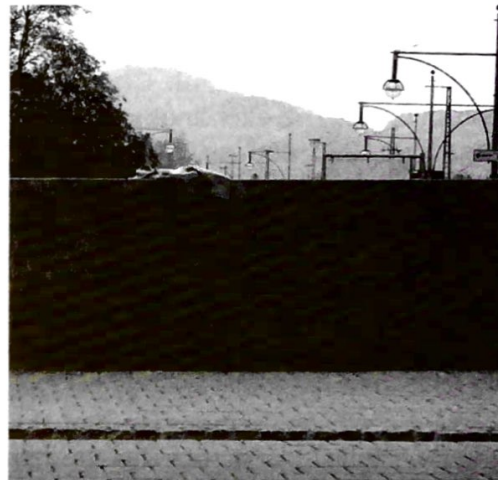
"Stolpersteine" to commemorate Holocaust victims

On October 22 2002, in front of No 33 Goethestrasse in Freiburg, a small brass plaque was installed in the pavement. It carried the inscription:

Hier wohnte
Prof. Dr. Robert
Liefermann,
Jg. 1874

deportiert 1940 nach Gurs
tot am 21.3.1941 in Moorlaars

This was the first "Stolperstein" (Stumbling Block) in Freiburg. One hundred and sixty of these stones with names and the key dates of the person's life have since been installed outside their former homes. The plaques in Freiburg have joined thousands in more than 20 cities throughout Germany. They cost €95 each to install and are funded by local donors.



The sculpted metal coat "left behind" on a railway bridge symbolising the departure of one of the deportees.

The 22nd of October was the day in 1940 when the Jews of Baden -- 354 from Freiburg -- were deported to the Camp de Gurs, in southern France, where many of them died, a few escaped and most were later deported (as a result of the co-operation between the Vichy regime of Marshall Pétain and the Nazis) to concentration camps in Germany, where they were killed. An official street sign which reads "Gurs 1027 km" In front of the University of Freiburg and a coat, sculpted in metal, "left behind" on a bridge near the train station commemorate this date.

This new project remembers not an anonymous group of people but named people in the neighbourhoods where they lived. The intention is to recall the individual fates of all the otherwise nameless victims of the Holocaust. Gunter Deming, the artist who is creating these stones, said: "It is beyond our comprehension to understand the killing of six million Jews but if we read the name of a person, calculate his age, look at his former home and wonder behind which window he used to live, then the horror has a face to it."

The Stolpersteine are set in flush with the ground so it is not the foot which stumbles over them but the eyes -- suddenly a golden shining on the sidewalk. You read the name and dates on the stones and perhaps you do not want to be reminded of what they commemorate, something which it is not necessarily easy to face. But they are "decentralized" and very individual memorials.

Not everyone sympathises with the project and some people have tried to prevent the stones being installed in front of their homes. But as the City Council has given permission and sidewalks are considered public space, opponents cannot stop the installation. Others think that the stones will be vandalised or don't like the idea of people stepping on them which might be thought to be disrespectful. These are valid views but the really important thing is for the Stolpersteine to remain as a permanent memory of individual neighbours killed in the Holocaust.

Roselies Arndt
(formerly Freiburg City Council's officer responsible for the Guildford Twinning)

Guildford Soroptimists' friendship weekend in Freiburg

Six members of Guildford Soroptimists International flew to Freiburg in mid May to share the 25th anniversary celebrations of their Friendship Link Club, the Freiburg Soroptimists. The exchanges between the clubs began in 1986 and as is the custom on such occasions, superb hospitality was shown by the host club, too much wonderful food and drink was shared in the spirit of international friendship and a great time was had by all.

Friday night was a quiet supper in a local restaurant, sampling some of the local dishes, renewing old acquaintances and making new friends. Clubs from across the German Union of Soroptimists shared the celebrations and took part in walking tours of the lovely city of Freiburg during the Saturday

In the afternoon, following the formal greetings from the Bürgermeister and the President of the German Union of Soroptimists, a lecture was given on Famous Women of Freiburg. Then the party really began, with a wonderful German meal with local specialities (we lost track of the number of courses) interspersed with greetings from German, French and Swiss clubs, washed down with local wine and accompanied by a solo accordionist. To finish the proceedings in true Soroptimist style, members of the Club had prepared a hilarious ditty, highlighting some of the pleasures and pain the club had endured over its 25 year history.

Trips into the nearby Black Forest were arranged for visitors on Sunday, putting the finishing touch on the wonderful hospitality of our German hosts. At the end of a memorable weekend fond farewells were said and promises of the next get-together have already been made. Bis Später! See you soon!

Liz Morgan Lewis
Vice-president, Guildford Soroptimists

Editor's note: *The Soroptimists International, founded in the USA about 80 years ago, is a world-wide organisation for women in business and the professions. It works to improve the status of women and advance human rights. The Guildford club is one of 15 in southern England.*

Guildford Churches visit Freiburg

Twenty one people from various Guildford churches visited Freiburg last June. The theme of the ecumenical week was "Bewährung der Schöpfung" ("Integrity of Creation"), which linked the environmental concern for which Freiburg is well known with the Christian doctrine of creation. The week's events included:

- ❖ Attendance at various churches on Sunday with our hosts and acts of worship during the week.
- ❖ A Civic Reception for the group at the Gerichtslaute, at which there was an exchange of greetings between the two towns. We were delighted that Dorothy Elchlepp was present at this.
- ❖ A visit to a hospital and a school, in both of which in both of which care for the environment was demonstrated by the use of solar energy and other ways of saving energy. There is an indicator in the school showing how much energy is saved daily. Pupils use this as a learning tool and one enterprising boy suggested to his parents that his family's saving should be paid as extra pocket money!
- ❖ A coach outing to an attractive garden, Landhaus Ettenbühl, which has been influenced by English gardening, especially Sissinghurst. Afterwards there was a picnic in the woods – although "picnic" is too prosaic a word to describe the delicious fare provided by one of our hostesses.
- ❖ The day finished with a visit to Basel where we met the Anglican chaplain, Geoffrey Read, a former rector of Westborough in Guildford. Until a chaplain was appointed for Freiburg he had also served as chaplain there.
- ❖ A more intellectually challenging morning was spent on a talk on "The Theology of Creation", drawing on Genesis and modern issues, followed by group discussion carried out in a mixture of English, German and translations.
- ❖ A talk by a local clergyman about his experience of leading a protest against a nuclear reactor being placed in his village.
- ❖ An evening visit to an organic vineyard, followed by a wine-tasting.
- ❖ A visit to the Ecological Garden in Freiburg, which contains a building made of "environmentally-friendly" materials, where children are encouraged to learn about the environment.

The visit was helped by fine sunny weather. When we began to wilt in the heat, cool drinks and iced coffee soon appeared. We came away very appreciative of the hospitality and feeling that the visit had been very successful. It formed an encouraging part of Guildford's link with Freiburg. We are looking forward to welcoming our German friends on a return visit to Guildford in 2005.

Rev Stanley Hemming-Clark
Guildford Churches Together

Freiburg's Blau Weiss Football Club visits Guildford

Once again Guildford City Boys FC -- players and their parents -- had immense pleasure in welcoming and hosting a party of 73 visitors from Freiburg last Easter. Our friends from Freiburg are all members and families from the SV Blau Weiss Club, and this was the 17th exchange visit between our clubs. We were also very pleased to welcome Margot Queitsch, who is a Vice-president of the Sports Club and also a respected representative of the Freiburg City Council

The youth members of the German club are introduced to family life in Guildford through association with the Guildford families with which they stay. The parents were accommodated at The Holroyd Arms on the Aldershot Road and in one of the University houses on campus.

The party was formally welcomed by the Mayor of Guildford and received an impressive tour of the Guildhall and the mediaeval Undercroft in the High Street and were pleased, once again, to be able to sign the visitors' book. Our groups, from both towns, are very grateful for the courtesy extended to us by the Mayor's office and by Guildford Borough Council

The exchange visits are of course geared to the football matches between our youth teams, but a number of events were organised between matches to promote Guildford's many sights and facilities. Once again the Spectrum Sports Centre offered the Group a session at the Leisure Pool and other activities. This year we decided to take the parent group "to the dogs", and a trip to Wimbledon Greyhound Stadium proved to be very entertaining -- and successful for some!

As Guildford City Boys FC does not have its own club facility we are reliant on the goodwill of others to provide facilities in which we can hold our after match social gatherings. We are very grateful to the Stoughton Working Men's Club and the Woodbridge Hill Club for their help and support. Once again the German parents expressed their appreciation for our hospitality by preparing a Black Forest Supper of cold meats, bread and produce from their region. There were also quantities of Baden wine and Sekt for tasting.

The football matches involved our under-13 teams, with the Leopards only narrowly beaten, but the Tigers team had a drawn game against a stronger and somewhat older championship side from Freiburg. As ever the parents' game was very entertaining

Plans are already underway for our visit to Freiburg in 2004 and although we are taking only 57 this time as it has become increasingly difficult for the smaller Freiburg Club to offer accommodation to as many players as we would like to take. As ever we look forward to renewing our friendships. It will also be a sad occasion as Dorothy Elchlepp, who was largely responsible for starting these exchanges, is no longer with us. I am sure we will take time to remember her when we attend the Freiburg Rathaus next time.



Philip Dyas
Chairman, Guildford City Boys
Football Club

The two teams -- Guildford Boys are on the left in the striped shirts

Dorothy Elchlepp MBE

Dorothy Elchlepp, the main instigator of the twinning of Guildford with Freiburg, died on 9 December aged 90.

Dorothy was born into a professional family in London in 1913. She had a great love of sport and often played doubles with Fred Perry at the West Ealing Lawn Tennis Club. It was here that she met Paul Elchlepp, a young German chemist who was studying in England. They married in 1936 at Caxton Hall in London. On their return to Germany to live they attended every day of the 1936 Olympic Games in Berlin.

In 1939, as the clouds of war were gathering, Dorothy was in England with her two small sons and had to return immediately to Freiburg, where she spent the entire period of the second World War. Her husband Paul served in the German army on the Russian Front and survived the long siege of Stalingrad, where two of his brothers died.

After the end of the war, Dorothy was keen to build new bridges between old enemies and she founded the Anglo-German Club in 1949. In the sixties she decided to find a suitable town in England with which Freiburg might be "twinning". After several unsuccessful attempts, the British Council suggested Guildford. The towns became officially linked in a twinning partnership in 1979, during the Mayoralty of the late Ron Burgess.

From that day until the actual day of her death, Dorothy worked tirelessly for the good of the twinning. She entertained visiting groups from Guildford, individual visitors, students from the University of Surrey, school parties etc. She came over to Guildford on all the civic visits and was devoted to the Borough, its history and traditions. She was kind, lively, amusing, intelligent and had a great rapport with young people, both German and English. At the time of her death, after a short illness, she was still teaching English in two local kindergartens and on the last afternoon of her life she was helping several young male nurses in the hospital with their English.

Dorothy was awarded an MBE for her services to Anglo-German relations and, five years ago, the German Federal Cross of Merit.

She will be hugely missed by all her many friends in Guildford and Freiburg. Dorothy was unique in her character and personality and Guildford has much for which to be grateful to her.

Mary Lloyd-Jones



The late Dorothy Elchlepp with Mary Lloyd-Jones and the Regional President (left) and one of her sons after presentation of the Federal Grand Cross of Germany for her work on Anglo-German relations for over 50 years.

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