



CHAIRMAN'S OVERVIEW

Once again I believe that our Newsletter demonstrates that Guildford's twinning with Freiburg, and our Association which supports and promotes it, are in fine health. There was an especially significant event in May when a group of Guildford councillors and officers, led by the Council's Managing Director Sue Sturgeon and the Council Leader Stephen Mansbridge, made a visit to our twin city to hear about its environmental policies and achievements. I was especially delighted by this as I have long urged such a get-together and I hope that it will lead to on-going co-operation.

In his last annual report, Stephen Mansbridge said: "Our ambition to ensure that our borough develops as a national example of good practice in sustainable development took a step closer recently with a visit to Freiburg. Our hosts shared their experience in a number of areas such as spatial planning for sustainable living, sustainable transport planning and community relations. Our links with Freiburg (and the University of Surrey) provide excellent opportunities to acquire knowledge and ideas from organisations that each have reputations for best practice in



View over Münzgasse

sustainability. Their successes will help us develop policies that are more effective at driving sustainable development."

As always, young people formed an important part of the year's activities. Students from George Abbot School continued their regular exchanges with Freiburg's Goethe Gymnasium. This has led, for the first time, to the inclusion in the Newsletter of part of a report in German, by the teacher from the Gymnasium. The student from Surrey University who spent time at Freiburg University obviously benefited from her stay. Last Easter's annual football matches between Guildford City Boys Football Club and the Blau-Weiss Club took place in Freiburg and unfortunately Guildford lost three of the four matches. Sadly no matches were played in Guildford at Easter 2015, because insufficient accommodation was available for the German boys. We offered generous financial assistance but this would not have solved the problem. It would have been the 30th anniversary of the matches and it is to be hoped that this extremely successful aspect of the Guildford-Freiburg relationship will be resumed in 2016. More positively, it was good to see a new sporting encounter start last year. This was a series of tennis matches between Guildford's Pit Farm Tennis Club and two clubs from Freiburg. These were much enjoyed and hopefully will lead to regular matches between the clubs.



Looking west from Greiffeneggsschlössle

CHAIRMAN RECEIVES RECOGNITION FROM FREIBURG CITY COUNCIL

It is a measure of Peter Slade's success as Chairman of the Association and his dedication to the task that in June 2014 Freiburg City Council presented him with a certificate "in recognition of his decade-long distinguished service to the Partnership between Guildford and Freiburg". Many congratulations to Peter on the award and many thanks to him for all his efforts from all members of the Association!

The Association's regular events such as the annual dinner, the annual summer party and the Christmas Market were, as in past years, very successful, the latter contributing useful funds to our reserves. The annual public lecture, last year delivered by a distinguished German television journalist on the topical subject of the German view of the EU, once again filled the Guildhall. In an additional public lecture, Hamburger Hartmut Warm enlightened the audience on "The Music of the Spheres".

A group of Association members were in Freiburg in June. For some it was the first visit, though for me it was the fourteenth. As usual we had a really enjoyable time. For the first time we were able to visit Freiburg's synagogue and this led me to think about the recent history of the Jewish community in the city and to a decision to write an article about it. As always the City Council arranged a guided tour of Vauban, one of Freiburg's impressive environmentally-advanced settlements. Apart from the tour I was able to spend time with resident and law professor Susanne Scheller, whom I had previously met in Guildford, who provided interesting insights into life in Vauban. Another highlight was meeting our friends from the Freiburg Anglo German Club and walking with them through the Black Forest to lunch by the lake at Titisee, followed by a boat-trip on the lake. Shortly before that, members of the Club had been in London and some of us had joined them at the British-German Association's Parliamentary Day, which included lunch on the House of Lords riverside terrace.

Let me close by thanking the Association's Committee members, who have again contributed in their various ways to another year of achievements by the Association.

Peter Slade

YOUNG PEOPLE'S ACTIVITIES

SCHOOLS LIAISON

Ros Calow reports: Our most exciting event this year is still to come [at the time of writing]. We are delighted to be welcoming 45 pupils and teachers from the Freiburg Musikschule to Guildford to play a joint concert with the South West Surrey Concert Band on 2 May. Many thanks to Steve Pannifer for all his hard work organising this.

You will find an article by Matthias Blank included in this newsletter, demonstrating the continued links between George Abbot School and the Goethe Gymnasium. A group from the Max Weber Schule also

came to Guildford again in September for a course with work placements at Guildford College.

Our plea this year is for more local schools to get in touch with a view to establishing at least some link with Freiburg in order to promote the town twinning. This does not have to be an exchange. Pupils can have pen-friends or simply welcome a group of pupils from Freiburg to their school for a day or a couple of days. Knowledge of German is not essential. Making good contacts with pupils from another country is really worthwhile and can lead to lasting friendships.

GOETHE GYMNASIUM EXCHANGE VISIT TO GUILDFORD: HOST'S VIEW

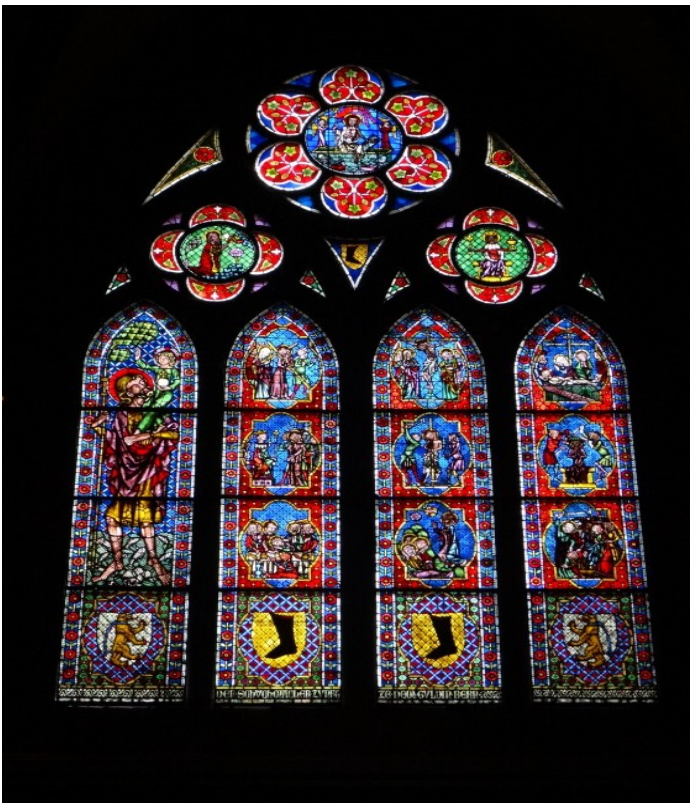
Ryan Flynn, year 10, reports on the visit of a group of Goethe Gymnasium school students to George Abbot School: The German exchange started early in the morning with our partners arriving just after midnight. Monday morning we all arrived at school, and we [hosts] left our partners to go to lessons, whilst they toured Guildford and its history. That evening, we all gathered into one living room to watch television: Germany v Algeria which went on late into the night. On Tuesday, our partners got to come to lessons with us, much to the disappointment of many of them. After school, a barbecue was held on the field, where Nino (our German Assistant) came back to see us all. On Wednesday we all spent the day in London, visiting the V & A, the Natural History Museum and The Science Museum, with lunch on the South Bank by the river. The weather that day had been perfect, so after our return to Guildford many of us went to the Lido, braving the freezing cold water.

Thursday was our second day trip, and we all went down to Brighton to visit the pier and the Royal Pavilion. As if a day of walking and exploring hadn't worn us out enough, after that we went to the trampolining site, Airhop. On Friday our partners went to London for a sightseeing tour on their own, and we went to lessons. That evening, the majority of the group went to watch the football, whilst the others went to Woking to for a Laserquest match of England vs Germany (at least we beat them at something!). Saturday, was our final day together and the evening was spent once more gathered into one living room, but not watching football. Instead we all wore 3D glasses to watch *Frozen* (much to the boys' disappointment). Goodbyes were said next morning, matching t-shirts were signed, and tears were shed. This was the best trip we have all ever gone on, and our thanks go to Miss Martinez Wallas, for making it the triumph and success that it was.

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Views of Freiburg, old and new



Left, top to bottom:
Bikes at the station;
Wurst sellers in Münsterplatz;
Freiburg synagogue, exterior and interior



Right, top to bottom:
Window in the Münster;
Konviktstrasse;
Vauban, home zone (see article on page 6)





George Abbot School & Goethe Gymnasium at George Abbot School

GOETHE GYMNASIUM EXCHANGE VISIT TO GUILDFORD: GUEST'S VIEW

Matthias Blank, Goethe Gymnasium Exchanger co-ordinator, gave us this teacher's-eye view of the week's visit in German, as written for his school's magazine. We have translated it (as well as shortening it), but for the fun of it we give you the opening paragraphs in German too:

Ekstatisch schreiende Teenager stürzen im Dunkeln auf einen Bus zu und scheinen ihr Glück kaum fassen zu können, als eine Gruppe müder Menschen leicht irritiert aus dem Inneren steigt. Werden hier glorreiche Fußballhelden empfangen oder wird gar einer angehimelten Boyband vorm Hotel aufgelauert? Nein – gerade sind 17 Austausch Teilnehmer/innen aus Freiburg an der George Abbot School in Guildford angekommen.

Am kommenden Morgen in der Schule werden wir herzlich vom stellvertretenden Schulleiter Mr Phil Reeves begrüßt. Bei der anschließenden Führung staunen die Freiburger Besucher nicht schlecht ob der vielfältigen Angebote, die die George-Abbot School Ihnen etwa 2000 Schüler/innen bietet.

Screaming teenagers descend on a bus in the dark and hardly seem able to contain themselves for joy when a group of tired and slightly grouchy people climb out. Are some victorious football heroes being welcomed back home or have they been waiting for some boy band idols outside a hotel? No – 17 exchange students from Freiburg have just arrived at George Abbot School in Guildford.

The next morning, following a welcome by deputy head teacher Mr Phil Reeves, we tour the school. The visitors from Freiburg are really amazed by the facilities on offer at George Abbot. Ballet studio, recording studio, art gallery, sixth form café and astro turf pitch – the school appears an attractive alternative to the Goethe Gymnasium. The pupils would clearly willingly put up with the rather stricter classroom atmosphere in England and the compulsory uniforms up to year 11.

We then take one of the rather infrequent buses into town where Frau Willeke and Herr Blank show the pupils Guildford, including the Norman Castle where we witness a very special sporting event: a

ladies' championship match on the unbelievably well manicured historic bowling green, which was only a little disturbed by Frau Willeke's attempts at a demonstration. Primark, Hollister, Zara and McDonalds – these are the names of the other places the students consider to be important attractions.

"What are you talking about? Are you daft?" What to neutral observers might seem like macho posturing has actually developed into a deep expression of true friendship and bonding between the exchange partners from Freiburg & Guildford. They are nearly all wearing the same branded T-shirts which were presented to the Freiburgers as a welcome gift.

On Tuesday, a full day at school. Reactions are similar to those at home. From "really nice" and "interesting" to "really boring" and "mega strict" it seems that the complete spectrum of a school day is experienced. The day ends very enjoyably with a barbecue on the cricket field, and some Freiburgers also attend a remarkable school pop concert organised by a sixth former for a good cause.

Culture with a capital C is on the agenda next day: three world famous museums in South Kensington and all the pupils are very impressed. On Wednesday it is Brighton, with the amazing Royal Pavilion, the Royal Pier, The Lanes, The Big Wheel, and there are Primark, Hollister, Zara and McDonalds here too. Next day we go to London again and arrive at Buckingham Palace at the right time for the Changing of the Guards along with about 10,000 other tourists. We explore the city some more, St Paul's, the City, Covent Garden, Harrods, Trafalgar Square and, naturally, Primark, Hollister, Zara and McDonalds. Back to Guildford in time to see the World Cup quarter-final Germany v France, and the whole group celebrates the 1-0 German victory.

The last day in England is spent with their host families, and finally, early Sunday morning there is a tearful farewell with lots of promises to see each other again soon. The shared experiences and genuine friendships have made the stay a wonderful experience for everyone.

FREIBURG STUDENT AT THE UNIVERSITY OF SURREY

Kerstin Kopp, a student on the EU Erasmus university student exchange scheme writes: I am 23 years old and studying Spanish, Sports science and English at the University of Freiburg. I have always been fascinated by other languages and foreign cultures, and as I



Kerstin (r) as a member of the Surrey University volleyball team



Clockwise from top left:
 Signpost to internment camp in France:
 most went on to Auschwitz;
 Sculpture "Forgotten coat" on bridge
 near railway station;
 "Stolpersteine" outside homes of former
 residents;
 Plaque in synagogue with quotation
 from Job 16,18



Memorials to Jewish victims of the Nazi period
 (see article on page 7)



wished to improve my English language skills I wanted to live in England for a couple of months.

Apart from the University of Surrey's closeness to London and the fascinating experiences of some friends who have studied in Guildford, the University's website stimulated my interest. The Language Department offered a variety of English language and literature modules. I was also glad to discover the University of Surrey's excellent sports facilities. I enjoyed being a member of the volleyball team and the kayaking club during my stay in Guildford. The 44 different sports clubs at the University show clearly that sport plays a major role in students' life in England. Additionally, there is a wide range of societies, everything from a photography society to a Harry Potter society. Concerts, other entertainment and helpful support of any kind for students were always provided, too.

Altogether, the University's facilities and opportunities were remarkable. I was very glad to live in such an exciting and charming place like Guildford for one semester and I had a great time, although everybody coming here during wintertime should always be equipped with a thick rain coat and an umbrella! Would I would recommend Guildford to other Freiburg students? My answer is: Yes, definitely!

GUILDFORD'S YOUNG FOOTBALLERS IN FREIBURG AGAIN

Phil Dyas, Chair of Guildford City Boys and Girls FC, reports: Once again, at Easter 2014, the Guildford club was able to take a considerable party of players (34) and parents and officials (23) to visit the Blau-Weiss Sports Club in Freiburg, and as ever to experience the area and their wonderful hospitality. For the first time, recognising improving economy and frequency of flights, the entire party travelled by air to Basel and then onward to Freiburg by coach. Having avoided the 16-hour coach journey experienced in previous years we arrived

much more refreshed and were able to make full use of the first day with a trip to Titisee before meeting our hosts for the weekend.

Even with reduced player numbers our Blau-Weiss host club has found it difficult to maintain support for the visits and enlisted the help of the nearby St. Georgen Club to make up the numbers, so in practice matches and trophy fixtures we played teams from both clubs during the weekend. Sadly, on Trophy playing day, Guildford were defeated in three matches and so surrendered three of the four cups won in the previous year in Guildford.

During the course of the weekend we received a warm welcome from Freiburg's official responsible for Culture, Ulrich von Kirchbach, at the Altes Rathaus, and the boys were very well entertained by their host families and experienced Freiburg itself in superb weather. We were invited to the Ganter Brauerei for a superb presentation explaining the importance of Ganter Beer to Freiburg. We sampled the many types made there, and equally superb weisswurst and pretzels.

On our last day, at the presentation evening, we accepted the loss of the Trophies with good and sporting grace and there was already talk of the vast numbers to be brought to Guildford in 2015 to celebrate the milestone 30th exchange [Ed: sadly not to be - see page 1.]

LECTURES 2014

OUR ANNUAL LECTURE: "THE EUROPEAN UNION – THE GERMAN VIEW PAST AND PRESENT"

In mid-November, distinguished German journalist, Susanne Gelhard, from the respected public service television company Zweites Deutsches Fernsehen (ZDF), addressed a packed Guildhall on this

highly topical subject. As well as Association members there were visitors from other local twinning associations and the European Movement.

Frau Gelhard began by describing Britain's (then) recent dealings with the EU, making it clear that Germans had little sympathy for David Cameron's approach. Angela Merkel, and Germans generally, would like Britain to remain, but not at any price. Frau Gelhard was very critical of Britain's lack of public education on the workings of the EU, as compared with that in Germany, and of the campaigning attitude of the British press, especially the tabloids, as compared with the German style of more neutral reporting.

Most Germans have considerable affection for the EU and are fond of the Euro, so they are most unlikely to want to re-negotiate the treaty. The "four freedoms" of the EU (freedom of movement of people, goods, services and capital) are to Germans untouchable. Frau Gelhard found it hard to believe that the British fundamentally feel differently.

In response to questions from the floor – the audience was very engaged – she confirmed there was "eternal discussion" in Germany about austerity, particularly as the German economy is weakening, but nevertheless she thought Germany would continue to support the Mediterranean countries which are currently struggling. Germany plans to restrict benefit tourism, an aim recently backed by the European Court of Justice. The session ended with a lively discussion on nuclear energy (Germany is opposed) and renewable energy (Germany is a leader).

Barbara Ford



Hartmut Warm speaking at the Guildhall

LECTURE: "THE MUSIC OF THE SPHERES"

Hamburg engineer and author Hartmut Warm entertained a large audience of members and friends in the Guildhall in mid-January with a talk on the "Music of the Spheres". He explained how after a career as a water engineer he became interested in music and astronomy. This developed into an investigation of the ideas of the ancient Greeks, Pythagoras and Plato on the Harmony of the Spheres, which were built on by Johannes Kepler in the sixteenth century. Using modern astronomical methods, Hartmut has demonstrated that the solar system is filled with geometric forms of great complexity and beauty which he showed the audience as projections via computer simulations. He also demonstrated how they can be converted into musical forms, an example of which he played.

Detailed information can be found at: http://www.keplerstern.com/The_Program/the_program.html

Peter Slade

ASPECTS OF VAUBAN

GUILDFORD COUNCIL DELEGATION IN VAUBAN

Chris Reynolds, the Energy Management & Sustainability Officer of Guildford Borough Council, describes a visit he made to Freiburg in May 2014 together with the Council's Leader, Deputy Leader, Managing Director and two other officers, to investigate the sustainability credentials of the city: The visit included a formal reception in the Rathaus by Professor Essmann, Social Democrat City Councillor, and a tour of the city centre. Time was also spent sampling the excellent public transport system, touring the environmentally-advanced district of Vauban, receiving presentations on sustainability and sustainable transport in Freiburg and visiting the Solar Info Centre, a business hub for solar energy technologies.

This report focuses on the visit to Vauban. A tour of the district led by Professor Susanne Scheller, who lives there, [Ed: See opposite page] provided an in-depth insight into the evolution of the area, and demonstrated the cultural aspects that contribute to its success as a sustainable district.

"We noted the use of ... "home zone" with restricted car use, a concept only now being introduced in Britain. ..."

We noted the use of "shared space" or "home zone", with restricted car use, a concept only now being introduced in Britain. There were varied house styles, a result of individual or co-operative commissioning and limited planning control. Buildings are generally much more functional than in the UK, but probably better maintained, resulting from a greater communal effort to maintain both the built and natural environment. This extends to communal choices within the environment, for instance trees and shrubs, with less evidence of individuality and less need for personal space. There are much greater levels of self-policing of the environment generally, something that those we spoke to considered as contributing to the success of a car-free environment. It is important to recognise that Vauban is not the whole of Freiburg, and it has tended to attract those of a communal mind to live in Vauban. However we felt that

attitudes observed there probably apply to the whole of Freiburg, albeit less strongly.

I noted some similarities between Freiburg and Guildford. Though Freiburg's population is more than double Guildford's, both have historic centres and a relatively well-educated population with sufficient wealth committed to preserving them and the natural environment. Freiburg seems to have a slightly different attitude to preservation, blending the old with the new, and appears more open to gradually introduced new features to the preserved townscape.

As to differences, the history of Vauban is interesting. Freiburg had a large quarter in need of redevelopment following the withdrawal [Ed: in 1992] of French troops barracked there, an opportunity not often presented to a mature city. The opportunity was turned into something unique as a result of careful policy-setting during the early development stages and local policy decisions. In the built environment, local authorities in the UK are unlikely to have the same degree of freedom, and much more central government control of planning policy takes place. To take transport, in the UK infrastructure tends to follow development. In Freiburg, as in much of the Continent, the infrastructure is planned before development begins, allowing a more sustainable outcome. In the case of Vauban's energy infrastructure, Freiburg planned a heat network powered by a centralised combined heat and power plant. The provision of heat from this network illustrates a cultural difference: residents care more about where their energy comes from, than about its cost, so there is greater willingness to sign up to the heat network provider and trust that its cost to the consumer would reflect the cost of providing that heat.

In conclusion, *Chris Reynolds* says, Freiburg has evolved by embracing the concept of sustainability as part of a strong and consistent vision, implemented through carefully considered policy decisions, and the population of the city has generally supported this. Whether the same level of support for such a vision could be sustained in Guildford is questionable for a variety of reasons. The key lesson for us is that when development opportunities do exist, they should be developed in a manner that enhances sustainability and supports the overall vision.

REFLECTIONS ON LIVING IN VAUBAN

During Peter Slade's 2014 visit to Freiburg he talked to Susanne Scheller, Professor of Law at the Freiburg Police College, who has lived in Vauban, the city's world-famous environmentally-advanced settlement, almost since its establishment. He recorded some of her reflections on living there: In the early days of the development she and a group of six or eight friends got together to have flats built in Vauban. They employed an architect who designed the flats within two parallel blocks with individual layouts and a shared garden space between the blocks. The flats have a flexible interior layout, so that room arrangements can be changed fairly easily. Susanne and her husband are about to modify their flat in this way.

There is some sharing of household goods between members of the group – such as freezers, washing machines etc. The group often dines together, taking it in turns to cook. There are sufficient shops in Vauban for it to be unnecessary to go elsewhere for most shopping. There is also a very good restaurant.

Flats with 3-4 bedrooms currently sell for €250,000-400,000. There is also some social housing (which looks no different from the private housing). When some of this was due to be privatised Susanne bought two flats as did some other residents and they now rent them out at the old low rents.



Vauban: Susanne Scheller and her daughter

There is a mix of age-groups in the Vauban community. Those who moved there when young in the early days are now approaching 50 or beyond. There are also some residents in their 60s and 70s.

THE JEWISH COMMUNITY IN FREIBURG

Peter Slade writes: Admirers of Germany like myself find it hard to come to any understanding of how the barbarism of the Holocaust, when 6 million Jews were murdered by the Nazis along with millions from other groups, could have happened in such a cultured nation. And we should surely be dismayed when we hear of incidents of anti-semitism reported to be on the rise in European countries. However Germany has made impressive efforts to face up to the crimes of the Nazi period, by a variety of actions – a striking example of which, amongst many, is the huge "Memorial to the Murdered Jews of Europe" in Berlin, a stone's throw from the Brandenburg Gate.



Community sign in synagogue

Association visit to Freiburg, June 2014



*Top:
Guided tours included
Vauban (left) and
Münsterplatz with
awning installed for
the archbishop's
inauguration (right)*

*Left and below:
Titisee—a boat trip
with the Freiburg
Anglo-German Club.*



Association visit to Freiburg, June 2014



*A walk in the
Black Forest
with the
Freiburg Anglo-
German Club*



What was the fate of Jewish citizens in Freiburg under the Nazis? And what has happened since?

The Jewish population of Freiburg was never very large. In 1933 it was 1,138 but after the rise to power of the Nazis, many Jews emigrated in the later 1930s, as happened elsewhere in Germany. In November 1938, on the infamous Kristallnacht, the city's synagogue was burnt down and the remains blown up. This is commemorated by a plaque in what is now called the Platz der alten Synagogue. By May 1939, 474 Jews remained in the city. In October 1940, on the orders of the Nazi Gauleiter of Baden, 350 of them were deported to the French internment camp at Gurs in south west France, where they remained in bad conditions until July 1942, when most of the survivors were sent to Auschwitz and subsequently murdered.

After the war 15 survivors returned to Freiburg, a new Jewish community was founded and by 1968 its membership had increased to 225. In recent years it has risen considerably as a result of the arrival of Jews from Russia. A newly built synagogue was inaugurated in 1987, close to the Münster. The Jewish cemetery, badly damaged during the Nazi period, has been renovated, and is in use again. In 2013 the community held a Jewish Cultural Festival of literature, poetry, music and dance.

“What was the fate of Jewish citizens in Freiburg under the Nazis? And what has happened since? “

As well as the plaque in the Platz der alten Synagogue, there are several other reminders of the fate of Freiburg's Jews that I know about: there are probably others. Near the city centre there is a yellow road sign pointing towards the internment camp at Gurs. Memorials to individual victims of the Nazis, in the form of brass plates (the so-called “Stolpersteine, or “stumbling stones”) are set in the pavement outside their former residences, bearing their names and what happened to them. (Such memorials are not unique to Freiburg, but are found in many other German cities). On the wall of the Wiwili Bridge, near the railway station, a sculpted “forgotten coat” acts as a symbolic reminder of the deportation of Jews. [For pictures, see page 5.]

One final comment - I understand that there was a proposal to rename Freiburg's Wagnerstrasse because of that composer's anti-semitism. It was turned down, but it is another example of the strength of feeling in Freiburg about trying to right the wrongs of the past.

VISITS BACK AND FORTH

THE ASSOCIATION'S VISIT TO FREIBURG

In June Peter Slade led a group of members on the Association annual visit to Freiburg: In generally excellent weather, it included guided tours of the city and of the world-famous environmentally-advanced district of Vauban, an interesting short visit to Freiburg's synagogue, a street festival in Oberlinden, a walk in the Black Forest from Hintergarten to the lake at Titisee with our friends in the Anglo-German Club followed by lunch with them overlooking the lake, a boat trip on the lake and excellent concerts at two local villages – minimalist piano music at Au and an a capella group at Ebnet.



*At award ceremony (see page 1) during Association visit.
L to r: Ernst & Penny Leube (Anglo-German Club), Peter Slade & Bürgermeister Otto Neideck*

Three of the group, all first-time visitors to Freiburg, reflect on their impressions... First, Veronica Plested writes: Lots of cobbles – so that is why we are twinned with Freiburg! Our suitcase wheels bouncing along as we walked to our hotel – going back we walked a shorter, less cobbled path – not “newbies” any more - and we actually knew where we were going!

I remember Vauban – hot and unusual – environmentally put together with lots of windows facing south to catch the sun. I loved the grass/wildflowers on top of the bike shelters – we could do that! But after our rather warm guided tour somewhere nice for lunch was welcome. Then later a hot afternoon stroll was helped by finding some lovely ice-creams near Adelhauser Strasse.

I have memories of some really lovely food – particularly a meal in the Black Forest after a walk with the Anglo-German Club. This was followed by a boat trip and a concert later in the evening – what a busy day. We were seldom alone – the Anglo German Club members were most friendly and made sure we missed nothing. Plus I remember chatty breakfasts when the others put the world to rights and I tried to wake up!



Association / Anglo-German Club lunch overlooking Titisee

Of course Freiburg itself had World Cup football fever – we arrived as Germany won their match against the USA - so the noise that evening celebrated this. And who of us will ever forget the surreal experience of sitting in the lounge watching Brazil v Chile, while thunder and lightning raged outside and the festival bands played below our open windows.

Our late night visit to the Münster for evensong was a bonus – creeping in behind a small group of people who seemed to know where they were going. We were not even sure if we should be there but we found a pew and listened to some lovely singing, plus some German from the priest that even I could understand. Best of all I met some lovely people – acquaintances were friends by the time we came back. Many thanks to Peter Slade for doing all the hard work for us in organising it.

Helen Poole writes: Visiting Freiburg for the first time was actually rather a surprise. I was expecting a lovely typical historic cathedral town, which of course it is, but rather staid and proper too. Instead it was just full of life in so many ways: Germany were playing in the World Cup and winning, a new archbishop was coming to town to live just opposite our hotel, and everything was in festive mood, different style bands and dancing in the streets, lots of beer and wonderful cosmopolitan food ... the cathedral decorated with trees hung with ribbons, lots of visitors coming to take part in the celebrations and even a packed traditional Anglican-style evensong with great singing in the Münster the night before.

And that's not even mentioning visiting so many fascinating churches, the great breakfasts, the warm German welcome, and a memorable lunch on the Titisee with our delightful hosts. I'll just have to go again next year to see if it's always like that.....

Helene Alderman writes: What a great trip! I can rarely remember a holiday starting each day with such a pleasantly spirited debate at breakfast over: energy-saving, neuro-science, politics, religion.... Sufficiently adrenaline-boasted, (not to mention the boost from the ample early morning buffet) we launched ourselves amongst the unsuspecting Freiburgers.

And what a welcome they gave us Peter Slade was ceremoniously awarded a certificate by the City of Freiburg [*Ed: for his support for the twinning with Guildford over so many years - see page 1.*] The awe-inducing event took place in a historically evocative hall and afterwards we were treated to an extremely fine lunch at the Oberkirchs Weinstuben in the Münsterplatz, hosted by Günter Burger, head of the City's International Affairs Group.

Staying at the Hotel Schwarzwälderhof gave us an insight into further excellent culinary delights -- the restaurant there is well known locally for excellent dining. And there was so much to do. Highlights were a charming and well-informed tour guide who showed us round Vauban and thoroughly answered group members' searching and wide-ranging questions. A wonderful trip organised by the Anglo-German Club involved a leisurely walk through Black Forest countryside, which gave an informal opportunity to talk to our counterparts, followed by a superb lunch overlooking Lake Titisee as well as a delightful boat trip around the lake. These were only some of the highlights – there were the concertsand and ...

GUILDFORD'S PIT FARM TENNIS CLUB PLAY IN FREIBURG

Richard Clarke, a member of Pit Farm Tennis Club and of the Association reports on a visit he made in July 2014 with three other veteran players from the Club for a few days of tennis with the Schönberg and Freiburger clubs: After our arrival on Friday, Verena Potass-Arnold, wife of one of the tennis club members, showed us around the city before we took a drink on a newish rooftop cafe/bar with a superb view of the city and hills. In the evening we went for supper as guests of the Schönberg club. They could not have been more friendly or hospitable. We had a really enjoyable evening.

Saturday morning was spent enjoying the excellent market and



Pit Farm tennis club with Schönberg club (top) and with Freiburger club (below)

a tour of the Münster. In the afternoon we went back to the Schönberg club for our friendly match. Our only disappointment of the weekend was the standard of the tennis generally. They were not nearly as strong as our team, so we mixed the players around to make it fairer. We stayed on for supper and left late, having spent nearly 12 hours at the club! We liked their gravel courts, which are slower than our artificial grass courts, so you have a better game, especially when you hit with spin. (But as we have far too few tennis halls in the UK, artificial grass is very popular here, as it enables us to play throughout the year.)

On Sunday we were invited for lunch at the other tennis club, the Freiburger, with its lovely facilities – much better than ours

in Guildford - followed by some tennis in the afternoon. Again, the standard of the tennis did not challenge us, but that was more than compensated for by the quality of their hospitality. We spent the rest of the evening with them, enjoying a very good supper and watching Germany win the World Cup final against Argentina.

I stayed two days longer in Freiburg, one of which I spent cycling to Breisach am Rhein to the west of Freiburg in the company of one of the tennis players from the Freiburger club, who kindly lent me a bike and guided me around for the day. This was just another example of the hospitality shown to us during our all-too-brief visit. It would be nice if some of the members of both clubs could come and visit us in Guildford, and we would try very hard to welcome them as cordially as they welcomed us.

FREIBURG'S ANGLO-GERMAN CLUB GOES TO HOUSE OF LORDS

Penny Leube, English President of the Freiburg Anglo-German Club, sent us a report of a visit ten Club members made, through the good offices of our Association, to the House of Lords for a Parliamentary Day organised by the British German Association. The report is too long to include in full, but here are a few highlights: We had taken a flight that allowed time for us to join the worshippers at Westminster Abbey for Sunday Evensong. A very moving experience – although thoughts of



The Freiburg Anglo-German Club at the House of Lords lunch



Coronation and Kate and William's wedding perhaps distracted some of us from the words on the hymn sheet.

On the morning of the Parliamentary Day we began with a guided tour, first the grand Westminster Hall with its imposing hammerbeam roof, then on to St Stephen's Hall, the original chamber of the House of Commons. We arrived at the central lobby just in time to witness the Speaker's procession, including an official bearing a mace. A loud booming voice commanded: "Hats off, strangers!" but luckily none of us was wearing a hat.

"...the Lords' and Ladies' cloakroom, where we noted loops thoughtfully provided to hang our swords from ..."

We were shown the Queen's Robing Room, then on through the royal gallery from where Angela Merkel had addressed both Houses, to the actual Lords' chamber, lavishly decorated, plush red benches, woosack and throne. As we progressed, we saw lords huddled in corners, poring over papers at long tables and deep in discussion. Next was the Lords' and Ladies' cloakroom, where we noted loops thoughtfully provided to hang our swords from, but none of us was wearing a sword. Then drinks on the historic terrace overlooking the Thames, a light lunch with German wine in an elegantly decorated marquee, and finally an address by Lord Ashdown. His theme was the importance of stronger political European ties, particularly after the Crimea annexation and increasingly aggressive actions by Putin.

We enjoyed other London delights during our trip, but the House of Lords visit was the highlight for all, and a once in a lifetime experience for many of us.

EVENTS & SOCIAL

OUR ANNUAL GERMAN CHRISTMAS MARKET

As usual, the sound of traditional carols and the aroma of Glühwein greeted visitors to the Association's annual German Christmas Market in Guildford's Guildhall in December. As always the Market was very popular with pre-Christmas shoppers diverted from the High Street shops to our rather different selection of goodies. Welcome visitors included the Association's President, the Mayor of Guildford, Cllr David Elms and the Mayoress Mrs Wendy Elms. Wooden toys from our twin city, candles and traditional German Christmas bakery items were on sale, there was a Tombola, literature about Freiburg was available and there was a free tasting of some excellent Baden wine from the Freiburg region. It all made for a festive atmosphere and helped to celebrate the 35 years of Guildford's twinning with Freiburg. It also contributed some useful funds to the association's cash reserves

As in previous years our Christmas Market brought a touch of Freiburg to Guildford and helped to promote the partnership with our delightful twin city to the many people who came to the Guildhall.

STONE FESTIVAL IN FREIBURG

The European Stone Festival is held every year in May in a major European city, and in 2014 it took place in Freiburg. Three members of the West Riding Stonecarving Association, based in Halifax, competed in the two-day event alongside some 150 of the best stone carvers in Europe -- from Germany, France, Hungary, Netherlands, Ireland, Switzerland and the UK. It was divided into an Open Class and an Apprentice Class and each participant had 14 hours to carve an object within the "Nature" theme.

The event was held in the Eschholz Park, two tram stops from the Hauptbahnhof. Imagine 150 carvers chipping away under the trees in dappled sunlight...quite an experience. Fortunately there were plenty of beer tents and food stalls to keep us all going, even a band for light entertainment. After a weekend of frantic carving, Joe English from Halifax was declared winner of the Apprentice Class with his finely crafted 'Yogi Bear'. Other members of the West Riding Stonecarving Association did well, finishing in the top twenty.

The Halifax group found Freiburg a very pleasant combination of old and new. The Cathedral is magnificent and the Altstadt's many old buildings a joy to discover. All in all we found the transport system, the people, the environment and the whole experience welcoming and rewarding. Next year the Festival is in Strasbourg which we will visit and then my wife and I will travel back to Freiburg for even more to discover. ...can't wait!

Bill Ashbee

Secretary, West Riding Stonecarving Association



Mayor David Elms and Peter Slade at Christmas Market (picture courtesy of Surrey Advertiser)



Enthusiastic helpers at Christmas market (note the hats...)



Stone Festival: with (below) winner of apprentices' competition and his creation "Yogi Bear".



OUR ANNUAL SUMMER PARTY

The generous host for our Annual Summer Party in August was Irene Black, who made her fine garden in Merrow available to us. Sunny Sundays were very common last summer so we hoped for the best with the weather. However as the more than 40 Association members and friends and the Deputy Mayor, Nikki Nelson-Smith and her husband, arrived so did some large black clouds. We pressed on with serving wine but the weather ignored this expression of optimism and the rain came down, first gently and then in buckets. We were driven indoors for twenty minutes or so but then the rain stopped and out came the sun.

Katie Butcher and her band of helpers had prepared (as usual!) a delightful buffet meal with a German flavour and this, accompanied by wine from the Freiburg area (as is now usual at our events), was greatly appreciated by everyone. As always this annual fixture in the Association's calendar of events provides everyone who comes with the chance to enjoy an alfresco meal and each other's company in a relaxed setting.

OUR ANNUAL GERMAN DINNER

February saw a large group of members and friends gathered at Guildford College once again, for a delicious German-themed dinner in the College's smart dining-room. The dinner was prepared and also served, very charmingly, by College students and enormously enjoyed by everyone.

OBITUARY

KATIE BUTCHER

On 21 December 2014 we lost an important member of the Association and of the Committee, when our dear friend and colleague Katie Butcher died. She had been the Association's Social Secretary from 2006, when I took over the Chairmanship. Always lively and cheerful, she arranged many events for the Association very effectively – the annual German dinner and the annual summer party at a variety of venues, when she organised the catering with a group of members. She also helped to arrange the Association's annual public lectures in the Guildhall and she participated enthusiastically in the annual German Christmas Market in the Guildhall – the Glühwein she made to her own recipe was a huge attraction for visitors. She was also active in the Guildford-Freiburg Churches Link, which is independent of the twinning Association, although we keep in touch with, and participate in, each other's activities.

Although she had known she was terminally ill for a very long time it was difficult to believe it, as she continued with her many activities as if nothing was wrong. She had moved to Cheshire to be with her son and his family shortly before she died: she rang me just before she went and she sounded as cheerful as ever. My own association with her went back for very many years – she was the Guildford Society's Social Secretary when I was Chairman -- and of course I miss her personally. And she is badly missed by her friends in the Association and many other people and organisations in Guildford for her range of contributions.

Peter Slade



Katie helping at our Christmas market, in 2011 and 2013



COMING EVENTS

Dates for your diary

2 June.....	Annual General Meeting
9-14 June	Visit to Freiburg
12-13 June.....	Partner Cities Market in Freiburg
23 August.....	Association Summer Party
Late October – early November (date tbc).....	Public Lecture on a German topic
13 December	Association's Christmas Market

Association social events 2014



German Dinner (left) and Summer Party (right)



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Other Committee members: Irene Black, Frauke Burge,
Patricia Grayburn, Hon. Alderman Bernard Parke (and
local councillors not appointed at date of going to press)

Websites

Our website (with our newsletters and updates):
<http://surreycommunity.info/gfa>

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 Peter Slade. If any member wishes to receive the minutes of committee meetings by email, please contact our secretary, Hilary Mills.

Our thanks to all those members and friends who supplied pictures and articles for this newsletter.