



## CHAIRMAN'S OVERVIEW

The Deed of Partnership between Guildford and Freiburg, signed in 1979, included the aim of supporting "the coming together of our citizens in every sphere". This should obviously include the cultivation of human, artistic and cultural relationships between our towns. I hope all members agree with my view that the past year has seen the continuance of the implementation of these aims and has been another highly successful one for the twinning and for our Association. Following the long-awaited and welcome visit in 2011 by Freiburg's Oberbürgermeister, Dieter Salomon, in June 2012 we were delighted to welcome twenty Freiburgers, led by the charming Meike Gutzweiler, for a visit which went very well and which they obviously enjoyed.

Then early in July, twenty one Association members and friends visited Freiburg for five days, travelling there by bus, to explore the town and parts of the adjacent Black Forest. It was a great success, not least meeting up with our friends from the Freiburg Anglo-German Club at the Queen's Jubilee Dinner which they had arranged. There were also individual visitors to Freiburg – an architect and a planner from Guildford and one of the Borough Council's Strategic Directors. As can be seen from their accounts, all were impressed by what they saw. Last summer was a vintage one for musical activities between Guildford and Freiburg. In April, Guildford Vox Choir were in Freiburg to give two concerts, one with the Freiburger Senioren Orchester. The

orchestra made a return visit to Guildford in July and there were joint performances at the Baptist Church and at Guilfest. Both groups expressed the hope of an on-going collaboration -- I am delighted with this as I put the groups in touch following an initial enquiry from the Orchestra. The musical "mini-invasion" of Freiburg continued during July. The excellent Vivace Chorus, long-established visitors to Freiburg, sang there in June. Newer visitors were the young people



*Freiburg's Schwabentor and Oberlinden*

from the Surrey Youth Orchestra who performed there twice in July and the SW Surrey Concert Band who gave concerts in Freiburg and Titisee, also in July. We have recently had enquiries from a Freiburg University drama group who would like to perform here and to collaborate with their equivalents at Surrey. It would be good to see cultural exchanges, already very healthy, expand in this and other ways.

It is also important that young people from Guildford and Freiburg have an opportunity to participate in joint cultural and other activities and to get to know one another better.

At Easter, for the 27th time, there was the annual encounter between Guildford City Boys and Girls Football Club and Freiburg's Blau-Weiss Club – last year in Freiburg, when Guildford won three out of the four games. George Abbot School continued with its long and successful exchange association with the Goethe Gymnasium. Another Freiburg school, Staudinger Gesamt Schule, which had not been before made a visit here, perhaps the start of another exchange programme. Students from Freiburg's Max Weber Schule again spent time at Guildford College for another worthwhile internship.

Our annual Christmas Market was more successful than ever and on the purely social side our summer party and our German dinner were



*Association members in Rathausplatz, Freiburg*

both greatly enjoyed by all who were there. In March, members greatly enjoyed a Quiz Night expertly run by Barbara & Tony Ford and supplemented with German sausages and sauerkraut.

I'm pleased to end by recording deserved thanks to some of the people who have contributed to this year's successes. The Mayor of Guildford (who is also a member and the President of the Association for her Mayoral year) has attended most of our events. Our Vice-Chairman Wolf Pietrek again made big contributions to the Christmas Market and other events, including being one of the speakers at our very successful Public Lecture. Ros Calow continued with her good work to increase the involvement of schools. As always Michael Gorman looked after our finances and the membership very efficiently. Hilary Mills one again did a superb job as our secretary and Katie Butcher did great work as Social Secretary. And as you can see, Barbara Ford has again done an excellent job as editor of the newsletter spite of her full-time demanding work commitments. Tony Ford helped to publicise the Association by keeping the Web-site, which he devised, up to date. Finally we are grateful for the grant of £420 which we received from the Borough Council.

Peter Slade

Gesamt Schule to Guildford. They organised their own accommodation and excursions with the help of Gina Redpath, a Guildford community volunteer and home-stay organiser. Peter Slade and I met these teenagers and were very impressed by their enthusiasm and behaviour. German-speaking Guildford town guide Tessa Johnson took them on a tour of the main sites in the town centre. They intend to make another visit in the future and would be very grateful if a school could welcome them for a one-day visit while they are here.

- The South West Surrey Concert Band played at the Wohnstift Freiburg on 24 July 2012 to a good-sized audience. Their performance was much appreciated.

There are currently some interesting grants available from the UK German Connection for schools making their first visit to a school in Germany or working on a special project with a school in Germany. Please contact the Association if you would like further details.

## GEORGE ABBOT SCHOOL EXCHANGE VISIT TO FREIBURG

*Year 10 pupil Max Burt writes:* In March 2013, I went on with around 30 other students from George Abbot School to the wonderful city of Freiburg. We stayed with a German family and spoke German for a whole week!

On one day, we went to Goethe Gymnasium where we had lessons with our exchange partners. I went into maths, religion, politics and English lessons with my exchange partner. It was amazing to see how the students in Germany were taught compared to what happens at our school. The Gymnasium is a large 4-storey building with a big, traditional entrance hall, an indoor sports hall and 600 students. In comparison, George Abbot School is more spacious. Instead of one big building, there are several smaller ones scattered around. The school day was 7.50am - 3.30pm, slightly longer than at home, although they had more breaks between lessons.

First lesson was maths. When I entered the room, I noticed that all the students were wearing whatever clothes they liked. At George Abbot, we wear school uniform. The students all had individual desks.

## YOUNG PEOPLE'S ACTIVITIES

### SCHOOLS LIAISON

*Ros Calow reports:* We continue to be active in supporting visits for young people to Guildford and Freiburg. Our aim is to stimulate more of these as they can be so rewarding for all concerned.

- A group from the Max Weber Schule was again welcomed to Guildford College in September and enjoyed their experiences on a work placement scheme. This is really valuable and we only wish Guildford College could persuade some students to go to Freiburg.
- George Abbot School have made their usual trip to Freiburg this March and will welcome the Goethe Gymnasium back to Guildford later this year. Our thanks go to Nuria Martinez-Wallas of George Abbot School for being so enthusiastic and for keeping this going.
- Last summer a very enterprising Freiburg teacher, Marie Brunner, brought a group of pupils from the Staudinger

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**Music music music!**



*Guildford Vox Choir & Freiburger Senioren Salon Orchester perform: in Freiburg (above), in Guildford (below), at muddy Guilfest (right)*



*South-west Surrey Concert Band play in Titisee*



*Vivace Chorus group at the Rathaus reception (right)*

*Surrey Country Youth Orchestra play in Rathausplatz (below left) including Mendelssohn's Wedding March for some newly-weds (below right)*



**Smiles in Guildford's Guildhall**



*Meike Gutzweiler with Mayor & Peter Slade (left); Val Hazelwood in Santa hat (centre); Mayor & Peter Slade\* (right)*

*\*Picture by the Surrey Advertiser*

At George Abbot, we share a desk. My next lesson was religious studies. We stayed in the same classroom and waited for the teacher to arrive. At George Abbot, it's the opposite: we move to the teacher's classroom for our lesson. The Gymnasium teachers used a blackboard and chalk, whereas in England we use either whiteboards or Smart Boards (*electronic interactive boards – Ed.*) However, both schools use textbooks. The next lesson was German, but the teacher was ill. This meant that we spent the lesson doing whatever we liked (most people went into town). At George Abbot, if the teacher is ill, we sit in the hall doing work in silence. We then had a politics lesson before going off for lunch. I went into the city with my exchange partner. At George Abbot, only Sixth Formers can leave school at lunchtime. The rest have to stay in school and eat lunch in the canteens or playgrounds. After lunch, the final lesson was English, which was my favourite because I could understand the teacher!



*Group from George Abbot School and Goethe Gymnasium in porch of the Münster*

Apart from school lessons we did many other activities with our exchange partners, including hiking, sledging, ice-skating and bowling. We were all sad to leave at the end. My highlight of Germany was climbing the Münster in Freiburg, 271 steps to the top. The view was amazing and it is a memory I will never forget!

famous Yorkshire pudding or the typical fish and chips so that we could get a general idea of the culinary culture. Every Monday a language course accompanying our internship took place at Guildford College of Further and Higher Education, and we learnt about cultural awareness, everything around the office, marketing strategies and improving our listening skills.



*Goethe Gymnasium*

We diagnosed many differences between Germany and England. On the first day we noticed that public transport isn't very reliable sometimes. In addition, the food prices are significantly higher than in Germany. We had arranged two different cultural programmes. One weekend was spent in the beautiful city of London where we attended an original bus tour, and ended with a boat trip on the River Thames. Another weekend we drove to Brighton, and visited the Royal Pavilion and the amazing Brighton Pier in nice weather. All in all we had three very exciting weeks with lots of new and positive experiences and friendships, and fun. Guildford is a very nice city with many attractive offers and very friendly people. We will all keep this internship in a positive remembrance. Many thanks to the organizing team.

## **FREIBURG'S STAUDINGER SCHOOL PUPILS VISIT GUILDFORD IN MAY**

## **MAX-WEBER-SCHULE INTERNS GAIN WORK EXPERIENCE IN GUILDFORD**

*Lena Mossmann writes:* Our three-week internship in Guildford, part of the Leonardo da Vinci program of the European Union, started in September 2012. Eighteen students from Freiburg and towns in the region had the opportunity to get an insight into life and work in the UK. We were accompanied by two teachers from the Max-Weber-Schule in Freiburg. We worked in companies such as the University of Surrey, the Good Time Guide and Allianz, four days a week. We did administrative work, data entry in Excel, creating charts, research and creative work.

*(Extracted from the trip diary on DropBox produced by some of the students):* After an early flight, 26 pupils and three teachers from Staudinger Gesamt Schule arrived at Guildford Station and were met by Gina Redpath, the organiser of the host families, Peter Slade and Tessa Johnson. Tessa led the group on a tour round Guildford including the High Street (where they were impressed to see the display panel about Freiburg). They visited the Guildhall and were impressed by its age and its interior. They then went to look at Guildford Castle and also the nearby former home of Lewis Carroll, author of Alice in Wonderland and well known to them.

The next day started with a walk along the River Wey to the ruins of St Catherine's Chapel. After some shopping in the High Street, they had a guided tour of the Spike, the restored former workhouse, including a typically English cream tea with tea, scones, cream and jam.

Due to the pleasant atmosphere at our work placements, it was very easy for us to settle in and feel comfortable. We stayed in different host families, who all took great pains to cook dishes such as the

Next was a trip to Stonehenge and Salisbury Cathedral, with explanations given by their teachers, Mrs Brunner and Mrs Schneider. Then a day in London where they were impressed by Big Ben and the Houses of Parliament, St James' Park and Buckingham Palace and the

changing of the Guard at Horse Guards Parade. Then one group went to Oxford Street while some boys went to see Chelsea football ground at Stamford Bridge.

The diary ends: "Very special thanks...to all our fantastic host families and Gina Redpath for the placement and organization [and] ...to Tessa Johnson and to Peter Slade and Ros Calow from the Guildford-Freiburg Association for their time, advice and knowledge".



Staudinger Gesamtschule students: under Tunsgate Arch (above), with tour guide Tessa Johnson (below)



## FOOTBALL

### GUILDFORD CITY BOYS' SUCCESS AT FOOTBALL IN FREIBURG

*Phil Dyas writes:* At Easter 2012, for the twenty-seventh time Guildford City Boys & Girls Football Club played against old rivals SC Blau-Weiss Wiehre, this year in Freiburg. For the first time, the Guildford party consisted of 54 players, enough for four teams. This large group caused a minor hosting crisis but arrangements were made to ensure that none of the boys (no girls went) missed their chance to take part in this superbly organised exchange. As well as playing football, the Guildford boys learnt a little of how the German lads spend their weekends by staying with hosting families, while the Guildford parents and club management experienced this beautiful city on the edge of the Black Forest.

We were welcomed on behalf of the City of Freiburg by Ulrich von Kirchbach, the Sports and Culture Mayor, and by Margot Queitsch for

the Blau-Weiss Club. Formal thanks were given on behalf of the Guildford group, and all parties were introduced to Nikki Simmonds, the new Chairperson for Guildford City, who replaced Phil Dyas, the Chairman for many years.

Friday and Sunday were the football days, with games enthusiastically fought and played. The Guildford City boys were very successful, returning home with three of the four trophies on offer. Because the boys' group was so large it was not possible to hold the traditional Dads' Match. The players were entertained in the evenings with karaoke, a football party, ten-pin bowling, go-karting, and a day at the Europa Park at Rust, while the parents' group was taken on many trips round the beautiful region.

Phil Dyas commented: "Once again we have nothing but praise for the enthusiastic welcome and support we receive from the Blau-Weiss group, who organised a superb and entertaining weekend. As important as this was the fact that six older former players re-visited Freiburg to maintain the friendships they had formed during previous exchanges. The motto which appears on our commemorative medals given to each player on each visit is 'Friendship & Football' and it was good to see that the friendships formed in sport are being maintained, even when there is no sport involved. Long may this continue".

### FREIBURG FOOTBALL CLUB'S GOOD SEASON

At the time of writing (early April) SC Freiburg FC are having their best season ever. They are currently fifth in the German *Bundesliga* (the equivalent of the English Premiership). If they maintain this position they will compete next year in the Europa League, which will see them playing against the English sides who qualify. To add to this success, they are in the semi-final of the German FA Cup. All this on a small, non-regulation playing pitch. Each year they have to get permission from the German FA to be allowed to play top-flight games on it. A new ground is planned but at present the necessary funds are lacking.

## OUR ANNUAL LECTURE

### CAPACITY AUDIENCE FOR TALKS ON LIFE IN POST-WAR GERMANY

As well as arranging and catalysing many events over the past 32 years involving Guildford's delightful twin city of Freiburg, the Guildford-Freiburg Association arranges an annual public lecture on a German topic. This year's lecture event was held in November before a capacity audience at the Guildhall on the theme of "Life in Post-War Germany". As well as Association members the audience also included members of other local twinning associations. Two talks by native Germans spoke of their childhood experiences during the war years and the aftermath in both East and West Germany after the collapse of the Hitler regime.

The first talk was by Meike Laurenson who has lived in England all her adult life but took the audience back to her childhood in post-war Germany, as recorded in her autobiography (entitled "*Herring, Dahl & Apple Crumble*"). A collection of old photographs illustrated her memories of a time when girls were always told what to do, from collecting dandelions to feed the rabbits to sitting quietly in the air raid shelter. Her home had to be shared with refugees from the east

of Germany, billeted to stay there while the owners were allowed only three rooms for their own family to use.

Her talk was followed by Wolfgang Pietrek, the Association's Vice-Chairman, sharing his own personal experiences, from membership of the Hitler Youth Movement to his escape in 1950 from the Communist DDR regime to joining the European Youth Movement in his new home town of Freiburg. The subsequent question and answer session was very lively and a good reflection of the success of the evening, which concluded with the serving of some of the excellent wine from the Freiburg region.

## GREEN LIVING IN FREIBURG

### A PLANNING CONSULTANT'S VIEW

"Atomkraft? Nein danke." For the fashionable environmentalist of thirty years ago there were few more evocative slogans. You don't see those words (or "Nuclear Power? No thanks") much in the UK these days. But in Vauban, the famous green model suburb in Freiburg, they are on banners everywhere. Freiburg is well known for its environmental achievements, and increasingly it is Vauban that people like me come to see. Three hundred delegations have been shown round in the last year. The previous day's pair had been from Sweden and Australia.



To get a

sense of what Freiburg is like, think Oxford transplanted to the edge of the Lake District. It has been a university town since the fifteenth century, with current student numbers standing at 25,000, more than 10% of the city's population. And it can't expand outwards, as it is surrounded by the *Schwarzwald* – the Black Forest – probably the most protected landscape in all Germany. There is one added factor. Although it is most obvious in Vauban, there is a strong dislike of nuclear power everywhere. And why? Because Freiburg is only 20 km from France, and just over the Rhine is the aging Fessenheim reactor, which the French steadfastly insist on keeping open.

The story of Vauban really starts almost seventy years ago. The Altstadt, the old city centre of Freiburg, was almost completely destroyed by an air raid in November 1944. Only 20% of buildings – fortunately including the cathedral – survived. But you would have to look closely to realise that today, Freiburg was recreated largely as it

had been before the war, and feels like an historic town. Individual plots were rebuilt piecemeal, adhering to a common building code. The result is a delight. Human scale, individualistic, prosperous and friendly.

Then there is the public transport system. Freiburg has possibly the best tram system for a city of its size anywhere. Five routes converge on the city centre, so you are never far from a tram-stop. And they run until after midnight. This has enabled the whole city centre to be made a car-free area, an astonishing oasis of calm.. Finally there are the two green model suburbs. Rieselfeld, the larger, has about 11,000 inhabitants, and Vauban, the more cutting-edge, about 5,000. Remarkably, not far short of 10% of the population now live in them. Neither is within walking distance of the city centre, but with the tram system and the cycle route network you can give up your own car without feeling like a second class citizen. And there are car clubs, so with a bit of planning you can have access to a car when you need one. In Vauban there are only 16 private cars per 100 people.

Vauban is full of sustainability features, like woodchip-fired Combined Heat and Power, houses with passive solar gain, and punitive charges for a resident's parking space. There is also a high level of community decision-making. It is built in a modern style (see page 6 for pictures), but in one vital way follows the approach used in rebuilding the Altstadt. Each apartment block has been designed individually – usually for a group of families who join together to buy the land and then live in the apartments. These are never more than about four storeys high, apparently so that parents can call down to their children playing outside in the surrounding landscaped areas. This, together with the variety provided by the different designs, has created an interesting, human scale and eminently liveable place.

But to me the most striking thing is still all the anti-nuclear banners. It seems that people choose to live there partly to make a statement. And if you didn't share all their views it might be an uncomfortable place to call home. So even in probably the greenest city in Europe some people want to be greener than others. And the same applies to renewable energy. You do see a few wind turbines in the hills around Freiburg, but the locals I spoke to weren't that keen on them. People visit the Black Forest for its natural beauty, and, just as in England, the residents are not convinced the two are compatible. But they certainly prefer them to nuclear energy, and together with photovoltaics, helped by Germany's famously generous (though recently reduced) feed-in tariffs and biomass boilers, they have a multi-pronged renewable energy assault on their French neighbours' pro-nuclear approach.

So what can we learn from all this? Germans are really no different from us when it comes to their less than ready acceptance of the more inconvenient aspects of sustainable living. Freiburg is not a typical German city. The size and influence of the University, together with the desire to build more homes while protecting the Black Forest, and at the same time wanting to show the French how wrong they are about nuclear energy, have created a unique set of conditions. Freiburg has had a Green Party mayor for the last ten years, and Vauban is really the latest step on a long road. Go to Stuttgart, the Baden-Wurttemberg state capital, and home of Mercedes and Porsche, and you would see a very different German city.

The Freiburg Innovation Academy will be working with universities in Birmingham and London this year, as well as other institutions across the globe. So expect a Vauban clone to be rolled out somewhere near you soon, but remember that it took more than sixty years work for Freiburg to make such a success of it.

*Tim Stansfeld*  
(Member of the Guildford Vox Choir)

## ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL CHRISTMAS MARKET

On the last Saturday in November Guildford's Guildhall was filled with the aroma of *Glühwein* and rang with the sound of Christmas music -- the Association was again holding its annual German Christmas market, helping to celebrate and promote the thirty-three years of Guildford's twinning with Freiburg. Wooden toys from our twin city, candles and traditional German Christmas bakery items were on sale -- once again very popular with visitors -- there was a tombola and literature about Freiburg was available. An additional attraction was a free tasting of some excellent Baden wine from the Freiburg region arranged by Association member and wine expert David Petche.

Thanks are due to the dedicated band of helpers who ensured the market was more successful than ever, contributing useful funds to the Association's reserves. As always the market brought a touch of Freiburg to Guildford and helped to promote our lovely twin city and our partnership with it to the many people who came to the Guildhall.



Members of the Association's sales force in action: Hilary Mills (top), Keith Childs (centre), Katie Butcher (bottom)

## VISITS BACK & FORTH

### CHAIRMAN LEADS ASSOCIATION TOUR GROUP TO FREIBURG

*Peter Slade describes the tour — he says he was delighted that nobody got lost....:* At the beginning of July twenty one members and friends of the Association made a very enjoyable coach trip to Freiburg. Overnight stops in Reims on the way out and in Châlons-en-Champagne on the way back added to the interest of the journey, and there were also sightseeing stops in Alsace, Laon and Arras.

The group stayed at the Schwarzwälderhof Hotel in the centre of the city's pedestrianised old town, a stone's throw from the magnificent fourteenth-century Gothic cathedral. They were welcomed by City Councillor Walter Krögner at a reception in the Town Hall, who gave a charming speech in English, without notes. [*To which Peter responded in German—Ed.*] There was also a friendly welcome from old friends in the Freiburg Anglo-German Club.

There followed four days of activities in and around the city. A tour around the fascinating old town provided orientation to those in the group who had not been before. It included a visit to the cathedral's workshop to hear about the on-going repairs to the building's fabric and to watch stonemasons exercising their skills in remaking worn parts of the building. Some people visited the beautifully renovated Augustiner Museum, with its wonderful collection of mediaeval art and sculpture, and, as a contrast, the city's Modern Art Gallery. A journey by chair-lift took the group to the top of Schauinsland, Freiburg's local mountain, with its fine views over the city and the Rhine valley and a close-up look at two of the city's wind turbines. Short walks into the Black Forest whetted people's appetite for future longer stays.

No trip to Freiburg would be complete without a visit to Vauban, one of the world-famous eco-friendly neighbourhoods in the city, with its 5000 inhabitants. The group heard how all the houses are built to a low energy consumption standard with many fitted with photovoltaic solar panels, with surplus electricity sold into the city's grid. The development is connected to the rest of the city by a frequent tram service -- just one example of Freiburg's superb public transport. About 70% of Vauban's residents have chosen to live without a car and of course cycling is a favoured means of transport, as it is elsewhere in the city and its surroundings. The group agreed that Guildford could learn environmental lessons from Vauban and indeed from the whole of Freiburg, the "Green City". (*See also Tim Stansfeld's article on Green Living in Freiburg — Ed.*)

The area round Freiburg is famous for its excellent Baden wine and the group paid a visit to a local vineyard at Munzingen, where the wine is grown and produced using organic methods. After tasting a few of the wines, all were agreed on the excellence of the product and several cases of it were loaded on to the coach. There were other opportunities to try the local wines as the annual Freiburg wine festival was in progress -- a very lively and colourful event held in the cathedral square.

Freiburg is on the edge of the Black Forest and the group visited three villages in the forest -- St Peter and St Märgen, both with beautiful Baroque churches (some members walked between the two villages, led by David Petche) and the charming lakeside resort of Titisee where one or two members bought cuckoo clocks. A few people went on a guided walk in the same area. The final evening of the visit was another highlight, spent enjoying an excellent meal in a restaurant overlooking the city with members of the Freiburg Anglo-German Club

## Association Visit to Freiburg July 2012



*At the Münster's workshop*



*Association members learn about Vauban (above);  
Vauban main street (above left) & home zone (below left)*



*Black Forest churches, at St Peter (above &  
below far left) & St Märgen (below centre)*



*Cable car ascending Schauinsland (below)*





# Association Visit to Freiburg July 2012



*Drinks outside the Dattler*



*Ariane Hötzer and husband*



*Dinner with Anglo-German Club at the Dattler Restaurant (above and right)*



*Penny Leube (left) and guests*



*Visits to vineyards*



*Ernst Leube (right) with Dr Sven von Ungern-Sternberg*

*Stops on the way:*

*Arras (right)*

*Châlons-en-Champagne (far right)*

*Reims (below)*

*Riquewihir, Alsace (below, centre & right)*



who had arranged this year's event to be a celebration of Queen Elizabeth's Silver Jubilee. The Governor of South Baden and a former Mayor of Freiburg, Dr Sven von Ungern-Sternberg, was the Guest of Honour

This was my thirteenth visit to Freiburg, and my first as tour leader, an activity I greatly enjoyed. The trip was another opportunity for Guildfordians to sample the delights of our twin city. Once again we experienced the warmth of the friendship and hospitality that we always find when we are there. Guildford is lucky to be twinned with such a lovely city, environmentally-friendly and with a terrific buzz.

## AND THE GROUP SAYS "THANK YOU"

Several of those who went on the trip to Freiburg have asked us to publish their (lengthy) appreciation of the trip and thanks to Peter Slade as Tourleiter. Space only permits us to print some tiny snippets:

*Gordon and Heather Harrison:* Most of all we were charmed by the heartfelt welcome given by the various local people, including town dignitaries and the Anglo-German Club. Peter's patience was saintly and his organisation skills paramount. *Eine wunderschöne Reise!*

*Frauke Burge:* ...I was very impressed at how Peter was able to speak in German at the two receptions. I very much enjoyed my visit to the Museum of Modern Art, die Bauhütte. I found a picture by Kokoschka, an artist I am very interested in, because I met him many years ago.

*Gavin Dix:* Peter made a splendid *Tourleiter*. Freiburg now needs to replenish its supplies of Black Forest gâteau and wine after my visit!

*Michael Gorman:* In a bookshop in Freiburg I found a copy of Mark Twain's essay, "*The Awful German Language*", which starts: "I went often to look at the collection of curiosities in Heidelberg Castle, and one day I surprised the keeper of it with my German. I spoke entirely in that language. He was greatly interested; and after I had talked a while he said my German was very rare, possibly a 'unique'; and wanted to add it to his museum." Perhaps many of us have felt similarly about our own contributions to the language of Carl Friedrich Gauss and Erwin Schrödinger.

*Janis & Rodney Smith:* We cannot wait to return.

*Sue Harrington:* A great variety of experiences fitted into a week.

*Maurice Barham & Joan Butler:* ...Somewhat mixed feelings about Vauban. Particularly impressed by the elegance and layout in the centre of Reims with its third-rail powered trams.

## FREIBURG CITIZENS VISIT GUILDFORD

In June a group of twenty-one Freiburg citizens visited Guildford, most of them for the first time. The visit was arranged by Meike Gutzweiler on behalf of *Die Gesellschaft zur Förderung der Städtepartnerschaften Freiburgs* (the Society for the promotion of Freiburg's city partnerships). The group travelled by coach from Freiburg and stayed at the Angel Hotel. Their visit began next day at a reception in the Guildhall where they were welcomed by Guildford's Mayor, Cllr Jennifer Jordan, and by Association Chairman Peter Slade.

They left the Guildhall for a guided town centre tour, led by German-speaking town guide Pauline Surrey, which included Guildford House, Abbots Hospital and the Royal Grammar School. The next two days of their visit were very busy – they managed to get to see Watts Gallery, Loseley House (where they were greeted by Michael More-Molyneux 10



Reception at Guildhall for Meike Gutzweiler's group

and had an excellent lunch in the Barn Restaurant), Polesden Lacey, Wisley Gardens, and Painshill Park. This hectic schedule, which was very successful thanks to the excellent planning by Meike Gutzweiler, ended with a day in London, walking around to see many of the iconic sights, which they greatly enjoyed. For some it was their first visit to London. A few commented how noisy and crowded the city is – certainly compared to the peace and quiet of Freiburg!

Their busy day in London was followed by dinner with traditional English food – choices included steak and kidney pie and fish and chips - at the Withies Inn in Compton where they were joined by a few Association members. As well as the conviviality of the occasion the meal was notable for the very large portions of excellent food that were served and our visitors must have concluded that Guildfordians are very big eaters! Peter Slade spoke in German after the meal and was followed by Meike Gutzweiler, who said how much the Freiburg visitors had enjoyed their trip.

All in all a very successful visit which it is to be hoped will be repeated in the future.

## GUILDFORD SOCIETY IMPRESSED BY FREIBURG

Thanks to an introduction from Peter Slade, the highlight of the visit Gillian Cameron and I made to Freiburg in August was a three-hour session with Thorsten Donn at the Freiburg City Council Department of Urban Development. We met in the Technisches Rathaus surrounded by models and maps of the city, zoning plans, etc. Thorsten had prepared a presentation to which he referred while we discussed the city's planning system, strategic land use planning and "the compact city", urban planning agreements and transport.

Notable discussion points were the high level of public involvement in planning, retail policy ("anything which fits in a bag must not be bought on the outskirts") and the fact that only one third of added value (profit) of land on grant of planning permission stays with the landowner. The city's green credentials are reinforced by changes in modal split of local journeys, with significant increase in cycling and tram and bus travel at the expense of car usage, which is influenced by restrictive parking policies in new "brownfield" suburbs.

We were particularly impressed by the quality of paving and cleanliness in the old city, largely reconstructed since 1945. Water from the river flowing from the Black Forest is diverted through runnels (*Bächle*) alongside the pedestrian streets. This is aided by the gentle topography, the land falling from east to west, as are cycle and

tram travel. We visited the new suburbs of Vauban and Rieselfeld, home to 16,000 people with generous green spaces and amenities, but saw lack of maintenance of common areas in contrast to the private spaces. We experienced ease of tram travel and saw transport interchange at the railway station including a multi-storey cycle park and dedicated east-west bridge route. Guildford has much to learn about 'green living' and street maintenance although its topography and street pattern limits the opportunities for segregated cycle and bus/tram routes.

Chris Blow  
Guildford Society

## BOROUGH COUNCIL'S STRATEGIC DIRECTOR VISITS FREIBURG

Sue Sturgeon, a Guildford Borough Council Strategic Director, visited Freiburg over a long weekend last November -- in sub-zero temperatures! She and her partner stayed in the Black Forest village of Glottertal and travelled into the city by public transport. She speaks enthusiastically about Freiburg, especially about the city's long-term urban planning (one of the city's planners made her a lengthy presentation), her guided tour of the environmentally-advanced settlement of Vauban, the traffic-free city centre and the excellence of the public transport system (which she and her partner had used extensively), the city's energy strategy and the quality of the street surfaces and the general environmental quality. She was also given details about the very successful car share scheme. They finished their trip by exploring Freiburg's Christmas market. They were impressed by what they saw and heard during their visit and clearly had an enjoyable and stimulating time.

## MUSIC

### GUILDFORD VOX CHOIR PERFORM IN FREIBURG

Guildford Vox Community Choir performed alongside an orchestra in April 2012 for the first time, with the Freiburger Senioren Salon Orchestra (FSSO). The concert was the highlight of a twinning exchange visit between the two musical groups. Only two days after their first rehearsal together and only three days after they had met for the first time, the choir and orchestra performed four songs together which had been specially arranged by a member of the FSSO ("Moon River", "Money Money Money", "Lullaby of Birdland" and "Last Night of the Proms"): both groups also performed separately.

Guildford Vox's songs included traditional English folk songs, a Shakespearean sonnet arranged by choir leader Anna Tabbush, songs from Africa and France, and German folk favourite "Im Wald und auf der Heide". The FSSO played music from the last century including waltzes, tangos and swing. The concert received a standing ovation from an overjoyed audience who filled the Freiburg SeePark Pavilion. Guildford Vox also performed an a capella concert, "Heilig Geist", at a Freiburg care home for the elderly, which was much enjoyed by residents and guests.

The FSSO organised and hosted many excursions and events for the Choir, including a tour of the historic town of Freiburg and a welcome by a senior Town Councillor in the ancient Town Hall, wine tasting at the Schliengen Winery, and visits to the eco-suburb of Vauban, a traditional Black Forest farm, the renowned lake at Titisee, and the magnificent medieval church and monastery at St Peter. Guildford Vox was delighted by the feedback from both the audience and the FSSO, by the hospitality and by bond of friendship through music formed between the two towns.

In addition, the success of the concert enabled Guildford Vox to sell further copies of their CD 'Lullabies', which has so far raised over £2,500 for the charity War Child since its release in July 2011.

### FREIBURGER SENIOREN SALON ORCHESTER ENJOYS RETURN VISIT

Guildford Vox Community Choir were delighted to welcome the Freiburger Senioren Salon Orchester (FSSO) to Guildford. Choir and FSSO members were delighted to perform together again after their first joint concert in Freiburg in April and gave two joint concerts over a weekend in July.

On Saturday night, an enthusiastic audience – including the Deputy Mayor and twinning Association chairman, Peter Slade - enjoyed a concert programme similar to the Freiburg joint concert. The second joint concert was at Guilfest, an outdoor music festival in Guildford, on the Sunday. It was blessed with sun, although the mud situation was a challenge for all. The Orchestra took it all in good humour and declared it a "once in a lifetime adventure".

The FSSO also enjoyed the opportunity to get to know the Guildford area; with a walking tour of Guildford, a visit to Loseley House – including a ceilidh in the Tithe Barn and tour by Mr More-Molyneux, and a trip to London. They enjoyed drinking local beer and cider and sampling English food. Both choir and orchestra members were overjoyed to renew friendships, and the choir were glad to have an opportunity to return the great welcome and hospitality they had



Guildford City FC in Freiburg : Under 13s (above) & Under 15s (below)



received in Freiburg. All are looking forward to continued musical collaboration in the years to come.

*Kate Witham  
Guildford Vox Choir*

*Guildford Vox also sang at the Olympic Torch Relay through Guildford.*

## VIVACE CHORUS TOURS GERMANY AND ALSACE

Eighty singers accompanied by conductor Jeremy Backhouse and organist David Coram spent a week in Alsace and South-West Germany making music in beautiful churches whilst strengthening existing links with the area, and forging new ones.

The tour was planned around the twinning of Guildford with Freiburg, and began with a Civic reception in the Old Town Hall in Freiburg. Here, choir members were warmly welcomed by old friends from the Freiburger Bachchor. Vivace Chairman James Garrow presented Herr Bucholz of the city council with a commemorative book on Guildford, and Herr Bucholz responded with a welcoming speech highlighting the immense power of music to break down barriers and bring people together. The concert that evening in Herz Jesu Kirche ended with a standing ovation and as an encore, the performance of a special work "Give us this day" written by Ward Swingle (of Swingle Singers fame) for Jeremy Backhouse. In this, the poet Tony-Vincent Isaacs urges us to look at the beauty all around us and protect it for the future – it was a particularly apt and moving choice in a city famous for its "green" credentials.

Wednesday found the choir in Strasbourg where their concert in Eglise du Temple Neuf featured a wonderful mix of old and new with Handel's "Zadok the Priest", Rutter's "The Lord bless you and keep you", Parry "I was glad" alongside pieces by Fauré, Franck and Brahms. Each concert gave David Coram, the choir's accompanist, the chance to try his skills on a different church organ. He varied his programme of solo pieces to highlight the different personalities of the instruments, to the delight of choir and audience alike.

The final concert was at the Stadtkirche in Schwetzingen, near Heidelberg. Vivace singers were touched by the warmth of the welcome they received from the large audience here, who showed their appreciation with a rapturous standing ovation at the end of the concert.

It had been a fruitful five days in Alsace and the neighbouring areas of Germany, with wonderful concerts, plenty of historic sight-seeing, good food and wine and opportunities to strengthen the already firm links between Guildford and Freiburg. In November, some members of the Freiburg Bach Choir joined the Vivace Chorus for a fine performance of Benjamin Britten's War Requiem in Guildford Cathedral.

*Penny Muray  
Press Officer, Vivace Chorus*

## SURREY COUNTY YOUTH ORCHESTRA VISITS FREIBURG

Fifty six talented young musicians from Surrey County Youth Orchestra, under the baton of Peter Currie, went on tour last summer to France and Germany. They performed in sell-out concerts in Guildford's twin city of Freiburg and in Strasbourg, Mulhouse, Selestat and Rheinhausen.

The performance in Freiburg was arranged by the very energetic Alex Heisler as part of the "Zelt Musik Festival" (the Tent Music Festival), and orchestra members were delighted to find themselves playing on a covered stage in the square outside the Town Hall. They gave rousing performances of the Semiramide Overture (Rossini), Three Bavarian Dances (Elgar), Slavonic Dances (Dvorak), and Pomp & Circumstance March No 4 (Elgar) and they were met with great enthusiasm from the very large crowd. They also played Mendelssohn's Wedding March especially for a recently married couple. Also performing in the Square was the Freiburger Akkordeonorchester who played some very interesting and lovely arrangements.

After the performance orchestra members and staff were provided with a delicious meal in the University cafeteria. The Orchestra was very grateful to Alex Heisler and his team for the wonderful hospitality received.

*Alison Harding  
Manager, Surrey County Youth Orchestra*



*The Association group's visit to Lang's vineyard, Munzingen*

## SOUTH WEST SURREY CONCERT BAND VISITS THE BLACK FOREST

*Band member Tim Peters writes:* South West Surrey Concert Band is a group of 11-18 year olds who meet every Saturday morning to rehearse a wide range of wind band music. We give regular concerts and every two years go on tour. This year the Band went to the Black Forest. We set off by coach, with a hectic itinerary including going to Titisee, Triberg, Schönwald and Freiburg.

Our six nights' stay in Schwarzwald gave us the opportunity to hold four concerts, each at different venues. This left us plenty of time to enjoy trips to various tourist spots and leisure parks, including a visit to the Rhine Falls at Neuhausen in Switzerland. These powerful falls were exhilarating to experience from the boat which we took. We dried ourselves off from the spray of the waterfall and our coach took us on to Freiburg, where we had a few hours to explore the city before our concert.

The concert we played was at Wohnstift Freiburg – a retirement home, where we were well supported and greatly appreciated. The tour arrangements were intended to get us back to the UK in time for the Olympics, and the Olympic theme was present in our repertoire: Olympic Spirit by John Williams, which is always moving to play. Other pieces included Mozart's Horn Concerto (soloist Ella Finley) and a rock

rendition of Bach's Toccata in D minor (soloist Charles Johnson on drum kit). The eighteen-hour journey home got us back to Guildford just in time to watch the Olympic opening ceremony on television with our families.

## FREIBURG BAROQUE ORCHESTRA WINS AWARD

Gramophone magazine's prestigious award for best baroque orchestra was made in 2011 to the Freiburg Baroque Orchestra with harpsichordist Andreas Staier for their recording of CPE Bach's Six Harpsichord Concertos.

Lindsay Kemp wrote: "Here is the world's finest Baroque orchestra eagerly joining with one of the world's best harpsichordists. There is little danger of anything ever sounding dull with these performers. Tautly driven fast movements whipped into shape by precision horns, graceful slower ones warmed by soft flutes and busy but intricately shaped solos are all realised with matchless expertise and an explosive energy to match Bach's sparky imagination. The harpsichord stands up to the superbly boisterous orchestra with ease. Marvellous stuff." (*The recording is on a Harmonia Mundi CD, HMC90 2083/4*)

A recent recording of works by Schmelzer by the Freiburg Baroque Consort, members of the main orchestra, has recently been praised by the music critic of the New York Times, who said "this group of players from the crack FBO provide compelling performances in spades". The orchestra performed at the Lufthansa Festival of Baroque Music at St Johns, Smith Square in May this year.

## POETRY

*Association member Peter Simpson wrote this free verse poem capturing his experience of walking through the city.*

### WALKING THROUGH FREIBURG

After early rising and train to the airport we can relax now.  
The plane climbs over England and France to reach Basle.  
Our bus takes us over the muddy Rhine and through rich farmland.  
Views of mountains and dark forests appear. Then through the outskirts  
along the banks of the Dreisam we reach our stop at Freiburg station.

This station is a busy place. The modern rational design has light and space.  
Local trains, frequent expresses and speeding freight pass through.  
Outside the station across a wide road are fine new buildings.  
Elegant trams move between the station, the city and beyond. I decide to walk into the centre to see the flow of lives on the traffic free streets.  
At a busy junction, the trams cross over or turn according to their routes.

I find the cathedral square with its weekday market and open air restaurants.  
The red sandstone cathedral towers above with ancient buildings at the east corner.  
Behind are narrow streets with 19th century and later buildings.  
Small shops, restaurants, hotels and the archbishop's 'seat' in pink sandstone can be found there.

A wide pedestrian bridge gives access to the city's 'English' Victorian garden.  
Nearer the river stand noble buildings with pale sandstone facades in quiet streets.

In need of food I go to a restaurant in a modern store giving over the roof top views.

Amongst the bustle, greetings and talk there are images of destruction on display.

In grainy black and white photographs people work to clear a broken landscape.

I find an account of wartime bombing of the city. The cathedral withstood the blast. Its stone and bulk resisted the force. Buildings of timber and plaster were remade.

Those parts of the city damaged beyond repair were redesigned and replaced.

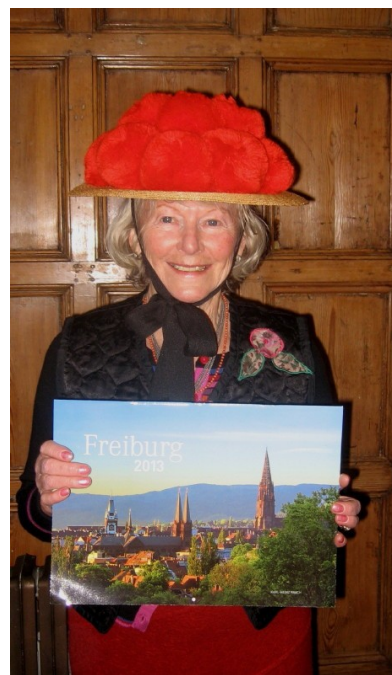
The city's scale and charm remains. Its history and culture are there to be enjoyed.

## SOCIAL EVENTS

### OUR ANNUAL SUMMER PARTY

In previous years we have taken advantage of the generous offers of several Association members to host our Summer party in their gardens. In 2012 we decided on a different type of venue - the beautiful and extensive grounds of Cobham Park, a large country house in Cobham. The house has been converted into apartments and some houses have been built in the Park -- Association member Frauke Burge lives in one of them and she suggested we should hold the party in and around the sports club near the lake in the park.

Our chosen date was mid-August but holding an open air event on any day during last year's dreadful summer was likely to be risky. In the event, after a fine morning, storm clouds gathered at lunch time and as guests started to arrive huge drops of rain spattered down. But



Silvia Khoo in traditional Black Forest hat at Guildford Christmas market

it was a false alarm – the weather cleared and the sun shone gloriously for the rest of the day. Forty or so members sat at tables under the shelter of mature trees, an altogether delightful setting. Our Social Secretary Katie Butcher with Frauke and many other helpers provided a superb spread with a German theme. Some excellent Baden wine from the Freiburg region complemented the meal perfectly.

This was another very successful event in the Association’s calendar. Our summer party, which gives members a chance to get together in an informal atmosphere, is now a popular permanent fixture.

## OUR ANNUAL GERMAN DINNER

This February we tested the resources of Guildford College again, with enormous success. The college chef and students produced a delightful German-themed meal for a large and happy group, including the Mayor.

## QUIZ NIGHT

A new venture for the Association was a Quiz Night, held on a cold night in March. Barbara Ford devised nine rounds of tricky questions on a range of themes, including of course one on Freiburg and Germany, and with the support of Tony Ford had five teams of members furrowing their brows and racking their brains. German-themed catering arranged by other committee members kept us going and modest prizes were awarded to the winning team – the honour being the main reward.



**Quiz Night**  
*The high-tech scoreboard was continually updated (above)*  
*The teams worked hard (below left)*  
*Identifying famous artists over supper (below right)*



## COMING EVENTS

### Dates for your diary

**29 May**

Annual General Meeting

**Early June**

Visit to Freiburg at the time of the Partner Cities Market

**11 August**

Association Summer Party



**Summer Party (left) & German Dinner (right)**

*Lunch under the trees in the dappled sunshine (top left and above left)  
 Four German-born members of the Association (left)  
 Mayor Jenny Jordan & Peter Slade (bottom left)*

*Katie Butcher (in red) & other guests (top right)  
 David & Marie Watts & the Mayor (above right)  
 Michael Gorman (centre) & other guests (above)  
 Mayor Jenny Jordan & Wolf Pietrek (bottom right)*



## Contacts in the Guildford-Freiburg Association

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Other Committee members: Irene Black, Frauke Burge, Cllr Graham Ellwood,  
Cllr David Goodwin, Patricia Grayburn, Val Hazelwood,  
Hon. Alderman Bernard Parke, Cllr Keith Taylor

## Websites

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

City of Freiburg:  
[www.freiburg.de](http://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.