



## A MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

In September 2009 Guildford and Freiburg will have been twinned for 30 years. At the official twinning ceremony in 1979 the Mayors of Guildford and Freiburg signed a Deed of Partnership as a token and promise of lasting friendship between the two communities and an encouragement to regular mutual liaison, to exchange experiences and to support the coming together of our citizens in every sphere.

I hope that all our readers will agree that this Newsletter demonstrates that Guildford's twinning with Freiburg is fulfilling those aims. Its accounts of the many activities and events arranged by the Association or by other groups in Guildford that have taken place over the past year demonstrate the ongoing strength of the partnership with our twin city.

But of course we could do more. As we move into the fourth decade of our partnership with Freiburg it would be good to see even more of Guildford's citizens and groups participating in it. We'd love to hear from people who'd like to contribute.

Finally some thanks. To Ros Calow whose excellent initiatives on schools' liaison have led to increased contacts between Guildford and Freiburg schools. To Katie Butcher who has managed our social programme with her customary flair. To Hilary Mills for her sterling work as our Secretary. To Barbara Ford for her expert editing of the Newsletter. To Michael Gorman for his work as Membership Secretary and for careful husbanding of our financial resources. To Wolf Pietrek for his help with our Christmas market and in other ways. To Susan and Brian Lewis whose hard work helped make the Partner Cities Market a success and who have used their link with Freiburg to great effect to help in many other ways. And to all those, in the Association and outside it, who have made valuable contributions to making the twinning a reality.

Peter Slade



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# YOUNG PEOPLE'S ACTIVITIES

## SCHOOLS LIAISON

We see school links as a vital part of our aim to involve as much of the community as possible in the town twinning.

Current initiatives we are working on include a new link between Ash Manor School and the Rotteck Gymnasium and between Guildford College and the Max Weber Schule. We are delighted to hear that an exchange between George Abbot School and the Goethe Gymnasium will take place in 2009. A further four schools (Guildford County, Guildford High, Royal Grammar and Tormead) are now in touch with schools in Freiburg, and we hope that these contacts will develop in the future.

### *"...interest to A Level Students"*

Schools could make contacts through German departments or through Geography or Science departments to discuss environmental issues, or there could be other areas of mutual interest. If your school would like to be put in touch with a school in Freiburg, please contact Ros Calow 01483 574730 e-mail [ros.calow@ntlworld.com](mailto:ros.calow@ntlworld.com).

Finally, please keep an eye out for information we send out to schools during the year. We try to arrange at least one talk each year that is of topical interest to A Level students. Look out for future events.

*Ros Calow*

## A YOUNG ENGRAVER

*A young visitor from Freiburg tells how his preconceptions were corrected and he became a Guildford enthusiast:*



*Alex Zimbelmann (centre) with Alja Schmidt and Peter Slade*

Hello everybody, my name is Alexander Zimbelmann. I had the opportunity to spend two months in Guildford in the summer of 2007, which changed my opinion about England. I live in Freiburg, and work for an engraving company there and hoped to work for a similar company in Guildford but found out that there wasn't one.

My prejudices were mistaken

### *"Guildford is full of life..."*

It was my first time in England and my impression of the Country was based upon what I knew from the TV. I thought that England is old, grey and boring but my opinion changed very fast! Already on the first day in Guildford, I could see that the town is full of life and the streets are full of people. The buildings are nice and colourful, and I understood it's not as boring as I thought. People had told me the English are arrogant, but I saw the opposite: they were very friendly and helpful. My English isn't very good but the people were patient and nice, and tried to help me every time when I had problems or questions.

### The Spectrum

Guildford is a comfortable town with many possibilities for young and old people. I like the beautiful park near the Tower of Guildford Castle and the busy High Street that is similar to the Kaiser-Joseph-Strasse in Freiburg where you can go shopping very well. The night life is great, many people from towns around Guildford came to Guildford to spend their evenings there. The atmosphere is also excellent. One thing I am really envious of is the Spectrum. It's fantastic, and I wished we would have something like this in Freiburg. Of course we have facilities for similar sports in Freiburg too. But the Spectrum combines it all in one, it's a good idea. I recommend it to everybody who has a chance to visit Guildford. It's worth it.

A big thanks to Alja Schmidt who was my host mother during the time I stayed in Guildford, and also to Peter Slade and Hilary Mills for their help.

*Alexander Zimbelmann*

## FOOTBALL

### 23 YEARS OF TWINNED FOOTBALL

*A summary of a talk by Phil Dyas at our 2008 AGM gives us some background:*



*Energy Meeting visit. Freiburg football stadium*

Guildford City Boys Football Club began to make exchange visits to Freiburg in 1985 when the club was invited by the SV Blau-Weiss Wiehre Freiburg sports club to attend a tournament. The numbers of people involved have increased over the years and now over 150 people travel to Freiburg - three teams of

# THE YEAR IN PICTURES

Partner Cities Market



*Tasting of the Hogs Back Brewery beer with Brian & Susan Lewis*

Partner Cities Markets



*Tessa Johnson on Guildford stall*



*Freiburg Cathedral*



*Anglo-German Club 50th anniversary reception*



*Our Christmas Market with Peter Slade & Mayor Jennifer Jordan*

boys and approximately 60 adults. Most travel by coach and some fly out. Boys are placed with German families and parents generally stay in a hotel or guest house – as is the case when the Freiburgers visit Guildford.

The English visitors are astounded by the Blau-Weiss Club's outstanding facilities - clubhouse, live-in groundsman, etc. Matches are held on the Friday and Saturday of the trip and trophy matches and a dads' match take place on the Sunday. A reception for Guildford visitors has been held by a member of the Freiburg City Council for many years and since the late 1990s the Mayor of Guildford has hosted a reception in the Guildhall, which has been much appreciated. Both Guildford and Freiburg families are pleased to accompany their guests on trips to attractions in the surrounding area.

By the end of each visit to Freiburg strong friendships have been forged, an understanding of the hosts' lifestyle and culture has developed, and most boys would like to stay longer in Germany. The boys return to the UK with many stories and younger players eagerly anticipate their chance to join a trip.

*"150 people travel to Freiburg"*

## GUILDFORD BOYS PLAY FOOTBALL IN FREIBURG AGAIN

*Now Phil reports on last year's match:*

The annual matches against Freiburg's Blau Weiss club are traditionally played at Easter, but in 2008 the early date of Easter caused no end of a headache. In Germany all the Freiburg players were off school for the two weeks either side of Easter Sunday. But English schools held their mid-term holiday in April. Fortunately some of the Guildford schools with boys in the teams, recognising the cultural significance of our trip, gave permission for time off school. In the end we were able to take 54 players and 56 adults to Freiburg.

As ever the players and their team managers travelled by coach. Once again we chose to use a German coach company who charged two-thirds of the quotes from UK local companies for the same trip – although effectively making four full trips. Driven once again by our good friend Johannes we received excellent service and use of the 72-seater coach over the entire weekend. The rest of the group flew from Heathrow to Basel, with an arranged pick-up to take us to our hotels.

### The snow

The adult group stayed as usual in our favoured hotels in Lehen - the Bierhäusle and the Hirschengarten which were as ever hospitable and good value. Also as usual the players were accommodated with the Blau-Weiss players' families and received excellent care. The early Easter dates presented a new and welcome sight - snow on the outlying low hills around Freiburg and the prospect of more to come had many of the boys (and some of the parents) quite excited about the suggested trip to Schauinsland.

We received a formal welcome from Ulrich von Kirchbach, Freiburg's Bürgermeister responsible for Youth and Culture, who acknowledged our continued contribution to the Guildford-Freiburg twinning. During the weekend the players were entertained by their host families, leaving the adult group free to use the hired coach for a guided tour of the area, a trip to Titisee in the Black Forest and to see Schauinsland and Feldberg in the snow.

Fortunately the snow held off long enough for us to play both Friday practice games and the Trophy games on Sunday. But by Sunday evening the pitch was covered in snow and certainly unplayable. On Monday there was a coach trip through the snow-covered mountains. By far and away the highlight for the adult group was an excellent night out at Strausse, a rustic style restaurant, where we tried a menu of local food in a barn-like setting.

### The football

Oh yes – the football. We lost three games and won one. Was that what we went for? As ever the experience of a visit to our twin town and its people, customs and snow-covered mountains left us all with excellent memories

Easter 2009 will see the Blau-Weiss footballers visiting Guildford and plans are already in the making for the return to Freiburg in 2010 to mark the 25th exchange. Watch this space!!

*Phil Dyas*

*Chairman of Guildford City Boys Football Club*

## MUSIC

### FREIBURG CHOIR SINGS IN GUILDFORD

In November the Freiburg Bachchor joined Guildford's Vivace Chorus and Romsey Choral Society in a performance of Verdi's Requiem. Often considered as the composer's supreme masterpiece, it was first performed in St. Mark's Basilica in Venice and last November's performance in Guildford Cathedral was a worthy successor. The Requiem was composed in remembrance of the poet Manzoni, whom Verdi greatly revered, and it was fitting that this performance was dedicated to the memory of Vernon Handley, a past musical director of the Guildford Philharmonic Orchestra..

*"The conductor melded these forces together..."*

The combined choirs, four excellent soloists and the Brandenburg Sinfonia under the baton of Jeremy Backhouse ensured that, from the breathtaking pianissimo of the opening, through the vast ranges of dynamic and emotional intensity which culminate in the utter stillness of the final 'Libera me', there were forces capable of providing all that Verdi could have required. The conductor melded these forces together into a seamless whole - the three choirs sounded as if they always sang together. Their

choral discipline was excellent and they rose to every challenge of dynamic, range and emotion.

*Extracted from Gillian Ramsden's review in the Surrey Advertiser*

## GUILDFORD FRIARY BRASS BAND IN FREIBURG



*Guildford Friary Band performing*

*Stephanie Westwood, a member of the band, shares her experience with us:*

Friary Guildford Brass Band were full of Zufriedenheit (happiness, satisfaction) after a very successful trip to Germany last September. Basing themselves in the Land of Baden-Württemberg the band gave concerts in Freiburg and Waldbronn to very welcoming and receptive audiences.

### A long journey

After a Wednesday evening rehearsal and a pre-tour curry, band members helped load all nooks and crannies of a Safeguard coach with suitcases, uniforms, brass instruments, percussion and the kitchen sink before setting off on their 550-mile journey across Europe. Despite the prospect of a twelve-hour journey in a confined space, band members were in high spirits. A 4am ferry crossing from Dover to Calais, stops for refreshments, and a devilish quiz helped to make the journey pass swiftly, with the band eventually arriving at the hotel in Ettlingen at around 4pm.

### Strengthening ties with Freiburg

On Friday the band left their hotel early to spend a day in Freiburg, some band members revisiting old haunts and others visiting the beautiful town for the first time. After an enjoyable day sightseeing, band members were treated to a short traditional programme from the Freiburger Rathausmusik Band, who were celebrating their 10th anniversary, before giving a concert themselves at the Bürgerhaus in Zähringen, one of Freiburg's nearby villages.

*"two magnums of champagne..."*

A varied programme from the Friary Guildford Brass Band, directed by Chris King, led to rapturous applause, and after

two encores the band were rewarded with a standing ovation from an appreciative audience that included members of the Guildford-Freiburg Association and the Freiburg Anglo-German club. Afterwards, band members were able to chat with members of their twin town band and audience over some excellent local wine very kindly laid on by the Freiburg International Office. The gifts of two magnums of champagne and two boxes of wine were also very much appreciated!

### Fun at the fest

Over the weekend the band were delighted to participate in the Waldbronn Kurparkfest, a two-day music festival that attracts several thousand visitors every year. The band gave two concerts, one on Saturday evening and another on Sunday lunchtime, and managed to attract quite a crowd. Host band, Edelweiss, ensured that members of Friary were very well looked after, plying them with locally brewed beer and schnitzel at every opportunity.

*"a superb firework display..."*

The festival itself featured many different musical groups (including an excellent concert by Edelweiss), with over 40 stands selling a wide variety of food and drink, and a superb firework display on Saturday night. On the second day, the mayor of Waldbronn presented the Friary Guildford band with a 300-year old tile from the roof of the oldest house in Waldbronn - we hoped that this didn't leave somebody with a hole in his roof!

### Many thanks

Trips such as these strengthen international and local relationships and improve the standard of the Band, and the Band would like to thank all those involved in making the trip such a success. Particular thanks go to the Guildford-Freiburg Association (who provided some financial assistance), the Freiburg International Office, and Edelweiss Band.

*Stephanie Westwood  
Friary Guildford Brass Band*

## LITERATURE

### A NOVEL EVENT IN FREIBURG

*Guildford writer Irene Black gave readings from her work in Freiburg and enjoyed her sightseeing:*

In June 2008 I was invited to give readings from my novels 'Darshan' and 'The Moon's Complexion' at the municipal library in Freiburg during their Literary and Musical programme as part of their annual 'Twinning Market'. My writing and publishing colleague, Jennifer Margrave, a Guildford solicitor, came along too, to spread the word about Goldenford Publishers Ltd and our books (and to help carry them!).

Our charming host, Herr Steimel from the Freiburg Stadtbibliothek, met us off the airport bus late on Wednesday afternoon and taxied us to the Goldene Krone guesthouse where the delightful lady

owner welcomed us with open arms and a recommendation to dine at her husband's Palestinian restaurant next door.

## Partner Cities Fair - and synagogue

On Thursday morning we set out to 'do' the sights. First stop the Rathausplatz where a huge Twinning Marquee took up most of the square. [See more about this under "To Market, To market" below - Ed.] We found the Guildford stand and were warmly greeted by Susan Lewis and friends, all three of whom promised to attend our reading at 8pm. Hurrah! An audience! We were beginning to get ever-so-slightly worried ... it was the night Germany was playing Croatia in the Euro Cup.

*"They were delighted..."*

On to the impressive new synagogue behind the Cathedral, where we dropped in to send regards from their Guildford counterpart. They were delighted – if somewhat surprised – by our visit and showed us around as well as presenting us with books about the building, which is 20 years old and replaced the original, burnt down in 1938. I promised to hand their details to the Guildford president. Perhaps this was the start of a possible exchange?

## We are spellbound by the Cathedral

Time to tackle the Münster. From the moment we stood in the front portico, we were breathless with wonder. From the exterior stone carvings to the wonderful stained glass, from the old Romanesque arches and the later Gothic ones; from the Holbein alterpiece in a side chapel to the great central Baldung masterpiece, the cathedral held us spellbound.

After that we rushed off to the Twinning celebrations again just in time to catch the Tea Ceremonies put on by Matsuyama, Isfahan and Guildford (which to our great delight we were then invited to drink). A man from German Radio interviewed us about Goldenford and our coming readings.



Jennifer Margrave (left) and Irene Black (right) with Freiburg City librarian

Time to fortify ourselves with a dose of Baden wine from the lovely medieval winehouse at the far end of the Münsterplatz. After that we remembered that we hadn't been up the Münster tower yet, so, we rushed (yet again) back to the cathedral and headed up the 250something spiral stairs. Not easy, especially clutching our purchases, a kilo of delicious German white asparagus and a heavy wooden teddybear breadboard. The views were stunning.

## Would we get an audience?

15 minutes later, we were off to the library for our presentation.

The streets were silent, but from the roars and groans emanating from the bars, it appeared that Croatia was thrashing Germany. In the library the rows of empty chairs were a heart-sinking sight. But Herr Steimel was still smiling. We set out a table with a display of books and chatted to our hosts. 8 o'clock arrived. Kick-off time for our event. Where were the people? Herr Steimel seemed unperturbed. "Wait five minutes. This is Freiburg," he said.

*"a lively potted history..."*

Five minutes later, all the chairs had occupants - a respectable turnout. Herr Steimel's boss at the library introduced us warmly. Jennifer then gave a lively potted history of Goldenford after which I gave readings from my novels, and then also read the start to Jennifer's novel 'The Gawain Quest'. After the formal proceedings, a prolonged session of free-flowing Baden wine, book sales and chat ensued, continuing well beyond the hour when any self-respecting British Library would have drawn down its shutters and chased its guests off the premises. It had been a delightful occasion and we fell in love with Freiburg. We both hope that our visit was the first of many.

*Irene Black*

*Goldenford Publishers*

## FILM

### GERMAN FILM FESTIVAL

As a result of the Association's initiative, Guildford's Electric Theatre included a group of German films in its Autumn film festival. We also provided some sponsorship. This gave people a chance to see such fine films as the excellent comedy "Goodbye Lenin", "The Edge of Heaven," "The Lives of Others" and the innovative and amazing "Run, Lola, Run". There was also a very interesting day of Silent German Cinema, when "The Adventures of Prince Achmed", "Nosferatu" and "Metropolis" - each one a gem and a classic - were accompanied by a talk by an expert in the genre. We hope the event can be repeated in the future.

## HISTORY

### TRACKING DOWN A FIRST WORLD WAR POW CAMP



POW camp in Freiburg, 1918

*Our Chairman is involved in some fascinating detective work. The buildings may have changed, but some of the authentic past remains.*

Last autumn I was approached by Peter Blackburn from Bookham who asked an unusual question.

*"In the first world war..."*

In the first world war his late father had been imprisoned in an officers' prisoner of war camp in Freiburg. He supplied a photograph of some of the captives which had been taken inside the prison at that time, from which he thought it appeared to be some kind of castle. Mr Blackburn asked if someone who is familiar with the town, or a local historian, could tell him if the building is still standing and open to the public as he would like to visit it.

*"but the whole interior was destroyed..."*

I put the query to my friends in the twinning office in the Rathaus in Freiburg. I soon had a reply from Herr Peter Kalchthaler, Director of Freiburg's Museum of City History, who identified the building in the photograph as the so-called Old University, the former Jesuit's College which was used as a camp for British POWs in the First World War. The buildings of the Old University are still standing, but the whole interior was destroyed in the air raid of 27th November 1944 and rebuilt in modern form in the 1950s. Only the medieval cellars are still intact.

The buildings still belong to the University – amongst other functions they are used as the University Museum. Large parts of them are open to the public, especially the interior court where the photograph was taken. The interior decoration of the former Jesuit church has been reconstructed and today it serves as the University Church.

**The British prisoners produced a magazine**



*Freiburg Review, August 1918*

*"also a list of prisoners..."*

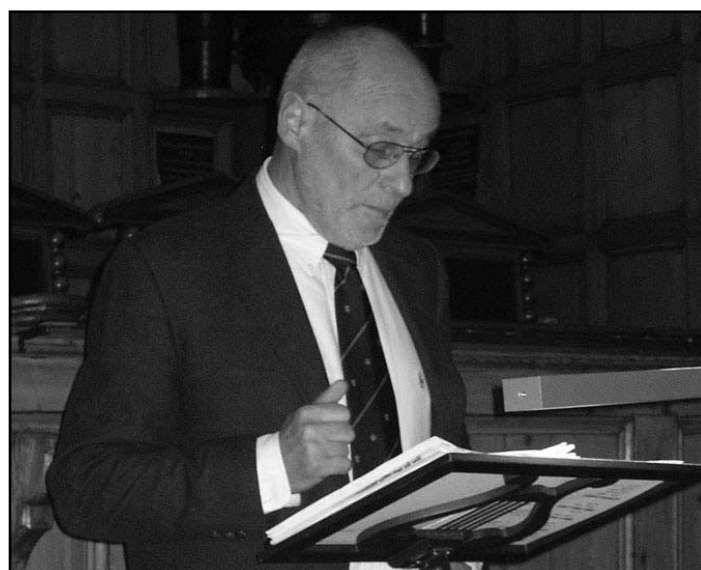
The British soldiers living in this camp published a monthly magazine "The Freiburg Review" (costing 5 Marks) of which the city museum has two copies and Herr Kalchthaler emailed me a copy. In the issue of August, 1918 there is an erudite and interesting essay on the buildings of the camp and the history of the University of Freiburg and the life of its students and also a list of prisoners, including "R.R. Blackburn R.M.L.I.", undoubtedly Peter Blackburn's father.

A fascinating little story with a satisfying ending.

*Peter Slade*

If anyone would like Peter to email them a copy of the "Freiburg Review" of August 1918, please contact him. Read it - and be transported back 90 years.

## GREEN NEWS



*Herr Peter Ritzer speaking about environment in the Guildhall (See page 9).*

## GUILDFORD PARTICIPATES IN ENERGY MEETING IN FREIBURG

A meeting to discuss energy and climate protection issues, hosted by SolarRegion and the City of Freiburg Environment Protection Agency, convened in Freiburg for two days in June 2009. Delegates attended from many of Freiburg's twinned cities with representatives from USA, Japan, France, Italy, Ukraine & Germany as well as Guildford - all with the same issues and very similar goals in sustainability and the development and application of renewable energy technologies.

The Guildford delegation included Andrew Day (Gerry Lytle Associates, architects), Trudy Thompson (Naturally Amazing eco-construction company) and your reporter Dr Michael Peters (University of Surrey Research Group on Lifestyles, Values and the Environment – RESOLVE). Guildford Borough Council had felt unable to send any delegates

## First day - meet people

*"It was great to meet with like-minded people..."*

The first day was an opportunity for meeting the other delegates, listening to keynote presentations and having interesting round table discussions, held in the Rathaus. It was great to meet with like-minded people, from many countries, working in many disciplines, discussing what opportunities are available to implement climate protection measures. An enjoyable reception was held in the evening hosted by Freiburg's Oberbürgermeister Dr Dieter Salomon, where delegates were able to sample some of the excellent outputs from Freiburg's vineyards.

## Second day - visit projects

The second day consisted of visits around Freiburg enabling delegates to see first-hand many of the unique and extensive urban projects that incorporate a range of renewable energy technologies integrated into what is truly a model of sustainable regional development. Visits to the new districts of Vauban and Rieselfeld showed how the application of low carbon technologies and imaginative urban planning for low energy consumption both complement and facilitate behavioural change in the direction of sustainability together with the creation of socially cohesive communities. A visit to the Richard Ferenbach vocational college exemplified Freiburg's network of training institutions covering energy-saving construction, efficient energy supply and renewables. This college's state-of-the-art equipment for apprentices was demonstrated fully to delegates with opportunities for questions and answers and photographs. This day of visits was interspersed with presentations from the delegates, showcasing progress towards sustainable development and low carbon living being made in their respective municipalities.

## Solar energy policy



Energy Meeting visit. Freiburg's Solar factory

Both days were thoroughly inspiring and enjoyable and served to highlight firm evidence that solar energy contributes to the protection of the environment and the climate as well as to economic prosperity and social integration. Thomas Dresel, Project Executive of SolarRegion, aptly summed this up in the

following comments:

"The commitment of a wide range of companies shows how solar energy can become an integral part of business philosophy in all sectors of the economy (i.e. inside and outside the solar industry). Solar energy creates jobs and it keeps them local. The demand for solar specialists opens promising perspectives for training and renewable energies add to the quality of environmentally conscious tourism. The success of Freiburg's solar policy is based on two factors: one is co-operation between partners ranging from business to education, from architecture to finance and others who bring specific benefits while they contribute from their specific interests. At the same time a broad discourse in society moves the solar issue beyond the specialist circles of energy planners."

Policy instruments in Freiburg include subsidy programmes and other incentives, self-imposed rules for public buildings and the definition of advanced energy standards for all new developments, educational and information campaigns, the foundation of corporations such as Badenova power company and the Energy Agency and other forms of institutional collaboration.

## Summary and outlook

The Energy Meeting clearly demonstrated that a set of requirements should be met if we want solar (or indeed any environmental and sustainable) development to be successful:

- (a) from the perspective of citizens: reasonable costs, comfort, and control, and
- (b) from the perspective of policy making: consensus and collaboration.

It is essential to get different agents from different sectors of society involved - their different motivations generate momentum. A vision alone will hardly carry us all the way to the future: sustainable regional development should include forms of more immediate benefit to be enjoyed on the way.

*"...the whole event was run with extreme efficiency and professionalism."*

Andrew, Trudy and Michael were extremely grateful for the opportunity to attend the Freiburg Energy Meeting and all gained a sense of renewed inspiration from this informative and enjoyable visit. Freiburg was an exceptionally warm and gracious host and, as expected, the whole event was run with extreme efficiency and professionalism. As a follow-up Thomas Dresel was an invited keynote speaker at a major international conference on community engagement in climate change hosted by RESOLVE at the University of Surrey in December 2008.

*Dr Michael Peters  
University of Surrey*



# IS GERMANY ON THE ROAD TO AN ECO-FRIENDLY FUTURE?

*Last November distinguished lecturer Peter Ritzer gave a talk to the Association in the Guildhall, on behalf of the German Embassy. A lively and entertaining speaker, he gave an overview of Germany's progress in dealing with the energy crisis and the threat to the environment, candidly admitting its occasional failures - which are far outweighed by its achievements.*

## Recycling

Recycling has been carried out all over Germany for the last 30 years. Plastic carrier bags were banned years ago; 60% of household waste is currently recycled; retailer refund schemes for glass bottles and cans are the norm; attending a recycling centre is a social event. The Green movement has a loud voice in German politics, having been stimulated by the oil crisis of 1973, and then the phenomenon of "waldsterbe" or the deadly effect of acid rain on German pine forests.

## Forms of energy

*"...the USA obtains 35% of its electricity from wind"*

Solar power, being expensive, is not very popular nationally, but wind power is cheaper and is being taken up. 30 locations for offshore windfarms have so far been identified on the Baltic and the North Sea - which brings other problems: social, as many holiday resorts are located there, and technical, as the national grid needs rebuilding. However, he pointed out that the USA obtains 35% of its electricity from wind.

There has been a revival of interest in nuclear power, and therefore also of protest against it. Germany having reduced its dependence on coal is having to return to it to some extent; she is conducting an experiment on storing coal emissions, which is due to end in 2020 or so.

## The car industry

The automotive industry is Germany's weak point, from a green point of view. There are some 600 companies, with 750,000 employees and great political power. In 1998 the industry pledged to reduce emissions by 2008, but failed to meet the target. It still produces cars with high fuel consumption and high carbon emissions. It has blocked any attempt by the Government to impose controls, including a speed limit.

## Well - is it?

*"a little thought from each of us - a big difference for everyone"*

The answer to the title of the talk is, said Herr Ritzer, both yes and no, though clearly more yes than no. Overall Germany has adopted wholeheartedly the principle: "a little thought from each of us - a big difference for everyone" or alternatively, he suggested: "it's the environment, stupid!"

Barbara Ford

## SOCIETY

### ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR IN GUILDFORD AND FREIBURG COMPARED

*An exchange of views between public officials of the two towns on a different subject from the usual environment, described by one of the participants, John Stimpson, a Neighbourhood and Community Safety Officer. This time Guildford does not come off so badly!*

In October Walter Rubsamen, from Freiburg City Council's Public Order Office, visited Guildford to compare and contrast the two towns' public order problems. He and his wife met Mayor Jennifer Jordan and Chief Executive David Hill and enjoyed an informal chat before taking part in a more formal discussion comparing the methods employed in Guildford and Freiburg in controlling alcohol related anti-social behaviour (ASB) - apparently a developing issue in Freiburg.

Taking part in the discussion were: Surrey Police Inspector Julie Murray, responsible for the Neighbourhood Police Team in Guildford, Jo Grimshaw, the ASB manager for the West Surrey Police Division and myself. We were also joined by Kirsten Lang, a community development worker for Surrey County Council, who helped out by translating some of the more technical business terms between German and English.

Whilst it was agreed that neither town had a major problem with alcohol-related ASB, the increase in national trends in both countries is disturbing. Walter was interested to find out that, against such a national backdrop, public disorder offences in Guildford were reducing year on year and he was eager to discover what we were doing locally to achieve this result. We discussed the principles of Neighbourhood Policing and Neighbourhood Management: taking an 'intelligence-led' approach to problem solving, multi-agency working and information sharing, and outlined some of the techniques employed by Julie and her team. These ranged from the use of CCTV, ASB Orders and Exclusion Orders to the regular multi-agency meetings that identify and discuss problem places and problem people and refer cases to the appropriate agency. We in turn were interested to learn of the new practice developed by the Freiburg authorities whereby they send out 'yellow card' warning letters to young drivers informing them that taking part in disorder in the town may put them at risk of having their driving licenses revoked - a strong deterrent.

The meeting ended with us comparing the legislation available to local officials and police officers to deal with ASB in general in

both the UK and Germany. Jo Grimshaw then presented Walter with a copy of the 1998 Crime & Disorder Act for reference that I'm sure will keep him and his German / English dictionary busy for some time to come! Overall the visit was a success and it underlined the practical worth of such twinning arrangements.

*John Stimpson  
Neighbourhood & Community Safety Officer  
Guildford Borough Council*

## 50 YEARS OF THE FREIBURG ANGLO-GERMAN CLUB



*Anglo-German Club 50th anniversary party. Mayor Jennifer Jordan and President Penny Leube with birthday cake*

Women in lovely dresses, men in jackets and ties, everyone sipping wine. Toasts to the German President, then the Queen. It is Freiburg and on 1 July we gathered to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Anglo-German Club. Despite the high temperature, everyone had a smile on their faces as addresses were given in both German and English by Club Presidents Ernst Leube and Penny Leube, City Councillor Ursula Kuri, Chairman of the Guildford-Freiburg Association, Peter Slade, Mayor of Guildford Jennifer Jordan and, representing the State, Dr. Sven von Ungern-Sternberg. After enjoying a light buffet and birthday cake, guests were invited into the Münster for an impressive organ concert by the renowned Jane Parker-Smith (sister of Association member, Susan Lewis).

## History

A rather remarkable lady named Dorothy Elchlepp lived for many years in Freiburg. Dorothy had married her German husband, Paul, in 1936 and had spent the turbulent war years in Freiburg. After the war she was determined to do everything to work for

better Anglo-German understanding. In the early 1950s she started a conversation group and then together with the support of a Scottish couple, a Mr and Mrs William Grant, in 1958 formed a club, first known as the English German Circle, and then later the Anglo-German Club.

In 1979 the Club was instrumental - through Dorothy's hard work - in the twinning of Freiburg and Guildford and since then has been twinned with the Guildford Freiburg Association. Dorothy died in 2003 after being awarded the MBE by the Queen for her services to her country and the Bundesverdienstkreuz for her tireless work in promoting good Anglo-German relations. However, her memory and the Club, led now by Penny & Ernst Leube, live on. There is a free conversation group for all Club members and regular events on a monthly basis, including visits to English theatre and art exhibitions, outings to places of local interest and an annual Autumn walk with the traditional onion tart and new wine. And of course the dinners: the annual asparagus dinner: the traditional Christmas Party, with roast goose, red cabbage, dumplings (German!) and Christmas puddings (Anglo!) and of course not forgetting all those royal birthday parties.

*Penny Leube  
Joint President, Freiburg Anglo-German Club*

## TO MARKET, TO MARKET CHRISTMAS MARKET IN GUILDFORD

As has become traditional we held our Christmas mini-market in the Guildhall in late November. As well as the sale of wooden toys from Freiburg and decorated candles, the dispensing of Glühwein and the distribution of Association literature and brochures promoting Freiburg's charms we also ran a successful tombola. In spite of the credit crunch, cash takings held up well - although our main aim in running these markets is to give us a platform to promote the twinning.

## GUILDFORD PUTS ON A SHOW AGAIN AT THE PARTNER CITIES MARKET

In June Freiburg's Rathausplatz was again the site of the annual Partner Cities Market, the 3rd such event. As well as Guildford, eight of Freiburg's nine twin-towns were represented -- Besançon from France, Innsbruck from Austria, Lviv from Ukraine, Madison, Wisconsin from USA, Matsuyama from Japan, Padua from Italy and Isfahan from Iran. Only Granada was absent. Tel Aviv, with which Freiburg hopes to establish a friendship link, also took part.

The event began with a barbecue in the Town Hall garden. On the succeeding three days, the twin towns' "ambassadors" manned tables in a large marquee to promote the attractions of their home towns. Large crowds of local people and visitors from far and wide attended. Friendships from previous years were renewed and

the atmosphere was really joyful. Susan and Brian Lewis, from our Association (we again arranged Guildford's participation), looked after the Guildford table with Tessa Johnson, one of our town's guides. Each morning Brian offered tastings of Hog's Back Brewery beer, from the local brewery at Tongham, which were very popular. During the afternoon Penny and Ernst Leube, of the Anglo-German Club in Freiburg, arrived to serve English tea along with other members of the Club, who produced a large quantity and variety of home-made cakes. These were very enthusiastically received by many visitors - donations were invited for people in need of help in the city. Souvenirs of Guildford, supplied by the town's Tourist Information Centre, were also on sale.

Lviv brought a glassblower and a carver of wooden toys. Matsuyama had a calligrapher, a wood sculptor from Innsbruck created large carvings and Isfahan provided a potter and also a samovar producing water for tea. Outside the marquee, there were bands playing, some of them in local costume, and from time to time there was Flamenco dancing by a local group (representing Granada). In all, it was a most enjoyable and worthwhile event due in large part to the city of Freiburg's enthusiasm for fostering its links with its partners throughout the world.

*Tessa Johnson*

*Footnote by Peter Slade: "I'm delighted that Susan, Tessa and Brian did such a fantastic job in promoting Guildford and its attractions to the people of Freiburg at what was obviously once again a friendly and lively event".*

## SOCIAL EVENTS

### GERMAN DINNER

Guildford College's pleasant Park Room Restaurant was the venue for our excellent dinner in February. The College catering students and staff worked very hard to produce a special German menu -- the first time they had done so -- and the service and quality of the meal were impeccable. We should consider making this an annual event.

## SUMMER PARTY



A delightful lunch party was hosted in June by member Christine Young in the equally delightful garden of her Guildford home. Katie Butcher, our Social Secretary, organised the event with her usual efficiency, even down to arranging for a lovely sunny day.



## COMING EVENTS

Dates for your diary:

10 June - Annual General Meeting

18-20 June - Partner Cities Market in Freiburg

12 July - Association Summer Party

## Contacts in the Association

Chairman: Peter Slade 01483 531472  
email: peterslade@ntlworld.com

Vice-Chairman: Cllr Keith Taylor 01483 225427  
email: keith.taylor@guildford.gov.uk

Secretary: Hilary Mills 01252 324082  
email: hilary.mills@mypostoffice.co.uk

Treasurer & Membership Secretary: Michael Gorman 01483 450036  
email: m.gorman@ntlworld.com

Social Secretary: Katie Butcher 01483 573439

Schools Liaison: Ros Calow 01483 574730  
email: ros.calow@ntlworld.com

Newsletter Editor: Barbara Ford 01483 575819  
email: barbaraann.ford@gmail.com

Other Committee members: Patricia Grayburn, Val Hazelwood,  
Cllr Olaf Kolassa, Cllr Ed Owen, Wolf Pietrek

## Websites

Our website (with our newsletters and updates):  
[www.guildford.gov.uk/freiburg](http://www.guildford.gov.uk/freiburg)

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

## **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, 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.