



## Editorial

What a pleasure it has been for me, as the new Newsletter editor, putting together so many lively accounts given by members and friends of the Association of their activities during the past year. And I know you too will enjoy reading it - just look at the list of contents overleaf. Please send any comments or suggestions for improvements that occur to you: contact details on the back page.

*Barbara Ford*

## A MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

This Newsletter, with its record of many wide-ranging events and activities, again demonstrates that Guildford's twinning with the splendid city of Freiburg continues to be very successful and that the Guildford-Freiburg Association, which supports and promotes twinning, has had another very active year.

It is good that, once again, young people feature strongly in the following pages. We are delighted to publish the reflections of young Freiburgers on Guildford and to hear young Guildfordians' accounts of their visits to Freiburg. Whilst it is very disappointing that the exchange visits between Guildford schools and their counterparts in Freiburg have had to cease for the present, committee member Ros Calow has worked very hard on schools liaison. To try to circumvent the problems that schools are having in arranging exchange visits she has started to put into effect some imaginative new initiatives.

Last Easter Guildford City Boys Football Club and Freiburg's Blau Weiss Club met again — for the 21st year in succession in friendly rivalry — this time in Guildford, and were cheered on by large numbers of supporters of both teams.



*Freiburg from the air*

## Freiburg, the Green City

Freiburg is world-renowned as a centre of environmental excellence. No surprise then that the "Guardian" newspaper named the city's Oberbürgermeister, Dr Dieter Salomon, amongst 50 people who can do most to "save the planet". Or that the "Observer" asked "Is this the greenest city in the world?" We are lucky to be twinned with a city described as the "most ecologically-aware town in Europe and possibly the rich world". I have long urged that the twinning should include co-operation in environmental matters and there will be an opportunity to begin this in June at a meeting for all Freiburg's twin cities intended to work out ways of collaborating in environmental and energy matters. This follows last June's conference - attended by three representatives of Guildford Borough Council - on local renewable energy. Freiburg is building its achievements into what it is calling "the Green City concept".

*Peter Slade*

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## A MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN (cont.)

These annual matches and the friendships that have grown out of them are a great example of our twinning with Freiburg in action.

On the arts side we supported the visit of the distinguished Freiburg photographer Telemach Wiesinger, who displayed a wonderful selection of his black and white images in Guildford House. The Private View, in the courtyard on a beautiful summer's evening (a rarity last summer) was greatly enjoyed by our members and other guests. Subsequently there were many visitors to the exhibition, which was warmly praised by them.

## Highlights of last year

*Talk by Werner Sabiers*

*Wine tasting with Michael Schmidt*

*Summer party at Keith and Lucy Taylors'*

*Mini Christmas market in Guildford*

*Trip to Freiburg Christmas Market*

Another excellent arts event was the visit of some singers from Guildford's Vivace Chorus to Freiburg to join with the Freiburg Bach Choir and singers from Freiburg's other eight twin towns in a performance of Beethoven's Choral Symphony in the stunning Konzerthaus.

## *"21 years of football matches..."*

The young organist Jonathan Hope gave some very well-received recitals in Freiburg in April, which we helped finance. We were also pleased to have helped arrange and partly finance the visit of two young musicians from Surrey University to Freiburg in July to perform in the "Festival of the Inner Courtyards", part of the celebrations of the 550th anniversary of the University of Freiburg. In another contribution to these celebrations, the former Pro Vice-Chancellor and another member of staff flew the flag for Surrey University by attending the "Academic Mile".

The churches group made one of their regular exchange visits to Freiburg and had some stimulating discussions on the problems of immigration as well as making various interesting excursions.

## *"Music and Markets..."*

Markets have featured strongly again amongst the year's events. Twenty Association members made the bus trip to see Freiburg's and Colmar's Christmas Market in late November and had a very enjoyable time. For the second year Susan Lewis and I spent three days in June promoting the charms and amenities of Guildford to many citizens of Freiburg at the Partner Cities Fair in the Rathausplatz, alongside representatives of most of the city's twin towns – a worthwhile if somewhat exhausting experience. A smaller, but also enjoyable, event was our own mini Christmas market in the Guildhall in early December where we again sold candles and wooden toys from Freiburg and dispensed Glühwein.



*Mayor & Mayoress with Wolf Pietrek.*

Our social events have been a great success. For the second year we arranged a talk on a German theme. The distinguished German journalist and broadcaster Werner Sabiers entertained a near capacity audience at the Guildhall, including some sixth-



# THE YEAR IN PICTURES

## Christmas Markets (Story on pages 2, 11 and 12)



*Freiburg Christmas Market*



*Our Christmas Market*



*Mayor & Mayoress with Mary Lloyd-Jones  
& Val Hazelwood*



*Mayor & Mayoress with Peter Slade*

## Wine tasting with Michael Schmidt (Story on page 9)



*We taste the white wines*



*The evening was very convivial*

## MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN (cont.)

formers from local schools, with his talk on “Germany Today”, which stimulated many questions, ably answered. Also for the second time we invited Michael Schmidt, an expert in German wines, to lead us through a very entertaining tasting of wines from the Freiburg region. Katie Butcher did her usual excellent job of organising these events. She also helped Lucy and Keith Taylor to arrange the summer party at their home on a very wet Sunday, which did not dampen spirits..



*Michael Schmidt tries to help us understand.*

I must end with some thanks. Firstly to everyone who has contributed articles and photographs to the newsletter. Secondly to our new newsletter editor, Barbara Ford, for her sterling efforts. Thirdly to our extremely efficient Secretary, Hilary Mills, and to Michael Gorman for his careful attention to our finances and our membership records. Finally to all other members of the Association's Committee for their input.

*Peter Slade*

## YOUNG PEOPLE'S ACTIVITIES

### SCHOOLS LIAISON

*Ros Calow reports:* Encouraging new contacts have been made this year. We have put the Royal Grammar School, Guildford County School and Guildford College in touch with teachers in Freiburg at the French/German school, Wenzinger Gymnasium and Max Weber Schule respectively.

But there are still nine secondary schools in Freiburg who are requesting contacts. An interesting new possibility for contacts and exchanges between Guildford and Freiburg schools could be in the environmental field. Freiburg was recently described by the Guardian as ‘the most ecologically aware town in Europe and possibly the rich world.’ Science and geography teachers are

being contacted about this, and invited to consider links with a school in Freiburg.

For further information, please contact me at [ros.calow@ntlworld.com](mailto:ros.calow@ntlworld.com) or call 01483 574730.

*Ros Calow*

## STUDENT WORKS IN FREIBURG TOWN HALL

*Kate Beeston, a Guildfordian now studying German at Exeter University, tells us about her work experience placement in Freiburg's Rathaus in August 2007:*

Through the Guildford–Freiburg Association I was given the opportunity to spend a month working in the international department of the Rathaus (town hall). This was not my first visit to Freiburg, as I had been on an exchange visit to the city as a pupil at George Abbot School, but this extended stay gave me greater opportunity to explore this beautiful city and get to know it better. It was the ideal way to practise my German in the workplace and to find out more about the important international role the department plays especially through the nine towns and cities around the world that are also twinned with Freiburg. The office enables many different sorts of exchanges to take place, with a chance to experience other cultures and build important international relationships.

What struck me most significantly was the international interest that Freiburg enjoys surrounding the theme of the environment and in particular sustainable energy.

*“With Freiburg leading the way in solar energy....”*

With Freiburg leading the way in solar energy and now seeking to expand its other renewable resources, it is not surprising that the city now has world wide acclaim for this technology. Part of the department's aim is therefore to export this knowledge; an example of this being the local renewables conference which took place earlier this year.

One of my main tasks on my placement was to find out about the other trade fairs and environmental conferences that take place around Europe in order to help the department plan for such future events. I was also responsible for sorting out the film footage of this year's conference, preparing it to be made into a short DVD to explain and advertise the aims and achievements of the conference.

During my stay I had the privilege of accompanying a Japanese visitor from Freiburg's partner city of Matsuyama. As the president of a football club his interest in a football exchange

*“A Japanese president of a football club interested in a football exchange....”*

between the two cities was discussed and we all enjoyed a tour of the two football stadiums in Freiburg. Once again there was an interesting environmental aspect, as each stadium has solar panels installed on the roof providing more electricity than the



stadium is able to consume.

It was a great privilege to be able to work in the Rathaus and I was very kindly given a tour of the historic building; a chance to explore its many passages and enjoy beautiful views of the city and the Black Forest from the roof.

I would like to thank the Guildford–Freiburg Association for making all of this possible and all the staff at the town hall especially Nicole Horstkötter, who, helped make my stay in Freiburg worthwhile.

*Kate Beeston*

## YOUNG MUSICIANS GO TO FREIBURG – CELLO & GUITAR

*The Association donated £200 to Lee Reynolds and Guy Travis, two young musicians, newly graduated from the University of Surrey, to help them to perform at the Festival of the Inner Courtyards, part of the celebration of the 550th anniversary of Freiburg University. Everybody who goes to Freiburg loves it, though a common feature of nearly every account is the early start—particularly painful for the younger traveller, it seems. Lee recounts their experiences:*

### The journey was tough!

Oh, how easy it is to forget the scale of things. Guildford to Freiburg looked about eighteen inches away on the map. It turns out it's quite a bit further than that.

It was a little after half past four in the morning when Guy left Portsmouth on the train to make the rendezvous at Brighton station by seven. And so it was, cursing the time of day (which, being a student, I cannot remember having seen for many years), that the four of us set off; Guy and Lee in the front, the cello and the guitar in the back. At least they got to lie down for the journey.

*"The place had a warmth & glow to it, a youth and vibrancy..."*

And after the usual challenges of the ferry crossing we turned our journey over to the Tomtom – the satellite navigation – and the iPod, relying entirely on the two of them to get us across Europe alive and still sane. We discovered, however, that one rather significant benefit of Freiburg being quite so remote from England is that it does afford travellers of this road ample time to set the world to rights in heated discussion of religion, politics, education and the environment.

### The welcome was warm...

Finding our hotel after twelve–and–a–half hours of travelling, we headed out to the welcome barbecue hosted by the festival organisers. There we met the other groups of performers – from Seoul, St Petersburg, Catalonia and Matsuyama to name but a few. We found that the Germans had been having as unseasonably poor summer weather as we had been having, and as it tried to rain, we headed back to our hotel.

Even on the first dimly lit and slightly damp and clammy evening, the place had a warmth and glow to it – a youth and vibrancy

that was difficult to attribute to any particular factor. Perhaps it was the beautiful attention to detail of the buildings and streets, the cleanliness... or perhaps it was the people, whose demeanour was one of casualness and good health. Either way, we felt entirely welcome there; safe and relaxed.

The next afternoon we ventured into the city, exploring the market which surrounds the Münster. The food was fantastic: light, unique and yet very German. There seemed to be a great pride felt about their city by its people – a tangible effort to keep it as special as possible.

Around five that evening we visited the courtyard in which we would be performing later on. We began wondering exactly how many people would turn out to hear a pair of unknown English musicians play unaccompanied, unfamiliar and entirely contrasting pieces, all with the risk of the unpredictable weather. The courtyard was not much larger than a squash court. Surely no more than forty or fifty would brave it.

### We perform to a capacity audience

Our performance was to start at nine that evening. By ten to nine, the place was packed. Every square foot was taken by long benches, onto which the audience were squashed, with what would seem to a British person, uncomfortable cosiness. More onlookers stood lining the very edge of the courtyard, unable to find a seat. There must have been more than two hundred faces looking expectantly and knowledgeably at the stage as we played. And not just the standard blue–rinse brigade that you might expect at such an event in England: teenagers rubbed shoulders

*"Some were even commenting on fingerings used, or some other technical aspect of the performance..."*

with middle–aged audience members, and children sat on their grandparents' laps. Some were even commenting on fingerings used, or some other technical aspect of the performance. We agreed afterwards on one thing: that nothing could faze us again after enduring a concert like that!

Association member Susan Lewis met us after the concert, and we spent the remainder of the evening discussing the city with her—she had the informed viewpoint of someone who had lived there for twenty years – it reaffirmed everything we had already believed about the city.

The warmth of the reception which we received was staggering. These are people who clearly love music. The aura of the city is the type which we both hope to experience again in the near future. But next time we'll fly, not drive.

*Lee Reynolds & Guy Travis*

## YOUNG MUSICIANS GO TO FREIBURG – ORGAN

*The Association also helped finance a trip by organist Jonathan Hope, a George Abbott School pupil, to give two concerts in Freiburg. Both Jonathan and his audience enjoyed themselves enormously. Here is his report, starting with the pain of early rising...:*

## My first flight

On Thursday 19th April 2007, I woke up at about 6 am, hauled myself from my bed with an excruciating amount of difficulty, and left the house around 6:30 to be driven to Heathrow. I was slightly anxious about flying, as this was the first time I had ever flown. After queuing all the way to Heathrow, Dad dropped me off and I went through security (rather too easily I thought) and roamed around the duty-free shops. In the end I only bought a hot chocolate, and I sat by the gate with my hand-luggage. Still slightly nervous, I panicked slightly when I thought the man sitting opposite me looked menacing....as it turned out, he was friendly enough. The gate opened, the boarding pass was checked, and I trembled down the walkway into the British Airways Airbus-319, flying to Basel.

*"The journey was exciting...."*

As the plane took off, my anxiety was suddenly quelled, as I experienced one of the most uplifting feelings of my entire life..... the clear blue sky and warm 8 o'clock sun, and down below, London (I could see both city and suburbs) contrasted by the green and pleasant English countryside. During the flight, we flew over some magnificent French hills, near the German border. I arrived in Basel at 10:50 am (local time), and took the bus for the fifty-minute journey from Basel (Switzerland), through Alsace (a bit of France) and into Germany, finishing in the centre of Freiburg im Breisgau; here I was picked up at the Busbahnhof by the mother of my German exchange partner, and taken to their apartment in the Falkensteinstrasse, a five-minute walk from the centre of the city. Here I spent the four nights of my visit.

After an exceptional spaghetti bolognese for lunch, I walked into the town, where I first bought a pair of sunglasses, as it was 26 degrees Celsius and a clear, cloudless sky. I then met my contact, Kirsten Galm, at the Universitätskirche, where he is organist, and where I was to give a concert on the evening of Saturday 21st. The 3-manual organ here is a 1950s Fischer & Krämer, restored by Späth (of Freiburg) in 2004. And what a fantastic organ it was, especially enhanced by the lush 5-6 second acoustic.

*My programme at the "Uni-Kirche" was as follows:*

<b>BACH</b>
Prelude and Fugue in G major BWV 541
<b>BEETHOVEN</b>
Allegro non più molto (Fünf Flötenuhrstücke)
<b>HOPE</b>
Para Ela (2005)
<b>IRELAND</b>
Villanella (Miniature suite)
<b>LANGLAIS</b>
Mors et resurrectio, Hymne d'actions de grâce (Trois paraphrases grégoriennes)
<b>GARDONYI</b>
Mozart Changes (1995)
<b>VIERNE</b>
Scherzo et Final (2e symphonie)

The concert was attended by around 50 people, to Kirsten's disappointment because the opera at the Freiburger Konzerthaus that night had deprived us of the 500 who apparently normally attend.

*"What a fantastic organ, enhanced by the lush 5-6 second acoustic...."*

But I'm getting ahead of myself. As I said, I met Kirsten at the Uni-kirche at 2pm on the day I arrived, and once he had given me a key to the church to use for the duration of my visit, he left me to practice until 6 pm. After I had finished, I made my way to the Münsterplatz, where the mighty 12th century cathedral stands tall in the middle of the city marketplace and square. At 6:30 pm, this cobbled square was quiet apart from the chink of the workers' hammers (the cathedral spire was being restored) and the odd cyclist. Here I treated myself to a Bratwurst and a very tall glass of refreshing German beer. As I sat outside that café under the Alpine sunset, A-levels didn't seem to matter.....

At 8:30am the next morning, I met Kirsten and the organist of the cathedral, Dr. Klemens Schnorr, in the great cathedral itself, faced with the challenge of, in just three hours, re-acquainting myself with the organ (I had played it in a non-concert atmosphere a year before), and practising and registering the 8th Sonata of Rheinberger (my only piece in the 30-minute lunchtime recital at 11:30am, also on the 21st). Three hours to practice this piece on the organ, the main section of which is by Rieger in 1965. I say the main section, because in addition to this 4-manual Rieger, there is a 2-manual 1965 Marcussen on the wall of the nave, 2-manual 1965 Späth in the west gallery, and a 2-manual 1990 Fischer & Krämer in the choir, all operated from one master console. This amounts to 136 speaking stops over 4-manuals and pedals. The audience at this recital was colossal – 1,700 programmes were printed, and they all went, and around 100 people had to go without. The applause made the hairs on the back of my neck stand to attention as it wallowed around in the 8-second acoustic. Fantastic! It puts Britain to shame.

After the recital, Kirsten took me to lunch at a quiet café next to a babbling tributary of the river Dreisam (the river that runs through the city) and I had a delicious dish of Käsespätzle (cheese and ham in noodles). The rest of the day I spent practising at the Uni-Kirche for the concert later that evening.

Then the time came on Sunday at 2pm for me to catch the bus back to Basel, and then the 6pm flight back to Heathrow. As I flew back, my heart sank as a) the English clouds returned as we crossed back over the Channel, and b) I realised I had school the next day. All good things come to an end, and this is definitely among the top five things I've done so far.

*Jonathan Hope*

## REMEMBER TOBIAS HUG FROM FREIBURG?

*Remember Tobias? He spent a few weeks in Guildford in 2006 and now tells us what he's doing these days, in his own words and note the liberal use of :o) which is the young persons' "smiley" symbol:*

## My “kid”

I’m now attending my civil service (an alternative to military service). It’s much better than I expected. I work in a school for mentally disabled children. I help them to get integrated in society and support their independence. I really enjoy working with them, especially with my eight-years-old “kid” Mirco. I’m responsible for him, better said – he’s my job there. :o)

Mirco is a typical autistic boy, that means that he doesn’t speak, except for a few single words. We try to progress his speech, so I’m always talking with him and sometimes he repeats a word. I was very touched when a few weeks ago he called me “Papa.”

## My studies

In addition to the civil service I’m engaged with working in a hospital, giving private lessons in maths, taekwondo [a Korean martial art and combat sport-Ed.] a-a-a-a-n-n-n-d-d – I joined a course which prepares me for the Cambridge Certificate of Advanced English. I’m very glad about that, because beside all the fun I have with Taekwondo and the civil service I needed to have something for my brain. I hadn’t done anything intelligent for months, not English. The Certificate is the second highest certificate a second-language-speaker (can I say this?) can have. To be allowed to study in Cambridge I need an A. Out of question that I want this A... :o)

Well, all in all I rarely have any leisure time, but I’m getting used to it :o)

## My flat

Ahhh.. I guess I haven’t told it yet: three months ago I moved from Emmendingen to Freiburg. I now live in a flat share. I’m very happy about that. The apartment is right in the centre of Freiburg. I feel very comfortable within the community and my personal room is even bigger than it was in Emmendingen. My life’s going on very well, I’m independent, despite having to pay the rent I save a lot of money for my study, I do a lot of sport and I’m continuing to improve my English. The only point is that I would like to have more time for all the other things I wanna do, especially for my brain. I’m not quite satisfied, but that’s probably a problem of my ambition again.

However, I’ve fulfilled a couple of dreams yet, I think I’m on a good way! :o)

*Tobias Hug*

# FOOTBALL

## GUILDFORD BOYS PLAY FREIBURG BOYS

*An enthusiastic report from Phil Dyas, the chairman of GCBFC:*

Easter 2007 saw a weekend of matches between Guildford City Boys Football Club and Freiburg’s Blau Weiss Sports Club. For the last 22 years the two clubs have hosted each other in alternate years and last year it was Guildford’s turn.

## Freiburg recover the trophy

The games were played in superb weather at Fairlands recreation ground (although Stoughton recreation ground is usually GCBFC’s home ground). After the kick-off by Guildford’s Mayor, Cllr

Angela Gunning, there were four games: two between under-13 sides, one under-16s. After some vigorous battles and excellent football by all teams honours ended up even with Guildford winning two games and Freiburg winning two. The Dorothy Elchlepp Trophy (named after the founder of the twinning of Guildford with Freiburg) was won by the Blau Weiss senior boys, who took the Trophy back to Freiburg after a six-year absence.

*“The Blau Weiss senior boys, took the trophy back to Freiburg after a 6 year absence....”*

## But Guildford Dads won

As usual there was a Dads’ match which was quite a spectacle! When in Freiburg, the Guildford Dads usually come up against the Blau Weiss Veterans side, and this can be very one-sided. This year the Guildford Dads won the Adult Challenge Trophy for the first time in 11 years, after a penalty shootout.

## Amazing support

The Chairman of the Guildford City Club praised the enthusiasm of the players, which was matched by the traditional support from the parents and other supporters of both sides – a total of 70 had travelled by coach from Freiburg, and a further two flew in to see their son play just that day.

The whole operation of the Guildford City club is fantastic. In all 22 sides are run for boys and girls in age groups 6 to 18. Last year 46 players went to Freiburg for the games, with a parents and adult group making up a total of 123 people, which took some organizing at both ends! Around £2,000 is raised within the club each year to support the exchanges, and some additional funds are provided by the Guildford-Freiburg Association. For the past two years the club’s managers have been generously kitted out by the Wurth Company in Godalming. Some individual benefactors would also be helpful to assist with the club’s finances...

## Wunderbar

Other events over the weekend included a packed reception at the Guildhall for all the players and their supporters, hosted by Mayor Angela Gunning, with visits to the Spectrum for swimming, bowling and skating (which the Freiburg visitors thought was wunderbar), sightseeing trips to London, Thorpe Park and Windsor, and a party and disco.

Once again all the youth visitors were hosted by local Guildford City players’ families which further strengthened relationships between the Freiburgers and Guildfordians who participated.

*Phil Dyas, Chairman GCBFC*

[The March return match in Freiburg will have taken place by the time we go to press.]



# PHOTOGRAPHY

## CREATIVE PHOTOGRAPHY FROM FREIBURG

“Portraits from Freiburg”, an exhibition of photographs by renowned photographer from Freiburg, Telemach Wiesinger, held at Guildford House Gallery last August, is here reviewed by Peter Slade:

In these days of digital photography and ubiquitous images in colour it was unusual and refreshing to see a display of black and white photographs which had been taken on film and processed in the photographer’s own darkroom. Telemach Wiesinger’s “Portraits from Freiburg” exhibition was just such a display.

*“Exchanges of art are important ways for the people of the two towns to share in each others culture”*

And what a wonderful and varied set of images they were! Many were portraits of citizens of Freiburg, some prominent ones, some less so. Most of these were taken in ways which link them imaginatively to their professions. Oberbürgermeister Dieter Salomon appeared to have four pairs of hands – to enable him to cope with his multiplicity of duties. The ticket seller at the railway station was shown framed by his kiosk. Adolf Seger, postman and Olympic champion, was seen posed with taut



*Portrait of Telemach Wiesinger*



*Telemach Wiesinger's portrait of Mayor*

muscles. Herr Wiesinger knows many international jazz musicians well and there were sympathetic portraits of several of them in the exhibition. He also takes photographs in Freiburg’s twin townes: these are not conventional “tourist” images, but capture some detailed aspect of the towns. There was a lovely picture of David Cranham, Guilford’s mayor’s chauffeur, posed against the mayoral limousine. Some “still lives” and more abstract images also appeared throughout the exhibition.

Telemach Wiesinger, who also makes films, studied photography at the University of Kassel. His photographs have been exhibited in many places throughout Germany and elsewhere in the world and he has received many awards for his work. His films have been shown at several film festivals. He is a visiting professor at the University of Madison, Wisconsin, USA, one of Freiburg’s twin towns.

There are probably now few people who deny that photography is art. But if there are any doubters, after seeing this exhibition they will be entirely convinced that it is. And this exhibition is another manifestation of the twinning of Guildford and Freiburg – exchanges of art are important ways for the people of the two towns to share in each other’s culture.

Accompanying the Freiburg exhibition, and in interesting contrast to it, was “face2Face”, a collection of unusual and colour photographic portraits, some very amusing, by local photographer Chris Hutchinson.

*Peter Slade*



# MUSIC

## CHOIRS IN CONCERT

*Michael Jeffery gives us a brief overview of the twinning of the two towns' choirs, the Bachchor and the Vivace Chorus. Do note for your diary that the next performance is in November 2008:*

Back in the year 1989 our two towns marked ten years of twinning. To celebrate that event the then Guildford Philharmonic Choir—later renamed the Vivace Chorus on becoming independent of the Borough Council—a part of Guildford Borough's music initiative, sought out a comparable choir in Freiburg. The Freiburger Bachchor was invited to Guildford to sing with us Beethoven's "Missa Solemnis" in April in 1990 under Sir Charles Groves, the Philharmonic's principal conductor. A return visit presented Handel's "Messiah" in Freiburg Münster that September. Since then the two choirs have sung together in alternate years, and strong personal links have been formed.

One of the highlights was a joint performance in November 1993 of Benjamin Britten's "War Requiem" in Freiburg's Stadthalle. The very first performance of the Requiem, with soloists from Germany and UK, had been in Coventry, ravaged by the Luftwaffe in 1940. As those who know Freiburg are aware, that town's historic centre was bombed by the RAF in November 1944, so the shared event made a very moving Remembrance Day experience.

Following the propensity of Freiburg for twinning, the Bachchor has built on that first choral partnership with Guildford by developing links with choirs from Besançon (France), Granada (Spain), Innsbruck (Austria), Isfahan (Iran), Lviv (Ukraine), Madison (USA), Matsuyama (Japan), Padua (Italy) and Colmar, their neighbouring town just over the Rhine in Alsace. Last November all were invited to join in a performance to a packed audience in Freiburg's magnificent Konzerthaus of Beethoven's "Chorale Fantasia" and the Choral Symphony with its setting of Schiller's "Ode to Joy." The Vivace Chorus was delighted to be represented.

The next Freiburg Bachchor/Vivace Chorus shared event will be a performance – not to be missed! – of Verdi's "Requiem," in Guildford Cathedral on 1st November this year.

*Michael Jeffery*

# WINE TASTING

In February we treated ourselves to a return visit by top German wine expert Michael Schmidt. He led a wine-tasting evening in the historic yet cosy setting of our lovely Guildhall. Forty or so of us, including the Mayor and Mayoress of Guildford, sat expectantly with an array of clean glasses in front of each, while Michael described and explained before pouring out in turn six wines, three red and three white, from the wonderful wine-growing area north of Freiburg. He was a lively and amusing speaker and the meeting naturally became convivial, as we tasted and compared, inhaled the bouquet, admired the colour and learnt some of the technicalities. The delicious finger buffet, consisting of a selection of German food provided by our Social Secretary Katie Butcher, topped off a really delightful evening.

*Barbara Ford*

# GREEN NEWS

## LOCAL RENEWABLE ENERGY CONFERENCE IN FREIBURG

*Keith Chesterton went as one of three delegates representing Guildford Borough Council at the Local Renewable Energy Conference in Freiburg in June 2007. The other two were John Davey and Tim Pilsbury, both Council officers. But Keith claims sole responsibility for any views expressed in this article – and points out that he is an mathematician and likes figures....Read on:*

Freiburg Council generously paid for the accommodation & conference fees of delegates from all their partner cities. In total 34 countries, mostly in Europe, were represented by 227 delegates. Cities represented included: Innsbruck, Bourgas (Bulgaria), Copenhagen, Helsinki, Besançon, Heidelberg, Valencia, Växjö (Sweden), plus Leicester, Nottingham, Merton, Sheffield, Craigavon, Woking and Guildford from the UK. It was fascinating hearing of what many other cities were doing or planning to do, and we came back with several lessons for Guildford.

### Technical terms

biofuels, biomass	energy from biological sources
CHP	combined heat and power
CO <sub>2</sub>	carbon dioxide
MW	megawatt (1,000,000 Watts)
kW	kilowatt (1,000 Watts)
kWh	kilowatt hours
kWh/m <sup>2</sup> /yr	amount of energy used over a year per square metre
PV	photovoltaics, a technology which converts light directly into electricity

### Useful figures

2 MW	energy generated by a large wind turbine
300 MW	energy generated by a small old-style nuclear power station
1000 MW	energy produced by a gas power station
30 kW	energy generated by the small hydro-electric scheme by the river next to the Yvonne Arnaud Theatre in Guildford

Many towns, including Woking, gave presentations. Different cities concentrated on different renewable energy technologies. Freiburg has made a name for itself as a "solar city", Copenhagen has concentrated on wind turbines and Växjö on biofuels. But they all pay great attention to increasing the energy efficiency of their housing, are major users of CHP and try to reduce car use – or, at least, restrict its growth, by encouraging the use of public transport and cycling.

## Freiburg – renewable sources and reduced demand

Freiburg has been working on renewable energy production since the early 1990s. The initial spur for this was a strong local anti-nuclear campaign after Chernobyl, which became a positive campaign for generating electricity from renewable energy. (In my opinion, in the UK we need new nuclear power plants to keep our CO<sub>2</sub> emissions down for an interim period, before renewable energy sources can supply enough to meet our needs).

### Did you know?

An imaginative initiative – Germany, like various other countries, stimulates investment in local solar energy installations by buying the energy generated from householders for the grid. The tariff is set at 50 eurocents a unit (about 35p), which gives a payback of about 8 years.

The Finns were initially sceptical about the adverse effects of climate change—they thought it would be good to get warmer. Because it is a cold country, a high percentage of energy use goes on heating. But, having realised it is a serious problem, they have decreased CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by 25% in 10 years.

Heidelberg, like other German cities, has an ice competition. A large block of ice is put in a fully insulated house for 3 weeks and people take bets on how little has melted.

Freiburg has made itself a solar city, with 12,000 square metres of thermal solar panels and 9,000 square metres of PV cells on roofs. Collectively solar power generates 9 MW at peak & 8 million kWhours per year.

The city also uses wind turbines; it has five, which generate 15 million kWh per annum. Overall Freiburg generated 4% of its energy from renewable sources in 2005, with other contributions from several small hydro plants on the river Dreisam and some bio-energy. Their target – which they think they will reach – is 10% by 2010. It shows how long it takes to build up the momentum to get significant results.

But Freiburgers have also concentrated on reducing the demand for energy. They have built tram lines and have excellent linkages between these, train and bus. They have built major new developments, especially Vauban on an old army site. This is a development for 6,000 people with their dwellings at the 50–60 kWh/m<sup>2</sup>/yr level (which is low), connected by tram to the centre of Freiburg & with car parks (for those who want to buy them) 400 metres away. Their only drawback is the absence of lifts for the elderly or heavily laden families.

## Växjö–fossil fuel free

Växjö is a city in the South of Sweden, about the same latitude as Edinburgh. It has a population of about 80,000 in an area of 1,600 square kilometres.

The city started reducing its need for fossil fuels many years ago when climate change was just a scare. Compared with 1993, it will have reduced its CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by half by 2010 and has set a

target of decreasing by 70% by 2025. In 2005, half their energy came from renewable sources.

In 1984, it installed its first biomass (wood – this is Sweden) CHP & in 1997 installed 100MW biomass CHP. This gives income

In Växjö they use reference meters – the so-called “smart meters” which are under discussion in the UK – in reference houses and because the residents of the houses can see when and where they are using energy, have reduced energy use by 30%.

to local forest owners, saw mills and contractors. Now 97% population is on biomass, and by 2010, everyone will be able to convert to bio-energy. In villages, small-scale biomass district heating has been installed. The Växjö authorities insist all new developments have meters for electricity and heat – not common in Sweden. One problem they have not cracked is transport. They have lots of car sharing & cycle use, but people still insist on driving large 4 x 4s and CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from transport are going up. So Växjö is setting up a European bio-gasification centre to produce fuel for cars. At least they will make sure that even car transport uses renewable energy.

### Key Green Points Made

Political consensus is vital in setting and achieving climate change goals. It is a demanding process, that demands a long term commitment. It also needs involvement with the community.

It takes a long while to get results. A consistent long term plan is vital. And the sooner we start real action the better.

Energy efficiency is the most important issue.

Housing is responsible for 40% of final energy use in the EU – 50% in Britain.

Special “Passiv” houses use 13–15 kWh/m<sup>2</sup>—compare that with the 180 kWh/m<sup>2</sup> of a standard old German house or British house.

Refurbished houses can be brought up to this standard as well.

There are a great variety of houses that will reach the Passiv standard, not just one design. The ones we saw looked as attractive as standard houses. The cost difference is about 5%.

We need to build buildings that people will want to live in, because they are comfortable and attractive. It is no use just appealing to the ardent “greens” – these houses must appeal to most people.

It is important to include all sources of CO<sub>2</sub> in setting targets, including transport.

Once energy requirement is low enough it can be met by renewable energy. There are many different ways to produce renewable energy – we need to exploit all feasible ones

## Copenhagen

Wind power is the main source of renewable energy in Denmark. The country currently has 16% renewable energy and its target is to reach 30% by 2025. There are about 5,400 wind turbines in Denmark, including 6 off-shore windfarms. 20 turbines off Copenhagen have a rated output of 40 MW and supply 4% of Copenhagen's annual energy.

There is strong public support for wind turbines: the programme started in the 1990s and involved the public as much as possible throughout. The price per unit of electricity generated has decreased by a factor of 4 in the last 20 years. The manufacture of wind turbines has created 20,000 jobs in Denmark. Denmark has half of the world market and exports more than 5 billion Euros every year. We were told this was higher than Danish bacon exports!

*Keith Chesterton*

## TO MARKET, TO MARKET

### GUILDFORD GOES TO FREIBURG CHRISTMAS MARKET

*Keith Chesterton reports on the Association's Freiburg Christmas markets visit – a coach trip out, four days' stay in Freiburg and coach back, and Val Hazelwood adds a comment:*

The bad news came a few weeks before the trip was to start. Peter Slade said his hip required work on it and he couldn't go—would I and the other Keith (Taylor) act as leaders in his place? We knew we couldn't match his knowledge and enthusiasm, but agreed to try. We had a briefing session with Mike Niemann of Friendship Travel and an exchange of emails with Freiburg's Anglo-German Club: they said the Black Forest was covered in snow and impassable by coach, and suggested a number of changes to our itinerary.

The day came and we all met at 7am by the bus stop in the station – well, all of us apart from the coach and the other Keith. After a few minutes wondering if they'd both overslept, a sharp-eyed member of our group suggested I investigate a coach some way off elsewhere in the station. I did, and found Keith and wife sitting cosily in our coach, asking where the rest of the group were! We all jumped in and set off to meet our trip's driver, another Peter, at a lay-by near Maidstone. Peter was very helpful throughout the trip and kept us amused through the flat French countryside and beyond. When we reached Freiburg, we made an interesting circuit of the town, inched through the towers of the Schwabentur without doing damage to it & found the Schwarzwälder Hof, where we were to stay. The hotel was very busy as Herr Dettler, its proprietor, was celebrating the 50th anniversary of his family's taking on the hotel. We had our lovely meal in a private dining room above.

The next day, we had a tour of the historic Freiburg centre and the Münster, before going to the Rathaus for an official welcome from Otto Neideck, the Deputy Mayor. We enjoyed a number of glasses of good wine, then discovered we were also being treated to glühwein and a sausage from a stall in the market place—very welcome in the cold and we staggered back to the hotel. We spent the afternoon going round Freiburg's expanse of Christmas stalls, by and near the town hall. Lots of them selling glasses of glühwein – no we didn't have any more. In the evening we joined the Anglo-German Club and Dr Neideck again in another delightful

meal in the Heiliggeist Stüble, behind the Münster.

On Friday, we set off, with members of the Club, across the Rhine to Colmar where in the morning, we were to attend a large wine fair. We eventually found it and went into a suspiciously empty car park – the fair was not due to open till later in the day. For once, our German hosts had proved as fallible as us. This cheered us up!

However, they guided us into Colmar centre, where we split up. Most had something to eat and went into the Unterlinden museum, which contains Grünewald's Issenheim Altar and an amazing collection of medieval art and sculpture. We looked round the four separate Christmas markets in Colmar – covered, antiques, children's and specialty food – all surrounded by picturebook Alsace buildings. And in the dark, the markets looked like the brochures.

By Saturday, it was raining and the snow had melted enough to allow us to do a truncated Black Forest tour. We saw the monastery in St Peter, had a snug lunch at the Bootshaus on the Titisee, saw some professional glass blowing and had delicious Black Forest gâteau with liquor at a traditional forest cafe. The rain stopped for the evening so we could visit Freiburg's Christmas markets again, now lit up in Christmas fashion, and mix with the Saturday night crowds.

We returned home on the Sunday, laden with gifts and German wine, and in good spirits. It had been a fascinating few days, made especially enjoyable by the company and guidance of our friends in the Anglo-German Club.

*Keith Chesterton*

*Val Hazelwood adds:*

Although the coach was comfortable and not too crowded, it was still a very long day's journey. In future for short trips to Freiburg, I recommend that we fly to Basel and then hire local transport. It might even be cheaper.

I would also like to add my appreciation of the great welcome we received from the Anglo-German Club. Some of them accompanied us on our trips and provided insights into the history and geography of the surrounding area. Besides having a lot of fun, I learnt a lot about the life and opinions of ordinary Freiburg residents.

*Val Hazelwood*

### FREIBURG PARTNER CITIES MARKET

*The Associations's Susan Lewis and Peter Slade went to Freiburg for three days in mid-June to represent Guildford at the Partner Cities Market. Eight of Freiburg's nine partner towns participated in the event: besides Guildford the other participants were Besançon in France, Innsbruck in Austria, Isfahan in Iran, Lviv in Ukraine, Madison in the USA, Matsuyama in Japan and Padua in Italy. Only Freiburg's Spanish partner of Granada was missing but the Israeli town of Tel Aviv, which Freiburg hopes to make its tenth partner town, was there. The City of Freiburg paid for hotel accommodation for all participants and all the expenses associated with the market. Peter reports:*

The aim of the market, held for the first time last year, was to encourage contacts between the partner towns and to give them a chance to promote tourism and display local produce. This year is the 40th anniversary of the twinning between Padua and Freiburg and during the week there were several cultural events with an Italian flavour to celebrate this. There were also



many other activities, including demonstrations of calligraphy and craftwork by artists from Isfahan, Lviv and Matsuyama, a display of karate, flamenco dancing by a Freiburg dance group and performances by the Freiburg City brass band. On the Guildford stand members of the Freiburg Anglo-German Club worked hard making and serving English tea and home-made cakes, which were a great attraction.



*Guildford stall with Susan Lewis & Peter Slade.*

Susan and I greatly enjoyed being alongside Freiburg's other twin towns as part of the Partner Cities Market, which is such a brilliant idea. We had many visitors to our stand and it was good

*"Guildford puts on a show at Freiburg Market...."*

to be able to tell them about our town and its surroundings and their attractions. There was much interest in possible visits to Guildford, including exchanges for school students, and we also had a chance to discuss how we might develop the Guildford-Freiburg partnership further. We were delighted to be joined by the Anglo German Club on our stand. It was a really friendly and lively occasion with an international flavour and I'm sure it will be an annual event.

*Peter Slade*

## UNIVERSITY

### UNIVERSITY OF SURREY AT FREIBURG UNIVERSITY'S 550-YEAR JUBILEE

*During 2007, Freiburg's Albert Ludwigs Universität celebrated its 550 year Jubilee, making it one of the oldest universities in Europe. With such a cause for celebration, a whole series of events were held throughout the year, of which a major one was the Wissenschaftsmeile or 'Academic Mile' which took place between 11th and 14th July. As an academic institution from a twin town, the University of Surrey was invited to take part by both the Albert Ludwigs Universität's international office and the town of Freiburg. Professor Peter Butterworth, who*

*champions the development of Surrey University, and Katy Leivers, representing the University's marketing department, flew out to Freiburg for the event. Katy tells us:*

Given that Surrey University hasn't until now had any kind of involvement with Freiburg, we were made extremely welcome right from the start by Herr Berndt Finger of the international office and his team. We were equally made welcome by the Oberbürgermeister, Dr Dieter Salomon who held a reception in the Rathaus especially for those visiting from the twin towns around the world.

We set up a stand in the International Pavilion along with staff and students from universities in most of Freiburg's other twin towns – Padua, Innsbruck, Besançon, Granada, Isfahan and Matsuyama. Beside the International Pavilion, near the main university buildings in the centre of Freiburg, was the main attraction of the Academic Mile – a long marquee showcasing the research and academic achievements of the University of Freiburg, enthusiastically represented by students of the University. The tent was almost always packed with other students, school children and people from the town and it was a hive of activity.



*Prof Peter Butterfield & Katy Leivers at Freiburg's Academic Mile.*

In the International Pavilion, we met a mixture of students and local people interested in Freiburg's twin towns, some of whom had visited Guildford. As well as passing on information about Guildford and our University, and hopefully encouraging some Freiburg students to spend some time studying with us, we also learned a great deal about higher education in Germany.

*"Studying in The UK is an appealing prospect to many German students...."*

We came away with a sense that studying in the UK is an appealing prospect to many German students who welcome a more intensive and focused degree format than under the German system, and there are certainly many students who would relish the chance to raise the standard of their English. The hindrance seems to be the cost of studying in the UK, which is much higher than in Germany. We hope, nevertheless, that we will be able to build up the relationship between the two universities to make exchanges a more regular occurrence in the future.

My overall impression of the event was that in Freiburg the

University and the people of the town were very much celebrating together and had built up a closer community in the process. With such a historic past and such a positive present and future, the University of Freiburg is in a position that any university would be proud of.

*Katy Leivers,  
Student Marketing Officer, University of Surrey*

## CHURCH

### CHURCHES LINK'S WEEK IN FREIBURG

*A little group of twenty people, organised by Stanley Hemming-Clark, Chairman of the Guildford/Freiburg Churches Link, spent a week in Freiburg. They represented a wide range of Guildford congregations – Anglican, Catholic, URC and Baptist – and met an equally wide range of Christians in Freiburg. The Guildford visitors attended a combined bilingual service in a different church each day. They found that ecumenical efforts are intense, with some shared church buildings and a vast range of joint social involvement. Other faiths are also involved and they met and heard from both Jewish and Islamic leaders. This report combines comments from Val Clarke and Sue Wilbraham with those of Helen and Michael Carmel:*

#### The city

Freiburg is an exciting city, spires, Gothic buildings, university, Münster, all found with ease in a largely pedestrianised central

area. Long colourful trams reminiscent of bendy buses weave their way around main streets seemingly blending with walkers and cyclists. It seems a most “liveable” city, especially so considering its large population of 216,000 people. The visitors were impressed by the way the planners of the post-war reconstruction of the historic centre and other buildings since had given thought to the environment and the needs of ordinary people.

*“We attended a combined bilingual service in a different church each day...”*

#### Immense immigration

The main theme of our visit was the churches' involvement with the social problems associated with immigration. On this we had an intensive study day, visits to meet both immigrants and support workers, and imaginative exercises. We learned that about a quarter of the population of Freiburg were born outside Germany and that they have come in waves from a wide range of countries – among them for example ethnic Germans whose ancestors settled in Tsarist Russia, and who now speak no German. Refugees include Jews from the Ukraine and Roma from Bulgaria, while economic immigrants still include a large number of Turkish settlers. Of course the EU, including Britain, provides its share of immigrants, and the largest foreign contingent is in fact Italian.



Reception at Rathaus



# THE YEAR IN PICTURES

## Partner Cities Market in Freiburg (Story on pages 11 and 12)



*Anglo-German Club serving tea*



*Rathausplatz setting*

## Telemach Wiesinger's photo exhibition (Story on page 8)



*Telemach with jazzman Bill Bruford*



*Telemach & Mayor*



*Telemach & Mayor*



## Issues and assistance

Determining who has the right of abode is a very complex matter, and depends on according to which law applies to the people in question. We were most impressed that the city authorities seems to have a detailed knowledge of exactly how many of each group there are, although off – the record comments on the issues facing the City were sometimes especially enlightening.

*"A quarter of the population of Freiburg were born outside Germany..."*

Much emphasis is given to everyone learning German, without which integration is not possible. Freiburg has more than 1,000 refugees who have yet to be given refugee status, without which they cannot seek employment; much help is needed initially for them to gain this.

The churches and the individual Christians we met make enormous efforts to assist people to settle, to find their way, and to meet some kindness. But there are inevitable tensions. The mosque and the synagogue too have their problems.

## Fun and thanks

Not all was so serious however, and we did some sightseeing in the city, and also had a wonderful day out together in the Black Forest, travelling by train, boat and bus through the most spectacular scenery. A barbecue, a picnic, a last night party – what more could we ask for?

We were especially fortunate in our hosts, whose warmth and hospitality gave us perhaps the most cherishable memories of all.

They were clearly proud of the city and its achievements, but very ready to admit and face its problems and shortcomings. Nor were they put off by our ignorance of the German language (although some of our party did speak excellent German), so the language of both official and social events was English. We are hoping to see our Freiburg friends again before too long, either here in Guildford, or again in Freiburg, and meanwhile are grateful to the Churches Link for this splendid visit.

*Val Clarke and Sue Wilbraham, Helen and Michael Carmel*

## COMING EVENTS

### Dates for your Diary

**9<sup>th</sup> June**

Annual General Meeting

**12<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> June**

Partner Cities Market in Freiburg

**13<sup>th</sup> July**

Association Summer Party

**11<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup> September**

German Film Festival at the Electric Theatre

**1<sup>st</sup> November**

Verdi's Requiem: Bachchor and Vivace  
Chorus sing in Guildford Cathedral

**We are also planning  
(dates to be arranged):**

a visit to the Houses of Parliament  
a local environmental meeting



*Excursion to Titisee.*

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## Websites

Our website (with our Newsletters and Updates):  
[www.guildford.gov.uk/Guildfordweb/Community/Linked Towns](http://www.guildford.gov.uk/Guildfordweb/Community/Linked%20Towns)

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