



CHAIRMAN'S OVERVIEW

Once again I can report that our twinning with Freiburg has continued to be a great success. The relationship has been strengthened by two Civic exchanges between our towns in the past year, reports of which appear later in this Newsletter. In my view the outcome of these visits demonstrate that "partnership" better expresses our relationship than "twinning".

The first took place during last September's Heritage Day weekend, when Freiburg's Oberbürgermeister, Dieter Salomon, with some of his colleagues and seven City Councillors, visited Guildford. This was a very successful visit and demonstrated what a friendly relationship there is between the two towns at an official level. As I said to the Surrey Advertiser: "I was delighted to have participated in such a successful visit and to have spent time with Freiburg friends and colleagues – contacts made during my sixteen visits to our lovely twin city. I am certain that this visit by the Freiburgers was a great contribution to strengthening our already strong partnership".



*View of the Münster **

Director, Sue Sturgeon, the Senior Vice-President of Surrey University, Greg Melly, three Borough Councillors and myself. Once again there was a great feeling of friendship between the members of the two groups. The weekend included a guided visit to Vauban, Freiburg's exemplary environmentally advanced district from which I have long felt Guildford could learn lessons.

The most important outcomes of the discussions that took place were first the recognition that the two towns face some similar problems, especially housing, and secondly the agreement between the two Mayors that the partnership and friendship of our two towns should be further strengthened and that common problems could benefit from co-operation. Personally I am delighted at these outcomes, having long urged that co-operation should be a valuable part of our partnership. Until recently there has not always been the sense that our Borough Council was very enthusiastic about the twinning, although individual Mayors and some Councillors have been supportive. But in the past year or two there has been a commitment by the Council to give more support to the twinning and to the many aspects that our Association has been involved with. The Mayor, the Council Leader and the Managing Director are all very enthusiastic about the partnership with Freiburg.

Since the last newsletter was published our country has embarked on what I and I expect many of our members think is the foolishly mistaken path of leaving the European Union. When the result of last June's referendum was announced Freiburg's Oberbürgermeister wondered if Brexit would affect our relationship – and Freiburg's local newspaper, the Badische Zeitung, asked the same question. Both were quickly reassured that it would not – town twinning is not a function of the European Union. And of course this reassurance was redoubled during the Civic visits.

Beyond any official involvement and civic visits, our Association aims to promote understanding between Guildford and Freiburg and to



Two mayors: Mayor Gordon Jackson of Guildford (l) and Oberbürgermeister, Dieter Salomon

The second was in March, with a weekend visit by a group from Guildford to Freiburg. The group, led by Mayor Gordon Jackson included the Leader of the Council, Paul Spooner, the Managing

facilitate social and cultural bonds between them and their citizens. As a contribution to this we urge as many organisations as possible, especially cultural, educational and sporting ones, to continue with existing links with Freiburg or develop new ones.

As will be seen from the following pages many such events have again taken place in the past year. Unfortunately the Guildford City Boys football exchanges with the Blau-Weiss club in Freiburg, which ceased in 2015, have not resumed. We are exploring the possibility of finding another boys' team able to take the place of Guildford City.

As well as exchanges we arrange regular public events (our Christmas market and two public lectures last year) and of course visits to Freiburg. The next such visit is in June, which will include our participation in the Partner Cities Market. Freiburg now has 12 partner cities – the latest to join is Tel Aviv – who get together in the Town Hall Square to promote their towns' attractions and to arrange cultural events, always very enjoyable. And during our visit we shall be renewing our friendship with the Freiburg Anglo-German Club.

I want to thank all members of our Committee and of the Association generally who have played a part in bringing about another successful year's activities.

I have now been Chairman of the Association for 11 years, which has been a very enjoyable and rewarding experience, but I think that a change will be good for the Association and for me and at the AGM I stepped down from the Chairmanship. I am delighted to say that Barbara Ford, who has done an excellent job of editing the newsletter has taken over as Chairperson. I am certain that she will do an excellent job in the role.

After many years of valuable work as our Vice-chairman Wolf Pietrek has also retired and I have taken over as Vice-chairman. In that position I will go on providing input to the Association's work and I shall certainly not be giving up my commitment to our partnership with Freiburg to which I am very attached.

Peter Slade

YOUNG PEOPLE'S ACTIVITIES

SCHOOLS LIAISON

Ros Calow reports: The school exchange between George Abbot School and the Goethe Gymnasium is taking place once again in 2017. The Association has this year awarded a grant to George Abbot to help with increasing costs and ensure that pupils can continue to have

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the valuable and often life- changing experience of staying with a family in another country and trying to speak the language.

The usual visit of a group of students from the Max Weber Schule for a homestay course with work placements organised by Guildford College also took place in September and was enjoyed by all. Due to Brexit it is unclear whether this will continue as hitherto it has been made possible by a substantial per capita grant from the EU to visit a member country.

I urge all our local schools to think about the outstanding value of an exchange with a school in Freiburg and anyone interested should contact our Secretary. *[See contact details on the back page.]*

GEORGE ABBOT SCHOOL EXCHANGE VISIT TO GOETHE GYMNASIUM

Nuria Martinez-Wallas, Languages teacher at George Abbot School, reports: Last March, 16 George Abbot students with two teachers travelled to Freiburg for the annual German exchange hosted by the Goethe Gymnasium. We arrived in Freiburg late afternoon to be welcomed by a group of very excited students. The nerves that had been building during the day suddenly vanished as our German hosts welcomed us warmly with hugs and smiles. This was the start of a fantastic week filled with plenty of cultural entertainment. During our stay we were lucky to visit Schauinsland in beautiful sunny weather. Although the snow had mostly melted we still managed to find a patch of snow to slide down on bin bags! On this same day we also visited the old silver mine which many found fascinating.

Other highlights of our stay included a guided tour around Freiburg, a visit to Basel & its stunning Münster, a party organised by the German



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Civic visit from Freiburg to Guildford



University of Surrey: Engineering Department (l); 5G Centre (r)



Left: Mayors open a new footpath at Chilworth;
Centre: Freiburg City Cllrs Walter Krögner & Brigitte von Savigny at GLive;
Below left: Burgermeister Ulrich von Kirchback with historic re-enactor;
Below right: presentation to Guildford mayor by OB Salomon;
Bottom left: Guildford & Freiburg group with historic re-enactors;
Bottom right: Albury vineyard



students in a local youth centre and a specially arranged guided tour around the SC Freiburg stadium.

The week was a triumph: friendships were forged and plans to visit again were made: many exclaimed they would have liked to stay longer if not forever! The return visit is planned for the end of June and we cannot wait to return their generosity and kindness when they come to visit us in Guildford.

A SURREY STUDENT WORKS AT FREIBURG UNIVERSITY CLINIC

Alastair McGinness, Bioscience student, University of Surrey, reports: I've studied for two years in Guildford at the wonderful University of Surrey, and as part of my degree I had the opportunity to spend my third year on a placement -- home or abroad -- and so I decided to take a leap of faith and see some of the world, starting with Germany. As luck would have it, I was offered a lab internship in our sister city, and so since September 2016 I have worked at a neuroinflammation laboratory connected to the Freiburg University clinic, investigating new therapeutics with a wonderfully international team of colleagues.



UoS student Alastair McGinness, at Titisee

Freiburg has a peculiar blend of small-town and city vibes, with the same picturesque cobbled streets as my native Guildford, and quaint little cafe-lined alleyways that I happily spend hours wandering. The vibrant university scene was a welcome discovery too. As a student abroad, I've found friends from far and wide, even a few from the UK for when the need for a cuppa gets too dire. I found the beautiful countryside surrounding the city a welcome cousin to the green of Surrey. My initial arrival in Freiburg was a little daunting, but I'm now five months down the line and couldn't be happier here!

Note: Alastair is in his third year (the Professional Training Year) of a 4-year Biological Sciences BSc degree. Whilst in Freiburg he receives an Erasmus grant from the EU, which covers his accommodation and

helps towards his living expenses. It is not known what will happen to the Erasmus scheme for UK students after Brexit.

LECTURES

POLITICS IN GERMANY AFTER BREXIT

Our annual autumn lecture was given by Uli Hesse, an award winning film maker and the UK-based representative of a leading German TV channel. Her chosen theme had attracted a large audience in our historic Guildhall.



Speaker Uli Hesse with Vice-Chairman Wolf Pietrek

Her presentation expressed clearly the general regret in Germany that the British public had decided to discontinue their membership of the EU. This departure may well reverberate in the remaining EU member states with the strengthening of extreme right wing movements, such as the AfD in Germany. She reckons that these movements will not constitute a serious threat for member states and the cohesion of the EU, but that the mere emergence of these movements as seen also in France, Holland and Austria is a warning sign.

As is to be expected, the audience questioned the wisdom of the German Chancellor's decision to encourage Middle Eastern refugees, predominantly Syrians, to migrate to Germany. The speaker admitted that this decision had evoked much criticism from within the Chancellor's own party and their coalition partner and the initial welcoming attitude by the general public had faded rapidly after the often disrespectful behaviour of immigrants. *[But see the article by Freiburger Margarete Müller on a page below for a personal view.]*

On the shape of the UK's future relationship with the EU, the speaker doubted that Brussels would abandon the principles of the inseparability of the free movement of labour, finance and services.

THE BRITISH IN OCCUPIED GERMANY

Christopher Knowles, Visiting Research Fellow at the Institute for Contemporary British History at Kings College London, gave this lecture to the Association in February, also in the historic Guildhall.

Dr Knowles described how during the Allied post-war occupation of the defeated Germany four important and influential British men set

about the task of reconstruction, political renewal, and personal reconciliation with their former enemies: Field-Marshal Montgomery, the first military governor of the British Zone, Harold Ingrams, a former colonial official given the task of restoring democracy in Germany, Vaughan Berry, the British Regional Commissioner for Hamburg, and John Chaloner, the 21 year-old English army officer who created the German news magazine, *Der Spiegel*.



Speaker Christopher Knowles at the Guildhall

Despite two very bitter wars in the previous 30 years, despite the chaos in Germany after the collapse of the Nazi state, despite criticism of the occupation in both Britain and Germany, despite hunger marches and protests in Germany, the end of the War and the end of the occupation have been followed by 70 years of peace and prosperity in

Western Europe. These four men made important contributions to this.

GERMANY & ITS PLACE IN THE EU

This was the subject of a talk to which Association members were invited, given by Stephen Green to the British-German Association in November 2016, hosted by the German Embassy. Lord Green is a



Speaker Stephen Green

former banker, having been Group Chairman of HSBC, and a former UK government minister, and an Anglican priest.

He began his talk by saying: "There is no culture on the planet greater than that of Germany," and "No country has contributed more to the history of human ideas and creativity. No country has been deeper into the abyss. And no

country has seen a more remarkable redemption and renewal." Yet there is a dearth of literature which make the connections between its history, culture and identity. If you go into the history section of bookshops you are confronted with very many books on the Third Reich and the Holocaust. It is as if nothing much in Germany is interesting outside the twelve years from 1933 to 1945.

Lord Green said that the rise of the Nazis had not been inevitable. It was the result of political misjudgments before and after the first world war, the social trauma of the Weimar Republic and the economic catastrophe of the Great Depression. Germany's greatest

achievement has been in coming to terms with its history. It has atoned more thoroughly than other countries (eg Japan, Russia, China and even the UK) where there has been much evil within living memory.

The other great achievements of post-war Germany have of course been its economic success and the great success it has made of democracy. The more recent integration of East Germany with West was a great challenge to which the country responded well. The speaker said that the UK's withdrawal from the EU will mean that Germany will have more responsibility to be at the centre of European affairs and to assume greater leadership of the European project – a project which he likened to cathedral building which will take many decades to complete. The European voice needs to be heard in the current difficult times and Germany is central to this.

Stephen Green's book on the subject of his talk is: "*Reluctant Meister – How Shaping Germany's Past Is Shaping Its European Future*".

Peter Slade

VISITS GUILDFORD TO FREIBURG

CIVIC VISIT TO FREIBURG

I was delighted to be a member of a civic visit from Guildford to Freiburg in March 2017, led by the Mayor, Gordon Jackson and the Leader of the Council, Paul Spooner, and which also included the Council's Managing Director, Sue Sturgeon, the University of Surrey's Senior Vice-president, Greg Melly, three Borough Councillors and the Civic Secretary, Kate Foxton. The major aims of the visit were to strengthen links between the two towns and to develop new ways of co-operating. Issues discussed included innovation, urban planning, housing and culture.

Our visit was hosted by Freiburg's Oberbürgermeister, Dr Dieter Salomon, joined by several of the City Council's leaders and councillors. We were treated to the Freiburgers' customary wonderful hospitality in a very comradely atmosphere. The weekend included a guided visit to Vauban, Freiburg's outstanding example of sustainable living. We also toured the old town and visited the splendid and recently extended Augustiner Museum where there is a very interesting exhibition on National Socialism in Freiburg. Greg Melly gave a talk on the University of Surrey's work on "5G Smart Cities".



Martinstor

Paul Spooner said of the visit: "We explored new ways of working together and opportunities for future partnership across several areas including urban planning, housing tenure, culture and university links. Freiburg has been at the forefront of sustainability and energy management for many years and our hosts were keen to hear about the focus on environmental technologies at the University of Surrey. Reinforcing our relationship benefits the borough, the local economy and all our residents."

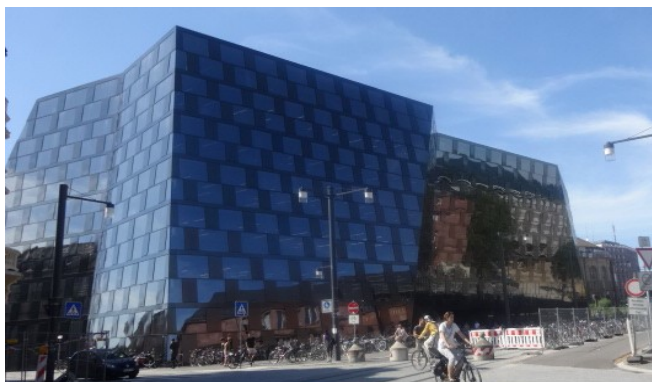
Mayor Gordon Jackson added: "There are many similarities between our towns – both have a reputation for innovation and are rich in history, art and culture. The weekend gave us an excellent opportunity to focus on a wide range of issues that we have in common and build on these connections for the future."

These views were echoed by Oberbürgermeister Dieter Salomon, who expressed his delight at the success of the visit and of the Guildford-Freiburg relationship and emphasised the value of partnerships between towns, especially in view of the current uncertainties in Europe and the wider world.

Peter Slade

ASSOCIATION MEMBERS' VISIT TO FREIBURG

At the beginning of July 2016, nine members of the Guildford-Freiburg Association spent several days in our twin city, in glorious sunny weather. At the beginning of the visit, I as Chairman had some useful discussions with Freiburg City Council's Günter Burger and Ariane Hötzer about how to strengthen the already strong ties between the two towns.



The new University Library Freiburg. (For more pictures, see p.12)

Our group made contact with many old friends, including members of the Freiburg Anglo-German Club. We joined Club members for a very enjoyable dinner on a beautiful summer evening on the Dattler restaurant's terrace above the city with delightful views over Freiburg as the sun set. The next day the two groups met at the top of Schauinsland, often described as Freiburg's mountain, which we reached by cable car. The groups then set off on a walk on Schauinsland, on the way visiting the *Englander Denkmal*, the memorial to five English boys who died on the mountain in a surprise snowstorm in April 1936. (See article in the History section below: by an extraordinary co-incidence the *Guardian* article referred to was published while we were in Freiburg.) We also had a guided tour of a furnished 16th century farmhouse (the Schniederlihof) and saw what a very hard life Black Forest farmers had in former times, especially in the winter. As a contrast the walk ended at the delightful Halde Hotel with refreshments which included authentic *SchwarzwälderKirschtorte* (aka Black Forest Gâteau).

Freiburg's annual wine festival took place during our visit. The market place was full of stalls dispensing scores of varieties of the excellent

local wine for tasting. In the evenings the square was packed with people – becoming noisier and jollier as time wore on. On a different cultural level, several of the Guildford group attended an organ recital in the city's beautiful 14th century Gothic cathedral. It has four organs which can all be played singly or together from one console. The four together produced an extraordinary sound in a work by Max Reger.

Freiburg, known as "The Green City", has two world-famous environmentally advanced settlements – Vauban and Rieselfeld -- and a third is planned near Rieselfeld. Ideas from these settlements should be capable of being taken up in new housing developments in Guildford. Various groups from Guildford have previously visited Vauban and on this trip the group opted for a guided tour of Rieselfeld, on the western edge of the city, with a population of 10,000. They came away impressed by many aspects of the development -- see Association member Peter Simpson's impressions below

Three of the group took a day out to visit the impressive Swiss city of Basel, an hour's train journey from Freiburg, especially to see the new and very impressive extension to the city's art gallery.

Not surprisingly the question of Brexit came up during our visit. Most of the Freiburgers we met thought the UK has made a big mistake.

Peter Slade

OUR VISIT TO RIESELFELD

Freiburg City Council very kindly arranged a guided walking tour of Rieselfeld for us. It included a presentation of its history. Freiburg's population grew rapidly in the 1990s, partly as a result of the migration of people linked to the reunification of Germany. More housing was needed and the new settlements of first Rieselfeld and then Vauban were built to help satisfy this need.

Rieselfeld is located on the western side of Freiburg. Its design resulted from a competition organised by the City of Freiburg and the winning design was developed in partnership with the City Planning Department. It was built in four stages by more than 120 private builders and investors starting in 1994 and completed in 2010. A tram line linking Rieselfeld to central Freiburg was opened in 2007. It now contains 3700 homes for 10,500 people – Vauban has 5000. An adjacent area is available for future housing and the surrounding open land is a designated as a nature conservancy area.

When Rieselfeld was planned, lessons learnt from earlier housing developments in Freiburg were combined with an understanding of how to create an environment with high quality physical and social amenities which would support a balanced community taking account of the needs of both young and old. There has been strong involvement by the community as the development has progressed. The housing stock has both private homes and social housing with rents set which match the average for Freiburg.

A key issue in the design guidelines was sustainability, including energy use, efficiency and supply. These ecological objectives were met by low energy construction, district heating networks fed by a combined heat and power plant, integration of solar energy and provision for the effective use of rain water. Another aspect of sustainability was the provision of efficient transport by tram and bus. Private vehicles are allowed, with a speed limit of 30km/hr, and cyclists and pedestrians have priority throughout. Car parking is provided under buildings or in parking alleys.

The overall layout of the settlement is straightforward. A wide main spine road with bus and tram services running along it contains shops and a variety of service outlets. In a central plaza there is a community building containing a library, meeting areas, performance spaces, a small café and an Ecumenical Church, a simple concrete

building, simply decorated. Houses and apartments in simple contemporary style and of varying size are arranged along roads set at right angles to the main spine road. Some of the side roads (so-called "Home Zones") have no pavements, the expectation being that pedestrians, children at play, cyclists and vehicles will co-exist in a shared space without conflict and harm. There are a kindergarten, first and secondary schools and sports facilities and small green recreational and play areas are provided amongst the housing.

Some of the buildings echo 19th century city styles with retail, office and other service and work units on the ground floor and apartments on the floors above. These taller buildings are found in the centre of the development. Elsewhere the buildings exhibit a diversity of forms and decorative features.

Overall our group thought that Rieselfeld achieves a pleasing built environment with easy access to the City of Freiburg and to the natural environment.

Peter Simpson, Association member

VISITS FREIBURG TO GUILDFORD

FREIBURGERS MAKE A CIVIC VISIT

A thirteen-strong civic delegation, led by Freiburg's Oberbürgermeister, Dr Dieter Salomon, and including seven city councillors, visited Guildford during last September's Heritage Open Days weekend. They enjoyed the best that our town has to offer as they sampled Guildford's heritage, innovation and culture and some famous landmarks, history and our thriving local economy. Local attractions on the tour included: Guildford Castle, Royal Grammar School, Abbot's Hospital, GLive, University of Surrey, Albury Organic Vineyard, Silent Pool Distillers, Chilworth Gunpowder Mills and the Guildhall. It was the first official Civic Visit since 2004 – which took place at the time of the 25th anniversary of the twinning -- when First (Deputy) Mayor Otto Neideck and Günter Burger, Head of Freiburg's International Affairs Department represented Freiburg. Oberbürgermeister Dieter Salomon and Günter Burger were also here four years ago.

Our Freiburg visitors joined Cllr Gordon Jackson, Mayor of Guildford, whose theme for his Mayoral year was "Inspiring Tomorrow's Solutions Today" -- promoting innovation and balanced growth alongside the protection of our natural environment. Other members of Guildford Council also took part, including Managing Director Sue Sturgeon and Council Leader Paul Spooner and two other Councillors. Some members of the Association's Committee attended the reception and the formal dinner which were part of the visit and accompanied the Freiburgers on their visits to various parts of the Borough. It was a very successful visit and strengthened the partnership between our two towns, as revealed by the following comments:

The Mayor of Guildford: "Guildford and Freiburg have enjoyed an excellent relationship during 37 years as twin towns. We were delighted to welcome Dr Salomon and his colleagues to our town and to show them some of the many attractions in our Borough. The visit was a fine example of twinning in action! There are many parallels between our towns and both share a reputation for innovation and are rich in history, art and culture. The weekend gave us an opportunity to showcase some of the highlights of Guildford and to exchange views on a wide range of issues that are common to both towns."

Cllr Paul Spooner: "During the course of the visit we emphasised the importance of strong links with our European friends. This benefits not only the Council, but also the Borough and all our residents.

Freiburg has been at the forefront of sustainability and energy management for many years and our visitors were particularly interested to hear about the innovative research being carried out at the University of Surrey and to discuss the challenges we both share as a result of population growth and regeneration. Visits like this help raise our profile internationally, which is good for tourism and our local economy. Our twinning with Freiburg involves our active twinning association, the Guildford Freiburg Association, as well as schools, sports, cultural and religious groups, and many other organisations, forging relationships between people from different cultures and backgrounds."

Freiburg's Dr Salomon: "In our two-day stay in Guildford, we have become acquainted with different faces of the town: the historical Guildford, the traditional Guildford and the modern Guildford with GLive and the university. As a "science town" with the University of Surrey, one of the best universities of the UK, with its focus on environmental technologies and on the large field of the "Internet of Things" both our towns are connected. It is here that the opportunities for the future of our partnership lie. In our conversations we saw how important this connection is, especially now, and we agreed to foster existing contacts as well as develop new ways of co-operating together".

CYCLING FAMILY MAKES PRE-BREXIT TRIP

Christiane & Steffen Grabisna of Freiburg emailed Guildford at the end of March as follows: "Good morning, dear twintown. Today, on the sad Brexit-day, our family thought about to do something positive. Something together. Something European. So we decided to cycle to Guilford in two weeks' time!!" And they did. (See photos below.)



Freiburg family cycles to Guildford



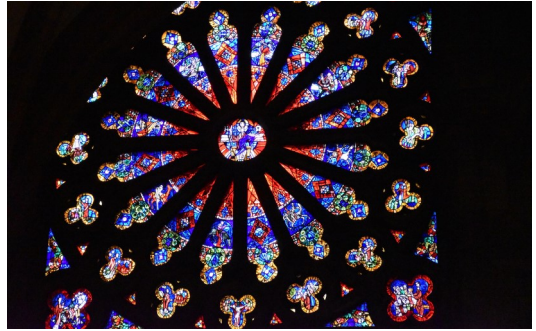
Rieselfeld—environmentally advanced district of Freiburg



Left: church interior and exterior



Civic visit from Guildford to Freiburg *



Top l: Schwabentor; Top r: Rose window in the Münster
 Left: Oberbürgermeister Dieter Salomon;
 Below: Mayor & Civic Secretary Kate Fox in Münsterplatz
 Centre l and r: Members of the Guildford group
 Bottom l: Group at lunch



Cllr Spooner, Augustiner Museum Director, Mayor Jackson & Oberbürgermeister Salomon

Steffen wrote to us afterwards: "When I was a small boy growing up in the Erzgebirge, East Germany, England was far, very far away and we were only allowed to learn English if our knowledge of Russian was good enough. Now you can imagine how it felt in 1989 when we broke down our walls. And in the 90s I often crossed the Channel.

Now, many years later, living in Freiburg, I very often walk across the square in front of our old city hall, and feel very warm and

comfortable showing our three children the coats of arms of our twintowns, including Guildford, explaining what it means. So on 29th March we were very sad as Theresa May wrote the Brexit letter to the Continent.

To be honest we drove the first 300 miles, from Freiburg to Paris. From there we started with Paul (14), Julius (12) and Matilda (8) and our 4 1/2 bikes along the new cycling path which was developed for the London Olympics in 2012. Another 250 miles along the Seine, turning north to Dieppe, crossing the Channel on Good Friday to Newhaven and climbing up next morning the gorgeous Seven Sisters. After some ups and downs with a lot of sweat in the South Downs and North Downs finally we arrived first in London, promising the kids one round on London Eye before going towards Guildford. One our way we met great British people: Thank you to [a long list of people]. But please notice: Brexit or not - we come back with more time to spare. Because of our United Europe and because of nice people as you are."

FREIBURG TENNIS PLAYERS VISIT GUILDFORD



Freiburg and Guildford players at Pit Farm tennis club

In 2014 four tennis players from Guildford's Pit Farm tennis club visited Freiburg to play two friendly matches against the two tennis clubs in the town. Fast forward two years and in July four members of Schönberg Tennis Club arrived for their first visit to Guildford. They



They made it to Guildford!

were staying for four nights and we'd arranged two afternoons of tennis at Pit Farm.

The visit began at Thatcher's Hotel, East Horsley and quickly moved to The Black Swan for dinner, and to watch the Germany/France football semi-final on television. The dinner could not be faulted, but unfortunately for our visitors France won the match 2-0. On the following day five of us went to watch the professionals play at The Championships, Wimbledon. We had only managed to get two tickets for No.1 court, so three of the party had to start early and queue for ground tickets, and then sharing was the order of the day. This worked fine and we all got to enjoy plenty of excellent tennis in glorious weather. Perhaps the highlight was watching the Williams sisters win a closely-fought doubles match, or it could have been the wheelchair matches on the outside courts. If you haven't seen this played I can highly recommend it. It's very skilful as well as being competitive.

Saturday was spent visiting the main sights of Guildford in the morning, followed by some friendly tennis in the afternoon, and then again on Sunday morning, followed by an excellent homemade lunch for players and wives with our new German friends at the club. The final afternoon was spent watching the Wimbledon men's singles final on television, and cheering on a famous victory for Andy Murray. This was followed by tea and cakes. Just about the perfect end to a very successful visit.

Richard Clarke, Pit Farm Tennis Club

HISTORY

CROSSING BORDERS: A FASCINATING LIFE'S JOURNEY

Wolf Pietrek, the Association's vice-chairman, has recently written and published a book, called *Crossing Borders*, which provides a kaleidoscopic picture of the years of the rising Nazi power, the perils of the war years and the challenges of the post-war era in communist East Germany. Wolf was born in the old Hanseatic town of Rostock on the Baltic coast, spending his infancy in a sheltered family environment untouched by the political turmoil which had by then engulfed the whole country.

Having survived the ravages of the war years, it was the post-war era in Soviet-controlled East Germany which made him first face the catastrophic consequences of Hitler's "Final Solution" and led him to seek answers from his elders. It laid bare the frightening power of relentless propaganda and indoctrination which was in equal measure adopted by the new communist regime. It created in him a deep-seated distrust of doctrinaire political institutions which has not mellowed to this day.

Written in an unusual and delightfully conversational, question-and-answer style, the book is a fascinating journey through history and through geography. Highly recommended! [To obtain a copy, contact Wolf at wolfgangpietrek@aol.com].

ENGLISH SCHOOLBOYS' SCHAUNSLAND TRAGEDY OF 1936

The *Spectator* magazine of 23 April 1936, contained a report headed "The Mountain Disaster", which read: "The tragic disaster that overtook a party of London schoolboys near Freiburg last Saturday has evoked on the part both of the local inhabitants and of the German Government an expression of practical sympathy sufficient to infuse for a moment at least a welcome warmth into Anglo-German

relations. The blizzard on the Schauinsland must have been of exceptional ferocity for a comparatively brief exposure to have proved fatal to five boys of normal physique, but that, it appears, was the case, and it is clear that the disaster was due to no kind of carelessness or negligence. The villagers, the Hitler Youth Movement and the Government all co-operated to do honour to the victims and lend assistance in various forms to the survivors and the master in charge of them. The accident is one of those episodes that seize the attention for a moment and are soon forgotten. What ought to be diligently guarded from oblivion is the sudden and instinctively natural relationship created by the tragedy between individuals of two countries whose public and political relations are gravely strained. It is a tragedy of another kind that the former relationship should be so largely obliterated by the latter.” [Quoted by kind permission of the Spectator.]

The *Guardian* newspaper of 6 July 2016, 80 years later, included a full report on the incident. It reveals the horror of the disaster, including the frightful unprepared recklessness of the lone teacher leading a party of 27 14-year-olds - he scornfully dismissed every bad weather warning and offer of sanctuary (reconciling the modern reader to all the annoyances of Health & Safety legislation) – the propaganda value to the Nazis, and the political sensitivities which prevented any British investigation. A fascinating read: see the *Guardian* website.



Engländer Denkmal: memorial put up by the Nazis.

NEWS

FREIBURG NOW HAS 12 PARTNER CITIES

Two more cities – Tel Aviv and Wiwili in Nicaragua – have joined Guildford and nine other cities as partners of Freiburg. We are in distinguished company: the other cities are Besançon, Granada, Innsbruck, Isfahan (Iran), Lviv (Ukraine), Madison (USA), Matsuyama (Japan), Padua and Suwon (South Korea) – a total of twelve!

These worldwide partnerships need lots of administration and this work is one of the responsibilities of Freiburg City Council’s Department of International Relations. The friendly and helpful eight-person team (see picture below) is led by Günter Burger.



FREIBURG BENCH IN CASTLE GROUNDS

A bench which has been placed in the Guildford Castle grounds is an exact copy of one presented to Freiburg during a visit last year by Cllr Jackson when he was Deputy Mayor.



Inaugurating Freiburg bench in the Castle grounds. (Picture courtesy of Guildford Borough Council)

MICHAEL HALL IN FREIBURG

Many members will recall the delightful talk which retired British consul Michael Hall gave to the Association on his book *Dear Deutschland* in March 2016 (reported in our last newsletter). On our recommendation Michael also gave his talk to the Freiburg Anglo German Club. He wrote to tell us of the wonderful reception he was given by the Club, by the Hotel Schwärs Löwen where he stayed, and by the audience.

Members' visit to Freiburg



*Top and r: cable-car and walk on Schauinsland with the Anglo-German Club;
Below and bottom l: dinner at the Dattler Restaurant with the Club
Bottom r: refreshments after the walk*



Other locations



*Top l: Hilde Bartlett, Guildford Zonta Club (i) & a member of Freiburg Zonta Club, in Nice
All others: scenes of Basel, including Rathaus (top r) & new art museum (centre r)*



ZONTA CLUBS' CITY PARTNERING

The Zonta Clubs of Freiburg and Guildford, being partner clubs, have kept up a lively exchange over the years, the latest being in June 2016 in Nice at the Zonta International Convention. Members of Freiburg and Guildford shared hotels, events and outings at the week-long convention, which fortunately ended just one day earlier than the disaster when a lorry ploughed into the crowds.

Hilde Bartlett, Zonta Club of Guildford

HELPING REFUGEES IN OPFINGEN

Freiburger Margarete Müller, writing in November 2016, recounts her own experience of the (ongoing) German response to the 2015 refugee crisis: In September 2015 everybody was reading in the newspapers that continuously refugees were running for their lives and heading for Europe. Thousands, mostly Syrians, were crossing the Mediterranean Sea in small boats hoping to reach secure shores. Some were successful, some were injured, some died.

We live in a district of Freiburg, called Opfingen, formerly a small village, now part of the City of Freiburg. It has still kept its rural character and has about 4.000 inhabitants. At the beginning of October one of our two sports halls was taken over by the City of Freiburg as an emergency domicile for about 80 refugees. Within a few days the place was prepared for 80 people and about 75 people arrived; some families and many single men. Their nationalities varied from Afghans, Iraqis, Indians and Iranians to a majority of Syrians.

Every one of us was certainly taken by surprise. The Opfingen village leader, a courageous woman, arranged an information meeting for the Opfingers. Within a very short time, many offered to help and to welcome the refugees, feeling: "The better we welcome them, the sooner they will be integrated and the less trouble will take place". But of course, there were others with a different view. They watched suspiciously what was going on in Opfingen and everywhere else. That was understandable.

We established German Classes, arranged for collections of clothes, toys and other things needed for children. Some people took the refugees to sports activities, invited them for walks, accompanied them to medical appointments and helped them with German bureaucracy. Even cooking events took place.

Generally, families with children stayed in this emergency camp only for a few days. As soon as the City of Freiburg found them other

accommodation, first families and then others moved out of our sports hall.

But a hard core of about 10 to 15 young men wanted to stay in Opfingen, accepting the discomforts of the camp for about eight months, because they said: "The people are so friendly". Five young Syrian men found work at local firms in Opfingen, and some even found a private apartment to rent - rare in Freiburg. Most of the refugees are now attending German classes, essential for them to find a job or an educational place.

My experience and the experience of most of my fellow volunteers is very positive. But of course, in every nationality there are idiots, criminals and lazy people – but as everywhere this is a minority. In Germany, we say: "The way you shout into the forest, the same way the echo comes back". I must say that when I first went into this large hall with the 80 bunk beds and no privacy for any of the refugees I had a funny feeling -- especially as I am a woman and most of the refugees were single men. But I and all of us had to learn quickly. We encountered gratitude, politeness and a great will to learn.

Margarete Müller, on behalf of the Helpers Circle, Freiburg-Opfingen

OUR ANNUAL ACTIVITIES

GERMAN CHRISTMAS MARKET

In mid-December the Association once again held its now-traditional German Christmas Market in Guildford's Guildhall, with *Glühwein*, toys, candles and festive cakes and biscuits for sale, and a Freiburg region wine-tasting. We were delighted to welcome our [then] President the Mayor of Guildford, Cllr Gordon Jackson, and his wife.

SUMMER PARTY

Frauke Burge, our Social Secretary, arranged a delicious meal and some lovely sunny weather for around fifty people: the Association's summer lunch party was held at Burchatts Farm Barn in Guildford.

GERMAN DINNER

Then, this February, fifty members and friends enjoyed our traditional German dinner at the Park Room on the Guildford College campus, prepared and served by the students in the college's Catering Department — a great success again this year. Once again we thank all who worked so hard for us.

COMING EVENTS

Dates to note (or look out for)

18 May	Annual General Meeting
19-25 June	Visit to Freiburg
2nd or 3rd Sunday in August (tbc)	Association Summer Party
October/November (date tbc)	Public Lecture on a German topic
3 December	Association Christmas Market in the Guildhall

Association annual activities



Christmas market: above and I.
 Top r Tony Trent (accordion) and Annie Messerschmidt:
 Centre r: Wolf Pietrek displays his hand-decorated candles
 Bottom I: Susan and Brian Lewis display toys and souvenirs from Freiburg



Mayor and Mayoress (the Mayor is the Association's president)



Summer party: below (Ros Calow (I) with friends from Freiburg) and centre;
 German dinner: right.



Contacts in the Guildford-Freiburg Association

(from 19 May 2017)

Chair: Barbara Ford

Vice-Chair: Peter Slade

Secretary: Hilary Perry

Minutes Secretary: Pauline Azizi

Treasurer & Membership Sectray: Michael Gorman

Social Secretary: Frauke Burge

University Liaison: Patricia Grayburn

Newsletter Editor: Irene Black

Other Committee members: Ros Calow,
Hon. Alderman Bernard Parke, Wolf Pietrek
(and local councillors not appointed at date of going to press)

Websites

Our website (with our newsletters and updates):

<http://surreycommunity.info/gfa>

City of Freiburg:

[www.www.freiburg.de](http://www.freiburg.de)

Freiburg's Anglo-German Club:

<https://sites.google.com/site/anglogermanclubfreiburg>

New Committee members welcome

The Committee meets every other month to discuss matters relating to the twinning and to run the Association's business. A typical agenda includes discussion of schools liaison, forthcoming social activities, ideas for new ventures, arrangements and support for individuals and organisations keen to make twinning visits or arrange events, participation in the Partner Cities Fair, organisation of our Christmas Market - as well as the inevitable discussion of our finances. If any member is interested in joining us please contact Barbara Ford. If any member wishes to receive the minutes of committee meetings by email, please contact our secretary, Hilary Perry.

*Pictures marked * were taken by Greg Melly, University of Surrey.
Our thanks to him and to all those other members and friends who supplied
pictures and articles for this newsletter.*