



CHAIRMAN'S OVERVIEW

The past year has again been another very successful one for the twinning with Freiburg and for our Association. As usual there have been Guildfordians visiting Freiburg and Freiburgers coming to Guildford, some of them repeat visits, some new ones.

A very important one in the former category was our participation, as usual, in Freiburg's biennial Partner Cities Market, coupled with a visit by a group of Association members. The event gave us the chance to promote Guildford and its attractions, a process helped by the exhibition of photographs which we arranged. As usual we had an enjoyable get-together with the Freiburg Anglo-German Club. A notable extra was the entertainment provided by Freiburg's latest partner (or twin) city – the tenth! – from South Korea.



View down Konviktstrasse



Bike in the Bächle

Personally I found it really enjoyable once again to participate in what was, as always, a really international occasion, bringing people together from Freiburg's partner cities. All the activities were enhanced by the customary hospitality and support from Freiburg City Council and the contributions from the Anglo-German Club and Guildford's other friends in the city. They further strengthened the bonds between Guildford and our delightful twin city.

What other events have there been?

- I am delighted to say that both Guildford's Mayor and Deputy Mayor spent time in Freiburg -- Mayor Nikki Nelson-Smith in December for the City's Weihnachtsmarkt, which she opened, and Deputy Mayor Gordon Jackson for the inauguration of a bench that Guildford presented to the city.
- Both have been very supportive of the Association and we were very pleased to welcome them both to our summer party, which was a great success in spite of the weather.
- Our annual Christmas market again went very well in spite of having to be switched to a Sunday instead of the usual Saturday.

CHAIRMAN RECEIVES RECOGNITION FROM MAYOR OF GUILDFORD

We reported last year that Peter Slade's success as Chairman of the Association and his dedication to the task had been honoured by an award by Freiburg City Council. We are delighted and proud to note that his work has also been formally recognised by his home town: the Mayor of Guildford presented him with the Mayor of Guildford's Award for Community Service for his involvement in the twinning with Freiburg. Once again, many congratulations to Peter on the award and thanks for all his efforts from all members of the Association!

- The churches group and the Zonta Club of Guildford both took part in enjoyable and stimulating encounters with their Freiburg equivalents.
- The Freiburg Youth Band were here to play with the South West Surrey Concert Band and together they produced an evening of wonderful music.
- At our Public Lecture in the Guildhall we heard the former Consul in Frankfurt, Michael Hall, read some delightful excerpts from his book "Dear Deutschland".
- The Freiburg student who spent time at the University of Surrey said she found Guildford to be like a second home. That is how I think of Freiburg after my 15 visits.
- I was honoured to receive the Mayor of Guildford's Award for Community Service for my involvement in the twinning with Freiburg.

On the matter of the Referendum, I hope members will not object to me saying that I shall be voting for the UK to "remain in". I see one of the EU's benefits as helping to stimulate a stronger sense of community between the nations and people of Europe, and forging closer links between citizens of other cities is surely an important aspect of twinning. The Association's constitution urges us to promote international understanding by strengthening the link between Guildford and Freiburg.

In contrast to all the positive happenings listed above there is some very bad news to report. After 29 years the annual encounters between Guildford City Boys and Girls Football Club and Freiburg's Blau-Weiss Club did not take place, mainly because of problems with finding accommodation for the teams. These exchanges have been a notably successful aspect of the twinning for a very long time and I'm sure all concerned hope that they can be resumed in the future.

Peter Slade

YOUNG PEOPLE'S ACTIVITIES

SCHOOLS LIAISON

Ros Calow reports: This year the regular exchange between George Abbot and the Goethe Gymnasium has once again been a great success as has the course with work experience arranged by Guildford College for the Max Weber Schule. Encouragingly, numbers enrolling for this picked up again this year.

We always have enquiries from time to time from German families seeking exchange partners for their children. Please get in touch if you could potentially be interested.

Could we also remind any teachers to contact us if they would like any kind of link with a school in Freiburg. *[For contact details, see the back of the newsletter: Ed.]*

GEORGE ABBOT SCHOOL EXCHANGE VISIT TO GOETHE GYMNASIUM

Sister and brother Molly and Jamie Womersley-Stroud report on the visit of their group:

Molly (Year 12) writes: In March I got the opportunity to go to our link town Freiburg on a German Exchange with the Goethe Gymnasium School. It was great to experience a new culture and improve my German by being fully immersed in the language. Throughout the week we went on various trips with the school including a day out to Baden-Baden and a tour of Freiburg's city. My favourite trip was to a mountain in the Black Forest where we went sledging and got to



The Mayor presenting Peter's Award for Community Service

There was an unusual and rather exciting event in March which I helped to arrange. We were involved in a BBC Radio World Tonight programme, part of its coverage of the EU Referendum. They used the fact that Guildford is twinned with Freiburg to investigate the views of people from both towns. Two of our members spoke, amongst others from the town, as did some members of the Freiburg Anglo-German Club. An interesting approach and an interesting programme and some useful publicity for the twinning and the Association.

CONTENTS

	page		
Young People's Activities:			
Schools liaison	2	Guildford Zonta Club visits Freiburg	7
George Abbot School exchange visit to Goethe Gymnasium	2	Churches Group is welcomed to Freiburg	10
Max Weber Schule work experience interns in Guildford	4	Markets:	
A Freiburg student's experience at Surrey University	4	Guildford shines at Freiburg's partner cities market again	10
Guildford-Freiburg boys' football exchanges ended	4	Our annual German Christmas market	11
Guildford & Freiburg young musicians perform together	5	News:	
Our Annual Lecture		The Greens do well in Baden-Württemberg elections	14
Memoirs of a retired British Consul	5	Freiburg Football Club	14
Visits Guildford to Freiburg:		Social events:	
Guildford's Mayor opens Freiburg Christmas market	5	Our annual summer party	14
Deputy Mayor inaugurates bench in Freiburg	7	Our annual German dinner	14
Guildford graphic designer photographs Freiburg	7	Coming Events	14

The Mayor's visit to Freiburg Christmas market



Dinner with the Anglo-German Club : Mayor third left



*Above left: distributing pieces of giant Lebkuchen
Above right: Mayor with Bürgermeister Otto Neideck (on right)
Left: with the Anglo-German Club outside the Rathaus*



explore the mines in the mountain. During the weekend I got to spend time with my partner and her family. They took me sledging again on a different mountain and we went out to brunch at their favourite café. I loved the trip and know that through it I have made many friends for life.

And Jamie (Year 9): My name is Jamie, I am fourteen and I went on the George Abbot German Exchange trip to the Goethe Gymnasium in Freiburg. When we reached the school at 6:30pm we went straight to our partners' houses for dinner, meeting their families and breaking the ice. Our school visited places such as Freiburg's city centre, Baden-Baden, and a mountain in the Black Forest. These were all fun trips we had with both our friends and partners. On the weekend and in the evenings our partners set other things up for us to do. My partner's family and I visited Strasbourg, its cathedral and went on a boat trip around the city. I was also taken on a bike tour around Freiburg and to play football with some of my partner's friends. Overall I had a really great time and can't wait for my partner to visit me back in England.

MAX WEBER SCHULE WORK EXPERIENCE INTERNS IN GUILDFORD

Eileen Brown from Freiburg gives us her experiences and impressions of life and the business world in England, after three weeks in Guildford: We were a group of students from Freiburg. Our goal was to experience three weeks of working in an English business environment. The work experience was organised by Guildford College, and Max-Weber-Schule. We had English lessons at the College every Monday, focused on business issues. My favourite task was when we talked about marketing and created our own marketing campaigns. We got to see different kinds of companies. The retail trainees worked at Marks & Spencer's and in a bicycle shop, the trainees in industrial business management were working in offices with mainly administrative tasks. The trainees in digital and print media worked at the University book shop.

It was very exciting for me to see a company other than the one I work for and to have the opportunity to work in a diverse international team. I also worked at the University of Surrey, which was a great possibility to experience the everyday life of a university with over 30.000 students.



Max Weber Schule group on their sightseeing trip

During our stay, we also went on an outing to London and got to see all the beautiful landmarks which I only knew from postcards and films. We did not experience any "English weather". During the first week it was even warmer than in Germany and I could take my break wearing a T-shirt. It only rained twice during our stay, so the English cliché did not turn out to be true for us. But to our enjoyment we did

find that the English drink huge amounts of tea. The food was very different from German food, I missed German bread very much, but I was glad there were crumpets, trifle and fish and chips to make up for it. The people were incredibly friendly and polite! Maybe it's all the tea? They always helped us find the right bus, chatted with us and they thanked the bus driver whilst getting off the bus, which I thought was very impressive. All in all it was a very good time and I came back to Freiburg with many good memories and looking forward to eating German bread again though there was no English tea to enjoy it with.

A FREIBURG STUDENT'S EXPERIENCE AT SURREY UNIVERSITY

Eva Zumkeller came from Freiburg University on the Erasmus (EU student exchange) programme: As I started my university studies in Freiburg right after finishing school, I decided to take a chance to go abroad in my third year. One of three partner universities in the UK of my home university is the University of Surrey and as I had never



Eva Zumkeller (2nd r) and friends

heard of it before, I looked into this one. It seemed to be very promising and especially the combination of living in a rather calm and small city, yet having London so close, spoke to me. When I arrived in Guildford, I automatically felt like I had found my second home – the city is very homely and the university took great care of us. In a very short time I found extremely good friends who made the whole experience even more unforgettable. We adapted to the English lifestyle by regularly going out for cream tea and not really caring about the rain anymore. I especially enjoyed the daytrips to various cities in England and to Ireland. Unfortunately, I only received the possibility to stay in Guildford for one semester. But it made me enjoy every single moment and live life to the fullest, which was definitely not hard to do in Surrey.

GUILDFORD-FREIBURG BOYS' FOOTBALL EXCHANGES ENDED

Phil Dyas was Chairman of Guildford City Boys & Girls Football Club for many years and was the driving force behind the annual football exchanges with Freiburg's Blau-Weiss Wiehre Club which were for 29 years such a successful part of the Guildford-Freiburg twinning. Sadly, they have not taken place for the past two years. Phil writes: For 29 years we were very successful in organising very large exchanges - one year nearly 100 players and supporters travelled to Freiburg. But unfortunately, interest in and enthusiasm for the exchanges, which we took for granted, have dwindled. Both clubs found themselves short of players or teams in one or other age group which made it

almost impossible to get the numbers required to make the trips cost-effective. In the last two years of exchanges, Blau-Weiss even had to involve a second club in Freiburg to make up numbers for trips here and for accommodation in Freiburg.

Several other problems have caused difficulties:

- A large factor in Guildford’s failure to host in 2015 was the failure of the families of one of our teams, which had already been to Freiburg in 2014, to reciprocate that hospitality and provide accommodation for our visitors. That team has now disbanded.
- Cost, exacerbated by an adverse exchange rate, is always a major factor - even though this type of trip seems to cost much less for parents than any school trip abroad. For some trips a great deal of outside financial support has been needed – and we are grateful for such support from the Guildford-Freiburg Association. The Blau-Weiss Club has always been heavily subsidised by Freiburg City Council. Unfortunately Guildford Borough Council has been unable to provide any help
- The ability of parents to take their children on holiday at times other than the school holidays has affected the commitment by some parents to football exchanges at Easter. Exam study time, other school trips and other football trips also have had an effect. Our hope is that we shall be able to restart the exchanges in the future, but we will have to find an enthusiastic volunteer to organise this daunting task.

Andreas Zier, Chairman of the Blau-Weiss Wiehre Club, says that he is also unhappy about the discontinuance of the matches. He shares Phil Dyas’s hope that the exchanges can be resumed in the future.

GUILDFORD & FREIBURG YOUNG MUSICIANS PERFORM TOGETHER

The Youth Wind Band from Freiburg’s School of Music were welcomed in the Guildhall the morning after their all-day coach journey by the Mayor of Guildford, Cllr David Elms, and then went on a guided tour of the town. Their band comprised 37 musicians, aged from 10 to 20 years old, conducted by Australian Iain Semple, a department head at the School. For the concert, held at George Abbot School, the young Freiburgers joined 50 members of the South West Surrey Concert Band, whose ages ranged from 13 to 18, to perform in front of the Mayor and an almost full house in the school’s Rayner Building.



Young musicians from both towns got together for a joint concert.

The Freiburg band played first and expertly: a variety of modern music, including arrangements from the film scores of “The Lord of the Rings” and “The Hobbit”. Equally excellent was the playing of the music in the second half of the concert by the SW Surrey band. A highlight was a solo trombone piece “The Acrobat”, played flawlessly by their Eleanor Nagle. The concert ended with both bands playing together in a rousing pair of pieces: “Fanfare and Flourishes” by James Curnow and the “Alte Kameraden” March. Having had only one joint rehearsal, the bands sounded as if they had always played together. A wonderful ending to another collaboration between musicians from Guildford and its twin town.

The Guildford-Freiburg Association helped to facilitate the arrangements and contributed towards the cost of the Freiburg Band’s accommodation.

OUR ANNUAL LECTURE

MEMOIRS OF A RETIRED BRITISH CONSUL

“Dear Deutschland” was the theme of readings given in the Guildhall in March, by Michael Hall, a gently-spoken retired diplomat with a dry wit. The large audience was the Association and its guests, gathered in the lovely wood-panelled chamber to hear Michael’s affectionate reminiscences of his five years as British Consul in Frankfurt in the 1990s.

“Most embarrassing ... he brought the entire “Deutschland” to a halt ... what would the Foreign Office say?”

For example, he described how his unerring diplomatic instinct had enabled him to become a “friend of the Nacktbadens (naked bath)”. Swimming solitary lengths in the local pool, he was cold-shouldered by two amply-proportioned unclad lady swimmers until he shed his own swimming trunks, thus putting himself on an equal footing with them – although he made sure he swam on his front. He explained the problem of catering to the needs of the 30 or so British nationals who were at any one time serving prison sentences in the Frankfurt consular area: providing the desired oranges for vitamin C was straightforward, but selecting reading books from among those donated by the local British ex-pats was not. Were crime novels and thrillers suitable? Maybe Agatha Christie yes, but “Silence of the Lambs” perhaps not. World War II stories probably not, especially escape stories.

And he told the audience about the Bockenheimer “Pfandflaschenangler” – a word to roll round the tongue – meaning the deposit bottle angler who fished in the bottle banks of the Bockenheimer Landstrasse, a main road in Frankfurt. Most embarrassing was the time Michael accidentally broke his oar on his first outing with the local German rowing-club: the boat was called “Deutschland”, so he, the only foreign crew-member, brought the entire “Deutschland” to a halt. The rest of the rowing eight muttered disapprovingly.....and what would the Foreign Office say? Fortunately this was not a career-limiting incident, and Michael survived to record it and many other charming anecdotes in a book fittingly called “Dear Deutschland” published by Gadfly Publications.

Barbara Ford

VISITS GUILDFORD TO FREIBURG

GUILDFORD'S MAYOR OPENS FREIBURG CHRISTMAS MARKET

The City of Freiburg kindly invited me, as Mayor of Guildford, and my husband to participate in the opening of their Christmas market. When we landed at Basel Airport, we were met by the Bürgermeister's chauffeur who kindly drove us to our hotel. There were road blocks en route, as this was just after the Paris atrocities. The joint Presidents of the Anglo-German Club, Penny and Ernst Leube, greeted us very warmly, collected us from our hotel and led us through the small lanes of the centre of town, as a dusting of snow swirled around us, to the theatre in the cellar of the Rathaus. There we met many more members of the club and together we watched a very intriguing production of "Alice in Wonderland", done solely by Brian Barnes, with no set, no music and no other actors. And despite his great age and this being the penultimate of decades of performances of Alice that Brian would ever now make, it was mesmerising. His voice and his movements, with the help of a couple of simple props, kept us all entranced.



The Mayor opened the Freiburg Christmas market (for more pictures of her visit, see p.3)

After the show we wandered around the old town, taking in the gradual setting up of the Christmas market and the lights being put up, as we ambled via the amazing Cathedral to the funicular. At the top, with a fantastic view of all of Freiburg and beyond was our restaurant. We had a table for sixteen, a delicious meal, convivial company, interesting conversations.

The following day, we were given a guided tour and learnt much of the history of the town as well as the challenges it is now facing, not least in the face of the welcome that it will have to give to a large number of immigrants. They do have some spare housing, but also they have brought a number of German language teachers out of retirement with a view to ensuring that all new immigrants to Germany will be able to pick up the language and integrate as fast as possible. All immigrants have also been given a free bus/train pass for two years to ensure they are mobile and can find work.

We were shown around the Augustiner Museum, which was setting up for the exciting opening of an exhibition of royal paintings by Winterhalter, some of which had come from Buckingham Palace. Lunch was with Cllr Sandler and the lovely Ariane Hötzer from the City Council twinning office - I think we were both pleasantly surprised

that we could converse in German too. It being the "wild Saison" there we made the most of it, and ate venison and goose and my husband Mig also had boar at one meal!

The afternoon consisted of a trip around the Vauban quarter of town, which although built more than 10 years ago, gave a view of what housing of the future might incorporate - passive heating, high density housing, low car ownership, tight-knit communities.

The evening was the opening of the Christmas market. We had seen the stall-holders and light-fitters working frantically to get everything in place, and when we turned up to meet Bürgermeister Otto Neideck, we just had time to don our red "Freiburger Weihnachtsmarkt" aprons, before Herr Neideck made his opening remarks to the gathering crowds, in German. He was very kind and apologised that Oberbürgermeister Dieter Salomon had been called away on urgent business, but said we had a yet more important guest and introduced me. He handed me the microphone and I made a very short speech in German to open the market and wish everybody a good Christmas, and then four of us unveiled the two-metre-long Lebkuchen that a local baker had made (and pre-cut) and we handed it out piece by piece to the awaiting throng! After that we meandered through the market to have a drink in the cloister with many others before being spoilt with another delicious meal.

Cllr Nikki Nelson-Smith, Mayor of Guildford

DEPUTY MAYOR INAUGURATES BENCH IN FREIBURG

In the first week of August, my wife Sue and I were asked to deputise for the Mayor at an opening ceremony to mark the installation of a number of benches that have been donated by the various towns that are twinned with Freiburg. At the time Freiburg was in the throes of a heatwave that had lasted nearly six weeks and the temperature on the day of the ceremony was 36 degrees centigrade (97 degrees Fahrenheit)! The benches are installed in the Seepark, which is a former gravel pit that was completely reconstructed in 1986 following a successful bid to host the Landesgartenschau and turned into a 35-hectare leisure park. The Landesgartenschau is a regional sponsored horticultural show where the emphasis is on improving the quality of life and the ecological environment in cities. Frequently the shows serve urban and regional policy and are often held in areas where the landscape needs improving to assist urban planning.



Inauguration of Guildford bench in Freiburg's Seepark by Deputy Mayor Gordon Jackson (standing with wife Sue)

In 1990, a Japanese garden with waterfall and stream was added to the Seepark with the support of Matsuyama, another of Freiburg's twin cities, and thus a further "highlight" was created, which is worth a visit.

As a result of the heat-wave our ceremony was short and conducted in shirt sleeves, although in true British style I travelled to the Seepark by tram in a lounge suit as directed by our brief! Only Guildford and Matsuyama were represented, but we enjoyed meeting Bürgermeister Prof. Dr. Martin Haag and there was a photo-call attended by representatives of the local press. Martin is extremely tall and he found it much easier to be photographed on the fairly traditional Guildford bench as opposed to the low-slung bamboo structure that constituted Matsuyama's gift in the Japanese Garden. After the ceremony we repaired to a local hostelry for a very welcome cold lager and some shelter from the intense heat. During our visit our hosts were incredibly welcoming and I would like to express our thanks to them for their hospitality and for introducing us to their lovely town.

Clr Gordon Jackson, Deputy Mayor of Guildford

GUILDFORD GRAPHIC DESIGNER PHOTOGRAPHS FREIBURG

Graham Foster is a graphic designer with Guildford Borough Council—and kindly contributed photos for this newsletter. He writes: I had known of Freiburg for years, having contributed photos for Guildford-Freiburg Association events and designed the "twinning panel" in Tunsgate Arch, Guildford. Now it was time to see Freiburg for myself... and it was no disappointment!



Exhibition of Guildford photographs staged by Graham Foster



I was invited to stage an exhibition of photos of Guildford, taken by Doug Scott and myself, at the Partner Cities Market event in June 2015. I set up the exhibition with the help of Ariane Hoetzer and her



*Zonta group in Freiburg—see article below.
Left to right: Heike Schieck-Wiedensohler (President, Zonta Club of Freiburg), Hilde Bartlett (Guildford), Ulrike Bernius (Freiburg) Gunhild Thompson (Guildford)*

colleagues from the Tourist Information Office. While I was there a lady named Brigitte introduced herself, a German lady married to an Englishman. It was her friend Dorothy Elchlepp, an English lady who had married a Freiburg pharmacist before World War II, who had initiated the twinning of Freiburg with Guildford. Brigitte said she would go home and bring a book, photos and information about Dorothy Elchlepp. We arranged to meet later and after a fascinating chat, Brigitte then kindly showed me the sights of Freiburg. What a great introduction to the city!

Association visitors stayed at two hotels in the town (I stayed in a self-catering flat) and we met for meals recounting our varying activities of the day. One of these was a trip I made with accordion-player Tony Trent. We ventured by tram to the countryside, bus to the cable car and up to Schauinsland mountain and the Black Forest. After enjoying the atmospheric misty views we walked in the forest to the entrance of an old silver mine with artefacts, locomotives and trucks of a bygone industry. Many walks, chats with locals, meals and photo opportunities: my trip to Freiburg was memorable for its vibrant and colourful atmosphere and hospitality.

GUILDFORD ZONTA CLUB VISITS FREIBURG

Members of the Zonta Club of Guildford (Zonta is an international organisation aiming to advance the status of women) travelled to Freiburg in October 2015 to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Zonta Club of Freiburg im Breisgau. The Freiburger Zontians gave us a warm welcome and we felt thoroughly at home from the moment we arrived. We had first met the Freiburger Zontians when we invited them to Guildford in 2010 to celebrate our charter [see 2011 newsletter: Ed.] Since then we have met several times and have become good friends. We always find things to talk about - from our club projects to family matters – it is great language practice for everyone!

The anniversary celebration was held at the Freiburg Town Hall with Oberbürgermeister Dr Salomon in attendance. The key note speech "Whosoever Strengthens Women, Strengthens the World" was delivered by the regional president Barbara Schafer. The club launched their new project in partnership with the charity Caritas to address the problems of an aging population with a disproportionate number of women facing poverty. After lunch we were given a tour of the historic centre and the day finished with a delicious gala dinner and entertainment at the Colombi Hotel.

Partner Cities Market—performance



Top: Innsbruck dancers and musicians; Left: S. Korean singer; Centre: Ukrainian singers; Right: Guildford's Tony Trent



*Top left: Iranian musicians
Top centre and right: South Korean musicians*



*Left: Oberbürgermeister Dieter Salomon helps with South Korean juggling
Right; OB Salomon greets guests from USA, South Korea & Israel*

Partner Cities Market—scenes



Top and left: scenes in the Rathausplatz
Above: Association group with Guildford mosaic
Right: Inside the Guildford marquee:
(Top to bottom)—OB Salomon with Peter Slade;
Brian Lewis' beer-tasting;
Penny Leube serves tea



Association members Ros Calow and Frauke Burge did everything they could to answer the queries of the visitors to the Guildford stall.

It was inspiring to meet women of all ages who have been part of Zonta's work to advance the status of women for fifty years and who show no signs of tiring. We hope for a return visit soon.

Anna Hummel, Zonta Club of Guildford

CHURCHES GROUP IS WELCOMED TO FREIBURG

All our hosts were there to meet us and ten days later, still smiling, to bid a farewell tinged with sadness. It will be two years before we see our Freiburg friends again. Going on a Churches Together trip is fun – no matter how tired we were the German programme lifted the spirits, days always ending on a high point. There were endless possibilities – from Weinfests to workshops, housing schemes to historical records.

Guildford and Freiburg have been linked since 1979 by an official town twinning, but before that a less official, but no less important, churches link began. Since then many different churches in the Guildford area have sent representatives and hosted German friends in return.



Rev Stanley Hemming-Clarke greeted by a City Councillor in the Gerichtslaube

There were official moments such as the Bürgermeister's reception and the tour of Munster Cathedral, but the visit to the city archives proved anything but formal. We were taken to the basement to be shown ancient documents including papal edicts and evidence of a fascinating drainage system which from the Middle Ages had water coursing from nearby high ground through the city. Drainage channels were used to collect, drink and wash in this water as well as provide for livestock. In older buildings lowest floors were tilted with drainage outlets and evidence of flooding could be seen on walls. A natural resource in all its guises!

There was exercise too. One group walked up the Kaiserstuhl where grapes were in abundance for local wine production and views from the summit gave a wonderful idea of the Black Forest which we saw at closer quarters a day or two later. We explored the forest's great extent and discovered old farmhouses and workplaces used by inhabitants of these parts for over 400 years. Some walked along the Ravenna Gorge – a wonderful trip finishing at Piketfelsen, at 1,050m.

We were entertained in great style all week. Hosts did us proud, churches provided coffee & cake plus buffet supper and the Echternach family's home was the venue for a brilliant barbecue. As always we had fun thanks to an enormous amount of preparation by our hosts - it's the people who make it. Newcomers on the trip mention this every time.

Sue Wilbraham

MARKETS

GUILDFORD SHINES AT FREIBURG'S PARTNER CITIES MARKET AGAIN

Last June Freiburg held its eighth biannual Partner Cities Market. Until 2015 Freiburg had eight other twin cities as well as Guildford – Besançon, Granada, Innsbruck, Isfahan in Iran, Lviv in Ukraine (in 2015 celebrating the 25th anniversary of their partnership), Madison in the USA, Matsuyama in Japan and Padua, plus a friendship town, Wiwili in Nicaragua. Two more partners have now been added to the list – the South Korean city of Suwon and Tel Aviv (soon probably). All were represented at this year's event.

The Market always provides an excellent opportunity to promote Guildford and its attractions and cultural activities to Freiburg citizens and potential visitors. As it has done every year the Guildford-Freiburg Association represented our town. Stalls were set up for participating towns in individual open-sided marquees around the picturesque old Rathausplatz (Town Hall square) and there was also a stage for



The Churches group at St Peter's Church

Blessed with good weather and led by Rev Stanley Hemming-Clark, the Guildford party visited housing schemes for the elderly as this time we were concentrating on the issues of growing old in our two countries. "Life is not waiting for the storm to pass. Life is dancing in the rain today," concluded students from Droste Gymnasium on this subject. We had spent a fascinating hour talking with A-level equivalent students taught English by a member of the Freiburg Group. They gave us suggestions summed up as above whilst we advised them how to approach older life - in much the same way! - "Make the most of life whatever age you are, having respect for yourself and others."



The Wilbrahams with the Schultzes

cultural performances. The square was filled all day long with many languages and colourful costumes and the stage was alive with traditional music and folk dancing. A fantastic atmosphere!

The weather was excellent – apart from one spectacular storm - - which encouraged many visitors to the market. The Guildford stall displayed a range of publicity literature about the town and county and local attractions and a variety of Guildford souvenirs. It was expertly run by Frauke Burge and Ros Calow, two German-speaking Association members, who could answer questions and assist people with enquiries about Guildford and its amenities and surroundings, including possibilities for visits and exchanges. Wearing a bowler hat, the Association's Brian Lewis ran well-attended tastings of beer from the Hogs Back Brewery, and the popular cups of English afternoon tea and wonderful home-made cakes provided by members of the Freiburg Anglo-German Club, led as always by joint Presidents Ernst & Penny Leube, have become legendary at the event.

As well as the market, visitors could soak up the culture of the participating towns. The Guildford Society's Doug Scott and the Borough Council's Graham Foster arranged a fine exhibition of their photographs of "Guildford's beautiful town and countryside". The Association's Tony Trent entertained the audience with his accordion-playing and even persuaded groups of them to participate in the Gay Gordons and the Hokey Cokey in the square. There was Tyrolean dancing from Innsbruck, two young women from Lviv delightfully singing and playing on the unique Ukrainian "bandura", American country and swing music, traditional musicians from Isfahan, Japanese sword dancing and Israeli folk dancing. Most spectacular of all was a group of drummers from Suwon, the new South Korean partner city, who filled the square with sound.

The Guildford-Freiburg Association also arranged a visit for a group of members to coincide with the market. There were guided tours of the city and of Vauban, one of Freiburg's world-famous low energy, environmentally advanced districts, various other visits to local attractions and an asparagus dinner in a local village restaurant with the Anglo-German Club – when everyone ate Spargel, the white asparagus which is a much-enjoyed speciality in Freiburg.

During the guided tour the group was amazed and delighted to meet by chance 73-year-old Paul Gillingham, an Association member, who had cycled from Guildford over several days – a distance of 589 miles. Paul had previously visited the city as a 12-year old with his father in 1954. He was delighted to be able join the group and found the attractions of Freiburg and the atmosphere of the Partner Cities Market to be as engaging as visitors always do. After he left Freiburg, Paul cycled another 800 miles, mainly along the River Danube from its source at Donaueschingen to Vienna and Bratislava. Of his visit to Freiburg, he said "My time there was really special and a highlight of the whole five-week cycle ride. What a town!"

Peter Slade

OUR ANNUAL GERMAN CHRISTMAS MARKET

As is now a tradition, in mid-December the Association held its annual German Christmas Market in Guildford's Guildhall -- for the first time on a Sunday. We were delighted to welcome our [then] President the Mayor of Guildford, Cllr Nikki Nelson-Smith and her husband. Association member Tony Trent played

traditional German music on an accordion to supplement the sound of Christmas carols and the aroma of Glühwein contributed to the festive atmosphere. Wooden toys from our twin city, candles and traditional German Christmas bakery items were on sale, there was a tombola and literature about Freiburg was available. And there was a free tasting of some excellent Baden wine from the Freiburg region.

A group of Association member acted as helpers and made sure the market was a success. As always it brought a touch of Freiburg to Guildford and helped to promote the partnership with our lovely twin city to the many people who came to the Guildhall. And it was good to talk about the twinning to visitors, including a few Germans.

Peter Slade

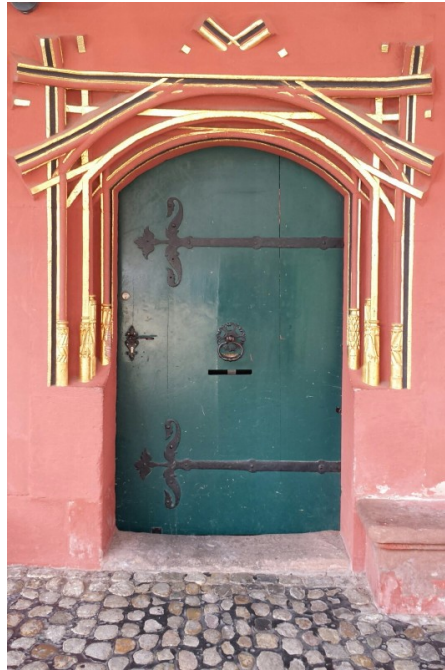


Paul Gillingham after his bike ride from Guildford in 2015

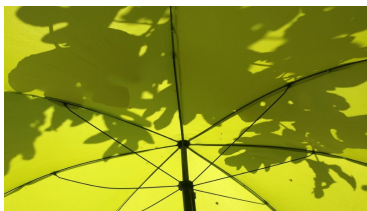


Paul in Freiburg in 1954 with his father and a policeman

Graham Foster's photographs of Freiburg (1)



Graham Foster's photographs of Freiburg (2)



NEWS

THE GREENS DO WELL IN BADEN-WÜRTTEMBERG ELECTIONS

In March elections were held for Land governments throughout Germany. [Editor's note: the 16 federal subdivisions of Germany are called Länder (singular: Land).] In Freiburg's Land of Baden-Württemberg, the Greens became the largest party. The Alternative für Deutschland (AfD), a party a bit like UKIP, made a significant showing. These gains were at the expense of both the CDU and the SPD.

The percentage shares of the votes were (2011 election results in parentheses):

Greens 30 (24); CDU 27 (39); AfD 15 (0); SPD 13 (23); FDP 8 (5).

Because of the German system of proportional representation, these percentages are reflected in the number of seats. Freiburg voters in the Baden-Württemberg election gave even more support to the Greens. In a turnout of 71%, the voting percentages were:

Greens 43 (43); CDU 17 (22); SPD 13 (24); AfD 9 (0); Die Linke 8 (5); FDP 6 (4).

The Land President of Baden-Württemberg is also from the Green Party, as of course is also Freiburg's Oberbürgermeister Dieter Salomon.

FREIBURG FOOTBALL CLUB

At the end of last season Freiburg FC were relegated from the top division of the German football league, the Bundesliga. After a very successful season they have easily won first place in the second division, Bundesliga 2, and they will be promoted back to the top division, doubtless to the delight of their supporters.

SOCIAL EVENTS

OUR ANNUAL SUMMER PARTY

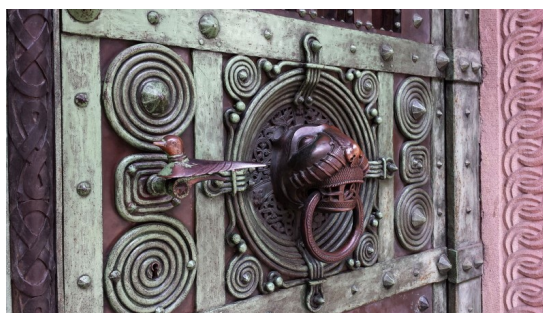
As she has done before, Association Member Christine Young again kindly allowed us to hold our Summer Party in her delightful garden. We were delighted that both the (then) Mayor of Guildford, Cllr Nikki Nelson-Smith and the Deputy Mayor, Cllr Gordon Jackson, had accepted our invitation to be there.

Unfortunately the weather was very uncooperative and heavy rain meant that the 40 or so members who attended had to abandon the plan to sit in the garden and retired to Christine's house where everyone enjoyed a delightful buffet lunch with a German flavour, prepared by our Social Secretary Frauke Burge and her band of helpers. Just as we finished eating, the rain stopped, the sun emerged and we were able to spend some time in warm sunshine on the terrace.

OUR ANNUAL GERMAN DINNER

Once again a delightful German-themed dinner was prepared and served to a group of Association members and friends by the catering students of Guildford College.

.....๑๑๑๑.....



Freiburg architectural details captured by Graham Foster



COMING EVENTS

Dates to note (or look out for)

25 May.....	Annual General Meeting
4-10 July	Visit to Freiburg
2nd or 3rd Sunday in August (tbc).....	Association Summer Party
October/November (date tbc).....	Public Lecture on a German topic
4 December	Association's Christmas Market

Association summer party



Bottom r: Presentation of flowers to hostess Christine Young:



Association Christmas market



*Top l: Bernard Parke dispenses Glühwein
Top r: Tony Trent plays Christmas music
Bottom centre: Wolf Pietrek displays his hand-decorated candles
Bottom r: Mayor and husband with Brian Lewis.*

Contacts in the Guildford-Freiburg Association

Chairman: Peter Slade

Vice-Chairman: Wolf Pietrek

Secretary: Hilary Mills

Minutes Secretary: Pauline Azizi

Treasurer & Membership Secretary: Michael Gorman

Schools Liaison: Ros Calow

Newsletter Editor: Barbara Ford

Other Committee members: Irene Black, Frauke Burge, Cllr Geoff Davis,
Patricia Grayburn, Hon. Alderman Bernard Parke, Cllr Mike Piper

Websites

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

City of Freiburg:

www.freiburg.de (or, in English: <http://www.freiburg.de/pb/Len/225797.html>)

Freiburg's Anglo-German Club: <https://sites.google.com/site/anglogermanclubfreiburg>

New Committee members welcome

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

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