



The 25th Anniversary



Guildford & Freiburg Mayors Keith Taylor and Otto Neideck with their wives after the unveiling of the Tunsgate panel.

"Our partnership has become true friendship."

So said Freiburg's Deputy Mayor Otto Neideck in his speech at the end of the celebration of the 25th anniversary of our twinning in September, bringing to a close a series of events which made it a memorable year for the twinning and for our Association. At official level there was the civic visit by Guildford's Mayor (Keith Taylor) and Deputy Mayor (Tamsy Baker) and their spouses and Mary Lloyd-Jones to Freiburg in May, followed by the September visit here by Mayor Otto Neideck, and his wife and a group of City Councillors. The panel installed under Tunsgate Arch, unveiled at that time, is a permanent reminder and source of information to residents and visitors about our twinning.

There were other special celebratory activities arranged by the Association. During Guildford's annual summer craft market we set up a stall in the High Street to sell wooden toys and candles from Freiburg, arranged a tasting of Baden wines and distributed publicity material. As part of this "Freiburg Week", there were also two public talks about Freiburg. In December we set up the stall again as a mini-Weihnachtsmarkt – and also offered seasonal glasses of Glühwein. These activities could well become a regular feature of the Guildford calendar.

I am delighted that the Newsletter is again greatly enhanced by contributions from Freiburg people – Penny Leube's fascinating "Letter from Freiburg", Roselies Arndt's informative piece about Freiburg Cathedral, Thomas Bauer's lively account of his visit here and Telemach Wiesinger's interesting words and photograph. I thank them all and everyone else who supplied articles.

Peter Slade
Editor

A Message from the Association's Chairman

I write this message as we come to the end of our 25th anniversary year which, as I'm sure all members will agree, was a great success. Many varied events were held in Guildford, and the entire profile of the twinning was much enhanced. I cannot thank everyone who contributed to the success of the anniversary, but I must in particular mention the Mayor and Mayoress of Guildford, Councillor Keith Taylor and his wife Lucy. They were superb ambassadors for Guildford during the civic visit to Freiburg in May and charming and warm hosts when the Freiburg delegation were here at the end of September. Many new friendships were made and previous ones cemented further.

My special gratitude goes to Dr Peter Slade, who has worked so hard in very many ways, not least in organising the Summer and Christmas Freiburg markets in the High Street and the Guildhall and in the design of the beautiful new panel under Tunsgate Arch. (I am especially pleased that the panel mentions the late Hon Alderman Sarah Smith and her contribution to the twinning, and that her family was able to be present at the unveiling ceremony).

Many thanks also to Patricia Grayburn, the Arts Administrator at the University of Surrey, who also greatly contributed to the success of the year.

Many of the events are mentioned elsewhere in the Newsletter, but who will forget the concert given jointly by the Freiburg and Friary brass bands – a really joyous occasion for everyone present.

2005 will probably be a quieter year, but I urge all clubs, schools, churches, groups and individuals to support the twinning in any way they can.

Best wishes and my warmest thanks.

Mary Lloyd-Jones
Chairman

Letter from Freiburg

It'll start with a very big thank you for the marvellous friendly welcome that our delegation from Freiburg received in Guildford in September during the celebration of 25 successful years of twinning. It made us feel we were your friends, not just an official delegation. In a wonderful few days we saw not only Guildford's historic and traditional side but also its forward-looking side – Spectrum sports centre and the University's research park and space research centre. It was a special honour for me to represent the Anglo-German Club and I am very grateful to the Mayor of Freiburg for including me in the delegation. My thanks also to Guildford's Mayor and Mayoress, Keith and Lucy Taylor, and Mary Lloyd-Jones and the Association, for making it such a memorable experience. It was sad that Dorothy Elchlepp, the founder member of our Club and a prime mover of the twinning, was no longer here to witness it.

Last year's Club events were dominated by the twinning celebrations which got off to a wonderful start in May with the Guildford delegation coming to Freiburg. An official reception at the Rathaus and a dinner were followed by a Black Forest evening in a log cabin in the hills overlooking Freiburg. Around a blazing camp fire the visitors and the Club were treated to rousing music from the town hall brass band conducted by Herr Burger (later to play in Guildford with Guildford's Friary Band) followed by a traditional Baden supper with lots of wine and beer. This was made even merrier when the Lord Mayor, Dr Dieter Salomon, arrived in suit and tie and then proceeded to do a quick strip behind the bar into his casual gear!!



Guildford Mayor Keith Taylor toasts Freiburg visitors and Association members in the Guildhall

In my last letter I mentioned the Club's annual asparagus dinner, held to celebrate the abundant harvest in this region of the specially cultivated thick white asparagus. The Guildford delegation timed things well and we were able to arrange an asparagus lunch for them together with Thomas Bauer and Herr Alberti, from the "Society for the Promotion of Freiburg's Twin Towns". Many of our members came, determined to meet their Guildford friends again. Dorothy's son Dieter and grandson Philip motored down from Bonn to be there. Shortly after this we welcomed the Surrey University Chamber Choir, conducted by Oliver Parker. They were a lovely group of

enthusiastic young people who gave two wonderful concerts. They very kindly donated the proceeds from one concert to help support the Anglican Church in Freiburg. As I congratulated them after the concert one of them remarked that it was the best "gig" they had ever done. I thought Byrd and Tallis might have been a little bemused by this terminology – as indeed I was – but it summed up how we all felt, as it was indeed the best "gig" we had heard in a long time.

Now to news from Freiburg. With the financial situation throughout Germany remaining bleak, with unemployment now well over five million, it seems surprising that Freiburg remains such a pleasant place to live. The town's budget is in an even worse state than last year with a 15 million Euro deficit and cut-backs are bound to continue. To save money the Lord Mayor has announced a plan to modernise the administration and reduce personnel costs by 20 per cent by 2010. There will be many hard fought battles in the Council as to which cause has the worthiest claim. One positive point that emerged from the cut-backs last year was an initiative called "Freiburg packt an" ("Freiburg grabs the initiative"). For 21 weeks 6000 volunteers took part in a clean-up in and around Freiburg. Dr. Salomon in his Christmas address thanked all who had taken part in this and asked for a repeat performance in 2005.

In June Freiburg went to the polls to elect new councillors. There was a 50 per cent turn out (up on the 1999 elections). The proportional voting system is very complicated, with the large ballot paper almost needing a map to negotiate, with many lists of people to vote for. You can select candidates from party lists, or from different parties to make up your own list. The election result was very satisfactory for Dieter Salomon (himself a Green), as the Greens gained three more seats, the Conservatives (CDU) and Labour (SPD) both lost seats. A new party – the "Culture Party" intent on preventing culture cut-backs – entered the Council for the first time with two seats,.

The summer of 2004 was not sizzling hot like 2003's and was much wetter and so the Freiburg "Bächle" (those little waterways) were full of water again. The Forestry Department reported that over 1000 older and 10 percent of the younger trees in the Freiburg town woods had died because of the extreme heat of 2003. But the rain in the summer was a mixed blessing: in July violent hail storms caused destruction of some vineyards. However Freiburg remains Germany's sunniest town in more senses than one. In October she received the solar prize for her success in using renewable energies and in December Federal Environment Minister Jürgen Trittin came to Freiburg with a grant of 11 million Euros for Freiburg's Fraunhofer Institute for Solar Energy Systems. This will be used to set up a Photovoltaic Evaluation Centre to help firms get their solar products on to the market more quickly – a great plus for Freiburg to be at the forefront of this important technology. Further good news for Freiburg research was the recently founded firm of Micro-Biolytics and their daughter firm Diaspec which gained recognition for their development of a test to detect BSE infections

The town hall went solar in March with photovoltaic collectors installed on the roof and the football stadium did a solar



Penny Leube of the Freiburg Anglo German Club with Guildford Mayoress Lucy Taylor

sponsorship deal with the energy company Badenova. As a result of this they changed the name from Dreisam Stadium to Badenova Stadium. Ever since then Freiburg's football luck seems to have changed! Last year I told you proudly how Freiburg was in the premier league. Unfortunately as I write they are at the bottom of the league and heading for relegation. However there were other sporting events to compensate. In March Freiburg

hosted its very successful first marathon with 9000 runners (including our son who flew down from Berlin for the event). This year promises to be even more exciting with Dr Salomon donning his running shoes! In June Jan Ulrich and Eric Zabel of "Tour de France" fame competed in Freiburg's cycling championships watched by 115,000 spectators. Cycling has become a boom sport – in spite of those off-putting hills! Just outside Freiburg in Kirchzarten the world mountain bike championship is held regularly. There are certainly some lovely cycle routes around this area, with many specially built cycle paths well out of harm's way of the ever increasing traffic. We look forward to welcoming the group of cyclists coming from Woking and Guildford to Freiburg in June to sample our cycle paths.

Last year I mentioned that Freiburg was peeved to have lost their very successful theatrical director, Ame'lie Niermeyer, to the brighter lights of Düsseldorf. Now the newly installed musical director, Karen Kamensek, is also planning to leave! As Lady Bracknell might have said, to lose one may be regarded as a misfortune but to lose both looks like carelessness! Hopefully when the new theatrical director, Barbara Mundel, arrives to take up her post in 2006 these upheavals will end.

An earth-shattering event last year was Freiburg's earthquake! In the early morning of December 1st many people were woken up by the loud shuddering of an earthquake. It registered 5.4 on the Richter scale with its epicentre about 10 miles from Freiburg. It was very frightening even though it only lasted a few seconds. Fortunately no one was hurt and there was no major structural damage. All houses and buildings built round here have to be "earthquake safe" as this region along the Rhine is an earthquake zone. At the time many of us felt more than a little uneasy about that dodgy elderly nuclear reactor across the border in Fessenheim, but we were assured that it had been built to withstand earthquakes. Last May town councillors voted unanimously for the closing down of this reactor, but this grand gesture was rather meaningless without French agreement, which is not forthcoming in spite of the closer co-operation in the "Freiburg-Colmar-Mulhouse Euro-district".

Last year was a year for anniversaries. The Bach choir celebrated their 60th with four major choral works, the football club their 100th with a celebrity football match, the Stadthalle (Civic Hall) its 50th with an operatic production of the "Civil Wars", and Freiburg registered a unique anniversary as Herr and Frau Peter Eichinger celebrated the first ever recorded "crown jewel" wedding anniversary – 75 years of married bliss. It must be all that Baden wine that has kept them going! Two

well-known Freiburg citizens celebrated special birthdays. Dr Rolf Böhme, the retired Lord Mayor and honorary alderman, whom many of you will remember, had his 70th in August. 400 guests wished him well in the Rathaus. In October a respected Freiburg lady, Zita Kaiser, who had been the inspiration behind Freiburg's successful fashion house, "Kaiser", celebrated her 80th. 900 guests partied with her at the theatre!

There was also a more sombre anniversary in 2004. On the 27th November Freiburg remembered the 60th year after the bombing of Freiburg, when in one night 3,000 people were killed. In a very moving memorial service held in the cathedral more than 2,000 people remembered that terrible night. Dr Paul Oestreicher, from Coventry, spoke very movingly of the terrible war started by Germany and of its appalling consequences and the need for reconciliation always and everywhere. He talked too about Coventry and its special bond with Dresden and how Freiburg had been fortunate in that among all the terrible destruction of that night their lovely cathedral had remained virtually unscathed and that it had stood out as a beacon of hope in all the misery and chaos. Dr Salomon was unwell so the First Mayor, Dr Otto Neideck, read his address. He reiterated Paul Oestreicher's sentiments and spoke too of how important Guildford's friendship was to Freiburg and how on this particular evening he thought fondly of those good friends across the water. As my husband and I came out on to the cathedral square on that cold starry night with Germany's oldest church bell "the Hosanna" tolling dolefully in the background, I felt very moved by it all and found it hard to imagine any other world than the peaceful one that thankfully surrounded us at that moment.

Against this backdrop the success of 25 years of twinning and friendship of our two Clubs has even more significance. Of all last year's anniversary celebrations that brass band concert at Surrey University on the last night of our visit to Guildford will remain in my mind as typifying all that is so special when twinning really works. The gusto with which the bands played, the enthusiasm of everyone on and off the stage, the friendliness of both conductors and then that hug of Mayors Keith and Otto at the end of the concert just said it all! Long may Freiburg and Guildford continue to make such wonderful music together.

With my very best wishes to you all from all of us here in the Club and in Freiburg.

Penny Leube
Freiburg Anglo-German Club



Ready to sell toys and candles from Freiburg at the Association's stall outside the Guildhall during the High Street Summer Craft Market

Guildford Mayor's Impressions of Freiburg

Shortly after I became Mayor last May, Lucy and I visited Freiburg as part of the official delegation to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the twinning. We were both delighted to have the opportunity. Lucy had never been to Freiburg and I had only been once before, as part of a student hitchhiking holiday.

Almost our first impression was the pride that the people of Freiburg take in their history and their architectural heritage. Like many German cities, Freiburg was badly damaged by bombing during the war. However, large parts of the City Centre have been rebuilt to the original designs, so carefully that it is often difficult to distinguish what is original from what has been restored. By the standards of most British Cities, the centre is pedestrian and bicycle friendly. They have also retained and modernised their tram system and this seems to be well used.

However, Freiburg is also a thriving modern commercial and industrial centre. We went to the large Trade Fair Centre, where exhibitions are held throughout the year. These seemed to be well supported by local manufacturing and service businesses, many of them in new technology sectors.

Freiburg is also famous as a "Green" City, even by the high standards set in Germany. We visited the City's "Solar Centre", a building with a very energy efficient design which is also a showcase for what they have achieved and are trying to achieve in this field. However, the staff at the Centre were honest about the variable success that Freiburg has had with its substantial investment. For instance, some wind turbines have been installed on the outskirts of the City, but there seemed to be considerable debate about whether the benefits of these outweighed the adverse impact on attractive views and even possibly on bats and other wildlife.

The people of Freiburg seemed very friendly and outgoing. One evening, we visited a Wine Festival in one of the outlying areas of the City, where there was a real "street party" atmosphere. We visited two attractive villages outside the City but this gave us only a very limited impression of the beauty of the surrounding Black Forest area. We were left with a determination to go back for a longer private visit, to do justice to the City and the surrounding area and to see again the friends that we had made there.

Cllr Keith Taylor
Mayor of Guildford

A Freiburg group visits Guildford

At the end of July, 42 people from Freiburg visited their English partner city. The trip, by coach, was organised by the association for furthering the relationships of the twin cities of Freiburg.



Visitors from Freiburg enjoy tea on their River Wey cruise
(Photograph by D Liebetanz)

We left Freiburg at 8 in the evening and travelled over French highways, to reach the Channel Tunnel by early morning. Everyone was very impressed by the tunnel. At 8 am we reached Guildford's central and beautifully located Carlton Hotel. After a

strong English breakfast, two guides from the tourist office showed us the centre of Guildford, and told us of its history. At noon the Mayor of Guildford, Keith Taylor, received us in the old town hall in the High Street. As a gift from us Keith was given a strong "schnaps of cherries" from the Black Forest.

I remember that once the famous English actress, Joan Collins, well-known from the "Dynasty clan", during a stay in the Black Forest also received this kind of schnaps as a gift from the mayor of a small village. But the schnaps, as is sometimes done, was put in a small crystal flask. Believing that the clear liquid was a perfume with a cherry note she put the liquid behind her ear. But Keith made no such mistake and we enjoyed his friendly and warm welcome. We also had conversations with members of the Guildford-Freiburg Association. In the afternoon we took a boat on the River Wey – our first impression of the lovely landscape around Guildford. A typical English afternoon tea was included in the trip.

Next day we discovered the countryside south of Guildford. The very British "garden-landscape" mixtures, the rolling hills, the small villages with the typical brick houses all impressed us greatly. In the afternoon we arrived at the south coast – Eastbourne, Brighton and the wonderful Beachy Head were included in our program. The cliffs and the famous light house gave us the feeling of being in a very special part of the planet. Later on we were at Monks House in Rodmell, where Virginia Woolf and her friends spent their summers and their last years. It is interesting that Virginia Woolf also had a relationship to one of Freiburg's other partner cities, Granada in Spain. Gerald Brenan, the English writer, who lived in the mountains of the Sierra Nevada, very close to Granada, and who wrote the famous "In the South of Granada", was a good friend of Virginia. And it's known that she visited him in his small house in the "Alpujarras". Following this excursion, for our last two days we went twice by coach to London and saw quite a lot of the city.

During our stay in Guildford we felt we were at home – thanks to the hospitality and kindness of the people of Guildford and thanks to the beautiful scenery we saw. We hope to see you soon in Freiburg, in the Black Forest – that's a legend too.

Thomas Baur
Gesellschaft zur Förderung der Städtepartnerschaften Freiburg (the Society for the Promotion of Town-twinning, Freiburg)

Restoration of Freiburg Cathedral porch

The reopening of the main porch (Porta Coeli) of Freiburg Cathedral in October last year counts as one of the highlights in Freiburg's calendar. For nearly six years it had been hidden behind scaffolding while the 400 sculptures and figures were being restored. This had become necessary because of the damage caused by pollution from dirt, smoke and the ubiquitous pigeon droppings. The last time restoration had been done was in 1867.

The work began by the experts securing the colours before they carefully cleaned the sculptures with fine brushes, after which, using micro-equipment, they sandblasted the statues free of dirt and incrustations. They then set about the restoration and preservation of the figures to their condition of 1887, taking into account the process of "ageing" of the colours. This was all undertaken by the Erzbischöfl. Bauamt (Board of Works of the Diocese) in conjunction with the Baden-Württemberg Landesdenkmalamt (Board for the Protection of Historic Buildings). Two million Euros were spent on the renovation work and the high quality of the architecture, the masonry, and the wonderful colours (a superb composition of blue, red, a little green and highlights set in gold and yellow) can now be fully appreciated. If mediaeval churches were meant as an allegory of heaven, the porch is an image of heaven's door – hence Porta Coeli.

The porch in Freiburg is well known for having one of the most richly decorated gothic entrances. Most of the sculptures date back to the end of 13th century. The purpose of these porches was to instruct people about what had happened, happens and would continue to happen to mankind if man's free will was not used to the good. For the majority of people unable to read in the middle ages these presentations were their books.

In the large vestibule the central axis in the tympanum illustrates the most important scenes from the life of Christ – his birth, the crucifixion and the last judgement. On the central pillar the Virgin Mary, to whom the cathedral is dedicated, is depicted holding the baby Jesus on her arm and at her feet there is the figure of Jesse (father of King David) representing Christ's lineage. Closer inspection reveals smaller figures of the choir of angels, the prophets, the kings of the Old Testament beginning with King David, and the figures of Adam and Eve.



Before and after restoration of Freiburg Cathedral porch (detail)

On one side of the walls are beautiful figures of the Magi, a woman called Ecclesia, who represents the New Testament, and then Jesus, followed by the five wise virgins. On the other side are the Annunciation with the angel Gabriel and Mary and the Visitation, with Elizabeth and Mary standing together. After that there is a figure of a blindfolded woman called the Synagogue, who represents the Old Testament, followed by the five foolish virgins. There are other beautiful figures depicting the seven liberal arts, and various saints and characters of the Old Testament. "Sin or Voluptuousness" is represented by a naked woman, the "Worldly Prince or Seducer" by a nobleman whose bare back is being eaten away by snakes and salamanders, indicating his corruptness. There are other scenes relating to Christ's life, including the figure of Judas hanging from a tree with the 30 pieces of silver (here gold) falling from his hand.

One other little scene in the tympanum is that of the dead climbing out of their graves with St. Michael, equipped with a pair of scales, weighing their souls. Here the scales are tipped in favour of the good in a person. The devil who is watching nearby has his hands as if in prayer, but this gesture is only one of surprise and shock on finding that his fellow devil has been unable to gain this soul

for hell. This figure is known as the "Praying Devil" and an old Freiburg saying goes: "You haven't been to Freiburg, unless you have seen the praying devil".

In the past the vestibule also served as a law court. The terraced benches of stone along the walls and the medieval cubic and linear measures, which are chiselled into the sandstone are evidence of this, together with the contours of loaves of bread, the smaller ones for years of a bad harvest.

Curious to know more? Why not come to Freiburg and take a look!

Roselies Arndt

(formerly Freiburg City Council's officer responsible for the Guildford twinning, and now an official cultural guide)

Editor's note: Roselies supplied several pictures of the restoration but, because of the scale of the work, unfortunately they are too large to be included here. The one picture shown is just a sample and the black and white reproduction does not do justice to the beauty of the sculpture.

6 Cities, 6 Voices

For the past six years the Gesellschaft zur Förderung der Städtepartnerschaften Freiburg (the Society for the Promotion of Town-twinning, Freiburg) has organised concerts in Freiburg's partner towns of Besançon, Granada, Innsbruck and Padua. These feature an accomplished soloist drawn from each town who sing solos, duets, trios etc. and are accompanied by an acclaimed pianist from Freiburg.

In 2004, for the first time, Guildford contributed to this imaginative project – aimed at raising the awareness of twinning in each town. Oliver Parker from the University's Music Department sang for Guildford. The Guildford concert, at the University's Performing Arts Technology Studio in early September, featured a wide range of songs by composers from their respective countries – from Mozart to Finzi, Rossini to Richard Strauss plus some lesser-known Italian and Spanish composers. It was a thoroughly enjoyable evening and I'm sure the audiences in Besançon, Freiburg, Granada and Padua who heard the same concert got as much pleasure from it as we in Guildford did.

Peter Slade

A wonderful Brass Band concert

At the time of the Civic Visit to Guildford, as well as the official delegation from Freiburg, the Freiburg City Band was also here. The players in this band are all employees of Freiburg City Hall and its conductor is Günter Burger, who is the city's Director of International Affairs, who has overall responsibility for the management of the partnership with Freiburg's nine twin towns.

Following a lunch-time impromptu appearance outside the Guildhall, when they attracted a large crowd of towns-people, on the last evening of the Civic visit they were joined at the University Hall by the Friary Guildford Brass Band. It was the first time the two bands have performed in a joint concert and it turned out to be a wonderful "musical twinning" event, hugely enjoyed by the audience who joined the bands at a reception afterwards.

Peter Slade

Freiburg Photographer Telemach Wiesinger

Here during the September Civic Visit was accomplished photographer Telemach Wiesinger. A number of his imaginative photographs of Freiburg people entitled "Portrait Freiburg" was on display in the Foyer of the University's Performing Arts Technology Studio: a book with the same title has just been published. When he visits one of Freiburg's partner towns Telemach takes photographs which are then displayed in another twin town. Since his visit to Guildford he has been to Matsuyama, Freiburg's Japanese partner town, and will soon be going on the official visit to Isfahan, Freiburg's partner town in Iran. I am sure the pictures he took in those two places will be fascinating and I look forward to seeing them.

The following article and two of the photographs he took here were published in the newspaper "Die Badische Zeitung" – the one of David Cranham is reproduced here. It is hoped that an exhibition of Telemach's work will be held at Guildford House Gallery some time in the future.

Peter Slade

Wiesinger's Travel Diary: Guildford

From the Freiburg section of the Badische Zeitung, 19 October 2004

Visible from afar in Freiburg's English twin town of Guildford is the Guildhall clock which strikes hourly. In the former courtroom of the old County of Surrey time appears to stand still. Here the ghosts of Anglo-Saxons in dark red robes appear to swirl around. Once yearly the golden sceptre is given to a newly-elected Mayor. He has the privilege of being chauffeured around an already autumnal Guildford by likeable David Cranham – "Always at your service". Right now the rain is setting in again.

The red and green oil paint on the entrance door and building façade starts to glow in the twilight. All over the University hill and in the many technology companies lights are still burning. Later the restaurants with their golden lettering begin to dominate the evening townscape. The pubs function a bit like public living rooms – possibly also for David?

Text & photograph by Telemach Wiesinger



Mayor's chauffeur David Cranham

Freiburg Baroque Orchestra

Like Guildford, Freiburg is rich in musical activity. Outstanding in the field is the Freiburg Baroque Orchestra which gave its first concert as recently as 1987: one year later it received nation-wide acclaim after what was described as a "sensational" concert in the Berlin Philharmonie. Six hundred concerts have followed since then and the Orchestra now tours world-wide – and is often heard on Radio 3. It is directed by Gottfried von der Goltz, who leads from his violin desk, continuing a tradition practised in the 19th century

The orchestra made at least two London appearances in 2004, which my wife Vicky and I were fortunate to attend. First was a performance, with English Voices, of Handel's masterpiece "Acis and Galatea", given at St John's Smith Square as part of the Lufthansa Baroque Festival. Second was a late night Promenade Concert at the Albert Hall with works by Bach, Zelenka and Biber (his extraordinary "Battalia" written in 1673 but with amazingly modern effects). Both were delightful concerts very enthusiastically received by the audience and by the critics.

We hope that the Orchestra's first visit to Guildford is not too long delayed!

Peter Slade

Guildford City Boys FC play Freiburg again



The under-13/14 teams (Guildford on the right)

We were very pleased to renew our acquaintance with the Blau Weiss Wiehre Club at Easter 2004, taking a party of 57 players and adults to Freiburg. As ever the Freiburg families were very supportive, providing accommodation for our players, whilst the Management and Parents were welcomed to the Hirschengarten Hotel, Lehen. This was our 10th visit to Freiburg and we are always amazed by the efforts that are made to entertain our group during the visit. On arrival we made a presentation to the Blau Weiss Club of a 3 metre banner in GCBFC colours displaying the emblems

of both GCBFC and Guildford, for permanent display in the community hall of their magnificent clubhouse.

Friday saw us play our practice games and while the boys spent the evening with their host parents the parents met for a meal and drinks at the Feierling, a local small family Brewery in the older area of Freiburg. On Saturday there was a formal welcome by the Mayor's representative in the old Rathaus during the morning, and an afternoon of free time to see the town, the Market and of course the Münster. The boys were given tickets to attend the Sportshalle and to see a Women's Professional Basketball match, an event which was sorely missed by the adult males in our group. The adult group made a special trip to the Black Forest village of Titisee from which we saw much more of the countryside than in previous visits. Titisee is beautiful: set on the lake, the old style chalets and spa nature of the area makes this a superb trip, and is certain to become a must on our future visits. On Saturday evening we were invited to attend a Karnival Party, similar to those experienced during the February Fastnacht celebrations (pre-Lent period), which was most enjoyable.

Sunday was the big day for football, and proved to be one of the most successful for Guildford City in many years. The boys' teams were successful in both games and for the first time in 11 years we took possession of both youth trophies. In the adult game we were not so lucky and once again played our parents' side against a number of the veterans' side and youth coaches from the Blau Weiss Club.

All games were played in a fantastic spirit, and expressed more so in the presentation by GCBFC to a young man called Marco, the brother of a Blau Weiss player. Marco has Down's syndrome, and while he is mad keen on football he is rarely able to participate in games of competitive football. In the friendly nature of our games, we were pleased to be able to offer him the chance to play for us, and be involved. In his own words "it made his day" when we presented a team shirt for him to keep.

A dinner attended by all involved in the exchange was followed by a number of speeches and presentations by both Clubs. We also issued a formal invitation to the Blau Weiss Club to visit Guildford in 2005, a visit which will mark the 20th exchange between our two Clubs, a visit which we hope to be able to mark by a wider invitation to the challenge matches we will play next time.

As always those of us who had been before left renewed and invigorated, and our new visitors left impressed by Freiburg and its people, and hoping for the possibility of making the trip again.

Phil Dyas

Chairperson, Guildford City Boys FC



Part of the crowd watching the football (note the solar panels on the roof)

The Guildford Freiburg Churches Link

From the start the churches have played a part in the town-twinning activities with the main event being visits between members. This church link is fully ecumenical in both Freiburg and Guildford. In 2003 a group from Guildford Churches visited Freiburg and a visit from Freiburg people to Guildford has been planned for May 16 to 24 2005. An interesting programme has been planned on the general theme of Communities for Life and Work. As well as a visit to the Cathedral and a Civic Reception, the week includes a morning seeing activities with disadvantaged young people, school visits and a full day time of study with input by local representatives. We hope, as previously, to include an outing to Salisbury, this year with a stop at Stonehenge. There will also be times of worship and shared meals.

As this visit coincides with the sixtieth anniversary of the ending of the War, it is planned to give a special dimension to the final service of Friendship on May 23rd with slides of the Gustav Anton windows in Somerset and of the Anglo-German Tapestry from Chichester Cathedral: the Gustav Anton windows were made by a former German prisoner of war for the Somerset village where he had been interned. As Sunday May 22nd will be the 50th Anniversary of the Ordination of the Church Link Chairman, there is an open invitation to the 10 am Eucharist at St.Mary the Virgin Church, Shalford, followed by a reception.

HOSPITALITY is greatly needed, either for the whole week or part of it. This involves offering bed and breakfast and a main meal in the evening on probably three days. Host(esse)s are welcome to spend as much or as little time as they wish at the various activities. For offers of help or further information please speak to one of the Committee (Katie Butcher, Anne Carpenter, Andrew Coleman, Revd David Welbourn) or the Chairman (Revd Stanley Hemming-Clark: 01483 568197)

Stanley Hemming-Clark
Guildford Churches together

A visit from Freiburg Soroptimists

Guildford Soroptimists have had a friendship link with the Freiburg Soroptimist Club for many years. As we visited them in 2003 it was our privilege to host our friends in our homes and around Guildford in 2004.

Highlights of the visit were a tour of the eighteenth century garden at Painshill Park; a tour of Guildford Cathedral; a visit to the Historic Ships at Portsmouth; a supper cruise on the River Wey.(on one of the warmest evenings of the summer); a trip to Stonehenge; a visit to Salisbury Cathedral and to the beautiful rose garden at Mottisfont.

Liz Morgan Lewis
Guildford & District Soroptimists

Editor's note: The Soroptimists International is a world-wide organisation for women in business and the professions and works to improve the status of women and advance human rights.

Guildford's Dante Readers visit Freiburg

In the Millennium Year 2000 the Guildford Dante Readers created the project of reading the Divine Comedy by Dante Alighieri in its entirety. This work, one of the world's greatest poems, comprising three books (Inferno, Purgatory and Paradise) was read in English over three days in St. Mary's Church. This was followed in 2001 and 2002 by performances in the Guildhall.

In 2002 we devised "Dante Today", a two act version dramatised as performance poetry and directed by Maggie Lilley from Theatre Proteus. In May 2003 we took this to Florence and performed it at the British Institute and Dante's Parish Church, St. Margarita's.

At the end of October 2004 we visited Freiburg and performed the work at the Peterhofkeller at the University of Freiburg. We all loved the city and many of us stayed on for several days after the performances visiting various towns in the Black Forest. In March 2005, the Dante Readers will be performing the work in Padua (one of Freiburg's twin towns) and Venice.

Maggie Lilley
Theatre Proteus

The organisation "Anglo German Walks" exists for people interested in joining walks with German ramblers. There are walks in various parts of Germany in 2005 including one in the Freiburg area of the Black Forest from 2 to 9 July. Details from Neil McDonald, 7 Ashbourne Grove, Bradford, W Yorkshire BD2 4AF
e-mail: anglo-german-walks@bh-cc.co.uk

Contacts in the Association

Chairman:	Mary Lloyd-Jones Tel. 01483 578532
Secretary:	Kathy Atkins Tel. 01483 811005
Membership Secretary:	Michael Gorman Tel. 01483 450036
Newsletter Editor:	Peter Slade Tel. 01483 531472

Our Website

Access to the Association's web-site is via the Borough Council's site. Go to www.guildford.gov.uk click on "tourism" then on "linked towns". Alternatively Google will find it.