

# Guildford-Freiburg Association



# NEWSLETTER

## Celebrating 20 years of successful twinning

WHEN the twinning of Freiburg and Guildford was set up 20 years ago its principal aim was to foster friendship between individuals, churches, clubs and particularly, school children. It was an admirable idea which has succeeded due to the enthusiasm shown by everyone involved in the venture, especially members of Guildford Borough Council and the Guildford-Freiburg

Association. But it would not have been the success it is today without the enthusiasm of both communities.

Hundreds of children have taken part in school exchanges and a local youth football team regularly plays its Freiburg counterparts.

Many lasting friendships have been formed and people who have taken part in visits have gained a greater understand-

ing of each other's cultures.

In this first Guildford-Freiburg Association newsletter we feature some of the organisations that have helped to make the link so successful and by doing so hope to encourage other groups and individuals to play an active part in building up further contacts with our twin town in the Black Forest, one of the most beautiful regions of Germany.



Four of the people who have helped towards the success of the association over the years:

From left, Roselies Arndt, who until her retirement was Freiburg's twinning co-ordinator, GFA life patron Stanley Roberts OBE, founder member Dorothy Elchlepp, of Freiburg who has worked tirelessly to promote the twinning, and GFA chairman Mary Lloyd-Jones.

### Tree planting a symbol of the growing link between two towns

In March, the Burgermeister of Freiburg, Dr Matthias Schmelas, led an eight strong German entourage who visited the town to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the twinning with their Guildford counterparts.

Dr Schmelas planted one of two holm oak trees on land adjacent to Spectrum Leisure Centre.

It is hoped in time the two trees will form a canopy to represent the strong ties between the two towns. The GFA played an active part in the weekend celebrations which included a lunch at Burchatts Farm Barn and visits to several local attractions.



### Who's who in the Guildford Freiburg Association

Patron: Nick St. Aubyn MP

Life patron: Stanley Roberts OBE

President: The Mayor of Guildford

Chairman: Mary Lloyd-Jones.

Secretary: Kathy Atkins

Membership secretary: Sarah Stewart

Treasurer: Andrew Hodges

If you would like further details about the GFA please telephone Mrs Stewart on 01483 560712 or Mrs Atkins on 01483 811005

*In perfect harmony with one another*

**SCORING SUCCESS**

**WITH YOUTH**

**FOOTBALL LINK**

Easter 2000 will see the 15th exchange between players of the Guildford City Boys FC and players of the SV Blau Weiss Wiehre club of Freiburg.

Philip Dyas, chairman of the Guildford City Boys FC, writes: "It seems very appropriate that in our Club's 20th Season in football, we are about to send not only the biggest group the club have ever sent in the history of the exchanges, but probably the biggest single group that has been sent from Guildford to our twin town.

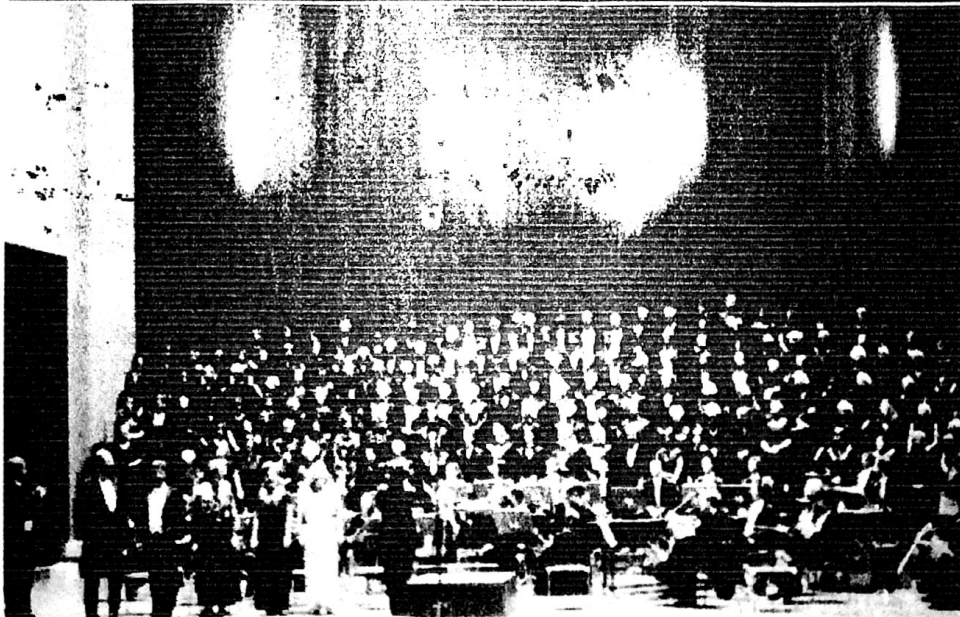
"This sporting exchange was just one of the ideas fostered and then promoted by Dorothy Elchlepp as part of the town twinning which was celebrated earlier this year.

"She foresaw the opportunity to encourage not only a sporting challenge for which two trophies are played, but a cultural exchange which allows the club members to stay with families of their counterparts abroad and learn a little of home life in the two countries.

"It is pleasing to know that the substantial nature of the exchange is receiving recognition from the borough council and the visit of 70 plus friends from Freiburg last Easter prompted valuable support from both the Parks Department and also the Spectrum Leisure Centre, helping to make the visit of the Freiburg club an extremely memorable one. The visit was also graced by the presence of the Mayor of Guildford who agreed to present the challenge match trophies.

"The visits made by our clubs are met with great enthusiasm each year and funded wholly by players, parents and officials. Hopefully, the events will be recognised in future years by Guildford, to be one of the major exchanges between the twin towns and continue to receive support from town and public alike."

Mr. Dyas can be contacted on 01483 826429



The link between the Guildford Philharmonic Choir and the Freiburg Bachchor was forged originally by Kathy Atkins (then manager of the GPO) and Cornelea Grisebach (who was already involved with school exchanges).

Their co-operation led to a performance of Beethoven's *Missa Solemnis*, conducted by Sir Charles Groves, being performed in Guildford Cathedral in 1990.

Since then the two choirs have come together every two years, singing in English in Freiburg and German in Guildford. All the concerts have been memorable but the performance in 1994 of Britten's *War Requiem* was particularly poignant. Tenor soloist, Ian Bostridge, now so famous, had the whole

choir in tears with his rendering of the *Agnus Dei*. John Britten, Benjamin's nephew, who sings with the GPO, said how proud his uncle would have been to hear his work performed by English and German choirs in Germany.

On March 11, 2000, members of the Freiburg Bachchor will again be arriving in Guildford - many to stay with good friends. As a tribute to 21 years of successful twinning and as a celebration of the Millennium the chosen work will be Bach's *St. Matthew Passion*.

The orchestra will be the Brandenburg Sinfonia conducted by Jeremy Backhouse. Ticket information from Guildford Civic on 01483 444555 or Roger Penny on 01483 564076.

## Friendship between churches is a lesson in ecumenicalism

VISITS are arranged by the "Churches Together in Guildford" and the equivalent in Freiburg.

They take place every two years. In 1997 a group from Guildford visited Freiburg; the 1999 visit from Freiburg was postponed from October 1999 to June 2000. Friendships have been formed and maintained by these visits, as well as knowledge gained from the set programmes.

The visit from members of Freiburg Churches has been arranged for a week beginning Friday June 2, 2000. It is ecumenical, with representatives from Roman Catholic and Protestant Churches.

It is planned to give the group a share in church life, with visits of more general interest. There will be a particular focus on education. Events planned include a day at the Cathedral and its education centre, a visit to the local school, and a day in Salisbury (with a sighting of Stonehenge on the way). It is also hoped that a civic reception will be possible, as well as free time for exploring Guildford and the surrounding area.

The planning committee value the interest of the Guildford-Freiburg Association.

Further information may be obtained from the chairman of the planning committee, the Rev Brian Coleman (572006), secretary Derek Bassett (564227), or Rev Stanley Hemming-Clark (568197). Those who are interested in having a visitor should please speak to Alison Farara (825955).

### Chess mates

IN response to an invitation from the Freiburg Chess Club five members of the Guildford Chess Club visited Guildford's twin town to play in a club match and a three day tournament.

During the visit the Freiburg club was presented with a chess clock and a framed photograph showing the Mayor and Mayoress of Guildford together with club members at the opening of the giant chess set in the castle grounds.

CQ CQ  
Freiburg.....



*The Guildford and District Radio Society has maintained a 19 year contact with the Freiburg Radio Society.*

*Chairman of the society Roger, call sign GOSWC, writes about the friendship that has grown between the clubs and of some recent activities.*

The link with the Freiburg society started within 18 months of the twinning of our two towns.

Contacts in the early days were made with Erich Groth, call sign DL9DW, and Bill Pevy, call sign G4CWP. Also Lothar DL8ZN, Cristiane DF9UI and Oskar DL3GI. From Guildford, Stan G3XON, Lew G4BHQ and Tom G4CMG. These contacts or "Nets" take place on Thursday lunch times and have continued since this time.



GDRS & Freiburg Radio club members above Freiburg during their visit

Incidentally, several other past Mayors of Guildford such as Doreen Bellerby and John Woodhatch have made radio contacts with their counterparts in Freiburg.

Following the previous 16 years of contacts to June 1997, one of the Freiburg net regulars, Roy Jones G0INX, organised a coach trip to visit the Freiburg Amateur radio club members and as it happened visit the Friedrichshafen Ham radio festival. (Internationale Amateurfunk-Ausstellung). Following the trip through the channel tunnel, the journey to Freiburg was uneventful. We picked up VHF radio transmissions from Erich DL9DW who easily guided our drivers through the town and direct to the

hotel despite the pouring rain. As well as members and XYL's ( ex Young Ladies ) from GDRS we also took John Woodhatch, at that time the immediate past Mayor of Guildford, and members from the Farnborough Radio Club.

Several members had also brought their bikes. Freiburg must rate as one of the best places to ride, almost all flat, just beware of the tram tracks! I also think Freiburg has as many Irish theme pubs as Guildford!

As the GDRS is now linked to the Guildford - Freiburg Association you will often see members of GDRS at Association events throughout the year.

For those who have a technical nature. These contacts almost exclusively take place in the High Frequency portion of the RF spectrum, mainly in the 40 Metre band, around 7.050 Mhz +/- QRM. The contacts use "Phone" ( voice ) rather than CW ( Morse Code ). These radio contacts are made using both horizontally polarized antennas i.e. lying flat and parallel to the ground. Vertical polarization is also used. If you have a short wave receiver capable of resolving SSB transmissions feel free to tune in and listen to voices from Freiburg.

## **Soroptimists from Freiburg join the Guildford Club for its 40th anniversary**

When Soroptimist International of Guildford and District celebrated its 40th anniversary in April several members from their twin club in Freiburg flew over for the weekend to join in the fun. Soroptimist International is a service club for professional and executive women aimed at promoting international goodwill and understanding and improving the lot of women throughout the world especially in underprivileged countries.

The two clubs have built up a strong relationship over the years and enjoy regular exchanges. This enables them to swap valuable ideas on club activities such as fund-raising, tackling social issues and attracting new members.

But above all it has offered the opportunity for new friendships and an insight into the lives and culture of their German counterparts.

One Guildford member sums up what twinning has meant to her: "It has been immensely valuable. It has offered me an opportunity I could not have gained elsewhere - to make new and lasting friends, to enjoy visits to a beautiful part of Germany and to gain a much greater understanding of our European neighbours. Entertaining them in return has also been a rewarding experience".

If anyone would like to know more about the club which meets regularly in the Guildford area, please telephone Janet Russell on 01483 508925 during working hours.

## **AND FINALLY.....**

**.....a message from our  
chairman, Alderman Mary  
Lloyd-Jones**

**The Association was formed in 1979 when Guildford became twinned with Freiburg.**

**The aims of the Association are to promote friendship and understanding between the two towns; to stimulate and encourage mutual exchanges of all kinds and to organise fund-raising activities.**

**We are always keen to hear from people who can offer accommodation to visitors from Freiburg, or who wish to visit Freiburg themselves. We are also often asked about opportunities for work experience for short periods of time.**

**The Tourist Information Office in Tunsgate has a list of accommodation in Freiburg, at all price ranges.**

**I see the Association playing a more important role in the 21st Century in developing closer links with Europe generally, and with Freiburg in particular.**

**This newsletter was edited by Janet Russell (01483 508925) who would welcome contributions for next year's edition by November 1, 2000.**

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