



Spring 2020

## OVERVIEW FROM THE CHAIR

Celebrations and COVID-19: this has been a year of contrasts! Since our last newsletter, in May 2019, we completed our celebrations of the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Guildford-Freiburg twinning in 1979, and started our celebrations of the 900<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of Freiburg in 1120 – but were then brought to an abrupt halt by the global pandemic.



*Last live event before lockdown! The GTA celebrates Freiburg's 900<sup>th</sup> anniversary with a dinner in the Guildhall*

To deal with the bad parts first, in both Guildford and Freiburg people have caught the horrible virus and some have very sadly died, people have lost their jobs, businesses have suffered, and at the time of writing both towns have been “locked down” for weeks - Freiburg just starting to emerge. Physical contact between people outside their own households has been forbidden, the provision of services and commercial activity has been restricted to the basic essentials. It is just one consequence of all the distress and disruption that GTA activities have been badly affected, and much more upsettingly, Freiburg has had to cancel or postpone all the marvellous festivities planned to celebrate its anniversary year. Freiburg's 12 partner cities had all been invited to take part, and all had been planning and arranging their contributions to the musical, artistic, sporting events and of course the Partner Cities Fair. We can only hope that most of these can take place in 2021.



*GTA masks! (Barbara Ford and husband Tony)*



*Penny and Ernst Leube, co-chairs of the AGC*

Twinning-wise, we at the GTA have done our best to adapt, maintaining contact with our friends in Freiburg and, following a global tendency, moving our activities online. The GTA has gone digital!



*GTA Committee meets via Zoom*

The Committee has been holding its meetings virtually, using Zoom (a whole new vocabulary for some of us), and instead of engaging a speaker to come to Guildford and address a live audience we put our Spring lecture online: we asked the lovely Dr Ben Schofield to record his presentation and we posted it on YouTube, where it remains available for viewing. See a report of the lecture in this newsletter and, even better, go online and view it! We plan to post much more material on our shiny new YouTube channel.

What did we achieve, over the year? Well, this newsletter is packed full of all the reports of our activities and wonderful events (which are also listed on our website [guildfordtwinning.uk](http://guildfordtwinning.uk)).

Very many thanks to all the people who have contributed to our work and its success: as well as the GTA Committee members and their supportive spouses, I thank the many individuals, councillors and civic officers in both Guildford and Freiburg who have supported and helped us.

We will be hard put to it to equal the number of last year's successes in the next twelve months, but I remain optimistic: the warm friendship, the generous feelings, the wish to co-operate and collaborate will endure – twinning will find a way and Guildford and Freiburg will meet again.

Barbara Ford, May 2020

## GTA EVENTS IN GUILDFORD

### NEW OBERBÜRGERMEISTER COMES TO GUILDFORD: *Report by Barbara Ford*

We in Guildford were delighted in September 2019 to receive a civic visit from Freiburg's then new Oberbürgermeister Martin Horn, for an official celebration of the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the twinning. Martin Horn's party included some of his councillors and senior officials and Guildford Borough Council, supported by the GTA committee, rolled out the red carpet for them.

The programme for the visit included: a celebratory

dinner in the Council Chamber of the Guildhall, involving many speeches, toasts and mutual thanks; a visit to Silent Pool gin distillery with a much-appreciated tasting; a tour of the University campus where Simone Pflaum, Freiburg's Director of Sustainability Management, sang for her supper by giving a talk (reported elsewhere in this newsletter); and a guided tour of the town in German, led by GTA's Education Liaison Steve Callaghan. The latter tour included a viewing of Guildford's floral tribute to the anniversary of the twinning, in the castle grounds near the war memorial. Fortunately we were able to provide sunshine throughout, so the town looked at its best.



*Civic dinner in the Council Chamber*



*Tasting of gin at Silent Pool distillery*



*Steve Callaghan's guided tour*

The final event saw the Oberbürgermeister assisting the Lord Lieutenant of Surrey, Michael More-Molyneux, and the High Sheriff of Surrey, Bridget Biddell, to make a presentation of the Queen’s Award for Voluntary Service at the Spectrum to Friday Swimmers, a group who help disabled swimmers: the volunteers told me how very much they appreciated both the recognition represented by the award and the international support represented by Oberbürgermeister’s presence there.



*Oberbürgermeister and Mayor by the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary floral tribute in the Castle grounds*



*Guildhall balcony: (l to r) Leader of Guildford Council Cllr Caroline Reeves, Guildford Mayor Richard Billington, Freiburg Deputy Mayor Martin Haag, Freiburg Director of Sustainability Management Simone Pflaum, Guildford Council Managing Director James Whiteman, Oberbürgermeister Martin Horn*



*Matt Pinches of Guildford Shakespeare Company treats the guests to a taste of Shakespeare*

## PICNIC IN THE CASTLE GROUNDS – PROMOTING TWINNING

It was time for Guildford Borough Council’s annual Picnic in the Castle Grounds again in June 2019 and once again the GTA ran its stall. We had “hook-a-duck” for the youngest children, a nice cooling activity on a hot day, and a simple quiz for the older ones, while we talked to the adults about the benefits of twinning for them, their families and the world in general. Much fun was had by visitors and stallholders alike and, we hope, the twinning “profile” was raised.



## MEMBERS’ GERMAN DINNER

This dinner for GTA members was held on 4 March in the Guildhall to celebrate Freiburg’s 900th anniversary. Freiburg was to have hosted many festivities this summer, inviting all its 12 twin towns including Guildford to participate, but sadly those events all had to be postponed. The dinner was our last “live” event before the UK “lockdown” started. And it was a great success - an elegant Sekt (German sparkling wine, donated to us by Freiburg’s Anglo German Club ) aperitif upstairs in the Council Chamber and a delicious buffet supper downstairs in the Courtroom. All agreed that the beautiful and historic venue added to the sense of occasion. Fifty members – including Leader of the Council Cllr Caroline Reeves, a long-time member - toasted Freiburg and congratulated the city on its anniversary; Chair Barbara Ford gave some highlights of the history of the city and Vice-chair Peter Slade

summarised its most notable environmental achievements. A very happy occasion!



*Reception in the Guildhall Council Chamber upstairs*



*Peter Slade listing Freiburg's environmental achievements*

## **GTA ANNUAL SUMMER LUNCH 2019**

*Report by Barbara Ford*

Another lovely lunch party in the beautiful wood-panelled dining hall at Merrist Wood College. Members and their guests enjoyed drinks on the lawn beforehand, our first taste of the "Superb" Sekt which our friends, Freiburg's Anglo German Club, had generously donated to us to celebrate the GTA's 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Lunch was a varied and German-themed buffet, and the whole event a warm and stimulating experience. Particular thanks go to the Anglo German club, and to GTA committee member Ros Calow who was responsible for most of the organising.



*Freiburg, 900 years young*



*Barbara Ford toasting and congratulating Freiburg*



*Deputy Mayor Marsha Mosley (in red) and her consort Nigel Manning with Chair Barbara Ford*



*Guildford's version of SchwarzwälderKirschtorte*



*Drinks on the lawn*



*Lunch in the historic dining hall*



*Buzzing Guildhall*

## LIVELY WEIHNACHTSMARKT, 2019

Our annual German Christmas (mini) market in the sixteenth century Guildhall was as always a great success – a day of fun and fundraising. GTA members turned out in force to help, between them selling lots of traditional German and German-style items: wooden toys, wines, bakery goods, books, DVDs, plus Glühwein, coffee and homemade cakes to consume on the spot. There were more than 900 visitors, to whom we talked about Freiburg and twinning, who between them made a great contribution to our funds which will support future twinning activities, and some of whom even became members.



*Member Val Callaghan selling German toys to Cllr Richard Billington, Mayor of Guildford*



*Committee member Steve Callaghan selling secondhand German books and DVDs, & promoting Freiburg*

## NEW GTA PATRON

Under its Constitution the GTA must invite the Guildford Member of Parliament to be its Patron. For 14 years this was Anne Milton until, at the UK general election in December 2019, she was replaced by Angela Richardson as MP for Guildford. I therefore issued the invitation and I'm pleased to say she was delighted to accept.

*Barbara Ford*



*Cllr Richard Billington, Mayor of Guildford & Cllr Caroline Reeves, Leader of the Council*



*Angela Richardson MP, our new Patron meets Barbara Ford, Chair.*

## ARTS AND CULTURE

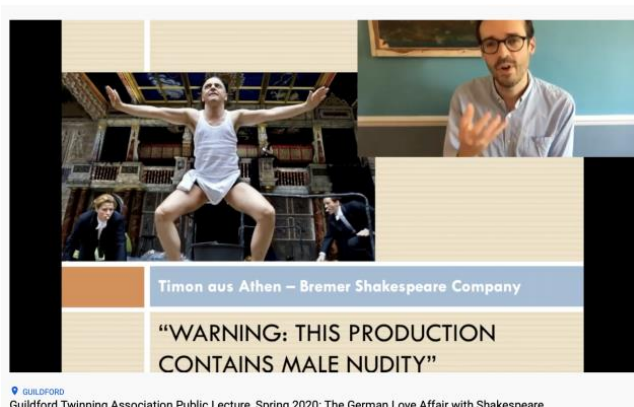
### AUTUMN LECTURE: "GERMAN FILMS, OLD & NEW"

*Dr Helen Hughes is a Senior Lecturer in Film Studies at the University of Surrey, with her research focusing on documentary film and German-language cinema with a special emphasis on representations of the environment – which gives her a real affinity with Freiburg.*

For our annual Autumn lecture in October 2019 in the Council Chamber, Dr Helen Hughes gave us an overview of the development of German cinema, highlighting its relationship to the history of Germany, illustrated by film clips (though hampered by recalcitrant technology). She started with the Wilhelmine Era (the German Empire after Bismarck's resignation) and "Boxendes Känguruh" made in 1895 by the Skladanowski brothers for their Bioscop projector, around the same time as the Lumière brothers launched their Cinématographe system. We then moved through the Weimar Republic, with Murnau's "Nosferatu" in 1922, the Third Reich, with Riefenstahl's "Der Triumph des Willens" in 1935, to post-war Allied occupied Germany, with Roberto Rossellini film "Germany Year Zero" made in 1948. We then moved through East and then West Germany to today's Federal Republic, with Tom Tykwer's 1998 "Lola Rendt" ("Run, Lola, Run") and Margarethe von Trotta's "Hannah Arendt"

### PUBLIC LECTURE: THE GERMAN LOVE AFFAIR WITH SHAKESPEARE

*Report by Irene Black*



Dr Ben Schofield having dealt so triumphantly with our 16+ seminar (see p.13) we invited him back for a wider audience. His fascinating lecture was, of necessity, given the Coronaovirus pandemic, online. This has the advantage of being accessible for the foreseeable future

(on YouTube at <https://tinyurl.com/gtaonyoutube>). However, by the end I had a whole folio of questions I would have liked to have asked Ben, but, of course, Virtual Ben cannot interact with his audience.

Shakespeare, Ben informs us, has played an important role in the cultural twinning of Britain and Germany. Some Germans even talk about Shakespeare as a "great German author alongside Schiller and Goethe". German intellectuals in the 19<sup>th</sup> century referred to 'unser' (our) Shakespeare

During World War I both Britain and Germany invoked Shakespeare in the trenches, thus digging in their claim for a national cultural icon. Ben quoted German thinker Hans Hecht, who called on the Germans to fight the British to preserve the sanctity of the 'German national poet, Shakespeare'. In Britain Caliban was represented as German and Prospero as British in certain schools of thought during World War I. Cornish writer Arthur Quiller-Couch suggested that the Germans believed that Shakespeare's spirit had migrated.

Ben suggested that in Germany Shakespeare is concerned with values whereas in Britain with language. In Germany today Shakespeare's reputation does not depend on his poetic language. Indeed, many new translations in Germany are linked to a particular production, resulting in a lack of translation that relies on linguistic fidelity. These production-specific translations would be better termed adaptations.

Berthold Brecht was a huge influence on modern theatre. His plays were dialectical and should lead to action rather than entertaining and moving the audience. His most famous concept was alienation, which should open up a space between production and audience to lead to discourse and political action. Brecht, a Marxist, went into exile during the Nazi era. And that is how his radical ideas on Shakespeare spread internationally. Brecht was convinced that changing Shakespeare is legitimate. The first written folio of Shakespeare's work was seven years after his death, this gap suggesting to Brecht that Shakespeare can be regarded as the cypher for raw material, rather than the plays being true to what he wrote. Brecht demanded that Shakespeare serves the needs of his own 'epic theatre', resulting in a significant shift. In the German love affair with Shakespeare, Brecht's influence turned away from the language and translation that appealed to local audiences in the 19<sup>th</sup> century to a much more international idea of radical performance by which German Shakespeare productions can go global. Ben concluded his talk with examples of this radicalisation in German productions of Timon of Athens and Hamlet.

Thank you Ben, for such a thought-provoking talk.

## A DELIGHTFUL CONCERT BY FREIBURG'S JOHN SHEPPARD

ENSEMBLE: *Peter Slade reports*

Holy Trinity Church was the setting on a warm Saturday evening in August for a splendid concert of a *capella* singing by Freiburg's John Sheppard Ensemble. The choir was welcomed by Barbara Ford on behalf of our Association and by Jim Godwin on behalf of Guildford Chamber Choir, as joint hosts of the concert. Guildford's Mayor and Mayoress of Guildford were present.



The 25-person choir, founded in 1975 and named after the 16<sup>th</sup> century English composer, sang two works by German composers and two by English ones. From the superb opening sounds of the first work, German composer Rheinberger's *Mass in E flat*, we thought we were in for a special evening of music. And so it proved to be as the choir, conducted by Bernhard Schmidt, gave wonderful renderings of Vaughan Williams's *Mass in G minor*, Parry's *Songs of Farewell* and Rheinberger's lovely *Abendlied*, in which members of the Guildford Chamber Choir were invited to participate. We thought that was the end of the singing as the choir left the stage and filed down the side aisles of the church, only to stop halfway along and sing Max Reger's *Nachtlied* beautifully as an encore.

It was an evening of choral singing at its best and a joy to hear.



## "VOICES OF FREIBURG" COME TO GUILDFORD

"Voices of Freiburg" was the second exhibition of artworks by Freiburg artists held in 2019 as part of Guildford's celebrations of the 40th anniversary of the twinning.

This exhibition was held in May and June in Guildford House Gallery, a 17th-century townhouse in the heart of Guildford. The artists Irina Lozinskaia, Annemarie Matzakow, Cristina Ohlmer, Maria Cristina Tangorra and Konrad Wallmeier, contributed installations, sculptures and paintings, some abstract, some figurative, and the indoor version of "Voices of the World", an interactive installation in which viewers were invited to participate. A Guildford contribution was included: two portraits by acclaimed local artist Nathalie Beauvillain Scott.

At the end of the exhibition, four of the artists came to Guildford, spoke to visitors to the exhibition and met members and guests including the Mayor, at a celebration tea in the garden of the Gallery.



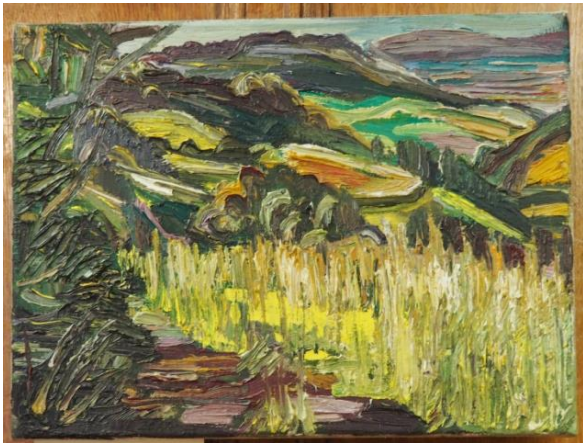
*Installation by Konrad Wallmeier – you pull the cord and the "sun" rotates*



*Portrait of Alderman Gordon Bridger by Nathalie Beauvillain Scott*



*Voices of the World by Annemarie Matzakow and Maria Cristina Tangorra*



*Blick auf den Schönberg by Irina Losinskaia*



*Artists and friends: (l to r) Cllr Julia McShane; Barbara Ford, GTA Chair; Lynn Szygenda, exhibition curator; Konrad Wallmeier, artist; Cllr Caroline Reeves, Leader of the Council; Maria Cristina Tangorra, artist; Ros Calow, GTA Arts Liaison; Cristina Ohlmer artist; Irina Losinskaia, artist*

## **ARTISTIC EXCHANGES:** *Report by Ros Calow*

With successful exhibitions at Surrey Hills sculpture Garden and Guildford House Gallery, the visiting Freiburg artists really enjoyed their time in Guildford in 2019 and much appreciated the kindness of members.

The return visit of Guildford artists to Freiburg was already scheduled for 2021 and tentative planning is about to start.

For 2020, Freiburg had organised an exhibition of works from all their international partner cities to be part of the 900<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations. Guildford Borough Council, with our support and input from the Freiburg artists, chose one painting by Marylin McNie "Autumn in Guildford" and one photographic work by Nick Pyne, "Caryatid" to represent Guildford. These are now in Freiburg awaiting display, probably in June 2021.

The Association was also very happy to have loaned some memorabilia to be part of the VE Day exhibition at Guildford Museum. Unfortunately this is currently on hold.



*Marylin McNie: Autumn in Guildford*



*Nick Pyne: Caryatid*



## ARTISTS' VISIT TO MUNSTEAD WOOD

The GTA took our four visiting Freiburg artists to Munstead Wood, just outside Guildford, the home of famous British horticulturalist and garden designer Gertrude Jekyll. The 1897 house was designed by the architect, Sir Edwin Lutyens, whose professional partnership with Jekyll was one of the most influential of the Arts and Crafts movement.



But it was the garden, designed by Jekyll and now being restored to its original glory, which particularly interested our visitors. Our guide explained the principles which Jekyll devised for her design, with seasonal gardens and carefully arranged shades of colour, principles which through her work became highly influential in the British gardening world and beyond.

## PUBLIC ART IN FREIBURG

*Roy Hogben, Guildford Arts (first published in its newsletter)*

For more than 40 years Guildford has been twinned with Freiburg in southern Germany. More than 900 years old, the city suffered a vast amount of devastation during the last war and when it came to reconstruction the city fathers demonstrated a masterpiece of skill, determination and vision of how Freiburg must be rebuilt. Most certainly, they gave a great deal of care and attention to their historic built environment, but by no means did they overlook the necessity of integrating their historic art and culture into today's vision to make Freiburg one of Germany's tourist hot spots. Their love and appreciation of Public Art is more than evident throughout the city and environs - which all helps to make Freiburg the perfect destination



## EVENTS IN FREIBURG

### MEMBERS' VISIT TO FREIBURG 2019

*Report from Barbara Ford*

Sixteen members went on the GTA's annual visit to beautiful Freiburg in early June last year, organised this time by Steve Callaghan and me. It was arranged as a four-day visit including a weekend so as to minimise the amount of time that members with work (or school) commitments would need to take as leave. But we crammed a lot into those four days.

We were a mixed group, some old hands making their umpteenth return visit, some new members who had never been there before, including 14-year-old Caroline Welton, who came with a particular interest in green issues – see her own article in this newsletter about Vauban, one of the city's impressive sustainable developments. Another new member with a special interest in green issues was Adrian Thomson, Chairman of the Guildford Environmental Forum. He made it his business to meet Freiburg Council's environmental department – see extracts from his article too.

So what did we do? On our first evening we attended a "standing aperitif" at the Volkshochschule (rough translation - adult education college) to meet their English class; we then went out for supper in a Brauhaus restaurant, joined by some local friends including the Freiburg artists who had brought their works to Guildford for exhibition the previous month – such a pleasure to catch up with them again. The following morning saw us at a reception hosted by Freiburg Council assisted by the Anglo German Club in a beautifully restored medieval courtroom, before we set off in brilliant sunshine for a guided walk of the Vauban district.



Then a cablecar up Schauinsland mountain, where it was cooler. We hiked, wandered and enjoyed the beautiful views. Some of us recruited our strength with tea and the wonderful local cream cakes. Dinner that

evening was in a different Brauhaus, where we were joined by more German friends, including some of the VHS people we had met the evening before.

The third day was a day out at Schluchsee, a beautiful mountain lake. We took the train up from the heat of the city to the cool of the mountains to meet members of the Anglo German Club. Together we took a walk round the lake, a boat trip on the lake, and lunch at the simple but charming Unterkrummenhof lakeside restaurant.





Finally Sunday morning brought a guided walk of the Altstadt, the historic city centre, followed sadly by a dash for transport back home. We were tired, but all agreed it had been worth it: we had seen and learnt beautiful and fascinating things and places, met some really lovely people, and we resolved to return as soon as we could.



## LEUBE LOCKDOWN IN FREIBURG

*Report by Penny Leube co-chair of Freiburg's Anglo-German Club.*

Freiburg's Corona epidemic started to get seriously concerning at the end of February with Fastnachtsferien, the traditional Carnival celebrations, when Freiburg parties in a big way, with carnival processions through local villages and towns, before sombre lent begins! The climax is Rosenmontag with a procession through Freiburg of the ancient guilds dressed in their weird and wonderful costumes. With hindsight all these gatherings should have been cancelled as they provided the most fertile scenario for Covid 19 to spread unhindered through the population. Following a rapid rise in the infection rate from 9<sup>th</sup> March a complete lockdown had been enforced throughout Germany by 23<sup>rd</sup> March.

Freiburg proved itself to be a good Samaritan, receiving patients from neighbouring hospitals in Alsace, and even from Italy, when the situation there became dire and there was capacity here. One amusing story was of an Alsatian gentleman waking up out of his enforced intubated coma state in the Freiburg University clinic and speaking French to the nurse on duty only to discover he was in Germany, what a surprise he must have had – Sacrebleu! - but he certainly wasn't complaining, he was grateful to be alive! Only one member in our club had to go to hospital having contracted Covid at her sheltered housing complex. She had to celebrate her 90<sup>th</sup> birthday on the ward but came through her ordeal and is safely back at her flat again. Fortunately, she remained the only person among our friends in and around Freiburg who had a close brush with the dreaded Covid, and long may it remain so, for all of you, too!

We live in Oberried, a little village close to Freiburg in the foothills of the Black Forest, so very rural and peaceful, even more so during the lockdown. We have taken the Corona threat very seriously as have our friends and family, and battened down the hatches. The lockdown restrictions were similar to the UK, but we were allowed to exercise outside wherever and whenever we liked. Part of our lockdown ritual was to arm ourselves with our Nordic walking sticks and a few sandwiches, haul ourselves up the steep hill behind our house, sit (we were allowed to do this) and feast on the sandwiches and the breath-taking views beyond. I shall now disillusion you, for on our return we couldn't resist being lured into our local baker's and buying a piece of 'Schwarzwälderkirchtorte' – what a mouthful! - and what a delicious mouthful it was, too, as we sat on our terrace back at home enjoying it with our cuppa!

Supermarket delivery services are virtually non-existent here, so we continued to go shopping limiting it as much as possible. Now all the shops have reopened with social distancing still in place and the obligatory wearing of face masks or coverings. It was a strange sensation the first time we donned them and very self-consciously braved this new world of bank-robbery shopping! Isn't it amazing, though, how adaptable we all are, as now it has become almost second nature to put it on and we probably shall miss them once they are no longer needed. Socializing was, of course, during our time of incarceration a no-no, as it still is up to a point even now. Thank goodness for the dear old telephone, letters and e-mails and even the time-consuming WhatsApp, Skype, Facetime and Zoom. One of our lockdown highlights were an unexpected WhatsApp invitation to a virtual 'drinks get together' from your chair and husband, Barbara and Tony, – it felt almost like an invitation to a summer ball. Hair washing was definitely a prerequisite and what should one wear?! Thank you both again for cheering up our weekend and introducing us to the world of virtual partying.

Freiburg is now returning to some form of normality with children returning to school and cafes and restaurants opening. Hairdressers are back in business so my Mary Beard look will soon end as will Ernst's Struwelpeter (the German equivalent of *Worzel Gummidge*) All eyes are now fixed on the 'R-number' and hoping that our newly won freedom will not suddenly be reversed. It is of course such a shame that the 900 years festivities have had to be put on hold and we are very disappointed that we shan't be seeing any of our dear Guildford friends in July.

Being English (born and bred Surrey girl) I have been following all the happenings in my native land, and feeling a little bit as our dear founder member Dorothy Elchlepp must have felt in 1939 when the borders closed. This is what exile must feel like! Fortunately, though, with Anglo German friendship, modern communication technologies and British TV it is a world away from those dark days. Just remember though, when you are clapping on Thursdays for our valiant NHS there is an extra pair of hands fervently clapping with you as well.

Let us hope some good may come out of these strange times in spite of the worry of economic hardship ahead and the uncertainty of living with this silent killer. As my dear Queen has said, and all in the club join with me and my husband in saying as well, 'We will meet again' hopefully, all fit and well in 2021 to enjoy that 901 years' celebration which will be very special – I do so hope though, not with masks on!

## EDUCATIONAL EVENTS

### TWINNING SUCCESS HELPS GUILDFORD SIXTH-FORMERS "UNLOCK THE WORLD"



Dr Ben Schofield, Head of German at Kings College London University, returned to his old school last October to give an inspirational talk to Guildford sixth-formers, his contribution to the GTA's "Seminars for Sixth-formers" programme.

Dr Schofield talked to a roomful of students of modern languages from four different Guildford schools on "Unlock the world through languages (or: How to Boost your A-level Skills and Where They Can Take You!)". He aimed to "bust some of the myths around studying modern languages" and to explore the many opportunities that study opens up - as well as giving some practical tips on how to approach the cultural and oral elements of the A-level course.

He looked at some real-life case studies of students who had studied modern languages and then embarked on varied, worthwhile and interesting careers - unlocking the world. Then there was his own career trajectory, starting with a George Abbot School exchange with the Goethe Gymnasium taking him through studies at five or more different European universities to his current role at KCL.

He showed how a modern languages A-level involves developing not just your linguistic skills and ability to communicate with others, but also your cultural knowledge and understanding. His practical examples focused on European cinema: a knowledge of the cultural background to a foreign film takes one's understanding (and enjoyment) of the work to a deeper level. He gave some seriously useful practical tips for the oral exam, such as how to have some basic expressions and phrases prepared which increase your confidence without detracting from the spontaneity of your responses.

The young audience was thoroughly fired up by Dr Schofield's enthusiasm and with luck will all go on to achieve top marks in their A-levels followed by illustrious careers. This was the second seminar in the programme run by the GTA which engages top-flight speakers to complement Guildford schools' A-level courses, as part of its strategy to engage young people in an interest in and friendship for Freiburg and Germany in particular, and ultimately for foreign countries and foreign people in general.

### GHS PARTNERS THE DFG

*A report by Tom M'Clelland, Head of German, Guildford High School*

One of the many consequences of the current pandemic has been the cancellation of our school's (Guildford High School) first visit to our new Freiburg partner school (Deutsch-Französisches Gymnasium) in May, and the Germans' return visit in June. 40 of our Year 8-10 pupils were to spend four days in the Black Forest, and we were looking forward to welcoming 27 pupils from Freiburg into our school as well as seeing our Lower Sixth join them for a daytrip to Brighton. We will reschedule these visits for another time, and until then we hope Anglo-German friendships will develop online. We are very grateful to the support the GTA provided in finding a partner school for us in Freiburg and planning activities for our trip. For now I will leave you with what one of our sixth formers has written about the relationship she has with her penfriend in Freiburg.

### MEINE BRIEFFREUNDIN IN FREIBURG

*Elaina O, Guildford High School, Lower Sixth*

Ich chatte seit sechs Monaten mit meiner Brieffreundin in Freiburg. Trotz der Pandemie kommunizieren wir wie früher, auf Instagram und WhatsApp, über das Alltagsleben. Es ist ganz interessant zu vergleichen, wie verschiedene Länder das Coronavirus behandeln, und wir sprechen oft über die Unterschiede zwischen der Situation in Deutschland und in England. Aber wir chatten nicht nur über den Einfluss des Coronavirus, sondern auch über unsere Hobbys und Interessen, sowie die neuesten Netflix-Sendungen, und wir erzählen lustige Geschichten aus unserem Leben. Wir benutzen sowohl Englisch als auch Deutsch, um miteinander zu kommunizieren, und ich bin so dankbar, dass moderne Technologie uns erlaubt, noch in Kontakt mit Freunden im Ausland zu bleiben, sogar wenn wir unsere eigenen Häuser nicht verlassen dürfen!

## FREIBURG, "THE GREEN CITY"

Known as "The Green City", Freiburg has advanced environmental policies and actions. GTA members and indeed Guildford Council members are aware that Guildford could learn a lot from its example. A lecture from a Freiburg expert and the reflections of two environmentally-minded GTA members, one young, one adult, who joined the members' trip in June 2019, support this view.

### ADDRESS IN GUILDFORD BY FREIBURG OFFICIAL

When Freiburg's Director of Sustainability Management, Simone Pflaum, came to Guildford with the Freiburg civic delegation in Autumn 2019, the Council took the opportunity to ask her to address an invited audience (including the GTA) on the subject. Frau Pflaum described to us Freiburg's approach to the implementation of the Sustainable Development goals set by the UN as a blueprint for the achievement of a better and more sustainable future for all, its strategic focus on 12 policy areas and its achievements. One of the UN goals promotes partnerships: at a meeting in Freiburg autumn 2018 of 11 of its partner cities (Isfahan did not attend), all participants including Guildford signed a declaration to implement the goals locally.

### VISIT TO VAUBAN BY A SURREY STUDENT

*Caroline Welton is in Y11 at Rosebery School in Epsom. The following is an edited extract from a report she wrote for her GCSE Geography course.*

Vauban is a suburb of Freiburg with a difference. It's an eco-community driving Freiburg's push for a more sustainable environment. The design was established through an urban planning competition, with entrants incorporating priority for pedestrians and public transport, local heating supply and open spaces.



As we walked along the blocks of quirky, wonderfully kept flats and breathed in the fresh afternoon air, our guide told us about the way houses and flats here are constructed. ... Electricity comes from a biogas plant nearby. Windows are triple-glazed and south facing, so living spaces heat up easily. This reduces the need for central heating. Insulation, such as mineral wool, is used in the walls to minimize heat loss. The buildings look fabulous! What also struck me was the integration of nature everywhere you looked. Abundances of flowers in gardens and roof gardens, as well as buildings literally covered in plants, all made the area very appealing.

Our tour guide told us that the key to a successful, community-orientated area is having all services available locally: schools, shops, doctors, sports facilities. It reduces the need for travel and it gets everyone involved in caring for their own community. Local initiatives also power the area. For example, you find green spaces between buildings, often with playgrounds where young children can play and explore.



The location enables everyone to see what's going on there, and this makes it safer. The green areas also provide wind channels to cool the buildings on hot days. Super-innovative!

The locals travel by tram, bus, bike or on foot. Cars are only allowed for short-term visits, like dropping off shopping. However, there is a problem: gentrification. To live in Vauban isn't cheap, and rents are rising in Freiburg. Poorer residents find it difficult to manage. New Mayor Martin Horn has pledged to combat this.

So, I think Guildford can learn a few things from Vauban. For example, whereas Vauban builds upwards to save space and prevent urban sprawl, Guildford builds outwards. .... Many of today's youth in Guildford are calling for climate action. It's time to think about this: how can we learn from the example of this thriving German community?

## LESSONS FROM FREIBURG

*Adrian Thompson, Chair of the Guildford Environmental Forum, and GTA member reported on his observations in the Forum's newsletter. Here is an edited extract:*

I joined the GTA members' Freiburg trip in June 2019 partly to learn all that I could about how lessons from the "environmental capital of Germany" could help Guildford tackle its environmental challenges over the next critical 10 years. Freiburg has much in common with Guildford in that it is sited in an area of outstanding natural beauty, has a rapidly growing population (though Guildford's is much smaller) because of its successful University and its position on key road and rail links and is a centre for local culture.

### **Environmental Summary**

The Green Party in Freiburg plays a key role in the city's government. Among other initiatives, Freiburg has made the whole of the city centre a pedestrian zone with bicycle paths across the centre, constructed 440 km of cycle paths throughout the Freiburg area, utilised solar and wind energy across the city and set a target to be carbon neutral by 2050 (and now wishes to improve on this).

### **Building new residential districts to high green standards**

The 1986 Chernobyl nuclear explosion led in 1992 to a Conference on alternative energy sources at which Freiburg decided to reduce energy consumption by 25% and to pursue the range of solar energy, (initially supported by Federal subsidies), biomass from plentiful local and renewable timber and the installation of District Heating schemes. The 1992 Conference added other targets including much less travel. no urban

sprawl, caring for nature and maintaining green lungs close to the City.

The new Local Authority plan set out 5 principles:

1. Local school availability
2. Local electricity power plants and solar energy
3. Reduction in transport
4. Finance by private investors
5. Affordable and social housing

These principles were followed in the construction of Vauban. A new such development, Dietenbach, is to be constructed for a further 15,000 inhabitants. The new community will include priority for refugees and low income inhabitants who mix well due to free allotment land, local food markets and attractive inclusive schooling. The loss of trees will be offset by tree planting and many mature trees are incorporated into the design of new community as they help to mitigate the big temperature changes that result from the distance from the sea.

### **Freiburg's Department for Environmental Planning, Energy, Climate and Air**

Dr Sandra Hook, head of the Department, and two other teams were good enough to allow me a 2 hour wide-ranging meeting on Freiburg's environmental strategy. She heads a 10-person climate team and the total department has 65 people covering nature, air quality and waste management. This includes 30 consultants who promote energy efficiency in schools and private homes by providing **free** advice on request to improve insulation and energy efficiency and to signpost the range of financial support available. The team also supports the installation of private heat pumps in new builds, and the education of schools and young people about green issues, especially energy efficiency programmes for schools.

The climate team works with the local Chamber of Commerce and key businesses. For example, they persuaded a local chemical company which produces surplus/waste energy to provide that energy to run Freiburg's new football stadium. Solar panels will also be installed on the stadium roof.

### **Conclusion**

I believe that Guildford has a lot to learn from Freiburg and it will take years of planning. However, if Guildford is to undertake several significant new developments as set out in its local plan, then we should seriously consider the 5 principles adopted by Vauban for our own developments.

## CONTACTS IN THE GUILDFORD TWINNING ASSOCIATION (MAY 2020)

To contact committee members please email: [guildfordtwinning@gmail.com](mailto:guildfordtwinning@gmail.com)

Chair: Barbara Ford

Vice-Chair and Music & Sports Liaison: Peter Slade

Hon. Secretary: Hilary Perry

Minutes Secretary: Jennifer Margrave

Treasurer & Membership Secretary: Martin Stringfellow

Education Liaison: Steve Callaghan

Arts Liaison: Ros Calow

Newsletter Editor: Irene Black

Council Issues: Cllr James Steel

### WEBSITES

Our website (with our full events programme):

[www.guildfordtwinning.uk](http://www.guildfordtwinning.uk)

City of Freiburg:

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

Freiburg's Anglo-German Club:

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

### **New Committee members wanted**

We urgently need a new secretary, social secretary and publicity officer. If you can help with all or part of any of these roles, or have any other ideas, please contact Barbara Ford at [guildfordtwinning@gmail.com](mailto:guildfordtwinning@gmail.com)

The Committee meets every other month. A typical agenda includes discussion of education liaison, forthcoming events, 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.

Our thanks to all members and friends who contributed articles and photographs for this newsletter.