



Guildford Twinning Association

NEWSLETTER

**Bumper post-pandemic edition!
3 years' worth of news and pictures!**

Upcoming events for 2024

23 April

- Members' dinner

8 May 3-9pm

- Filmfest: 3 German films

May (date & time TBC)

- Annual General Meeting

6-10 June

- Members' trip to Freiburg

- Partner Cities Fair in Freiburg

15 July

- German music recital - Jo and Erik Levi on cello and piano

September (date & time TBC)

- German beer tasting

October (date & time TBC)

- Public lecture

1 December

- Christmas market

See our [website](#) for full details.

See more on next page



Partner Cities Fair 2022 - a Freiburg "arctic fox" helped us celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee.

Filmfest - a day of German films

Guildford Twinning Association with University of Surrey

GTA Filmfest 2024

See more on next page

"I knew Dorothy Elchlepp"

Read the heart-warming story of Dorothy's support for 3 English students in Freiburg in 1973 on page 9.

More about coming events

Filmfest - a day of German films

Wednesday 8 May 2024 3-9 pm

at Teaching Block, University of Surrey campus, Guildford GU2 7AP



3 pm: *Nosferatu / Nosferatu*
 - dir. F.W. Murnau (1922)
 - spine-chilling vampire
 - the archetypal horror film

5 pm: *Sophie Scholl: die letzten Tage / Sophie Scholl: the last days*
 - dir. Marc Rothemund (2005)
 - grippingly authentic
 - true story of a WW2 anti-Nazi resistance leader

7.30 pm: *Lola Rennt / Run Lola Run*
 - dir. Tom Tykwer (1998)
 - hot, fast, playful, dazzling
 - technically exciting

Each session introduced by a specialist from University of Surrey
 All films award winners; all with English subtitles.

ADMISSION FREE

for details and to reserve tickets, go to
GTAfilmfest2024.eventbrite.co.uk



University
of Surrey



Guildford Twinning
Association

www.guildfordtwinning.uk

3 German films - see all or any of them - Free!

Members' trip to Freiburg: 6-10 June

This year the programme of activities will include attending and helping at the Partner Cities Fair - an exciting international event at which Freiburg's 12 twin towns, including Guildford of course, show themselves off.

Look at our **website** for details of the arrangements. See pictures of previous visits and Fairs later on in this newsletter.

If you'd like to come with us, just let us know!

Members' dinner: 23 April

This year, in collaboration with the University of Surrey, we'll be dining at the University's excellent Lakeside Restaurant. Guests will include the Mayor of Guildford and the German Ambassador. Details and booking arrangements to follow; meanwhile, a date for your diary.

Mostly Bs Concert- German music: 15 July

Jo (cello) and Erik (piano) Levi will play music by Hildegard von Bingen, Bach, Brahms, Beethoven and maybe Weill (yes, a W), kindly hosted by Guildford County School. See our **website** for details.



Beer and Talk: September & October

We are planning to:

- run a tasting of German beers in September, and
- engage an author to speak, perhaps at the Guildford Book Festival, in October

Keep an eye on our **website**.

Overview from the Chair

At last! The pandemic has receded (we hope!), the mists have cleared and we are able to meet our friends again, face-to-face. Both our friends nextdoor and our friends in our twin town. As I write, the GTA is putting together a full programme of live events for 2024 – for details, see our website - and there are signs that our townsfolks' twin-town educational and cultural exchange visits are re-starting. GTA members at least will be visiting Freiburg this year: a group will be going over in June to catch up with local friends and to participate in Freiburg's Partner Cities Fair. That's when visitors from 12 different countries plus of course Germany meet each other in friendship and celebration.

What has the GTA been doing over the three years since our last newsletter? Quite a lot, considering the problems! We've maintained our contacts and activities as best we could, supporting exchange visits where possible.

We've continued to direct a considerable effort to involving young people as well as older people. We try to engage everyone in the excitement and romance of twinning, of connecting with Freiburg, Germany and the foreign world generally. With this in mind, we've developed a focus on film. We've run two Filmfeste, with another in the pipeline for 2024 – showing three German films in one day, to combine culture, education, and sheer fun and to appeal to everyone, whatever their age, background or interests. And we've held three Short Film Competitions for Schools – inviting school students in both towns to make a 2-minute film, with some really great results, which you can see on our YouTube channel or via our website. We're now considering promoting a film-making collaboration between a Guildford school and a Freiburg school. We've strengthened our own relationship with our local university, the University of Surrey – which itself is very European-minded and enthusiastic about Freiburg.



*The Mayor, the Chair and the Deputy Ambassador
l-r: Mayor Cllr Dennis Booth, Chair Barbara Ford,
Deputy Head of Mission German Embassy London
Rüdiger Bohn at dinner in the Guildhall 2023*



A Ukrainian musician sings and plays the bandura on stage at the Partner Cities Fair 2022. Lviv is one of Freiburg's 12 twin towns. Ariane Hötzer from Freiburg City Council stands behind her.

We've managed a couple of art exchanges, in 2020 helping Guildford Council donate artworks by two Guildford artists to Freiburg City's art collection to celebrate the city's 900th anniversary, though sadly all Freiburg's planned celebrations had to be cancelled thanks to the coronavirus; in 2022 helping three Guildford artists exhibit their works in Freiburg alongside 6 Freiburg artists. We have plans for a Freiburg return match in 2025.

We've run local profile- and fund-raising events and social events for our members, and kept the fire burning and the flag flying. In future we hope to facilitate the re-starting of educational, musical and sporting exchanges. A major problem for twinning exchanges is the bureaucratic hurdle faced by visitors to the UK since Brexit. We have, with other town twinning associations, been lobbying the UK Government for concessions in relation at least to youth and cultural exchanges, assisted via diplomatic channels by the German Embassy – the latter is very supportive of the twinning initiative and keen on a closer relationship between our two countries.

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. They have helped us maintain a thriving organisation which has the warm friendship, and collaborative relationship of the lovely people of the lovely town of Freiburg.

Barbara Ford

Arts & culture over the past 3 years - in Freiburg

Kunst aus den Partnerstädten

In der Meckel-Halle sind Werke aus vielen Genres zu sehen

FREIBURG-INNENSTADT (BZ). des eigenen kulturellen Traditions ver-
 wurzelt sind. Zitiert werden Liliana Ru-
 mirez (Cruzalia) und Katharina Cinkula
 (Hansbruck) mit ihren Skulpturen zu
 Kunst und Kunstbetrieb. Milos Tangora
 (Difant) schickt eine Liebeserklärung an
 die Welt, die jenseits aller Sprach- und
 Ländergrenzen verständlich ist.
 Auch die Malerei setzt eigene Akzente:
 Die Bilder von Marilyn McNie (Guild-
 ford), Ben Fuschmann (Hildesheim) und
 Romano Johnson (Madison) leben von der
 Begierde nach Farbe, Licht und Musik.
 Mittels der Leuchtkraft des Aquarells
 rückt Tereza Hanryshova (Levy) stille
 Momente inszeniert ins Bild. Auf ausdrück-
 lichen Wunsch der Künstlerin werden



Exhibition from 12 partner cities - 2022

This report & photo from Badische Zeitung of 11 April 2022 describes how artworks, including works by Guildford artists Marilyn McNie and Nick Pyne, a painting and a photo respectively, were donated by each partner city in honour of Freiburg's 900th anniversary - and finally exhibited post-Covid in April 2022.

Guildford artists in Freiburg tram shed - June 2022

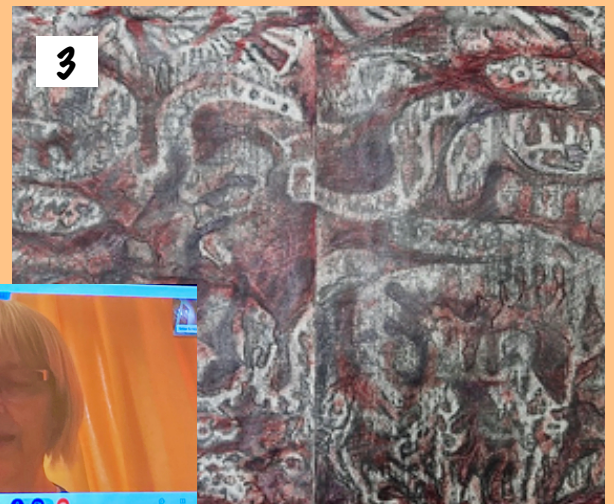
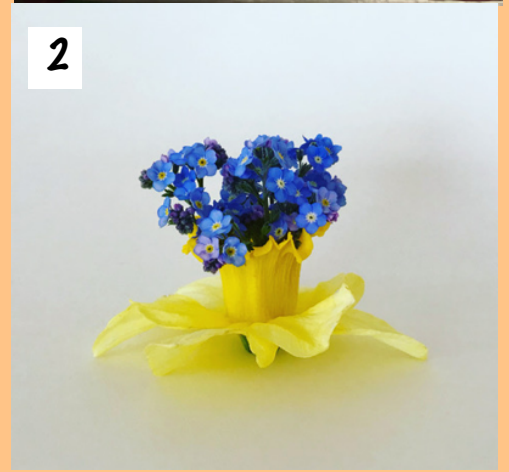
In the edgy ambience of a former tram depot, 3 Guildford artists collaborated in a joint exhibition with 6 Freiburg artists. Members of the GTA attended the private view with local friends and dignitaries, and we went out for dinner with the artists afterwards to celebrate.

Works by Guildford artists (r)

- (1) Taka Rothenberg
- (2) Nick Pyne
- (3) John Lord

Works by Freiburg artists (l)

- (4) Irina Lozinskaia
- (5) Zoja Elchlepp
- (6) Maria Cristina Tangorra
- (7) Cristina Ohlmer
- (8) Konrad Wallmeier
- (9) Celia Brown



Arts & culture over the past 3 years - in Guildford

2021 Public lecture: Germany Today



Julia Gross, the Deputy German Ambassador, gave a fascinating and helpful insight into current German politics and issues. Julia became a good friend to the GTA, as has her successor, now she has moved on to become Ambassador to Hungary.

In order to reach as many people as possible, we make no charge for our public events.

2023 Public lecture: Volker Kutscher - a Translator's Story

Niall Sellar (who is also a Glasgow schoolteacher) is the translator of Volker Kutscher's Gereon Rath crime thriller novels, televised as *Babylon Berlin*, set in interwar Berlin. Niall spoke about some of the issues facing translators, from the more general one of strategy - domestication versus "foreignisation", to specific problems like dialects, idioms, police ranks or food. He told us he aims for "A tentative foreignizing strategy, which seeks to highlight the otherness of the text without compromising its essential accessibility". A fascinating talk, especially for the translators and teachers in the audience.

2022 Public lecture: Caspar David Friedrich - Master of German Romanticism



Die Lebensstufen/ The stages of life

Eveline Eaton, a Berlin-born highly respected art historian, gave a generously illustrated lecture online, showing Friedrich's artistic development, his place in art history, how his themes related to his life and how he influenced subsequent painters, including those as diverse as Van Gogh and Rothko.



Mönch am Meer/ Monk by the sea



2021 Concert of German music for cello and piano

German music for cello & piano



free concert

cello - Jo Levi
piano - Erik Levi

Wednesday 6 October 7pm

Guildford County School,
Farnham Rd, Guildford GU2 7AT

Register for tickets at: gtaconcert.eventbrite.co.uk



Cellist Jo Levi and pianist Erik Levi performed arrangements of their selection of German music, by composers Handel, Brahms, Kirchner, Schumann, CPE Bach and Weill and covering three centuries. They took as through a great range of emotions, happiness, sadness, grief, love, finishing up with the biting satire of *The Threepenny Opera*, the excerpt starting with the evergreen *Moritat von Mackie Messer/Mack the Knife* and ending with "the brutal and vicious anti-war *Kanonensong*". The recital was hosted by Guildford County School.

Jo and Erik Levi are professional musicians, performing, teaching and reviewing for the BBC and many other publishers. They are also Guildford residents and enthusiastic GTA members.

Arts & culture over the past 3 years - in Guildford (2)

Filmfest x 2 - no.3 coming soon!

Filmfest - a day of German films
 Wednesday 10 November 2021 3-9 pm
 FREE admission for students & staff

GTA Filmfest 2021

Three sessions, each introduced by lecturers in Film Studies at UoS

- 3 pm: **Three Fairy Tales** by Lotte Reiniger (1922-1954)
- pioneer of silhouette animation
- 4.30pm: **Tschick** by Fatih Akin (2016)
- teen road movie
- 7 pm: **Barbara** by Christian Petzold (2012)
- story of East German doctor
Berlinale Silver Bear 2012, Deutscher Filmpreis Silver Lola 2012

Films in English or with English subtitles.

at Rik Medlik Building, University of Surrey campus, Guildford GU2 7XH

Filmfest - a day of German films
 Wednesday 10 May 2023 3-9 pm
 at Teaching Block, University of Surrey campus, Guildford GU2 7AP

GTA Filmfest 2023

Each session introduced by a lecturer in Film Studies at University of Surrey

- 3 pm: **Die Austernprinzessin / The Oyster Princess**
- dir. Ernst Lubitsch (1919)
- a bit risqué, a bit absurd, technically innovative
- 4.30pm: **Das Leben der Anderen / The Lives of Others**
- dir. Florian Henckel von Donnersmarck (2006)
- multi-award winner
- a must-see: powerful, brilliant, thought-provoking
- 7 pm: **Ich bin dein Mensch / I'm your Man**
- dir. Maria Schrader (2021)
- sci-fi romcom
- starring Dan Stevens from Downton...as a robot!

All films with English subtitles.

ADMISSION FREE
 for more details and to book tickets, go to
gtafilmfest2023.eventbrite.co.uk

 Guildford Twinning Association
www.guildfordtwinning.uk

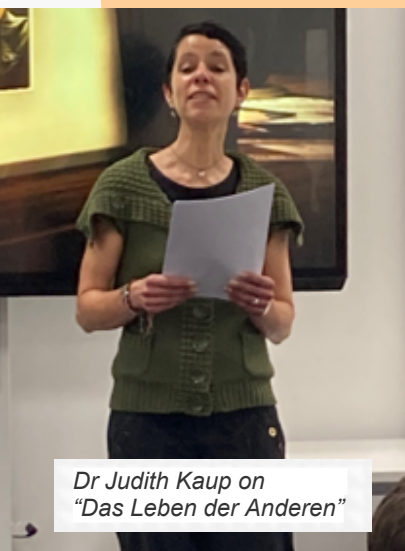
The Filmfest concept - a collaboration with the University

We have developed a collaboration with the University of Surrey (which is located in Guildford) whereby we show three German films over one afternoon and evening, each one introduced by an academic specialist from the University. We make our film selection with GTA members plus school and university students in mind as well as the general public - we hope to interest, entertain and educate everyone, and also to help enrich the studies of students of German language and history, and of European history and culture, and of film generally. We have developed the formula of: one 'heritage' film - Germany was an early adopter of film as an artistic medium and a developer of film technique, so there is a wealth to choose from; one meaty historical/thought-provoking film; and one film for sheer fun. Some people only view one or two of the films, but some of us happily manage all three.

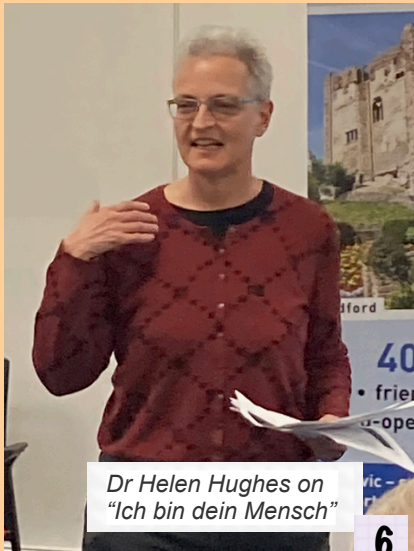
See page 2 for the 2024 programme.



Small but keen audience for early Lubitsch



Dr Judith Kaup on "Das Leben der Anderen"



Dr Helen Hughes on "Ich bin dein Mensch"

Exchanges, visits & collaborations (1)

Short Film Competition for Schools - Freiburg & Guildford



The Mayor with (l-r) George Abbot School, Guildford High School, Tornead School.



St Catherine's School



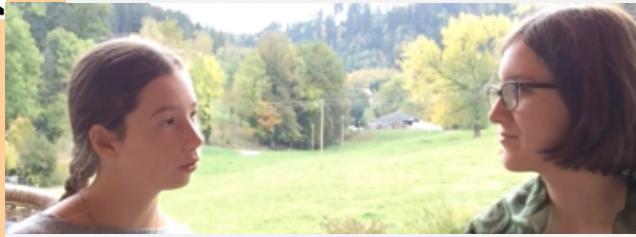
Lessing-Realschule: professional film director recommends the boys consider a career in film (l) Stadtrat awards prizes (l)

For our **Short Film Competition for Schools** we invite school students in Guildford and Freiburg to submit a film up to 2 minutes long on a given topic, in German for Guildford and in English for Freiburg. Eminent judges decide the winners and prizes are awarded in an official ceremony.

See the films on our YouTube channel!



(i) Mayor with Guildford County School, who interviewed a vampire, & George Abbot School, who spoke to a footballer. (r) G. Abbot's canine interviewer wearing school tie.



Deutsch-Französisches-Gymnasium interviewed a time traveller (l) and received prizes (r)

Zoom quizzes

Starting during lockdown, our **Guildford/Freiburg Zoom quizzes** in German and English have been a great way of linking the twin towns.



Exchanges, visits & collaborations (2)

Members' Trips to Freiburg



Meeting old friends, making new ones, visiting and learning, eating and drinking, all against the backdrop of beautiful, friendly, lively, Freiburg.



A Guildford student in Freiburg

Daisy Laing, a student at Surrey University, writes about her year as a teaching assistant in Freiburg and makes recommendations to her successors:

My placement year in Freiburg, Germany, was an unforgettable experience that allowed me to immerse myself in a new culture, gain valuable teaching experience, and explore a beautiful city.

The school

Kepler Gymnasium Freiburg is a prestigious secondary school with a strong emphasis on academic excellence and language learning. It was fascinating to work as an English language assistant in such an environment. My role involved assisting the English teachers in the classroom, helping students improve their language skills, and organizing extracurricular activities related to English culture and language.

Working with the students was a joy. They were eager to learn and incredibly polite. Their enthusiasm for the English language and culture was inspiring, and it made my role as a teaching assistant all the more rewarding. I appreciated the collaborative approach of the school, where teachers and students worked together to create a dynamic learning environment.

The city

One of the standout aspects of my placement year was the city of Freiburg itself. It offers a unique blend of academic opportunities, cultural experiences, and natural beauty. There is stunning architecture, a vibrant cultural scene, and a strong commitment to sustainability, plus a dynamic atmosphere that caters to its diverse international student population. The streets come alive with youthful energy, making it a hub for cultural events, lively nightlife, and a strong sense of community.

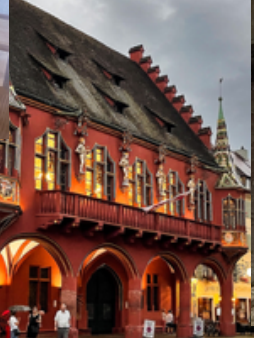
Student life

My favourite aspect of Freiburg was undoubtedly its bustling student culture, which created a dynamic and inclusive environment. The lively atmosphere in Freiburg was not only invigorating but also welcoming. It made it easy for international students like me to connect with locals and fellow expatriates, fostering a sense of belonging. Whether it was attending student-led events, exploring quirky cafes, or enjoying live music performances, there was always something exciting happening.

Some tips for those considering a move to Freiburg: (1) - Learning some basic German phrases before your arrival is really helpful. (2) - Take advantage of the city's green initiatives by cycling or using public transport to explore. (3) - Embrace the city's culture and immerse yourself in the region's rich culture.



Freiburg's Partner Cities Fair 2022



After a special welcome from the Oberbürgermeister (above), we helped represent Guildford to Freiburg and its 11 other partner cities. Our Silent Pool gin and Hogs Back beer tastings with shortbread proved popular.

Penny & Ernst Leube, Co-chairs of Freiburg's Anglo-German Club, try on Korean costume.



Promoting twinning in Guildford



Picnic in the castle grounds 2023



George Abbot School summer festival 2021

Christmas market 2022 in the Guildhall



Promoting twinning in Guildford

Christmas market in the Guildhall 2023



A Freiburg mystery...

Correspondent Steve Millward also drew our attention to another remarkable woman whom he met in Freiburg (see also "I knew Dorothy Elchlepp" on p15), whose motives still remain unknown:

On 25 December 1973, my friend Claire and I went to Dorothy Elchlepp's for Christmas dinner. There we met her other guest, Baroness Manfredi. The Baroness had an incredible story to tell. Having previously been married to a Jewish bookseller she was forced to spy for the SS to protect their children. She later married an Italian count.

John Lucas has written a book about her - *The Baroness: Unmasking Himmler's Most Secret Agent* – which you can order from Amazon. I think she was actually a double agent because Dorothy would have no truck with ex-Nazis. Even after reading the book, I find the Baroness still to be an enigmatic figure. But it confirms she lived in Freiburg and made an application to the reparations office there.

Members' social events over the past three years



Lunch at Weybourne House 2021



Lunch at the Guildford Institute 2022

Dinner in the Guildhall 2023 - serenaded by a quartet from Guildford High School



We managed a few meals together, in spite of Covid, in between lockdowns - what a period!



Renewed Guildford-Freiburg net



Hartwig DL7BC operating from his car during "Castles in the Air," one of the many Europe-wide activity weekends



Roger & Stella presenting a picture of Guildford High Street and Clock to Alexander Bruske DL1AFA Chairman of Freiburg Radio Club DK0FR

For the uninitiated, that's a radio net. Roger G0SWC & Stella G0SWE are members of the Guildford & District Radio Society (GDRS) and also, under the names Roger Eeles and Stella Whitbourn, members of the GTA. They report now on their amateur radio activities – we hope you can understand what they say....

Following a few years' hiatus the Guildford-Freiburg Radio net has re started. The idea came about way back in Covid times, April 2021 following an email from GDRS member Tim G7JYQ, asking about club radio nets. Stella G0SWE contacted our Freiburg friends Christina Stiefel DL1GEJ and Franz Epple DF7GR who in turn contacted the Freiburg club DK0FR.

GDRS received a favourable response from the Freiburg club via Christina. Hartwig Kauschat DL7BC came back via email with suggestions for frequency and time. As we here in UK are currently on GMT, that means Freiburg time CET is only one hour ahead. The consensus was a weekly contact on a Thursday evening at 17:00 UK and 18:00 CET centred on 40 Metres (7.128MHz). There have now been many successful contacts on the HF (High Frequency) Amateur Radio Bands.

Historically, the Guildford-Freiburg net started back in 1978 almost a full year before the official twinning of Guildford and Freiburg. The original radio net took place on a Thursday lunch time. Unfortunately most of the stalwarts who came up on this earlier net are now SK. (SK = silent key = Amateurs who have passed on).

I for one hope this new radio net will continue for many years to come. This contact has allowed us to make great lasting friendships in Freiburg. The Guildford & District Radio Society also hold regular Zoom contacts with friends in Freiburg DK0FR club.



Hartwig DL7BC, Franz DF7GR, Marie (Hartwig's partner) Stella G0SWE, Christina DL1GEJ, Roger G0SWC in the very well-appointed DK0FR HF radio shack



Top: l-r Christina DL1GEJ, Erich DL9DW(SK), Stella G0SWE, Oskar.



Right: Christina DL1GEJ & Franz DF7GR, cooking the traditional white asparagus with ham & cheese sauce dinner in DK0FR club kitchen

I knew Dorothy Elchlepp



Steve (left above), Claire and Rich in 1973, and below with their van. Sure to make older readers nostalgic.



Dorothy Elchlepp MBE married Paul Elchlepp, a Freiburg pharmacist, in 1936 and went with him to live in Freiburg, where she stayed throughout the Second World War. After the war she devoted herself to building bridges between Germany and Britain. She set up the Anglo-German Club in Freiburg in 1958, and then after a long search chose Guildford as a suitable twin for Freiburg and persuaded the Councils of both towns to establish the twinning in 1979.

See more about Dorothy on the Anglo-German Club website [here](#)

Just before Christmas 2023 we received an email from a man called Steve Millward, who had spent time in Freiburg, 50 years go. This is his story.

In October 1973, after graduating from Manchester University, my friends Richard Page – now living in Canada, Claire Rowan – who sadly died in 1989, and I, Steve Millward, set off round the world in an old post office van with our initials RSC (Rich, Steve and Claire) painted on the side. We hoped people would think we were from the Royal Shakespeare Company!! I am the one on the left in the first picture

The van was unreliable and always breaking down and sure enough we had problems even before reaching Dover. By a strange coincidence, given what was to come and what has now happened, we stopped at Wadhams Stringer in what we thought was Guildford - but may well have been Woking.

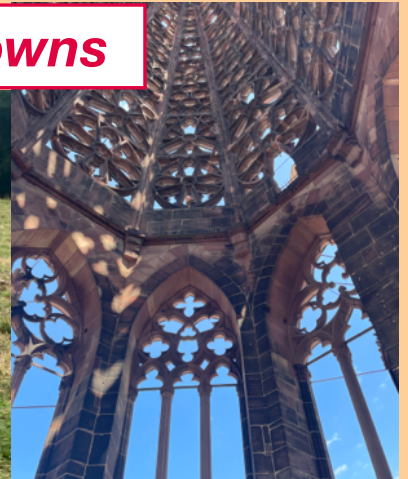
On 30 October 1973 we followed a recommendation from a friend and walked into the pharmacy on the main street in Freiburg, looking for a “hugely helpful English lady” who ran the shop with her German husband. Thus we met Dorothy Elchlepp.

Dorothy was the most wonderful person, incredibly kind to us from - literally- the moment we met her. She immediately found Claire a job in a carpet factory and, turning to Rich and me, got on the phone to Brenneisen, the company who were about to install central heating in the shop. She threatened to cancel the contract with them if they didn't give us both jobs!!! So they tamely agreed, taking two entirely inept young men into their sheet metal workshop - neither of whom had done any metalwork before; also Rich didn't speak any German, though I had done 'A' level and could just about manage. She also arranged for me to give English lessons to a friend who lived nearby.

Dorothy was unfailingly kind and generous, often inviting us over for meals. Dorothy lent us some pre-war wooden skis which we took out to Mount Belchen to teach ourselves, not terribly successfully, to ski. But there was a brook at the bottom of the slope so at least we learned how to stop! She was a fiercely patriotic Englishwoman who nevertheless was eager to foster Anglo-German friendship. She told us about her role in seeking a Freiburg-Guildford twinning and was extremely proud of that.

Freiburg became our base for further travelling around Europe and in my case North America. Rich came home in summer 1974 (and later married someone he met in Freiburg), I followed in September - that would have been the last time I saw Dorothy. Claire stayed on and married our neighbour in the squat where we lived - Werner. I am still in touch with him and visited him in Munich a few years ago. As you will have gathered Freiburg - with Dorothy playing a leading role - was a fantastic episode in all our lives.

Guildford and Freiburg - twin towns



Contacts in the Guildford Twinning Association

Committee

- Chair: Barbara Ford
- Vice Chair and Arts Liaison: Ros Calow
- Treasurer & Membership Secretary: Martin Stringfellow
- Secretary: Paul Santilli
- Education Liaison: Steve Callaghan
- Council issues: Cllr. Jane Tyson
- Other committee members: Cllr. Dennis Booth, Jennifer Margrave

To contact any member, email: guildfordtwinning@gmail.com

Our website (with our full events programme): www.guildfordtwinning.uk



New GTA committee members wanted

The committee meets every other month, via Zoom. We particularly need people interested in music and sports. If you can help, or have any other ideas, please contact Barbara Ford on guildfordtwinning@gmail.com