

Guildford-Freiburg Association

NEWSLETTER



Spring 2007

Message from the Chairman

As I approach the end of my first year as the Association's Chairman I can say that it has been a very busy one. In your responses to the questionnaire which we organised in late 2005 you said that you would like to see the Association arrange more events. We've responded to that and I'm pleased to say that all the new activities have been very successful. Another initiative, linked to the extra events, has been the production of regular "Updates" for members, which have been well received. And as a further aid to communication our Website has been improved.

The first of our new events – the coach trip to Freiburg and the Black Forest in September in perfect weather with lots of wine-tasting – was greatly enjoyed by everyone who went and led to demands for a repeat performance. Those for whom it was the first trip to our delightful twin city have become as enthusiastic as those who have been more often and they could see that our praise for the place was not exaggerated.

An evening of films in November provided members with a relaxed look at many interesting aspects of Freiburg and life there, including some new to those of us who have been several times. The film describing the city's environmental achievements showed what can be done if there is a will to do it and is an object lesson in how to tackle the planet's most serious problem – that of climate change.

Our annual Weihnachtsmarkt in the Guildhall in December when, as usual, we sold toys and candles from Freiburg and served Glühwein, was as successful as ever and the takings were higher than in previous years. Not that the main idea of these markets is to make money but rather to promote the twinning and the Association.

Our New Year party, at which we also tasted some Baden wines from the Kaiserstuhl near Freiburg, led expertly and with great good humour by Michael Schmidt, was a great success and I'm sure it will be repeated. As I write we have just listened to the excellent talk by Peter Ritzer on the theme of "Why Visit Germany" to a near capacity audience in the Guildhall. He gave us many insights into a range of historical, geographical and economic aspects of Germany, with special emphasis on Freiburg and Baden-Württemberg. Opening the event to the public proved a success and I hope that it will be the first of regular public talks on German themes in the future.

Last May the Association was pleased to be able to participate, on Guildford's behalf, in the Partner Cities market, an event in the Rathausplatz to which all Freiburg's partner cities were invited. Susan Lewis and I did our best to promote Guildford's attractions to many interested Freiburgers. The event is to be repeated in June.

Some of these events are described in the Newsletter. This year's edition also contains a message from Oberbürgermeister Dieter Salomon, which I've lifted from the City of Freiburg's web-site, which says some interesting things about what twinning is about. It is also good to include an article on cycling in Freiburg, which originally appeared in "The Cyclist" magazine, and which conveys the pleasure of cycling there which will be recognised by those of us who have been on bikes in and around the city.

I'm delighted that young people feature prominently in the Newsletter. There have been a number of exchanges and visits by individual school students but sadly, class exchanges have become fewer. In particular the exchange between George Abbot School and the Goethe Gymnasium in Freiburg is not taking place this year, after twenty years of successful visits. A major reason for the decline in this activity is the schools' need to abide by health and safety regulations. This is depriving schoolchildren of the great opportunity of meeting their fellows from another country and getting to know them and their town — surely a very regrettable loss.

To end on a positive note it is again a pleasure to be able to report on the Guildford City Boys Football Club's visit last Easter to Freiburg, the twentieth time such an exchange has taken place. It was more successful than ever with more than 120 players, parents and supporters making the trip. A fantastic example of twinning at its best.

My thanks go to the hard-working members of the Association's new Committee, elected at the AGM last June. I want to pay special tributes to our very efficient new Secretary Hilary Mills, to Ros Calow, who has taken on the new role of schools liaison with enthusiasm, to Michael Gorman, who has looked after our accounts and membership matters with his usual care and efficiency, and to Social Secretary Katie Butcher.

Finally my grateful thanks also to everyone who has contributed articles for this edition of the Newsletter.

Peter Slade
Chairman

The value of twinning

This message from Freiburg's Oberbürgermeister appears on the City's website

Dear Twin Towns, Friends and Guests, and Citizens of Freiburg,

Twinning is capital whose interest is friendship and understanding – thus did a large German newspaper describe the essence of partnerships between cities many years ago. That motto is valid to this day. Even in an age when rapid means of transport and modern communication have made communication easier, and decreased distances to countries that were once far away, twinning is indispensable. They are an eminent part of the “local foreign policy” of the city hall.

After World War II, many city twinning were installed as a way towards understanding and peaceful collaboration among neighbours. One generation back, many of them had been at war with each other. At the same time, connections between cities were important tools in the construction of a communal European house. This was the intention guiding the foundation of Freiburg's first twinning – with Besançon in France, Innsbruck in Austria, Padua in Italy, Guildford in England, and later with Granada in Spain. Thus, one shared aspect of history abides among Freiburg and its twin cities on the European continent: all were once part of the Habsburg Empire.

A generation later, Freiburg cast its gaze beyond the borders of Europe. In the late 1980s, the city almost simultaneously entered twinship with Madison in the USA and Lviv in the Ukraine, then part of the Soviet Union. These agreements were meant as a contribution to the East-West détente at the local level, and as a step toward peaceful international cooperation. Similarly, the friendship agreements with Matsuyama in Japan and with Isfahan in Iran were initiated with the aim of cultivating communication among people of different cultures and religions in a globalising world. The founders wanted to enable a process of getting to know each other.

For a long time there has been a tight network of civil connections between Freiburg and its twin cities, which grew from the official contacts among political representatives. It is being sustained and perpetuated by clubs, youth groups, athletes, cultural institutions, trade organizations and many others. They are helping people from different countries to get to know each other, to abolish prejudices, and have enabled the beginnings of countless personal friendships. From these contacts, economic relations as well as cooperatives among city administrations and cultural groups have sprung. To this day, that is the paramount goal of our city twinning.

Freiburg's friendship with the city of Wiwili in Nicaragua illustrates the aim of its “local foreign policy” exceptionally well. At the foreground of this cooperation, there is humanitarian aid in the areas of public health, education and the development of economic



Dr. Dieter Salomon

subsistence through agriculture. These connections, which sprang from private initiative, have led to friendly exchange among the two cities.

We want to encourage you to discover our partner cities for yourselves. Each of Freiburg's nine twin cities is a piece of home to any Freiburger. I invite you to acquaint yourselves with them, and in so doing to increase the “interest” of the “capital” of our municipal partnerships.

Dr. Dieter Salomon

Mayor of the City of Freiburg

Our Autumn Trip to Freiburg

In September twenty seven members and friends of the Guildford-Freiburg Association made a successful and very enjoyable one-week visit by coach to Freiburg. In their replies to a questionnaire (described in the Spring 2006 Newsletter) many members had said they would like the Association to arrange trips to Freiburg with particular themes and September's trip was a response to this. The theme this time was wine-tasting.

After an early start from Guildford, the coach took the Shuttle through the Channel Tunnel and then travelled via autoroutes to Rheims for a tasting of various excellent Champagnes and an overnight stop. Unfortunately our schedule allowed only a brief visit by some of us – and then only by dint of rising early – to the city's magnificent cathedral.

The next day took us through the Vosges Mountains into Alsace with its picturesque villages. In one of these – Kintzheim – we stopped for a tasting of Riesling, Tokay and Gewurtztraminer. The vineyard owner who conducted the tasting spoke no English, but one of our number, Rosemary Whisson, rose very well to the challenge of translating, including some rather risqué stories. From there we crossed the Rhine to Freiburg,

Our time there, based at the comfortable Hotel Schwarzwälder Hof, was full of activities. They began with an enjoyable reception at the Rathaus, where we were officially welcomed by City Councillor Ursula Kuri, a good friend of Guildford. This was followed by a guided tour of the historic and pedestrian-friendly city centre and the 14th century cathedral, with its stunning stained glass windows. Our guide was Roselies Arndt, another old friend, who used to be responsible for Freiburg's contacts with Guildford. The group was able to see the splendid, recently-restored cathedral porch with its coloured statues of religious figures, although unfortunately the extraordinary fretted tower was shrouded in scaffolding because urgent repairs to some newly-discovered damage to the stonework are needed.

The group made two one-day visits to the wonderful scenery of the Black Forest, including several villages. The first of these was St Peter, with its delightful baroque church. Others were Furtwangen, with its fascinating and extensive clock museum, Triberg, with its impressive waterfalls, and the lakeside resort of Titisee. We also

THE YEAR IN PICTURES

The Association's trip to Freiburg and the Black Forest (Story on page 2)



Freiburg City Councillor Ursula Kuri officially welcoming us at the Rathaus



Roselies Arndt with us for a tour of the city



Our visit to the clock museum in the Black Forest



The Baroque church at Sankt Peter



Some Anglo-German Club members at the dinner at the Dattler

The Partner Cities Market (Story on page 4)



Oberbürgermeister Salomon opening the market



Association member Susan Lewis with visitors at Guildford's display

visited an interesting open-air museum (“Vogtsbauernhof”) at Gutach at which Black Forest farm buildings of many kinds from the early 17th century onwards have been re-erected. On one day the trip through the Black Forest ended at Freiburg’s own mountain of Schauinsland with a fine view of the city and of the large wind turbine that has been erected (controversially) on the upper slopes of the mountain. Indeed some of us were surprised to see how many turbines there now are in the Black Forest.

A memorable event was the delightful evening when we joined old and new friends in the the Freiburg Anglo-German club for an excellent dinner – hosted by Penny and Ernst Leube – at the Dattler Restaurant overlooking the city, which we reached by cable-car. Another highlight was a tasting of some of the excellent local Baden wine at the lovely von Gleichenstein winery in the Kaiserstuhl district. Our journey there was enlivened by observing our bus-driver’s skill in reversing hundreds of metres down a narrow road when our way was blocked by a low bridge.

Freiburg is of course world-renowned for its environmental achievements. Several members of the group interested in the environment visited Vauban, a new largely car-free development of low-energy homes and were shown round one of the houses by its enthusiastic owner – who had been born in Guildford! Others in the group spent a relaxing time at a health spa in the city. The whole group also made a return to Alsace to visit the open-air EcoMusée which consists of reconstructions of buildings typical of the area. In spite of the fact that the museum is in receivership and that some of the exhibits were not in tip-top condition the group found the visit there enjoyable and interesting. Nicola Goold (General Manager of the Guildford Philharmonic Orchestra) and Rowland Sidwell visited Freiburg’s splendid concert hall to explore the possibility of more musical exchanges between Guildford and Freiburg.

Those for whom this was a first visit to Freiburg were as impressed with the delights of the city and its surroundings as those of us who have been before. Several in the group wanted to know the date of the next trip! The visit enabled more Guildfordians and Freiburgers to get to know each other better and there were discussions about establishing more contacts on specific activities, thus further cementing the friendship and partnership between the citizens of our two towns – the main aims of town-twinning.

The tour was expertly run by Friendship Travel of Cranleigh

[Peter Slade](#)

Guildford joins in Freiburg Partner Cities Fair

Guildford was invited to participate in a three day “Partner Cities Fair” last May alongside Freiburg’s other eight partner towns. The idea was to give all the partners a chance to promote tourism and cultural activities and to display local produce and to encourage contacts between the towns

Two members of Guildford-Freiburg Association, Susan Lewis and Peter Slade represented Guildford at the fair and six other towns participated — Besançon (France), Innsbruck (Austria), Padua (Italy), Lviv (Ukraine) and Matsuyama (Japan). Three partner towns — Granada (Spain), Isfahan (Iran) and Madison, Wisconsin (USA) — were unable to make it, but the latter two were represented by volunteer friendship associations from Freiburg.

The fair was held in the Rathausplatz in the centre of the town. Stalls were set up in small marquees: we shared one with Lviv, Madison and Isfahan. We thought that Guildford’s stall, with a good supply of leaflets and brochures, and helped by the display of photographs of the town and its surroundings supplied by the Borough Council’s Graham Foster, was effective as that as any of the cities. We had many visitors and there was much interest in Guildford and its surroundings and their attractions. We spoke to lots of people and handed out a great deal of literature. Penny Leube, English President of the Freiburg Anglo-German Club, kindly helped out on the stand for two or three sessions. As well as encouraging Freiburgers to visit Guildford it was good to meet some old Freiburg friends again — and make some new ones — and to discuss how we might develop the Guildford-Freiburg partnership further. The Fair also gave us the opportunity to liaise with Freiburg’s other partner towns.

The 10-strong delegation from Matsuyama was led by the Mayor and included the leader of the Council and some other officials plus four artists who were exhibiting their works. Matsuyama wants to strengthen commercial links with Freiburg, especially in the solar energy field. The Mayor is also keen to build up Matsuyama’s strength in football and there is a young footballer in Freiburg playing with one of the city’s teams to act as a focus for this. Padua’s team at the fair consisted of four people — the head of the tourism department plus three other employees. One asked whether Guildford would be interested in forming links with Padua.

As well as the promotion of tourism there was also a series of cultural events including displays of art and calligraphy from Matsuyama, folk-dancing and singing by young people from the Ukraine, a display of Flamenco dancing (by a group of Freiburg women) and performances by the Freiburg City brass band. The City of Freiburg paid for hotel accommodation and all the expenses associated with the fair. In addition Oberbürgermeister Dieter Salomon hosted a reception in the Rathaus. a visit to the Spring Fair at Freiburg’s Fairground with local food and a final Spargel (asparagus) dinner, with a wine-tasting, in the nearby village of Opfingen. Freiburg City Council’s Carlo Alberti and especially Nicole Horstkötter, were very helpful with all the arrangements throughout the Fair.

The Fair was a great success and will be repeated this June.

[Peter Slade](#)

YOUNG PEOPLE'S ACTIVITIES

Young Guildfordian to play the organ in Freiburg



With the support of the Guildford Freiburg Association, George Abbot School pupil and Ripley resident Jonathan Hope will be travelling to Germany in April to give two concerts in Freiburg. The concerts will take place in the Münster and the University church.

Jonathan has been invited back after playing briefly in the Münster during an exchange visit with George Abbot school in March 2006. He made a pen-friend, Steven, and will be staying with him during his April visit. This is a fine example of the value of school exchanges

In September Jonathan, who gave his first public recital at Holy Trinity Church in Guildford at the age of 12, will continue his studies at The Royal College of Music in London where he will study organ and composition. He has composed a number of choir and organ works and has recently completed a piece for the brass quintet of the London Mozart Players.

Schools links

Guildford and Freiburg are both working to establish new links between schools in their areas and to continue the contacts already made. These represent such a good opportunity for young people to communicate with those in another country and particularly in Europe.

There is still considerable enthusiasm from the Freiburg side. They have activities with several of their twin towns in different parts of the world and request exchanges with Guildford schools from time to time. Our feedback from Guildford schools, however, suggests that current health and safety concerns have completely put them off school exchange visits or even pen-friend schemes, particularly due to the lengthy risk assessment and form-filling procedures teachers must go through. George Abbot School has had a successful programme of exchanges with Freiburg's Goethe Gymnasium over a twenty year period but sadly will not be organising it this year.

We hope this situation will improve in the future. While the process for setting up exchange schemes does appear rather onerous at present due to current health and safety issues, those still running such schemes are enthusiastic about the outstanding educational experience they offer pupils. These are immensely valuable in promoting understanding and language learning. (Two young people who originally took part in an exchange from George Abbot school plan to return to Freiburg this year, one for work experience and the other, Jonathan Hope, to play the organ (see the story above).

For those teachers who are not able to take part in traditional pen-friend and exchange schemes, but who would like a school link for their pupils free from health and safety issues, we are hoping to establish a class-to-class pen-friend scheme, where e-mails can be exchanged between whole school classes without names being given, exchanging news, pictures and artwork, for example. Our neighbours in Rushmoor are finding this scheme a great success with their twin towns in Germany, France and Poland.

We are exploring other ways of initiating school contacts and will keep you posted. In the meantime, if any school would be interested in this kind of pen-friend scheme or a more conventional one (or even a conventional exchange scheme) with a school in our twin city please contact me on 01483 574730 and I will liaise with Freiburg.

Ros Calow

GFA Schools Liaison

STOP PRESS!

As the Newsletter goes to press, Ros's proposal to establish an "email friends" scheme between Guildford and Freiburg schools has got off to a promising start.

Individual visits & exchanges

Although there are now difficulties in arranging organised school exchanges, as Ros Calow says above, we have been able to arrange a number of exchanges & visits of individual Guildford and Freiburg school students. Negotiations are in progress for some more.

Christopher Draper & Fridolin Dorwarth

Christopher and Fridolin write about their exchange in 2006.

Christopher's article



My name's Christopher Draper and I'm a pupil at the Howard of Effingham School. Early last year my German teacher gave me a letter from Peter Slade which he had sent to the school together with a letter from Fridolin Dorwarth who wanted to visit a family in England. Fridolin came to stay with us in May and in August I visited Fridolin and his family. I had never flown before so my mum

came with me. Unfortunately her luggage went missing and it didn't turn up until two days before we left to come home. She was very grateful for the loan of clothes by Fridolin's neighbours until her suitcase was found. I only stayed with Fridolin for a week so a lot was crammed into my time with him, his parents and two brothers.

During my stay we visited Freiburg, Breisach and the Kaiserstuhl. We went in a cable car in the Black Forest and had a very long walk back to Freiburg. We also visited the mineral thermal bath which was an unusual experience. It was a very hectic week! It seemed to me that there were more bicycles than cars in Freiburg and that we could learn a lot from our twin city about public transport as the trams were frequent and well-used.

Christopher Draper (age 13 at the time of the visit)

Fridolin's article



My name is Fridolin Dorwarth. I am 15 years old and I am from Ihringen near Freiburg, a wine village at the Kaiserstuhl. I am glad I was able to spend a fortnight with the Draper Family in Great Bookham last Pentecost (Whitsun) holidays.

My first time in England was for me a great experience. England was not something out of my schoolbook, but reality. During the

flight to London I had a strange feeling in my stomach, because

I didn't know what awaited me. However I was welcomed very kindly and I felt very well right from the start. I loved the landscape in Surrey and was impressed by the huge city of London. The people were very friendly, helpful and open-minded. The villages were so pretty. I was able to visit Christopher's school and found out the differences of his and my school. He goes to school from 9 a.m. until the afternoon. He also gets a warm lunch in a canteen. I have to eat at home, because my school usually ends at 1 p.m.

I think school uniforms are a very good idea, because in Germany there are often discussions among the pupils about the outfit. And you can see who is richer or poorer. It seemed to me, that the lessons were stricter and with more discipline than in Germany. I found that I could already speak English quite well and could understand what people were saying.

Christopher and I now keep in contact via e-mail regularly. He came to Ihringen last summer and we spent a good time at the Kaiserstuhl and the Black Forest. I shall visit Bookham again this year and Christopher my new friend will come to Ihringen again too.

Fridolin Dorwarth (age 14 at the time of the visit)

Tobias Hug's experiences in Guildford

Hello, my name is Tobias and I live in Freiburg. Last summer I decided to spend my holidays in England, because I wished to improve my English and to enjoy England with its special culture. I hadn't been in England before, so it was a new experience for me. I asked my teachers whether they know somebody living in England who could accommodate me. They didn't, but after a while a teacher of mine got in touch with Peter Slade. They knew each other and after writing a letter and some emails I finally got an accommodation – in Guildford.

Two sides of Guildford:

I think Guildford is a good combination of its historical side and its modern one. To the historical side belongs Guildford Castle as well as the clock in the High Street. When I visited the museum in Quarry Street I gained insight into the history of the town, especially of the clock in the High Street. I even watched a film about it in the museum. One day I also walked to the Castle and was lucky to see all the wonderful flowers with their many different colours; a lovely place...

Beside this historical side of Guildford I've also seen a lot of modern aspects, for example the big "Friary" shopping centre at the bottom of North Street. There are many nice shops in both main streets, and combined with some pubs in between they keep Guildford interesting for young people. Finally I want to express my compliments to the Spectrum Sports Centre; a great building and if I had had a few friends around, I would have been there a lot of times.

People:

In addition to this good mixture between "old" and "new" I want to say something about the inhabitants of Guildford who I met. First of all I should thank Peter Slade and my hostess for their help. They

Young people's activities continued

both offered me the chance to live in England for a few weeks and they tried to find places where I could work. Unfortunately it was very difficult at the beginning, but in the end I had *three* possible locations.

One was the Tourist Information Centre. They told me what they're doing and they let me use their computer, clicking through several interesting websites, which dealt with the surroundings of Guildford. My second "work-station" was in the Car Park Office, where the staff showed me what they're doing, too. I was also allowed to fold letters, work with computers and checking lists. If that sounds a bit boring, they nevertheless offered me the chance to speak with them and to listen. So for the first time in my life I experienced what a Scottish accent sounds like! My last station could have been the Spectrum, but unfortunately there were only a few days left, and I preferred to visit London a last time instead.

My hostess cooked delicious and healthy meals for me and taught me a lot of important rules of English and I thank her for all the extra-time she spent for me!

I also met some of her friends, as well as some friends of my teacher in Germany. Both families invited me to have dinner with them. I'm glad that I got the chance to experience this, because these were the times in which I heard real English conversations. It was also interesting to see the inside of some of the houses in Guildford. I have to say that I was impressed. Nice decorated rooms and really nice people!! That's an aspect I like to remember.

Comparison with Freiburg:

I was often asked whether there are differences between Guildford and Freiburg. I think there are some. First of all I was astonished how many people have their own, big house, combined with a big garden. That's quite unusual in Freiburg. This kind of living you only find in the suburbs.

Another difference I noticed is, that I *didn't* notice any bicycles on the streets except for the one my hostess rode. That's sad, because I like cycling very much. They are a main component of the traffic system in Freiburg. Furthermore, I think that Freiburg has a better system of renewable energies. So for example we have a lot of solar cells, fixed on roofs. Freiburg is known as a very "green" town and I think Guildford should look for improvement in this point.

Back to a really positive point: volunteer work. I was impressed by the large number of volunteers, people who work for free. That's not as usual in my part of the world as it is in Guildford. Maybe there are some people who work without earning money, but they work mainly in churches. I haven't seen volunteers working in a shop or something like that in Freiburg.

Recapitulation:

Recapitulating I can say, that it was an enriching and wonderful experience. I learned a lot — for my English as well as for my life. When I think of England I automatically associate Guildford with it — Guildford represents England for me. I wanted to move to England anyway, but this experience strengthens me in that idea

Thank you all.

Tobias Hug (age 18 at the time of the visit)

Guildford young footballers play in Freiburg again

The visit to Freiburg at the Easter weekend in 2006 was one of the most significant and enthusiastic we have made in the 20-year history of exchanges between our Club and Freiburg's Blau Weiss Sports Club. The enthusiasm of the players was equalled by the exceptional support from the parent group: in all we took 46 players in three teams, with a parents and adult group making up a total of 123 people.

Fifty five of the group flew by Ryanair to Baden Baden and the team players, officials and some parents went in a luxury 72-seater coach, which we hired from a company in Freiburg. This was nearly 30% cheaper than the best quote from any UK firm, even though the coach came from Freiburg to pick us up and we could use it throughout the weekend. Our arrival was a bit delayed by a breakdown on the journey, but all in all we were well satisfied with the transport arrangements. The parent group stayed in two neighbouring hotels in the Lehen area where once again the service and comfort and the Ganter beer were all excellent.

We have a well-established pattern for our visits and, to break the ice, the first day is spent at the magnificent SV Blau Weiss football facility, with their four pitches (1 all-weather) 12 changing rooms with showers (a surprise to many English youth players), treatment rooms, laundry, automated skittles alley, banquet room, bar and restaurant. This is not just provided for the teams we play against — the senior, semi-professional Blau Weiss Club has provided players for Freiburg FC. But it is an eye-opening change to the pavilion at Stoughton Rec where we play — which we are hoping to improve.

Three practice matches showed the teams well-matched. Some of the adults with less of a sporting interest were taken on the bus to a chateau in France for the day. In the evening the boys were entertained by their host parents whilst our adult party spent an enjoyable evening with our hosts.

On Saturday we were honoured by a welcome from the Freiburg Mayor for Culture, who praised the continued efforts of our two Clubs to maintain a valued social exchange between Guildford and Freiburg. I was also pleased to meet Penny Leube, one of the Presidents of the Freiburg Anglo-German Club, who has regular contacts with the Guildford-Freiburg Association and who had come along to see what this visit was all about. With a free few hours to spare we took the adult group to a snowy Titisee in the Black Forest. In the evening we met with the German host group at the Martinsbrauerei for an excellent meal and to partake of another local brew.

Sunday was Championship match day. Our under-14's did us proud and were match winners once again, returning the Dorothy Elschlepp Trophy to Guildford. The under-12's were not so lucky, losing by the odd goal. The Dads' match was a wonderful spectacle

in pouring rain, which was so heavy that the second half had to be moved to a training pitch to complete for fear of damage to the Club's senior facility. In the evening we were entertained into the early hours by a disco.

On Monday we had a free day, and at the suggestion of our German coach driver, were taken for a whistle-stop tour of Bern and the Grindelwald area, a first trip to the Alps for many of our group. The players were taken to Freiburg's local mountain at Schauinsland and to trips into the old silver-mine works. Returning to Blau Weiss for the evening celebration we congratulated our friends for their ability to handle such a large party.

Those in the coach group departed on Tuesday morning. The flying group hired a local coach for a detour to see Karlsruhe and the fantastic government buildings and gardens before going to Baden Baden airport for the flight home, and got back to Guildford minutes before the arrival of the coach group.

This was a superb trip and took some organizing but, as ever, Freiburg gained some more new friends. Their visit enabled them to see how our twin town and the German Club live and play.

This April we will welcome the Blau Weiss players and supporters to Guildford. During the visit we will honour our good friends Andreas and Jurgen Zier, who are stepping down after 7 years organizing the trips.

Phil Dyas
Chairman, Guildford City Boys FC

Cycling in Freiburg

Thirty years ago the German city of Freiburg had a growing traffic problem. Today it is a city built for cycling. Steve Melia was amazed.



Imagine a city designed for the bicycle, where cyclists have priority and you can ride between an

historic centre and stunning mountain views in minutes. Freiburg in south western Germany is such a city. It stretches from the slopes of the Black Forest towards the valley of the Rhine, near the French and Swiss borders. Many Germans consider it the ideal place to live: over the past 20 years they have swollen its population by a fifth to 213,000.

It wasn't always like this. Before the 1970s some Freiburgers remember their city as a conservative place with a growing traffic problem. Then the Federal Government proposed a nuclear power

plant nearby. Public opposition united the city and gave birth to Germany's green movement. Freiburg is the only major German city with a Green mayor. The environment and quality of life are top priorities, particularly when it comes to transport.

Coming from Britain you may experience some culture shock when you start riding here. It can be difficult to believe, as you cross major junctions on the new red cycle lanes, that cars wanting to turn in front of you really will give way. And though the combination of quiet roads, cycle lanes and separate paths can be found in many British cities, the difference here is that routes in every direction, in and out, across and around the city are direct and continuous. Cycle lanes that give way to side roads or end when you most need them are as rare here as they are common back home. Needless to say, wherever you go, most times of the day and night, you will see people of all types, ages and sizes cycling. Drivers are considerate because they nearly all cycle themselves.

Exploring by bike

A few years ago the biggest transport problem facing the city council was cycle parking at the main railway station. The solution, a giant circular structure known as the Mobile, opened in 1999 with spaces for 1,000 bikes, a repair workshop, café and offices. Parking costs just 50 cents.

This is a good place to start a cycling tour of Freiburg. The ADFC, the German equivalent of CTC, has an office here, selling maps and giving tourist advice. It is also home to Freiburg Aktiv, who hire bikes and run guided cycling tours, urban and rural.

The Wiwili Bridge, which crosses the railway from the Mobile, carries 10,000 bikes a day to and from the Altstadt, the historic city centre. From the 1970s it was progressively pedestrianised. Most of its roads are open to cycling, although there are break points and some squares where you are supposed to park, or get



'Coming from Britain, you may experience some culture shock'

off and wheel. This is one rule amongst many that the locals don't always observe.

You can be fined, but the police don't seem to bother too much. During the day when these streets are full of pedestrians and market

stalls it is difficult to ride anyway. Bicycle theft doesn't seem much of a problem here – bicycle racks are everywhere and no one seems to worry about leaving decent bikes locked to them.

With its meticulously preserved buildings, the Altstadt appears to have survived the centuries undamaged, but the truth is more brutal. For reasons which remain obscure, since there were no significant military targets, just half an hour of Allied bombing in 1944 destroyed the city centre, killing 3,000 people. A photograph in the Wetzingerhaus museum shows the aftermath. Some exteriors survived to form the basis of rebuilding. Others had to be reconstructed from photographs and memory. If you look carefully, you can see small signs of modernity left by the post-war builders on otherwise faithful reproductions.

Priority to Cyclists

Whichever direction you enter or leave the Altstadt, separate lanes and traffic signals allow you to cross the busy inner ringroads without having to fight your way through traffic. Immediately to the south, the River Dreisam traverses the city from east to north west, and a cycle route follows its entire length. To the east the city narrows into a corridor, no more than a mile wide, between the mountains of the Black Forest. It's difficult to believe in places that you are still within a mile or two of the city centre. The suburban streets on the slopes feel almost Alpine.

Leading back towards the centre is one of Freiburg's recent innovations: a *Fahrradstrasse*, a road with priority for cyclists and access only, at low speeds, for motor vehicles. Freiburg's motorists (unlike some of the cyclists) do seem to respect such rules.

Freiburg's cycle network connects seamlessly to the west with a rural network using mainly *Landschaftswirtstrassen*, agricultural roads used by the occasional tractor and many bicycles. Most are asphalted; all are rideable on a touring bike. Touring cyclists will be pleased to note that this is German wine country.

Some vineyards still grow within the city, particularly along the road south to Vauban. The new quarter of Vauban, built on a former French army base, is another local innovation. An experiment in low-energy and car-free living, it attracts town planners and urban designers from all around the world. Home to nearly 5,000 people, it is fairly compact – you can ride through it in five minutes – but it is worth taking some time to explore its traffic-free side roads, where children play on unicycles and every conceivable combination of trailers and child seats are used to carry children and shopping. Three quarters of the working population here cycles to work.

So are there any down sides to cycling in Freiburg? The ADFC thinks there are. Paths shared with pedestrians cause predictable conflicts, and where a cycle lane or path is provided, unlike in the UK you can be prosecuted for riding on the main carriageway – a principle that they, like CTC, don't like. This is not a good place for racing cyclists or diehard opponents of separate facilities, but for anyone else a visit to Freiburg gives a refreshing taste of what life could be like in a city made for cycling.

Photos for this article by Steve Melia

This article originally appeared in "Cycle" magazine under the title "Shifts – Cycling Towns" and is reproduced with the kind permission of its Editor.

Guildford-Freiburg radio links

The close connection between Radio Amateurs in Guildford and Freiburg

continues. The weekly SKED (scheduled radio contacts) over the airwaves on Thursday lunchtimes has been held regularly since 1978 as conditions/propagation allows. The frequencies used are 7.050 MHz on the 40 Metre Band and 14.330 MHz on the 20 Metre Band. Fortunately for us many of our German friends speak good English.

Due to work commitments I am not able to take part in the SKED very often but a highlight of the year for me comes during the summer holidays when for the past few years we have set up a Special Event Station for a Holiday Play Scheme with local children and we have been lucky enough to make contact with our friends in Freiburg.

Roger and I went on the Association's trip to Freiburg last September and were able to meet some of our friends there. One evening we were invited to the home of our good friends Oskar and his wife Waltraut and along with some other Radio Amateurs from Freiburg enjoyed a Swiss-style meal. Another evening we were taken out to the Kaiserstuhl grape-growing area at harvest time and had a wonderful, but basic, farmhouse meal washed down with plenty of gorgeous Riesling.

A major disappointment was that we did not manage to get to the local Radio Club meeting which is held on Friday evenings. We hope to remedy this as we hope to visit Freiburg again during 2007.

Stella Whitbourn G0SWE (her call sign)
Guildford & District Radio Society

Freiburg Anglo-German Club

Next year the Club celebrates its 50th anniversary. It was founded by Dorothy Elchlepp, an Englishwoman who, married to a Freiburger, had lived in Freiburg since the mid-1930s. Her aim was to build bridges between Germany and England after the last war. With a similar aim she initiated the establishment of the twinning between Guildford and Freiburg in 1979 and as many members will know she worked tirelessly on both of these endeavours right up to the time of her death at age 90 in 1993.

Like the twinning, the Anglo-German Club, is still going strong under the vigorous joint Chairmanship of Ernst & Penny Leube -- Penny is also an Englishwoman (originally from Surrey) with a German husband. The Club, most of whose proceedings are in English, has a very full programme of events, conversation, talks, visits to English language plays and other outings. There is an emphasis on things British (not just English – last November they held a Scottish Evening) which even extends to eating Christmas Pudding at their Christmas party!

THE YEAR IN PICTURES

Our AGM in June

In June we elected a new committee. For details see page 12



*Retiring Chairman, Mary Lloyd-Jones (left)
with our President, Mayor Angela Gunning
& our Patron Anne Milton MP.*



*New Chairman Peter Slade (right)
& Vice-Chairman
Keith Taylor*

Our annual Christmas Market in December

We again held a successful mini-Christmas Market selling toys and candles from Freiburg in the Guildhall.



Wolf Pietrek with candles



Ros Calow with Jumping Jacks



Katie Butcher dispensing Glühwein

Guildford young footballers play in Freiburg (Story on page 7)



The under-13s take to the field



The under 16s game in progress



The hall in the Blau Weiss club-house

Looking after Freiburg's Partnerships

As most readers will know, Freiburg has 8 other partner towns in addition to Guildford – Besançon, Granada, Innsbruck, Isfahan, Lviv (Ukraine), Madison (Wisconsin), Matsuyama and Padua, plus a friendship arrangement with Wiwili in Nicaragua.

Obviously such a set of world-wide connections needs a great deal of administration and for this Freiburg City Council has a Department of International Relations. The Director is Günter Burger (who will be remembered by some Association members for his enthusiastic conducting of the City Hall band during Freiburg's civic visit here in 2004) and there are 4 other managers – Carlo Alberti, Nicole Horstkötter, Ariane Hötzer and Monika Poremba. Most of our (frequent) contacts are with Nicole and Ariane who are unfailingly helpful.

Freiburg and the environment

Our twin city's environmental credentials are well-known and have led to it being given the title of "The green capital of Germany". This has been noted in various places during the past year. In May the French newspaper "Liberation" contained a supplement on energy which carried an article on Freiburg and its environmental achievements, including its energy-efficient housing development at Vauban. An article also appeared in the English journal "Planning" covering the same ground. The same topics featured in an evening news programme on French television. Later in the year, an item on the BBC-1 10 o'clock News about climate change showed what Freiburg is doing to tackle environmental problems as an example of what can be done.

We hope that an exhibition of our twin city's environmental projects will be mounted in Guildford in the autumn

"Fantastic" Germany

To coincide with the World Cup in Germany last summer, "The Guardian" published a series of articles on Germany and the Germans. This stimulated the following letter from Trevor Stevens of Oxford:

"Please stop publishing all these positive articles about Germany. Germany is a fantastic country full of lively cities and contrasting landscapes with a fascinating history and a beguiling language that ignorant Brits characterise as ugly. And it is populated by the most hospitable and Anglophile people on the continent. I want to keep the place for myself and my friends and resent your attempts to spread the truth."

Situations Vacant

Newsletter Editor

I have found it a bit onerous to combine the roles of Chairman and Newsletter Editor this year and after five years of doing the latter job I should like to hand over the Editorship to someone else for next year's edition. It is an interesting way to keep in touch with the Association's events and twinning activities. Computer skills are essential.

Hon. Auditor

Following the sad and untimely death of Douglas May, who was our Auditor, we need someone to audit the Association's accounts. Our accounts are straightforward and this is not an onerous job.

If you are interested in filling either of these roles, please contact me.

Peter Slade (Tel. 01483 531472)

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Other Committee members: Val Hazelwood, Wolf Pietrek,

Websites

The Association's Website has recently been updated
and our Newsletters and Updates appear on it.

To access it click on:

www.guildford.gov.uk/Guildfordweb/Community/LinkedTowns/

To access the City of Freiburg's website go to:
www.freiburg.de