



Our Chairman, Don Withers, signs the visitors' book in Braunschweig.

Back in Bath Don and Angela met The Mayor, Councillor Carol Paradise, to deliver Dr Hoffman's gifts - a montage of photographs of Braunschweig and a book about the city and to introduce her to Klaus and Edyta from Braunschweig.

On 2nd November, Councillor Paradise hosted a Civic Reception for students from the Recarda Hoch Schule and Kleine Burg Schule and their teachers, Evelyn Strautz and Oliver Wicke, who were on an exchange with King Edward School in Bath.

Members of our Association helped to entertain four young ladies from Braunschweig with trips to the Jane Austen Centre, a city bus tour and meals at Sally Lunn's, Caffé Nero and in the Pump Room where they were intrigued to see the Pumper and other people in period costume.

Mike Wilkins of Radio Bristol will be covering Bath-Braunschweig Twinning as he has just been awarded one of only five national bursaries to spend a year in Germany.

To join the Association contact the Secretary, Hilary Elms, Austonley, 208 Old Frome Road, Combe Down, Bath, BA2 5RH, telephone 01225 837790.

ALKMAAR

We said goodbye to our Chairman, Bill Bloomfield at the end of October. He had been in charge since the Association was set up in 2002 and steered us through many outstanding events. There was the Bath International Twinning Conference in 2003 when all four twin cities were represented. This really put twinning and Bath right back on the European map. The following year The Mayor, Councillor David Hawkins, and his successor, Councillor Roger Symonds, both visited Alkmaar to share in the celebrations of the City's 750th Anniversary and to present a sculpture from the Association and Charter Trustees. In 2005 Bill visited Alkmaar to celebrate the 60th anniversary of the link and the end of the war-time occupation. So, he has ensured the two cities ties are stronger than ever.

The Mayor, Councillor Mrs Carol Paradise, hosted a farewell Civic Reception and presented Bill with a gift to thank him for all his work. The Association gave Bill and his wife Joyce a hardwood garden seat and a basket of flowers to remind them of Bath when they sit in the garden of their new home in Pembrokeshire and Bath Photographic Society presented a portrait photograph.

One of Bill's last functions as Chairman was to address a meeting of Bath & North East Somerset Council as twinning was on their Agenda. He emphasised the benefits twinning brings to the city and was very well received.

In August Bill entertained Alkmaar's Head of Waste Disposal, Klaar van der Valk and her family. She met her opposite number in Bath, was greeted by The Mayor, had a trip to the Roman Baths and lunch with Bill and Joyce.



Bill and Joyce Bloomfield say goodbye to Bath at a Civic Reception in The Mayor's Parlour

The Mayor of Alkmaar, Marie van Rossen will be leaving at the end of this year. Good wishes and some pertinent English poems have been sent to celebrate her retirement and to show appreciation for her support of twinning during her six years in office.

The new Mayor has been invited to make a Civic Twinning Visit to Bath from 20th to 24th April 2007 to coincide with the 'Tulipmania' festival at Dyrham Park. The house was built in the 17th Century by William Blathwayt who was a minister in the Cabinet of William of Orange. There are many Dutch items on display including some very special Delft tulip vases.

Our Secretary, Alan Gwynn, has taken over the role of Chairman and our new Secretary is Morag Cribb.

To join the Association contact our Secretary, Morag Cribb, Uplands, 6 Bloomfield Drive, Bath, BA2 2BG, telephone 01225 833082, e-mail morag@foxylair.fsnet.co.uk

CONNECTIONS CONNECTIONS

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BATH'S TWINNING NEWSLETTER

Issue No 13



Members of the four Twinning Associations celebrate on 12th September after The Mayor of Bath, Councillor Mrs Carol Paradise (centre), opened an exhibition of photographs taken in Aix-en-Provence, Braunschweig, Alkmaar and Kaposvár - pictured (left to right) photographers Phil Wills and Martin Tompkins, Alan Gwynn (Alkmaar Secretary), Councillor Marian McNeir (Aix Chairman), Peter Clare (Alkmaar Committee), Peter Gloyn (Alkmaar Committee), The Mayor of Bath, Councillor Mrs Carol Paradise, Chris Hyde (Alkmaar Treasurer), Don Withers (Braunschweig Chairman), Bill Bloomfield (Alkmaar Chairman), Angela Godfrey (Braunschweig Vice Chairman), Kean Maslen (Kaposvár Acting Chairman), Zsuzsa Jenkins (Kaposvár Secretary), Billy-Jay Starling and Alex Stoneman photographers.
Photo courtesy of The Bath Chronicle

BRAUNSCHWEIG

In September our Chairman, Vice Chairman, Treasurer, a Committee member and their guests spent four hectic days in Germany. After staying overnight in Berlin they took the train to Braunschweig and arrived at mid-day on 20th. Committee member Bill Waterfield had made his own way there but he met Don and Lynn Withers, Brian and Margaret Wright and Angela Godfrey with her friend Gill for a walking tour with local historian Elisabeth Kwan. A couple of nights later they had another very entertaining walk with the night watchman. He was a very amusing character whose stentorian tones reverberated for a fair distance.

During an evening with the German-English Association Don presented their President, Treve Erdmenger, with an engraved glass bowl from the Bath-Braunschweig Twinning Association.

At a meeting in the Rathaus Don presented the Deputy Mayor of Braunschweig, Frederika Harlfinger, with a book about Bath from our Mayor to theirs. Dr Hoffman had just been re-elected for another eight years. Frederika made a presentation to Treve to thank her for the years of service to the German-English Group.

The delegation attended a special service in the cathedral celebrating 35 years since the signing of the twinning agreement and 55 years of exchanges. There were also visits to the windmill museum at Gifhorn and to the castle at Celle where they took a trip round the town on a road train.

continued on page 4



The Deputy Mayor of Braunschweig, Frederika Harlfinger, presents Vice Chairman of the Bath-Braunschweig Twinning Association, Angela Godfrey, with a gift for The Mayor of Bath.

KAPOSVÁR

The highlight for the Kaposvár Twinning Association was supporting a very moving talk on the 1956 Hungarian Revolution, commemorating the 50th anniversary, held at the Bath Royal Literary and Scientific Institution in Bath. Marika Rae and Pal Miklos gave superb real-life accounts of a 12-year-old girl experiencing the turmoil of Budapest and a young Hungarian soldier's battle with the invading Russian forces. Kean Maslen, our Acting Chairman is a lecturer in catering at The City of Bath College so he brought some students along with a selection of Hungarian finger foods. Zsuzsa Jenkins, our Secretary, skilfully selected fine Hungarian wines for the evening.

Marika and Zsuzsa set up an impressive exhibition in the Central Bath Library on Hungary, Bath's twinning with Kaposvár and the '56 Revolution. This was opened by the Mayor of Bath, Councillor Carol Paradise and Mr Pal Miklos and his wife were guests of honour.

After ten years of exchanges, the links between the City of Bath's Catering School and the Catering School in Kaposvár remain as strong as ever.

We welcome Marika Rae, Peter Metcalfe and Rob Daru as committee members and, with their help, we look forward to some new and exciting initiatives, such as a Hungarian wine tasting evening involving local businesses. Lajos Mayer, a Hungarian food and wine supplier from Cheltenham is keen to support us in this.



Marie Louise Luxemburg the convener of the 'Hungary 1956 Remembered' event at Bath Royal Literary and Scientific Institution (left) with speakers Marika Rae and Pal Miklos and Bath-Kaposvár Twinning Association Acting Chairman Kean Maslen and Secretary Zsuzsa Jenkins.

Photos courtesy of Martin Sturge



The Mayor of Bath, Councillor Mrs Carol Paradise, after opening the exhibition at Bath Central Library with (left to right) Kean Maslen (Acting Chairman), Jim Cook (Treasurer), Zsuzsa Jenkins (Secretary), Marika Rae (Committee Member).

Photos courtesy of Martin Sturge

Culverhay Secondary school is looking into links with secondary schools in Kaposvár and there are plans to pair the Heart and Hand Autistic Foundation in Kaposvár with a similar organization in Bath. KaposART, which our Treasurer, Jim Cook, and Jean Whitley Smyth (Member of the Association and Secretary of Bath Society of Artists) already have ties with, will be exhibiting at Bath Society of Artists' annual exhibition at Victoria Art Gallery, next year. The Association is keen to establish a link via Bath Rotary Club who are hoping to support the set up of Rotary in Kaposvár.

To join the Association contact the Secretary, Zsuzsa Jenkins, 5 Avenue Place, Bath, BA2 5EE, telephone 01225 830767, e-mail zsazsi3@hotmail.com

For further information log on to the Charter Trustees' website - www.thecityofbath.co.uk

AIX-EN-PROVENCE

A very successful youth exchange took place between 25th October and 1st November. A group of 12 French students from Aix, aged between 14 and 18 years, spent the week visiting their counterparts in DAFBY (Democratic Action for Youth in Bath & North East Somerset).

The visit was organized by Councillor Marian McNeir in her dual roles as Children's Champion for B&NES and Chairman of the Bath-Aix Twinning Association. She was delighted the exchange went so well as this was a wonderful opportunity for the young people to learn about each other's cultures and communities. They discussed important issues such as their definition of democracy and how different countries can work together to achieve their goals. The youngsters had an exciting programme of activities including a Civic Reception with The Mayor of Bath, Councillor Carol Paradise. Plans are already underway for the DAFBY group to visit Aix at Easter next year.

The teenagers were accompanied by the Aix Councillor responsible for youth, Mme Dominique Sanchez and Twinning Officer, Mme Marie-Claude Salavert. At a reception in The Guildhall with members of the Bath-Aix Association the visitors were introduced to potential exchange partners such as the U3A and Garraway Judo Club. There is also great interest from The Silver Ring Choir and Bath Abbey Girl's Choir for a trip to Aix next year so the visit from our friends from Aix has taken twinning forward in leaps and bounds.

Future events include visiting a Chocolatier, wine tasting and welcoming Les Seniors from Aix in May 2007.

To join the Association contact the Secretary, Jackie Tollit, 40 Midford Lane, Limpley Stoke, Bath, telephone 01225 722025, e-mail Jackie@tollja.freeseerve.co.uk



The DAFBY and Aix exchange group model their twinning tee-shirts designed by Jackie Tollit and donated by John Moore Sports



Chairman of the Bath-Aix Twinning Association, Councillor Marian McNeir (right), with Marie-Claude Salavert and Dominique Sanchez (centre) at the Portrait of the Year Reception at the Holburne Museum.