

CONNECTIONS CONNECTIONS

SPRING 2011

BATH'S TWINNING NEWSLETTER

Issue No 18



Flying the flag for Bath's Four Twinning Associations with the Twinning Lion Sponsored by The Charter Trustees of the City of Bath are Deputy Mayor and Chairman of the Aix-en-Provence Twinning Association, Councillor Marian McNeir; with (l-r) Twinning Association Chairmen Alan Gwynn, Alkmaar, and Don Withers, Braunschweig and Kean Maslen Vice Chairman of the Kaposvár Association

The Twinning Lion

The Twinning Lion, named 'Mir Cat' and painted by Lada Pestretsova, was on display in The Guildhall as part of the 'Lions of Bath 2010' public art event.

One-hundred lions prowled through the city from May to September. In October they were auctioned

to raise money for charities – including The Mayor of Bath's Relief Fund.

The Charter Trustees also sponsored a lion called 'My Roots' for their Twin City in Aix-en-Provence. It roamed all the way to France to be decorated by Fabien Debos and then spent the summer back in Bath on the grass outside the Guildhall.

**ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS ARE DUE ON 1 APRIL. PLEASE SEND A CHEQUE
TO THE TREASURER OF YOUR ASSOCIATION.**

£10 individual, £15 family and £30 organization (25% discount when joining more than one Association)

BRAUNSCHWEIG



Celebrating the 40th Anniversary (l-r) Don Withers, Chairman Bath-Braunschweig Twinning Association; The Mayor of Bath, Councillor Shaun McGall; Lisa Davey, Bath German Society; Professor Klaus Meyer, Twinning Association Member

Photo courtesy of Bath News and Media

40th Anniversary Celebration

The Mayor, Councillor Shaun McGall, attended the 40th Anniversary Celebration of the Twinning between Bath and Braunschweig, hosted jointly by The Bath-German Society and Bath-Braunschweig Twinning Association on 16 February 2011.

With 70 people present at Bath Royal Literary and Scientific Institution, he said it was good to see the two groups working together.

The link stretches right back to the early 1950s when Don Withers, who is now Chairman of the Twinning Association, went on the first exchange as a member of Percy Boys Club. This was part of a post-war Foreign Office initiative to bring together young people from England and Germany.

The official Twinning Agreement was signed in 1971. The Mayor admitted that this was a very special year for him too.

He said, “As a boy on that first exchange trip Don probably never dreamed that one day he would be Chairman of the Twinning Association and as a new-born baby in February 1971 I certainly do not remember thinking ‘I will be The Mayor of Bath and President of the four Twinning Associations by the time I am 40!’”

Twinning Association member, Professor Klaus Meyer, who comes from Braunschweig, gave a presentation in German about the history of the relationship between England and Germany.

The Lord Mayor of Braunschweig has invited a delegation from Bath to visit him in the autumn to celebrate this special anniversary there.

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

Treasurer, Brian Wright, 19 The Tynning, Widcombe, Bath, BA2 6AL

ALKMAAR

Bath Judokwai Club sent three members to Alkmaar to take part in a tournament last year and the whole Dutch club are planning a trip to Bath this Easter Holiday.

Our local Pétanque Club made its first highly successful visit to Alkmaar in 2010.

Bath Dolphin Swimming Club has been exchanging with their Dutch counterparts for more than 60 years and was pleased to host 46 swimmers and chaperons this time.

Barbara Cutting their secretary has written the following account of the visit:

‘All the hosts met at the Sulis Club to welcome their guests. Their first view of our beautiful city was from an open top bus courtesy of Bath Bus Company. Unfortunately it poured with rain so everyone raced for the downstairs seats and Bath was not seen at its best. After a chance to change into some dry clothes 100 people enjoyed a great game of skittles that evening’.

Our ‘twins’ presented The Mayor with a basket of Dutch goodies at a Civic Reception the next day before touring the Roman Baths. The Mayor and Mayoress attended the swimming gala that evening and they must have brought good luck because Bath won for the first time for many years.

Visits to Wookey Hole, Cheddar Gorge, Bristol Zoo and the Clifton Suspension Bridge followed. At the farewell disco at Bath Cricket Club the swimmers danced all night.

Many of the hosts said how much they enjoyed the visit and our swimmers can’t wait to go to Alkmaar later this year.

Our thanks to the Bath-Alkmaar Twinning Association for their grant towards the cost of this visit. Our club is only too honoured to say we have been exchanging with Alkmaar for over 60 years now and long may it continue.

The Association was also able to provide a grant for the Bath Minerva Rowing Club to host the ARZV Alkmaar Rowing Club when they visited Bath to take part in the Monkton Combe rowing event in October

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

Treasurer, Chris Hyde, 35 Green Park, Bath, BA1 1HZ, telephone 01225 8313362



The Mayor of Bath (2009-10), Councillor Colin Barrett, with the swimmers from Alkmaar and his gift from the club.

Photo courtesy of Hans Schoenmakers.

KAPOSVÁR



The Soundbeam in Kaposvár

Soundbeam technology training sessions were led by Jason Thornton and Charles Groves of Bath Phil over four days in June 2010 at the Barczy Special Needs School in Kaposvár.

Pictured above are the group of nine Hungarian teachers and youth worker trainees, The Mayor of Kaposvár, Károly Szita, Twinning Officer, Kinga Futó, and members of the Bath Twinning Association and the Kaposvár Lions' Club.

The City Council had generously acquired Soundbeam for the Lions Club of Kaposvár to manage on behalf of the local residents. The cost of this training was met by funds raised by the Twinning Association at events in Bath and at Bath Phil concerts.

Everyone welcomed the effective training which was the first stage in a programme which would see Soundbeam used throughout Kaposvár to benefit all those with special educational needs.

To celebrate this remarkable partnership the Lions Club hosted a most enjoyable farewell supper and presented a delightful soft toy lion!



Zsuzsa Röhring and Anni Pytel at the Lions Club farewell supper

The Painters' Festival



(l-r) Valerie Inwood, Co-Secretary BKTA; Victoria Brawn, member Bath Phil Orchestra; Jason Thornton, Musical Director Bath Phil; Gabor Kerényi, Musical Director Kaposvár Symphony Orchestra.

Nine twin towns were present at the 2010 Annual Kaposvár Painters' Festival and the International EU Conference on tourism.

Following an invitation from Gabor Kerényi, the Festival started with Jason Thornton, the Musical Director of Bath Phil conducting the Kaposvár Symphony Orchestra at the opening concert, which received a standing ovation.

We witnessed the twinning of Rauma, in Finland and Kaposvár, then enjoyed a programme of outdoor activities, including street theatre performances, art exhibitions, a market and café culture.

All the twinning delegates were treated to a joy ride on a tourist train around the streets of the city. That was fun!

At the weekend there was a guided visit to the Rippl-Rónai Museum set in one of Kaposvár's many pedestrian priority streets. A coach then took us to historic Pécs the Cultural City of Europe 2010.



Peter Metcalfe, Chairman BKTA (left) enjoys the wine tasting in Pécs with delegates from Schio in Italy and Mostar in Herzegovina.



A colliery band marches through the streets of Pécs

A marvellous wine tasting was enjoyed at a lodge perched on the Mecsek hills overlooking the city. Seven or eight different wines were tasted and the conversations flowed more and more easily!

It was a most enjoyable festival, given as always with great Hungarian hospitality and friendship that gave twin towns a chance to get to know each other. Thanks Kaposvár.



The delegation from Bath have a meeting in the Mayor of Kaposvár's office during their Civic Twinning Visit in 2010. Pictured (l-r) The Mayoress of Bath (2009-10) Mrs Pam Barrett, The Mayor of Bath (2009-10) Councillor Colin Barrett, The Mayor of Kaposvár, Councillor Károly Szita and The Mayor Elect (2010-11) Councillor Shaun McGall.

The KaposArt Project



Pictured above the BKTA delegation meet with Klara Halmos and other artists from KaposArt to discuss an invitation from Brian Elwell of Bath Artists' Studio for a KaposART exhibition at their Bath Gallery in September 2011. Twinning Officer, Kinga Futó and the Twinning Association hope, with their help, a small group

of KaposArt artists will be able to travel to Bath and exhibit.

The Mayor of Kaposvár, Councillor Károly Szita is pictured below enjoying seeing his hand cast in glass at the Bath Aqua Glass Theatre of Glass during his Civic Twinning Visit in 2010.



Below: Headteacher, staff and students from Tancsics Mihaly Gimnazium School in Kaposvár and Culverhay School, with The Mayor of Bath, Councillor Shaun McGall, at their Civic Reception in The Guildhall on 8 March 2011.

Photo courtesy of Bath News and Media



To join the Association contact the Secretaries Valerie Inwood, 5 Widcombe Crescent, Bath, BA2 6AH, telephone 01225 317285, e-mail valinwood@googlemail.com and Katalin Siklodi-Martón 12 Rivers Street, Bath, BA1 2PZ, telephone 01225 429367 e-mail marton_timea@yahoo.co.uk, Treasurer, Jim Cook, 1 Vale Lodge, Weston Park West, Bath, BA1 4AR, telephone 01225 311802, e-mail jandbcook@homecall.co.uk

AIX-EN-PROVENCE



Andrew Clarke, Vice-Chairman Bath Twinning Association; The Mayor of Bath, Councillor Shaun McGall; Caroline Claverie, Aix Twinning Association; with Bridge players from Aix-en-Provence and their hosts are welcomed to the Guildhall.

Bridge-Building with Aix

The Mayor of Bath, Councillor Shaun McGall welcomed Bridge enthusiasts from Aix-en-Provence and their host families at a Civic Reception in the Guildhall last summer. They spent a day with the Bridge School of Bath in Queen Square, the Bath Club in Twerton and Avonside Club at Green Park.

The Twinning Committee treated the group to a visit to Lacock Abbey and lunch at the George Inn.

They are hoping to organise a return visit to Aix-en-Provence later this year.



Saying goodbye to Caroline Claverie (right) from the Aix Twinning Association and thanking her for all her help are Councillor Marian McNeir MBE, Chairman of the Bath Twinning Association and The Mayor of Bath, Councillor Shaun McGall.



A delegation from Aix-en-Provence visited Bath in October 2010 pictured (l-r) at the exhibition of lions in The Royal Crescent Bath are: Ann Tipper, Clerk to the Twinning Forum; Caroline Claverie, Aix Twinning Association; Don Foster, Member of Parliament, Councillor Marian McNeir, Chairman Bath-Aix Twinning Association; Michèle Jones, Deputy Mayor of Aix-en-Provence; Isabel De Castro, President Aix-Bath Twinning, Aix-en-Provence Council; Cosimo Giunta President Aix-Bath Twinning Association; Vicky Gallop U3A.

Fond Memories

Carole Bishop has fond memories of a trip to Aix-en-Provence with 14 'Seniors', mostly from U3A French Groups.

We were greeted by representatives from the Aix Association des Jumelages and whisked off by our host families.

We visited the 14th Century Château Vauvenargue where Picasso lived and worked from 1958 until his death. There are views of the impressive Mont St Victoire, a massive limestone feature which at nearly 1,000 metres high dominates the whole area. Cézanne, who was a son of Aix, painted the mountain more than 50 times in the last years of his life.

In Marseille we saw the old quarter of Le Panier, which suffered almost total destruction in the war although it is now beautifully rebuilt. Nearby is the Hospice de la Vieille Charité, a 17th century Baroque home for the poor surrounded by columned arcades in pink stone which is now a cultural centre.

We drove around the old port up to the Notre-Dame-de-la-Garde which tops the hill south of the harbour and traditionally protects those at sea. The views were spectacular and inside the church was resplendent in golden mosaics with many marine



'Les Seniors' follow in Cézanne's footsteps.

artefacts. Next stop was Cassis, an old Provençal fishing port where we took a boat to visit the calanques – long, narrow, deep inlets which have cut into the limestone cliffs, quite stunning.

At the official reception in the beautiful 17th century Hotel de Ville, we were welcomed by Cosimo Giunta, the President of the Association des Jumelages. We thanked all those who had worked hard to make us so welcome. Afterwards we were taken to Sans Souci – a community centre for seniors and also visited the Musée Granet, which used to be an art school at the time of Cézanne and now houses art exhibitions.

Our last day was spent in the beautiful Lubéron area where the old ochre mines at Roussillon have 17 shades of the ochre used in artists' paints. After learning about the production and distilling of fine lavender oils and essences in a Lavender Museum we visited Le Village des Bories – dry stone dwellings with corbelled roofs which were inhabited from the Middle Ages right up to the 19th century. On the way back to Aix we saw Gordes, a picturesque Provençal hillside village, and then caught a glimpse of the 12th century Cistercian Abbaye de Sénanque.

The last night ended with a singsong led by Sheila from our group and Jean Mathieu who organises the seniors group in Aix.

The warmth of our reception by all we met was most impressive, along with a real desire to promote friendships and links between our countries.

To join the Association contact the Secretary, Jackie Tollit, 40 Midford Lane, Limpley Stoke, Bath, BA2 7GS telephone 01225 722025, e-mail Jackie(@tollit.net

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The Deputy Mayor, Councillor Marian McNeir, welcomes students and teachers from La Nativité School in Aix-en-Provence to a Civic Reception in The Guildhall, Bath on 16 February 2011.