

## BRISTOL-HANNOVER COUNCIL



# HEUTE JANUARY 2011

[www.bristolhannovercouncil.org](http://www.bristolhannovercouncil.org)

## WERE YOU THERE?

Did you go to the German Christmas Market in Bristol this Christmas?

Gathered under the towering Pyramide, many colourful stalls, selling Bratwurst, Sauerkraut, Spannferkel, Lebkuchen and German Christmas delicacies and trinkets, were staffed by cheerful German custodians, mainly from Lower Saxony.

A favourite, of course, was always the Glühwein. A group of BHC members was invited by the organisers to enjoy a fun evening there, and we found the Glühwein tasted better than it did in Germany, and was even cheaper!! Make sure you don't miss out on this year's Deutscher Weihnachtsmarkt!!



## **GERMAN LANGUAGE PR CAMPAIGN**

**By LIZ WEBSTER**

**SPRECHEN SIE DEUTSCH?** You could soon be adding a few German words to your vocabulary with new signs posted on Bristol's public buildings. In a bid to encourage more pupils to study GERMAN at GCSE level, translations were added to some of the city's biggest landmarks by the Goethe Institut. The organisation, which promotes the study of German abroad through cultural exchanges and awareness, decorated five buildings with giant sticky notes.

**BRISTOL CENTRAL LIBRARY** became *DIE BIBLIOTHEK* and the nearby **COLSTON HALL** became *DIE KONZERTHALLE* as the city became bilingual. Other landmarks given a German overhaul included **ST NICHOLAS MARKET** which became *DER MARKTPLATZ*, **BRISTOL CITY COUNCIL HOUSE** - *DAS RATHAUS* and **BRISTOL ART GALLERY** - *DIE KUNSTGALERIE*.

Students and teachers from **CLIFTON HIGH SCHOOL** added their support to the campaign and said languages were important tools for the modern world. Caroline Clements, 15, is in Year 11 at the school and has been learning German for four years. She said, 'I was actually born in Munich and my parents lived there for a while, so I have been brought up with German. I think learning a foreign language is useful for travel and holidays. I also think it's quite an important skill and it's quite highly regarded when you are looking for a job.'

'As far as languages go, I think people don't learn them because they presume everyone will speak English. Some people find it quite difficult too so that puts them off. Our class at school is quite small and there are only six of us. I really love studying languages and I'm also studying Latin and Greek. I'm hoping to carry on and study A-level German in the future.'

The initiative comes as pupils face decision time for GCSE options. The Goethe Institute is campaigning to encourage more young people to think German and consider the short- and long-term benefits of selecting the language at GCSE level. In 2010 about 65,000 young people took German GCSE. The number of pupils taking the language at GCSE level has been in decline since 2002 and has decreased by 50% over the last eight years.

Uwe Rau, from the Goethe Institut, said, 'Speaking a language provides young people with a huge number of opportunities that will stay with them throughout their lifetime. Having a language can benefit all aspects of a young person's life, so we'd urge any parents whose children are thinking about their GCSE options to talk to them about choosing a language. Foreign language skills are a key to success in a globalised world. Knowledge of German opens doors to business as well as academia.'

### **Honours and Success**

BHC congratulates the Honorary German Consul in Bristol, Ann Newby, on her award of the Deutsches Verdienstkreuz. The ceremony, conducted by His Excellency the German Ambassador, took place at the Bristol Mansion House in the presence of the Lord Mayor and members of BHC and BAGS. Her appointment brings the number of Bristolians holding the Cross to six.

### **Academic Distinction**

All members of Bristol-Hannover Council congratulate our Chair, Ann Kennard, on the award of Doctor of Philosophy and the publication of her book: *Old Cultures, New Institutions*.

## OUR VISIT TO HANNOVER

From snow-bound airports in England, from fog-shrouded terminals, from their sickbeds by trans-European railways and by skipping work in Berlin, a group of BHC members descended on Hannover by their own means early in December to celebrate St Nicholas's Day with their friends in the Gesellschaft. And Hannover itself was freezing, the roads and pavements coated in uncleared and ungritted ice, the air swarming with persistent fine snow. But there was more to it than that. We went because we had missed out on our planned visit in September. We went to attend the party held to celebrate the retirement of Paul and Hermann from their offices of exchange visit organisers. We went to hold a meeting of our two associations to plan our future work together, to meet the Oberbuergermeister and to discuss joint projects with Hannover city officers. And we went to enjoy the Advent *Stimmung* in Germany, to visit their Christmas markets, to tour the delightful town of Celle with its imposing castle and, above all, to enjoy the good cheer, hospitality and friendship of our Hannover friends.

It was a short but most enjoyable visit, and a valuable one. It was agreed that next year's visit of members of the Gesellschaft to Bristol should consist of no more than 12 members and should take place over the period of our Harbour Festival, that is July 28 to August 2. It is hoped that enough Bristol hosts will be forthcoming, and will assist in any short trips which may be planned, while the Festival itself will provide interesting attractions.

The Oberbuergermeister informed us of his planned visit to Bristol earlier in the year, and Hannover has been invited to take part in Bristol's Garden Festival, to be held just before Easter, by staging its own garden on a dedicated site in the Broadmead area.

Hannover was quite envious of our new younger members (Ian Devine, our new Treasurer, was with us, and he made quite a hit). The Hannover Committee was also impressed by the many varied activities we are involved in and are able to support, such as the Scouts' visits, the Rowers' and other linked organisations.

We look forward to another active and positive year and hope to rely on the support of our members to continue to foster our links with Hannover.

## COMING EVENTS

### STOP PRESS!

Come to the Council House from 7-9 p.m. on THURSDAY 3<sup>rd</sup> February to hear reports from the SCOUTS, the CATHEDRAL CHOIR and the ROWERS who visited Hannover recently with YOUR financial support. They wish to THANK YOU and tell you how they got on. We look forward to hearing their accounts and to meeting our members who make these visits possible.

Our ROSENMONTAG party is one of our annual highlights. This year the date falls on March 7 and our party will take place at our usual haunt, THE BLACK SWAN, Stoke Lane, Westbury, at 7.30 p.m. Members and their friends, members of BAGS and their friends – all are welcome to an evening of fun, German Karneval music and German food. For our catering (e.g. how many tons of Bratwurst and Sauerkraut do we order?) we obviously need to know how many are coming. So please BY THE END OF FEBRUARY SEND £8 PER PERSON TO OUR TREASURER, Mr. IAN DEVINE, 39, NUTGROVE AVE., BS3 4QF. CHEQUES TO BRISTOL-HANNOVER FOUNDATION. Please make a note of this now, as this will be our only means of communication with our members.

Our ANNUAL DINNER will be held on 7 or 14 APRIL, please reserve those dates and details will be announced shortly.

Look forward to a macabre, historic, Victorian evening tour of Arnos Vale Cemetery, led by an experienced guide. This will be a unique experience for members, and may well be followed by some convivial good cheer. The date will not be fixed until the evenings are less spooky, but will be announced in our April edition of HEUTE. Something to look forward to!

There is a splendid large restaurant on the Triangle where you can, for a modest set price, eat as much as you like from a vast range of delicious courses. Members who have enjoyed an evening of gorgeous delights there have suggested that some of us might like to meet and partake the pleasures of the cuisine. This will be fixed after April, but we shall have to book. Then enjoy!

## MEETINGS

At our Annual General Meeting in October our Chair, Dr. Kennard, gave a report on the previous year's activities, including the showing of the film *Full House* at last year's meeting, of the visit of young people from Hannover to discuss ethnic integration with a group in Bristol and the showing of the film *Mozart in China* to enthusiastic audiences of school pupils. Our *Rosenmontag* party was greatly enjoyed, as was our annual dinner, and both events were also attended by members of BAGS and an encouraging number of new BHC members. In February we welcomed 45 members from a Hannover *Berufsschule* who were visiting Bristol to study us as a Fair Trade City. In March, Watershed held a digital storytelling workshop for participants from several countries, including two friends from Hannover, Helga Wawra and Wilhelm Knicker. At Easter the Bristol Cathedral Choir visited Hannover and gave concerts. BHC was pleased to support them financially. Although the City Council's input in the Bristol-Hannover Sporting Exchange is currently in abeyance, some clubs were able to continue visiting Hannover on a bilateral basis, including the Ariel Rowing Club, which was given financial assistance by BHC. Three council officials from Hannover visited Bristol in September to discuss areas of possible cooperation with their counterparts here. Eventually, after three years of lobbying by us, the Hannover Quay signs re-emerged on the quayside – to our great delight.

Unfortunately, it was necessary for us to cancel our planned visit to Hannover in September, but this was compensated for by some of the committee members attending the HBG's Nikolausparty in December (see P.3). In November, John Veale gave the annual Neville Osborne lecture on 'Living in Europe', a lively presentation enjoyed by VI formers of BGS and members of BHC and BAGS. Sadly both Miriam Osborne and her son Stephen passed away earlier in the year.

The Chair paid tribute to Alix Hughes, the BITA coordinator, for the huge amount of support he has given us, and to the Hon. Secretary for his hard work and efforts.

At this point in the meeting the Treasurer's Report should follow, but the Chair rose to point out that the reports had not been completed due to the late resignation of the Treasurer. All the accounts had been placed in the hands of The Bristol Community

Accountancy Project (BCAP) and the Chair invited all those attending the AGM to attend an Extraordinary Meeting on November 4<sup>th</sup>, to approve the completed accounts. [This meeting was duly held at the Council House and the accounts approved, having been prepared by Jo Trowbridge of BCAP. It is no longer necessary for the accounts to be audited as in the past, since the level of our financial balances is low enough, by law, only to need inspection by an independent examiner. The Extraordinary Meeting approved the necessary change to the constitution. Also at this meeting, Ian Devine, an elected Committee Member, was elected Hon. Treasurer.] At the AGM the Lord Mayor thanked all the Officers for their work during the year. The Officers and Committee members for the new year were then nominated and elected:

Chair: Ann Kennard

Vice Chair: Brenda Hugill

Secretary: John Veale

Committee: Mark Allinson, Ian Devine, Doreen Pastor, David Perkins, Paul Seath, Eleanor Selway and Paul Watson.

After the meeting there was a lively discussion on suggestions for the future development and work of the Council. What is particularly encouraging is the number of new members, most of whom (by the standards of most of us) are young, and all enthusiastic with lots of ideas. Since these meetings, there have been further business meetings, and several informal gatherings. Should you like to be included in these, let John know (0117 9567113). And please, if possible, put your email address on your membership form next April, so we can reach you more quickly (and more cheaply!) if anything crops up!

### BAGS MEETINGS

(Contact Jon Darch, 01761 463100)

8<sup>th</sup> Feb DER KONGRESS TANZT....

(in German, English and French) Horst Claus

24<sup>th</sup> Feb GERMANIA – Supper Meeting

A personal history of Germans ancient and modern by Simon Winder (author of the book glowingly reviewed in HEUTE last year)

15<sup>th</sup> March MAHLER – THE MAN AND

MUSIC by Brian Snary. Supper Meeting

29<sup>th</sup> March A TASTE OF AUSTRIAN WINE  
by Lys Hall, with Buffet