

## BRISTOL-HANNOVER COUNCIL



# HEUTE

## **SPRING 2011**

At Bristol-Hannover Council we are leaping forward into the New Year. At an inspiring gathering at the Council House early in February we heard illustrated reports from three groups of young people who had visited Hannover with YOUR support – they were members of the Cathedral Choir, the Rowers and the Scouts. The young people spoke with enthusiasm and confidence about their visits and were all grateful for the help we had given them. (IT IS APPROPRIATE THAT WE REMEMBER THIS NOW AS IT IS TIME TO PAY OUR SUBS!)

**But we are active on many fronts. We are now planning the Gesellschaft's visit to Bristol, encouraging schools to develop links with Hannover, consolidating old exchanges (such as the *Westbury Singers* with *Canta Nova*), planning ahead for this year's *Bristol Weihnachtsmarkt*, sponsoring *Radio Bristol* for programmes from Hannover, and dealing with regular requests from people in Bristol for help in Hannover (from a construction company to a collector of *Pelikan* ink bottles – let me know if you can help with the latter!)**

**We are encouraged by the zeal and lively ideas of our new committee members, and always by Alix Hughes, the Bristol International Twinning Coordinator. Above all, we look forward to Members' support and participation in the events which we hold.**

*John Veale, Hon. Secretary*

### The Hannoverians are Coming

From 28<sup>th</sup> July to 2<sup>nd</sup> August this summer our friends will be arriving for their biannual visit. If you are expecting guests to be staying with you, please let us know soon. The number coming over will be limited to 12 and we are told that to date none have hosts, so we really do need members to come forward to put up some visitors. Think of the overwhelming hospitality we always receive when we go to Hannover! Dare we say to them that in Bristol we are not hospitable enough to put up a few couples for a few days? Contact Ann on 9425860.

The visit coincides with Bristol's annual Harbour Festival, so there will be a lot going on to occupy them. We have proposed a selection of visits and excursions for them, and hope that hosts can arrange to take our guests on these visits (e.g. to Stourhead). A Farewell Dinner has been arranged for Monday 1<sup>st</sup> at HMS Flying Fox.

### This Year's Weihnachtsmarkt

Your Committee has recently met with the organisers of next Christmas's Bristol Market, to build on the success of last year's, and we hope to involve Bristol groups in music, story-telling and carol singing at this community event, and give it a Hannover flavour.

### Bristol City against Hannover 96

Members of your Committee with our Lord Mayor met with the Executive Director of Bristol City Football Club to consider a match between the two clubs. It has been suggested that the first links should be games between Academy teams, leading in a few years to a match between the two senior teams, perhaps for the opening of the anticipated new stadium.

### UWE students in Hannover

UWE lecturer Adam Sheppard reports on his return from Hannover's Leibnitz University that he and his colleague had a great trip to Hannover (academic and social) with students from the Department of Planning and Architecture and continue, over 20 years, to have an excellent relationship between their two institutions

### PROFESSOR FRANK SHAW

We are all very sorry to learn of the death of our Life Member Frank. He was always a loyal and enthusiastic member of BHC. Our condolences to Gisela and his family.

### Student Placement

UWE student William Bartovsky from the Architecture and Environment Department has gained a 4 week placement with Alix Hughes, our International Twinning Co-ordinator, to research how Hannover 'greens' its sports centres to give advice to sports developments in Bristol.

### PROGRAMME FOR HANNOVER VISITORS

28 July: Arrival and Reception by hosts

29 July: Day excursion to Stourhead House and Gardens in hosts' cars.

30 July: Participation in Harbour Festival

31 July: Afternoon visit to new 'M' Museum

1 Aug.: 10.00 a.m. Reception at Mansion House

3.00 p.m. Visit to Arnos Vale cemetery

7.00 p.m. Farewell Dinner at HMS Flying Fo

2 August: Departure from Bristol

*All this can only take place if BHC members offer hospitality to our visitors.*

### Discover Germany

Schools throughout the country received an invitation to take a teacher and 5 Year 8 pupils on a four day visit to Hannover and Wolfsburg in July – preference given to those schools whose pupils need a boost or who have a high interest in Germany and its culture. Participants follow a full-time programme of activities, including cultural activities, sightseeing tours and excursions to landmarks and hidden gems – also visits to a German school. As far as BHC knows, no Bristol school has applied.

### Watershed Learner Workshops

Members will remember that last year Helga and Wilhelm came to Bristol for a week to take part in one of these workshops. It was so successful that Helga has recommended a long-standing HBG member, Vera Landgraf, to take part in a workshop this year. Vera first came to Bristol in 1949 with a visit organised by the Labour Part and still keeps up the warm friendship with the family where stayed.

### Holiday Tip

*The Times* gives details on how to get to Hannover: Air Berlin from Gatwick, Germanwings from Stanstead or British Midland from Heathrow. Why? It was recommending a visit to the Harz mountains, always a favourite excursion for visitors, to ramble along the bramble-free *Naturistenstieg* for nudists.

**SUBSCRIPTIONS ARE DUE**

*For those who have not joined as new members in 2011*

**Please complete the membership form AND RETURN IT WITH YOUR SUBSCRIPTION to our Treasurer, Ian Devine, as soon as possible AND CERTAINLY BY THE END OF MAY.**

**Please make sure you have clearly indicated:**

**Your name**

**Your address with Postcode**

**Your telephone**

**Your email address**

**And indicate if you pay by Direct Debit**

**Email is important for those who have one, as it makes contacting you so much more efficient and cheaper.**

**Some of you are Life Members. (What a wise financial recommendation it was all those years ago! – but some Life Members today wish to include a donation to help our funds.) But please indicate on the form if you are a Life Member and return the form – otherwise it is easy to lose track of you.**

**IT IS ALSO IMPORTANT TO SIGN THE DECLARATION AT THE BOTTOM, IF APPLICABLE, AS OVER 20% OF YOUR SUBS IS RETURNED TO BHC AS GIFT AID.**

**We do not hold any fund-raising events. We do not receive any money from the Council. Our funds come entirely from Membership contributions, and from them we only help YOUNG PEOPLE for their visits to Germany, and correspondence.**

**[All other functions, such as social events, citizens' visits etc. are self-financing.]**

### **GERMANY IS 'IN'**

**Have you noticed how Germany has become the 'in' country? You cannot open a travel brochure, or look at the travel pages in the newspapers, without seeing holidays in Germany being highlighted. Last year, while touring privately in the hidden regions of Franconia, I was surprised to come across crowds of Brits emerging from their coaches and pleasure steamers at delightful places such as Bamberg and Würzburg. So they do get further than Rudesheim am Rhein!**

**There was a long 2-page article recently in *The Times* extolling the virtues and delights of Germany: the friendliness of its inhabitants, the warm welcome they always give to visitors, the charming attractive villages, the wealth of its culture, its museums and churches. And of course**  
*Continued in next column....*

### **MISSION STATEMENT**

**The Bristol International Twinning Association has asked us to put together a draft strategic overview of our work for a Vision Paper for the City Council. We are submitting the following:**

Since 1947 Bristol has been twinned with Hannover, the oldest twinning association in England, and has brought together thousands of citizens from the two cities over the years. Both Bristol and Hannover are vibrant cities with an important cultural heritage. The Bristol-Hannover Council aims to involve as many Bristolians as possible, young and old, in extending these ties which have already enriched the lives of so many people in both cities. Since the beginning of the twinning, there has also been a close link between the Lord Mayors, Councillors and Officers of the two cities. In Hannover there is an active Hannover-Bristol Society which organizes frequent leisure activities, English language classes and visits to Bristol. The Bristol-Hannover Council was founded to arrange and co-ordinate the many links between the two cities. They include school and youth links, exchanges of choirs and orchestras, theatre groups, artists, university departments, and a number of continuing links between organizations such as churches, police, fire brigade, business, industry and trade unions. The Council holds cultural and social events throughout the year, welcomes and assists groups visiting Bristol from Hannover, and arranges for citizens' regular visits to Hannover, and from Hannover to Bristol. There are also strong sporting links between the two cities, with sporting exchanges taking place every year.

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**its music, local festivals and its wine. For visitors, a great advantage is its reliable and efficient transport system, using its long distance buses and river boats on interchangeable tickets.**

**As I browse through some of my travel brochures I find the following tours advertised for this year: Medieval Saxony; Berlin, Potsdam and Dresden; Music in Berlin at Christmas; Art and Music in Dresden; The Leipzig Bach Festival; Handel in Halle; Beethoven in Bonn; The Mahler Festival in Leipzig; Organs of Bach's Time King Ludwig II and Palaces of Bavaria (*All by Martin Randall Travel*). And I even read an article which said that the common language in Europe should be German, not English, as it's spoken by 80% more of its inhabitants!**

**Other brochures include scenic tours – to the Black Forest, Rhine, Moselle, Main, the Harz Mountains, the Bavarian Alps. Yes, Germany is 'IN' as a tourist destination. I'm looking forward to a company offering 4 days in Hannover with Harz rambling – all for £200!!**