



**BRISTOL
HANNOVER
COUNCIL**



**TWIN TOWNS
SINCE 1947**



Welcome to the New Bristol – Hannover Council Newsletter
THIRD EDITION – FEBRUARY 2017

Frohes neues Jahr – Happy New Year!

A little late, but sent with the same warm wishes!

Make sure to make a note in your diary of some great things happening within your BHC!

Have we got your correct contact details?
Phone / address / email? Let us know so we can keep you informed of what's happening!

UPCOMING EVENTS:

New year meal out – March 5th

Lunch at the Burrington Inn (in the Mendips)

followed by a walk (not compulsory!)

Have you booked your place?! Please

contact: Lynda.Evans1@btinternet.com

Have a look at the menus at:

www.burringtoninn.co.uk

Visits:

Hannoverians will come to Bristol for the Zoo party **22-27th June**.

We will be organising a programme of events for them – more via email later. We will visit Hannover for the international fireworks display in the Herrenhausen Gardens on the weekend of 17-22nd August. Have you booked your place?!

Theatre / cinema / show news: - Watershed films -

Toni Erdmann (15)

Extended due to popular demand until Thurs 23rd Feb! This is a brilliantly original absurdist comedy, an epic of parent-child dysfunction that centres on a father assailing his uptight corporate daughter with crazy pranks.

Honouring Esther project:

The exhibition showed photos & maps of both the preparatory walk in Somerset in 2015, & then the actual walk from Hannover to Bergen-Belsen, to commemorate the death march of 1945. There was also film of the final walk & the site of the former concentration camp, all who saw it were very moved. It is hoped that the exhibition may be reshowed elsewhere, including Bristol if anyone has access to a suitable exhibition space, please let us know.

It is with sadness that we have to inform you that Esther is no longer with us. She died peacefully with family close by on 18th January 2017.

Can you help? – Treasurer required!

Our Treasurer Katerina Seery is no longer able to fulfil that office, so we are in urgent need of a new Treasurer. Do you have any accounting, bookkeeping or even basic housekeeping skills? (collect / pay in cheques etc)? Ideally we would like someone who is also able to prepare the End of Year accounts, which are not at all complicated. Currently we have had to pay an external company to do this (we would rather put this money to better use – i.e. helping other people etc)! Please, have a think about it - if not you, perhaps you know someone who would like to help us? Any assistance greatly appreciated, let Ann know: ann.kennard@waitrose.com or give her a bell!

The GDR & Christmas

This was a lecture previously enjoyed by members of BAGS - it was now our turn! Combining Mark's entertaining comments in-between a carefully written script, we were all given an insight into the major differences from what happened at Christmas time, in East Germany. Am I allowed to mention the word 'Christmas'?



If I lived in East Germany...the chances were...

probably not..... you certainly wouldn't say that word too early in the lead up to 'The event' that's for sure! The 'Powers that be' tried to attribute different events to dates around Christmas 'That Event' - the many differences were quite fascinating, from promised foods from other countries (which often didn't make it to that side of Germany) to a special budget introduced for Stollen – if you missed this, you really missed out! 'Christmas in the GDR' – thank you, Dr Allinson!

BAGS Lecture – Hannover twinning Lecture

Our very own Ann gave a lecture at the BAGS Supper Evening on Monday 23rd January.

The subject: Bristol-Hannover twinning, though as members we don't need to go into great detail, except to say, it was very informative and you always find or learn something which you either didn't know, or it was explained in another way to make it clearer! A pleasant evening enjoyed by all who attended! At the end of her talk, Michael Withers presented Ann with a book of poetry "Love and Laughter", apparently actually signed by its author, Donald Hughes, one of the original five men of the Goodwill Mission in 1947.

2017 is JUBILEE YEAR!

The Launch of our 70th anniversary Jubilee Year took place at the M-Shed on January 20th. The Lord Mayor opened the event and the Lord Lieutenant, the High Sheriff, the President of Bristol City Football Club, members of the Bristol-Hannover Council, Bristol-Bordeaux Partnership, Honorary Consuls and councillors, listened to primary school children singing French songs and secondary school students performing in German.



Cotham Secondary School in action!

There was a digital screening of photos and texts from the archives, with colourful displays of banners and artefacts from both Hannover and Bordeaux; people with stories to tell about how the twinings have affected their lives over the years. Later in the year there will be many other events, in particular the Twinning Conference and our summer celebrations will continue with visits in both directions: the Hannoverians will come to Bristol for the Zoo party in June from 22-27th June - we will be organising a programme of events to include a special visit to the Bristol Record Office.

Also (courtesy of Michael Withers) a visit to the Red Lodge to view some of the paintings of Donald Hughes, one of the original five men who went over to Hannover in 1947 as a Goodwill Mission.

We will visit Hannover for the international fireworks display in the Herrenhausen Gardens on the weekend of 17-22nd August, and Mayor Marvin Rees has been invited to attend at the same time. There will be a full programme there too, with music and other entertainment for us to enjoy.

If you are hoping and planning to come to Hannover for the visit, would you please let us know, and whether you have a host family or whether you expect to stay in a hotel – we would try to get a special price for this. We will write again later when we have more details. In the first instance, please write to our Chair, Ann Kennard at: ann.kennard@waitrose.com

Old pen pals reunited

After discovering a mutual interest in Bristol-Hannover twinning, committee member Lynne McAleavey and her neighbour, Sylvia Supple talked about the time that Sylvia welcomed a Hannover student into her home for a number of weeks in 1949. That was the first school exchange after WWII and her guest, Ilse Otto became her pen friend. Sylvia and her parents visited Ilse and her family in the 1950's and Sylvia vividly remembers the destruction and devastation they saw in Hannover at that time. As often happens, they lost touch with each other and got on with building careers, getting married and having children.



Lynne and Sylvia decided that it would be nice to try to find Ilse again and the search began. Sylvia provided as much information as possible including Ilse's last known address and a photograph and the detective work of BHC secretary Lynne Evans was put to good use. The information was circulated in Hannover, printed in the local paper and after lots of telephone calls, Ilse was found, still living in the same house but under a different name. The two old pen pals are now in contact and Sylvia is considering joining the official visit to Hannover this year to meet Ilse again!

Bristol School of Gymnastics

We have recently been made aware that the Bristol School of Gymnastics, which was part of the original Bristol-Hannover Sporting Exchange in 1977, supported by the City Council, is still exchanging with Hannover! The Sporting Exchange was still going strong at the 60th anniversary, when numerous groups and councillors came over from Hannover to Bristol to celebrate with us, with a fantastic reception at the Gloucestershire Cricket Club. However, inexplicably - or was it funding? - the City Council stopped supporting the exchange after this. But Bristol School of Gymnastics had such a strong link with the Hannover Clubs that they continued on their own, but did not tell us - we could have helped them! They last visited only in December 2016 and are planning a special visit (which direction?) this year, also in December, to celebrate THEIR 40th anniversary! We will keep our ears to the ground!

Twinning Conference

On May 12th a German twinning conference will take place at City Hall, led by the British-German Association, with participation from the German Embassy, twinings all over the country and some of their partner organisations in Germany. The overall theme will be how to nurture and strengthen relations with Germany (and other countries of Europe) in the wake of Brexit. If interested, please contact bgalondon@btconnect.com. There will be a small registration fee, which covers all meals / coffee during the day, and also a gala reception in the magnificent Sansovino Room of the new Harbour Hotel in central Bristol. Invitations have gone out from the BGA and the numbers are looking good

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. Many exchanges have been supported by the Council, including:

- Schools exchanges
- Exchanges of citizens
- Sports exchanges
- University student exchanges
- Band, choir, orchestra and drama visits
- Youth club visits and exchanges
- Church exchanges
- Reuniting old friends

www.bristolhannovercouncil.org.uk



If you think you might have something interesting to contribute to our (*your!*) news-letter, please feel free to contact us! *Bis zum nächsten Mal!*