



**BRISTOL
HANNOVER
COUNCIL**



**TWIN TOWNS
SINCE 1947**



Welcome to the Bristol – Hannover Council Newsletter

FOURTEENTH EDITION – MARCH 2021

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 / NEWS

Spring greetings!

Things have started happening in the gardens, a new start for many types of vegetation – and the same is potentially happening for us humans! Having been kept “in” (like an over-wintered plant – safe from the frost) and not allowed out except for essential reasons, we’re now thinking of being able to slowly do more as we always used to do! A walk with friends, visiting our friends in person and all being well, feeling a whole lot more like a free-range chicken again! I hope the country eases gently into its new-found freedom and that people don’t all crowd out the shops (for example). There are always people who can’t wait to go on holiday, get on a beach somewhere and act like nothing has happened (as if the caution section in their brain has gone missing)... I hope (positive thinking) that the majority will approach things with a healthy level of restraint, although remembering pictures of packed shopping centres after various “lock-downs” I’m just slightly sceptical! It’s a shame all travel is lumped into one rule.....whereas maybe travel for legitimate business, visiting family and partners would have priority over those just wishing to go somewhere hot, a beach, to get drunk...
Whatever you choose to do, I’m sure with a healthy respect for caution, you will “stay safe and well”.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

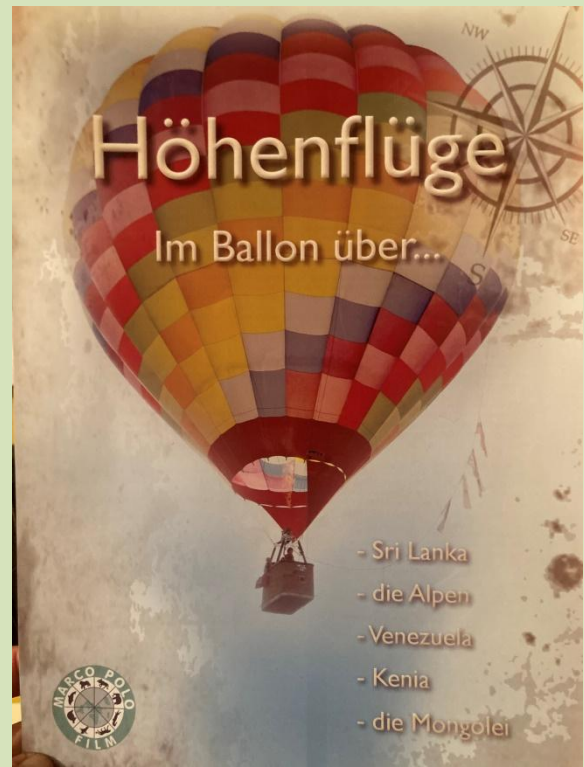
Thursday 25th March – 7-9pm: Jonathan “Quizmaster” Keir Radnedge has an entertaining evening lined up – please let us know if you wish to “attend”
- a link will be sent to you!

2021 later in the year: watch this space, we hope to meet in person perhaps during the summer – that delayed Reunion Dinner?

Presentation by member Allie Dunnington

Allie Dunnington, born in Hannover but resident of Bristol and British citizen since 2005, introduced us to the fascinating and beautiful world of hot-air ballooning. She and her husband Phil worked with a German film team to produce a stunning documentary series for ARTE (German/French production).

The five-part series explores the world's most fascinating landscapes with hot-air balloons travelling through the steppes of Mongolia, the tepuis of Venezuela, the jungles of Sri Lanka and the deserts of Africa.



In this episode Allie took us to the mountain scenery and the majestic panorama of the Alps - a challenging experience for every hot-air balloonist. This episode also focuses on the theoretical aspects of ballooning: how high, how far and how precisely can a balloon fly? What do you need to know about weather, wind and geography? A spectacular highlight is the Night Glow in Chateau d'Oex, when the fiery balloons illuminate the darkness of the valley, and Allie's rather scary solo-flight in a single-seater hopper (pic attached) over the frozen Forggensee near the fairy-tale castle of Neuschwanstein.

Socialist Realist Art – Colin Evans

Socialist realism is unmistakable. The stark political messaging, most notably developed in the two decades after the Russian Revolution in 1917, is simultaneously impressive and intimidating.

The style was also intended as inspirational for the purpose of political propaganda amid the social, industrial and economic turmoil within the Soviet Union under Stalin. Posters with spacemen, soldiers, workers, women and children, doves of peace showed Stalin's desire to portray the Soviet Union as a forward-looking workers' state

Member Colin Evans, in the latest of his German art talks, was an educative and illuminating curator of an illustrated online talk about socialist realism to 24 members and friends on January 28.

As Colin explained it:

Socialist realism is an art form that served as political propaganda mostly, but not only, in Communist countries during the post WW2 era. It did not follow trends in art towards expression but adhered to the objective of conveying straightforward motivational messages that everybody could understand. It was initially idealistic but later morphed into a cover-up for the many failings of authoritarian government.

Poster from Kazakhstan



[Among] examples of particular interest [are] those from the German Democratic Republic. These show characteristics suggesting that the creativity that has put Germany at the forefront of contemporary art was evident on both sides of the border.



Way of the Red Flag, Dresden

Colin chose the work of Walter Womacka as a major exemplar of the development of socialist realism in post-war East Germany. Much of the artwork of that era has been erased. Still enjoying pride of place in post-Wende Berlin, however, is Womacka's frieze wrapped around the Haus des Lehrers on Alexanderplatz (below).



The theme was the benefit of education – from which Colin's audience also benefited.

Thank you Colin!

Great Regional Twinning Conference:

Bristol-Hannover Council played a leading role in organising an online regional twinning conference on behalf of Bristol International Twinnings Association on February 25th, a belated follow-up to the conference held in City Hall in September 2019. 49 delegates attended from a wide region encompassing Portsmouth, Devon, Worcestershire and Reading, and there was both great enthusiasm in the discussions on the day, and a lively response afterwards. People were stimulated by the ideas which came up in discussion groups after a year of exclusively online activity. Going forward as the lockdown eases, ideas included setting up local/regional umbrella groups, hosting cultural and linguistic events to include schools and other young people, involving young people in council matters, and most of all, increasing our use of social media in order to attract the younger generations. This latter aspect caused us to think we should have another conference after Easter, with social media as the main topic of discussion, to be led by a group of 'media-savvy' participants.

Let us know if you would like to take part and play a role in the modernisation of our communications!

Exchange visits in 2022!

Having had to abandon the plans for our Hannover friends to visit us in 2020, we had pencilled in a postponed visit at the end of August this year. However, as things are still very uncertain, not least in terms of vaccine distribution, your committee has proposed to the Gesellschaft in Hannover that we cancel any further group visits this year, and plan to make up for it next year. So in 2022, our 75th anniversary! We hope to manage to organise visits in both directions, as we did for both the 60th and the 70th anniversaries. This will give us more time to organise really exciting visits and other events, so if you have any particular ideas which you would like to suggest, please let us know. In the meantime, we will stay in contact with our Hannover friends in order to work out later this year what dates might work best.

Room naming in the City Hall

We are delighted that approval has been granted to rename seven of the meeting rooms in City Hall to represent all of Bristol's twin cities. The names will appear on the doors and there will be a panel inside each room, with text and photographs to give information about the relevant city. We are very excited about this, and grateful to the Guild of Guardians, who work closely with the Lord Mayor, for funding most of the costs. It also means that anyone booking the rooms, including city officers, will book them as the 'Bristol-Hannover Room' etc. which means that the twinnings' profile will be raised amongst the councillors, officers and others.



BHC Newsletter seit 2016?!

It has been an entertaining time constructing and composing the BHC Newsletter since 2016, but I've decided that it's time to pass the "entertainments" onto someone else! Time for new energy, different ways / direction to do things I feel! Thank you to everyone who has contributed in any way, and also to those who have read and hopefully enjoyed it! Keep the link alive (as members, sharing good times together – Bristol & Hannover) as do a famous group of characters below (with the aid of a scarf) from the famous die Maus - <https://www.wdrmaus.de>
This year they celebrate 50 years of entertainments and also have our own (Bristol) Aardman Animations association – have a look for Shaun das Schaf!



Liebe Grüße und bleibt gesund – Best wishes and stay healthy - Rich

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!