



Welcome to Hannover exchange 2023

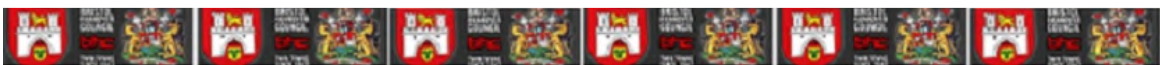
** A new year is upon us after our anniversary celebrations in 2022, and we have made a good start with a visit to the Royal Academy, films, a Rosenmontag party and a talk coming up at the end of March. But the main focus of the year is the visit in July from our friends in Hannover.

At the time of writing, more than 20 will be coming, some staying with old friends, others staying in hotels in central Bristol.

This year Bristol is celebrating 650 years as a city (and county) so our events, especially the July visit from Hannover will be in there alongside other city events

Your committee is busy organising a varied programme for their visit: a trip to Thatchers cider distillery and Cheddar Gorge, a backstage tour of the Old Vic, a special visit to the Underfall Yard as well as a tour in German of the harbour as a whole – and a farewell meal at a new venue for us!

We look forward to lots of you joining in!



Return of the Christmas Market

** In early December, about 20 members and friends enjoyed our traditional Christmas Market meal of Wurst, Sauerkraut and 'Pommes' (instead of Kartoffelsalat this year) washed down with a couple of beakers of lovely Glühwein.



We were delighted this year to welcome the Lord Lieutenant, Peaches Golding, who said she had greatly enjoyed sharing the whole anniversary year with us. A great way to start off the Christmas season.





Visit to the Royal Academy: Making modernism

** A group of BHIC members travelled up to London on March 25 to see the Royal Academy exhibition of four modernist painters - Paula Modersohn-Becker, Käthe Kollwitz, Gabriele Münter and Marianne Werefkin. The four were women artists, mainly German or living in Germany in the first half of the 20th century.

We were fortunate to have a pre-briefing from Colin Evans before the event which helped us all to place modernism in its historical context. The paintings were all interesting and worth seeing.

Inevitably some artists made more of an impact than others. The most famous of the four, Käthe Kollwitz, was perhaps least well-represented, although the quality of her drawings of figures was high.

The revelation for many was the lesser-known Russian artist Marianne von Werefkin (born Marianna Vladimirovna Veryovkina) whose expressionistic paintings of landscapes and figures were striking and recollected the work of Edvard Munch. All in all a very successful outing.

IAN TURNER



Gabriele Münter, Portrait of Anna Roslund, 1917



Film series highlights aspects of life in the GDR

** Life in the GDR was the common thread running through this short film season. Politics could have been a heavy and intrusive presence in the telling of these retrospective stories but their very humanity shines through in spite of the inevitable pressures.

Good Bye Lenin! was about a woman who, having had a stroke and resulting coma, is allowed, when she wakes up after the Wall comes down, to believe that the ‘normal’ GDR life is still going on, in case the changes cause her to have a relapse.

To achieve this, her children recreate the old East inside their tiny council flat, with some hilarious consequences.

Barbara, made in 2011 but set in 1980: Barbara, an ambitious young doctor, is exiled to a provincial hospital as punishment for attempting to leave East Germany.

Confined to a claustrophobic small town and with her every move noted by Stasi agents she lives under a constant veil of suspicion. She becomes involved with her doctor boss, which causes her to be torn between her instinct and her duty – a very GDR problem.

The Lives of Others, made in 2006 but set in the 1980s: In this outstanding Oscar winning psychological and political thriller we get a fascinating insight into the lengths that the GDR regime went to in order to control the lives of the population.

A Stasi agent, spying on an acclaimed playwright and his actress girlfriend, finds himself increasingly sympathetic to them and their relationship highlights the boring life he himself is leading – again a clash between duty and reality.

We had a well-attended follow-up meeting at the Eastfield Inn to discuss the films. Many expressed admiration for the way Germany has used the medium of film to explore this complex time in their recent history.

The stories were told with honesty and using exceptionally talented ensemble casts rather than the commercialised star system. We agreed that, although each story was different in regard to the political and social circumstances that framed them, in the final reckoning human beings will find a way of surviving even against heavy odds.

COLIN EVANS

NB: Watch out for an upcoming talk by member Neil Taylor: “Could the GDR have succeeded?”



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Karneval is back!

** An enthusiastic group of members and friends met to celebrate Rosenmontag, final celebrations before the privations of Lent, in the old style on February 20th at the Black Swan in Westbury-on-Trym.

Wearing funny hats, and in one case a wig, listening to and joining in singing Karnevalsmusik, we all had a very enjoyable time. The plus this year was being able to watch the Karneval processions in both Köln and Düsseldorf on satellite TV, which made it all much more real and colourful, and we are grateful to the pub staff for setting it up for us.





BITA quiz

*** Every year Bristol's seven twinnings compete to win the Paul Garland Trophy, given some years ago to commemorate a former Chair of the Bristol-Tbilisi Association. As the Bristol Link with Beira had won it last year, they set the questions for this year's quiz, and hosted it at Watershed. Bristol-Hannover could only field four people, two of whom were new members, but we held our own. Anyway Bristol-Bordeaux Partnership won this time, first time ever, and so we look forward to their event next year when they will host us all.*



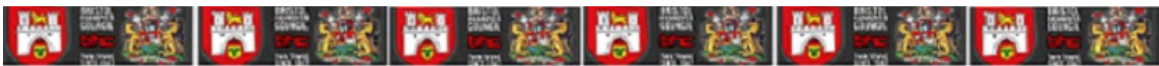
Our own World Cup winner

**** England may have been knocked out in the quarter-finals of the FIFA World Cup in December but BHC committee member Jonathan Keir Radnedge came home from Qatar as a winner.**

He was among a number of veteran sports journalists presented with a replica of the World Cup trophy in acknowledgement of the 15 finals tournaments at which he has reported – ever since England's triumph over West Germany in 1966.



The ceremony in Doha was organised by world football federation FIFA and the international sports press association (AIPS) and the presentations were undertaken by the 2002 World Cup-winning Brazilian Ronaldo.



Addenda to the anniversary year . . .

** As a coda to the anniversary year, our chair gave an interview to BBC Radio Bristol on New Year's Eve, looking back on a great year of fun, visits and events. Who can forget the gin boat? And the tree? And the birthday cake! If you don't have your calendar yet, there are still a few left.

In *October* and *November*, conversations took place between Bristolians and Hannoverians as part of the Sharing Memories project, an idea of Ruth Myers, who masterminded the 70th anniversary project: *In Someone Else's Shoes*.

This time the project aimed at collecting memories of past exchanges, as part of an assessment to be completed by students of the University of the West of England, under the tutelage of English lecturer, Katy Mahood.

In *October* City Hall saw a gathering of Bristolians with all sorts of memories of Hannover which were imparted to students as a basis for the essays they were to write.

In *November* our Hannoverian colleagues were interviewed on Zoom by the students, in order to get the Hannoverian perspective. The results in terms of the essays are awaited with interest.



Circomedia, Portland Square

** Circomedia went to Hannover in November to perform with young people there, and hope to have a return visit to Bristol sometime in the future.

A group of the BHC Committee were treated to a performance of the Bristol young artistes after their return at their performance base in St Paul's Church, central Bristol, and were dazzled by their expertise. We look forward to working together again in the future.

Young Bristol AGM:

** Following help in obtaining a grant for Young Bristol from UK German Connection, members of the Bristol Hannover Committee were invited to their postponed AGM. It took place at the offices of Burges Salmon on January 19, 2023.

The evening was led by the Young Bristol President, Jonathan Webb. He welcomed everyone and thanked all for attending. As the evening went on, the Year in Review progressed to the young people who went to Hannover, to give their feedback.



This was provided through a picture and oral presentation. The young people really enjoyed their experiences and were messaging and facetimeing their new friends, in Germany, before the proceedings started.

At the end of the official part of the business, Peaches Golding OBE CstJ handed out long-service certificates to members of staff. After the meeting, a buffet, tea and coffee etc was available whilst we mingled with members of the staff and offered support for contacts in Hannover should it be required. A very interesting and enjoyable evening.

FRANK TITMARSH and LYNDA EVANS



Absent friends . . .

** We have sadly noted a number of deaths amongst our members and friends in the last few months, who will have been known to many of our members:

David Perkins, our stalwart supporter of the rugby exchange with Hannover's Odin Club over many years, died in September 2022. Several of us went to his funeral, which was attended by hundreds of his friends, who sang *Guide us oh thy Great Redeemer* with great gusto.

Richard Wong, long-time leader of the Beaufort Badminton Club exchange with Hannover, died in November 2022. We attended his memorial service, where a tribute from the Hannover badminton leader Andy Krause was read out by the Bristol organiser, Jackie Millward, who has been involved with the exchange since 1991. Richard had also been involved for 30 years and hosted many exchanges and many Hannoverians.

Prof. Tony King, member of BHC in recent years and husband of member Prof. Ursula King, at the age of 91. Tony had been a high-flown academic, working in universities in the USA and India for many years. Tony was always interested in our activities and he and Ursula came with us to Hannover in 2019.

Elfi Nadler, aged 91, longtime member of Hannover-Bristol Gesellschaft, and great friend and exchange partner of committee member Paul Watson.

Gerda Mueller, aged 88, longtime member of Hannover-Bristol Gesellschaft committee, Minutes Secretary and always kind and welcoming to us in Hannover.

John Langman, aged 88, longtime member of BHC, former Honorary German Consul and holder of the Bundesverdienstkreuz.

