

BRISTOL-HANNOVER COUNCIL / BRISTOL-HANNOVER FOUNDATION

President: The Rt. Hon. Lord Mayor of Bristol, Cllr Henry Michallat

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2025

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 16 - Hannover Room, City Hall (formerly The Council House)

1, Apologies: Peaches Golding, Michael Bloom, Richard Harris, Neil Taylor, Ethne and John Dando, Janet Caswell, Lesley and Jim Scarborough, Paul Watson.

2, Opening remarks: The Lord Mayor said it had been a pleasure welcoming Hannover groups during his year in office. He thanked everyone for the efforts in continuing to make the links as strong as ever and promised to continue supporting the BHC's work after his term had concluded.

3, Minutes of the last Annual General Meeting: Approved. Proposed Ann Kennard, seconded Ian Turner.

4, Reports

[i] Ian Turner thanked the Lord Mayor for his support during the year and which had been particularly appreciated by our visitors from Hannover. His chair's report, his first as chair, is appended.

[ii] Treasurer's report: Irena Górczyńska noted that the accounts year runs from from April 1, 2024, to March 31, 2025. At that point the council account was £6,713.76 with a surplus for the year of £1,233. The foundation account stood at £1,356.77 with a surplus for the year of £118.

[iii] Membership report: Sue Thompson said work was ongoing to identify both active friends and paid-up and new members.

[iv] Report on visit of Hannover Group to Bristol [Lynda Evans and Frank Titmarsh]: Frank reported on the success of the various events in Bristol, including the balloon fiesta, as well as Wells and Glas-tonbury; 15 visitors came from Hannover.

[v] Report on visit of the Multiplier Group to Bristol and the Hannover Learning Pack: Zoe Gibbons described the value of the BITA Instagram account 'Bristol Twin Cities' in reaching out and promot-ing Twin City events for promotion. A youth study visit was oncoming as well as the embassy's sum-mer/winter party. Work on the Learning Pack was under way with the aim of developing next year. Zoe reviewed the Multiplier Group visit events and thanked the work of BHC committee members in helping making it a success.

[vi] Report on activities of groups and organisations: Ann Kennard noted that a remarkable 10 groups had visited Bristol this year and the Linden Rowing Club was about to visit.

[vii] Report on Multiplier Meal and joint event on German Unification with BAGS and University: Anna Turner endorsed Zoe Gibbons's remarks about the multiplier event for which BHC had pro-vided a ploughman's supper and afternoon tea with the emphasis on local produce. Generous support had been provided by the Guild of Guardians. The unification event had been attended by around 90 people including a large number of students.

Adoption of reports:

5, Vote of thanks - from the Lord Mayor to retiring Officers and Committee: Approved unanimously.

6, Election of Officers and Committee: The Lord Mayor thanked the BHC members for all their work over the past year and in particular to Ian Turner and Zoe Gibbons.

- (i) Chair - Dr Ian Turner - Proposed by Ann Kennard, seconded by Lynne Evans
 - (ii) Vice-Chair - Frank Titmarsh - Proposed: Ian Turner, seconded by Jonathan Radnedge
 - (iii) Honorary Secretary - Jonathan Radnedge - Proposed: Irena Górczyńska, seconded: Ann Kennard
 - (iv) Honorary Treasurer - Irena Górczyńska - Proposed: Lynda Evans, seconded: Frank Titmarsh
 - [v] Committee Members - Cllr Kye Dudd, Hon. German Consul Kai von Pahlen, Lynda Evans, Dr Ann Kennard, Anna Turner, Gillian Davies, Richard Harris, Paul Watson - Proposed: Ian Turner, seconded: Jonathan Radnedge.
- All approved.

7, Proposal to create a working party to review the organisational objective as stated in our constitution: Ian Turner said the current, old, constitution did not reflect accurately the work of the BHC and perhaps did not meet more recent development of the charity laws. He proposed creating a working party which could report back to next year's annual meeting and appealed for volunteers. Approved.

8, Subscriptions for 2024-25: No change.

9, Any other business: Frank Titmarsh thanked Ian for all his work on taking over in his first year.

Meeting closed at 7.42pm.

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CHAIR'S REPORT

BHC Chair's Report 2025

This is my first annual report since becoming chair in Oct 2024. It has been a very busy year. We have hosted a visit from HBG-more from Lynne. We have supported six or seven different visits by groups from Hannover to Bristol-more from Ann Kennard. Perhaps our most significant visit was the Multiplier Visit -more from Zoe Gibbons and Anna Turner.

I will focus in my report on the other events and initiatives not covered.

This year saw a full programme of events for our members-no fewer than 18 events over the year, not including the events offered by BAGS.

We continued with our traditional social gatherings for the Christmas lunch at the Weihnachtsmarkt and the Rosenmontag celebrations both attended by the LM, together with our annual display of sporting skills at the darts evening.

In January we started a programme of on-line talks with a presentation by Michael Bloom, also attended by our friends in Hannover. this was followed up by several online talks in Feb and March working with GHIL and LBI.

In March and April we switched to evening events at Stoke Lodge with a series of three talks by BHC members revisiting earlier research.

In May we commenced the first of three film showings at Stoke Lodge of films by the noted German director Christian Petzold, each having a different perspective on aspects of German history.

We organised two excursions to exhibitions this year. The first to an exhibition of the works of Anselm Kiefer and Van Gogh in London was unfortunately not well attended but the second, an outing to the Niki de Phalle exhibition at the Hauser and Wirth gallery in Bruton proved popular and was enjoyed by all.

During the year we reached out to other organisations in our space. Following talks with BAGS we agreed that both organisations would make their talks available to members of the other organisation. Since then, we have publicised each others' events. We also agreed to look for opportunities to work on joint events. At the suggestion of BAGS, we held a joint event celebrating 35 years of German unification with BAGS and the German event. The event was very well attended with some 90 guests. It opened with a moving address from the new German ambassador and was ably organised by Mark Allinson, with contributions from BHC, BAGS and Union students. It demonstrated what can be achieved when we work together.

While on the topic of German ambassadors, Ann also organised a very successful meeting of Bristol organisations with German links in the Folkhaus to meet the previous Ambassador who was visiting the city to promote German.

The other organisations I reached out to in the year were the Junior Chamber, who hosted a very successful visit from Hannover in August and the Bristol Rotary Club, who sent a group to Hannover last month.

So far this year we have not had as many applications for travel grants to Hannover, though we can anticipate some interest from sports clubs and participants from the Multiplier visit. We agreed to allocate £200 to the latter and £560 to the creation of a learning pack for schools on Hannover. In both cases we received generous support from the Guild of Guardians.

I would like to thank members of the committee and other members for their contributions over the last year. I would also like to express our appreciation for the tremendous work done by Zoe Gibbons in the International Office in supporting the link with Hannover. It has been a marvellous team effort. It would be great to see other members becoming more involved. The events are for the benefit and interest of members. If anyone has suggestions for things we can do together and, better still, things they would like to do for us, please let me know.

Ian Turner / October 14, 2025

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BRISTOL HANNOVER COUNCIL ACCOUNT			
RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS			
YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025			
		2025	2024
		£	£
INCOME			
Subscriptions		814	720
Other Income_Calendars		59	0
Gift aid		249	360
National Savings Bond Interest		990	879
Corrections		17	111
Other		0	280
		2128	2350
EXPENDITURE			
Support grants		0	750
Website		101	110
Zoom		65	95
Expenses_Representing BHC		722	665
Re Foundation account_Correcti		17	111
Other		0	18
		905	1747
Surplus/(Deficit) for the year		1223	603
Balance brought forwards from previous year			
Current Account		5490	4888
National Savings Bond		26500	26500
Cash		0	0
Add			
Surplus/(Deficit) for the year		1223	603
Closing Balance		33214	31990
Represented by			
Current Account		6714	5490
Cash		0	0
National Savings Bond		26500	26500
		33214	31990

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In attendance [together with the president]; Mark Allinson, Vivien Brown, Jill Davies, Lynda Evans, Rob Foster, Irena Górczyńska, Ann Kennard, Tony Kennard, Ingrid Lechner-Hare, Carla Murray, Alison Owen, Derek Pickup, Jonathan Radnedge, Sue Thompson, Frank Titmarsh, Anna Turner, Ian Turner.

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