



SO MUCH TO CELEBRATE IN 2026

** BHC has enjoyed another busy year. Second-half events, as featured here, included the visit by our friends from Hannover in July. In total we welcomed no fewer than seven groups from Hannover during 2025.

In 2026 we are of course returning the compliment: our visit to Hannover takes place from May 14-18 and, judged by the tantalising details filtering through from our partners via social media, promises to be another memorable journey.

We will also be in planning mode for our 80th anniversary in 2027. We will be working closely with the councils in Bristol and Hannover but would welcome any ideas you may have for ways we can commemorate the occasion.

As usual, we will be organising events locally in Bristol with a German flavour for our members, in some cases working jointly with Bristol Anglo German Society and the German Department at the university and in some cases doing our own thing.

It is always good to get ideas from members about what we can do together and even more to get members willing to help organise them. If this is you, feel free to drop me a line by email idgeturner1@gmail.com.

IAN TURNER, Chair, BHC



Linden Ruderverein back to visit Ariel

** Linden Ruderverein visited their partners Ariel Rowing Club in Bristol from October 17-19 and had a packed programme.



The Ariel and Linden teams with follow-up boat behind

A reception on the Friday evening with the reopening of the historic Avery's boathouse, was followed on the Saturday by several races on the river, including the resurrection of the club's Autumn Regatta, the Chattock Fours.



The Chattock Fours cup presentation

This event is at least 100 years old but had not taken place in living memory. Ann Kennard found herself unexpectedly presenting the cup to the winning team, Ariel.

The annual Club dinner took place on Saturday evening and Sunday saw a final social event after more activity on the river, a skittles night. Bristol-Hannover Council made its usual contribution to the expenses of the weekend of this, our longest running sports partnership.

ANN KENNARD



Fact-finding Youth Study Visit

** On November 11, a group of representatives of youth organisations all over Germany spent the day in Bristol, as part of a fact-finding tour from London to Cardiff, to see what facilities and activities are available to young people in the UK.

The trip was organised by UK German Connection, which acts as the bilateral government agency for school and youth links between the UK and Germany, with national offices in both countries. Despite the UK no longer being part of the EU, UK-German Connection remains dedicated to supporting partnerships, offering intercultural opportunities, and facilitating connections between schools, youth groups and young people themselves in both countries.



Zoe Gibbons, twinning officer at Bristol City Council, organised an afternoon of presentations by representatives of youth organisations within and outside the City Council. Zoe and Ann Kennard also gave a presentation on the activities of Bristol-Hannover Council, with particular emphasis on youth exchanges, such as Young Bristol and RISE Dance, which have been supported by BHC.

Later the group was taken to some facilities offered by Young Bristol, such as the Ashton Vale Youth Club, where they met the junior members aged 8-11 (older members would come on a different evening), and then they visited a mobile facility in Hengrove (*pictured, above*), where older young people are welcomed and have various activities.

The German visitors were very satisfied with their visit, and we hope that there will be new partnerships in the future.

ANN KENNARD



Celebrating St Martin again in Bristol

** German and Austrian citizens in Bristol have celebrated St Martin's Day [November 11] again with a lantern parade in Redland.

The German Saturday School Bristol has been organising lantern walks around St Martin's Day for years, followed by a play about St Martin sharing his coat with a beggar (an important scene from his life). Traditional Weckmänner were also enjoyed at the event.



Kai von Pahlen in the title role

Throughout Germany and Austria, similar processions of children with lanterns (Laternelaufen) are often led by a man dressed as a Roman soldier, representing St Martin.

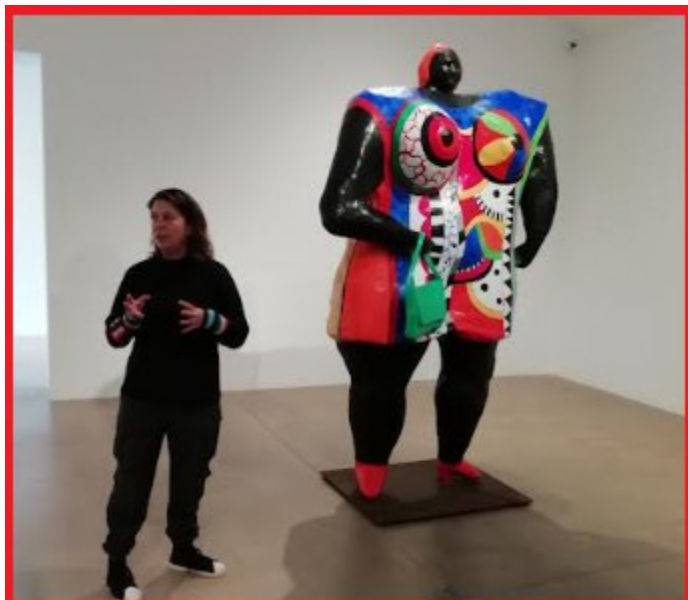
The German Saturday Schools offer opportunities for German speakers across the UK to practise their German and continue to engage in aspects of German and Austrian culture.

KAI VON PAHLEN



Visit to Hauser and Wirth

** One autumn event for BHC members featured a visit to the Hauser and Wirth Gallery in Bruton, Somerset, to view an exhibition of the work of Niki de Saint Phalle and her husband Jean Tinguely.



We were given a guided tour by Niki's daughter, Laura Condominas (pictured).

IAN TURNER



Hannover Multiplier group hits Bristol

** Some 16 visitors from Hannover, representing different civic societies and youth associations, came to Bristol in a 'Multiplier Visit'.

Zoe Gibbons, Bristol's International Twinning Officer, had travelled to Hannover last September, then contacted Bristol groups and organisations who she believed to share a similar ethos or offer a visiting counterpart.

The aim of the week-long event was for the Hannover delegation to visit their Bristol equivalents to create new links, facilitate shared learning, new projects and exchanges.



The visit was scheduled between Saturday, September 27 and Friday, October 3, and included a reception at the City Hall (*above*) which provided a great opportunity to catch up with old friends.

BHC also hosted a celebratory meal for the Hannover group, their Bristol partners and invited guests including the Lord Mayor, the Leader of Bristol City Council and the Lord Lieutenant. Other events included a performance of old German films with a live sound accompaniment from Bristol at the Cube.

Hannover Culture team, which initiated and funded the project, explained that “in the face of multiple crises and an increasing polarisation and renationalisation of society, the multiplier trips are intended to contribute to link local cultural workers, educational initiatives and civil society groups with each other, strengthened by the city partnership network and jointly develop projects and democracy-promoting projects and partnerships.”



Celebrating 35 years since German unification

** Around 90 people gathered at Bristol University on Thursday, October 2, to celebrate 35 years of German Unification. The event was jointly organised by the Bristol Hannover Council, Bristol Anglo German Society and the German Department of the University of Bristol.

An inspiring message of support from the new German ambassador Susanne Baumann was read out by Mark Allinson, the chair of BAGS who orchestrated the whole event. A series of reflections on recent history followed.

Contributions included a piece on changing UK perceptions of the German economic model over the years by BHC chairman Ian Turner, Jon Darch from BAGS pointing out that the once successful football clubs of East Germany had not fared well following reunification and Angela Greenwood reading out the recollections of BAGS member Susan Hibberd's visits to Germany over the years starting in the bitter winter of 1947.

Ruth Winter from the German department compèred a panel of students who had just returned from spending a year abroad. They shared their experiences from living in Berlin, Cologne, Heidelberg, Leipzig and Jena, with reflections on the identity of German youth today, their feelings about the past and hopes for the future.

The event was topped and tailed with refreshments provided by BAGS and BHC.



Another successful Hannover exchange

** We have waved goodbye to our friends from Hannover after another successful visit. A big thankyou to all colleagues for making such a success of the latest visit from our Hannover friends, particularly Lynda Evans who organised it.

The visit started on Thursday with a reception with the Lord Mayor in City Hall, and later in the day a fascinating visit behind the scenes at M-Shed. Friday saw a full-day trip to Wells, to include the Cathedral and the Bishop's Palace, and then a stop on the way back in Glastonbury for the fitter ones in the company to climb up to the Tor.

Saturday was a busy day, starting with a guided tour of the Arnos Vale cemetery, which has some most interesting monuments - as well as a café - and it was then easy to pop across the road to the Blue Glass factory to watch the expert glass-blowing (Bristolians will be aware that the company has to leave these premises, but they have gathered great support for finding a new home for this most important part of Bristol's history).

In the afternoon the group were treated to a fascinating story of Bristol during the Second World War in a recently reopened air raid shelter underneath the St Nicholas Market. Finally on Sunday, as this was the weekend of the Balloon Festival, everyone did their own thing in finding a good place to view the balloons, either at the take-off site in Ashton Court, or simply to watch them floating over the Downs, the harbour etc in the beautiful weather.

The visit was rounded off with a most enjoyable meal at Aqua restaurant on Welsh Back, where we were again honoured with the presence of Peaches Golding, the Lord Lieutenant of Bristol.

Feedback from the Hannoverians was really positive and we are greatly looking forward to the return visit to Hannover in May 2026.

ANN KENNARD



Our own Christmas tradition

** BHC rounded off a busy year with our traditional German lunch at Bristol's Christmas market, this time in a slightly new location: the Cider Bar, which was more like an Alpine Hut, with its wooden tables and stools, and signs saying Jägermeister and Glühwein, so it suited us very well!



We were joined by former Lord Mayor and great friend of Hannover, Alderman Colin Smith (*on the right, pictured*), who expressed his pleasure at being with us again. We enjoyed the usual Bratwurst, Kartoffelsalat and copious amounts of Glühwein

Wir wuenschen frohe Weihnachten und einen guten Rutsch ins Neue Jahr!



Relaunch of the Facebook page

**** BHC has relaunched its Facebook page. Catch up on all our forthcoming activities and find out more about the things you missed. For all things Hannover related in Bristol and most things German follow BHC on Facebook:**

www.facebook.com/search/top?q=bristol%20hannover%20council



Bristol-Hannover Council aims to involve as many Bristolians as possible, young and old, in extending the ties which have already enriched the lives of so many people in both cities since 1947.

Many exchanges which have been - and continue to be - supported by the Council, include:

- ** 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***

