BRISTOL-HANNOVER COUNCIL
President: The Rt. Hon. Lord Mayor of Bristol

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2026
Wednesday, October 21, 6.30pm
Hannover Room, City Hall (formerly The Council House)
Chaired by the Deputy Lord Mayor: Cllr Henry Michallat

MINUTES

1, Apologies: The Lord Mayor, Mark Bright-Allinson, Janet Caswell, Cllr Kye Dudd, Allie Dunnington, Richard Harris, Carla Murray, Ruth Myers, Neil Taylor, Sue Thompson, Stefanie Vogt, Paul Watson.

2, Welcome and Opening remarks: The Deputy Lord Mayor said how much he had appreciated being involved in BHC events and activities during the year.

3, Minutes of the last Annual General Meeting: Approved unanimously.

4, Matters Arising: Report on Proposed Changes to the BHC Constitution (see attached): Ian Turner reviewed the work undertaken to update the constitution in line with current legislation.

5, Vote on Proposed Changes to the BHC Constitution:

IT IS AGREED THAT:

THE EXISTING OBJECTIVES AS PER THE CURRENT 1996 CONSTITUTION:

2.0 OBJECTIVES
2.1, The Council is established for the advancement of education by organising and facilitating educational exchanges between school children and educational institutions in and around the City of Bristol with school children and similar institutions in and around Hannover in Germany.
2.2, In furtherance of the above purposes the Council may:
2.2.1, raise and receive money and funds by way of contributions, donations, affiliation fees, subscriptions, legacies, grants and any other lawful method, and accept and receive gifts of property of any description (whether subject to any special trusts or not);
2.2.2, arrange to be written, printed, published, issued and circulated, any reports, periodicals, books, pamphlets, leaflets or other documents relevant to the Council;
2.2.3, arrange and provide for or join in arranging and providing for the holding of activities relevant to the Council;
2.2.4, assist any group or groups, financially or otherwise, who promote the work of the Council and whose activities are approved by the Management Committee.

. . . WILL BE REPLACED WITH THE FOLLOWING:

2.0 OBJECTIVES
2.1, Bristol-Hannover Council is a voluntary organisation with the Registered Charity Number 279212 which exists to develop greater understanding, links and friendship between the people of Bristol and Hannover.
2.2 The objectives of Bristol-Hannover Council are:
1, The advancement of education of the public, in and around Bristol, in the language, culture, history and way of life of Germany, and especially of the city of Hannover.
2, The advancement of the arts, culture and heritage of Germany, and especially of Hannover, for the benefit of the public in and around Bristol.

3, The advancement of amateur sport, in particular through sporting links and exchanges with Hannover, for the benefit of the public in and around Bristol.

2.3, In furtherance of the objects, but not otherwise, the Council may:

- organise and support educational and cultural exchange visits, including in sport, music and the arts;
- support the official twinning agreement between Bristol and Hannover;
- act as an information and educational resource and forum for Bristol groups;
- coordinate the activities of individuals and groups interested in links with Hannover;
- work with Bristol City Council and other bodies in Bristol and Hannover;
- raise funds and make grants to individuals and organisations for purposes within the objects;
- publish relevant material;
- organise cultural and related social events open to the public as well as members; and
- do anything else lawful that helps achieve the objects.

Proposed Ann Kennard, seconded Peter Hollinswaite. Approved unanimously.

6, Reports:

(i) Chair's Report on Activities and Programme of Events (Ian Turner - *appended*)

(ii) Treasurer's Report (Irena - *appended*)

(iii) Membership Report (Sue Thompson - *appended*)

(iv) Report on Visit of BHC to Hannover (Frank Titmarsh - *appended*)

(v) Report on activities of groups and organisations (Ann Kennard - *appended*)

(vi) Reports from Bristol-based organisations supported by BHC in 2026:
-Brentry School: Ian and Zoe reported that the school appreciated the twinning involvement with its partner school in Hannover and had been proactive in following through. BHC had agreed to fund three of teachers to visit Hannover in November. Brentry would be first Bristol school to benefit from the activity pack project.
-RISE Dance: Helen Wilson, director of RISE Dance, described its exchange projects since 2022 with varying financial support, including from Cultural Bridge. This year's activities had featured a Letters from Home project and a performance at Trinity Academy in Lockleaze. An alumni group had visited Hannover. Hannah, a young dancer on the original exchange, now choreographer, described the enjoyment of the project using material from local community groups. RISE was already working on a project for the BHC anniversary launch.
-Machina Bristronica: Ian had met those involved in a festival of techno music which BHC had supported financially to join an event in Hannover.

(vii) Report on Programme for 80th Anniversary of Bristol-Hannover 2027 (Ann Kennard and Zoë Gibbons - *appended*)

(viii) Adoption of Reports: Approved unanimously.

7, Vote of thanks to retiring Officers and Committee: The Deputy Lord Mayor expressed thanks, on behalf of the council for the important efforts undertaken by BHC and the contributions of retiring members Irena Górzyńska, Gillian Davies, Cllr Kye Dudd, Richard Harris and Paul

Watson. Ian acknowledged the work in particular of Irena as treasurer, also presenting her with a bouquet. Vote of thanks approved.

8, Election of Officers and Committee

Chair: Dr Ian Turner. Proposed Ann Kennard, seconded Lynne Evans.
Vice-Chair: Frank Titmarsh. Proposed Ian Turner; seconded Jonathan Radnedge.

Honorary Secretary: Jonathan Radnedge. Proposed Frank Titmarsh; seconded Kai von Pahlen.

Honorary Treasurer: Peter Hollinswaite. Proposed Ann Kennard; seconded Ian Turner.

Committee Members: Cllr Henry Michallat, Hon. German Consul Kai von Pahlen, Dr Ann Kennard, Lynne Evans, Anna Turner, Sharon Barnes, David Taylor. Proposed Ian Turner; seconded Jonathan Radnedge.

Hon. Membership secretary: Sue Thompson. Proposed Irena Górzyńska; seconded Frank Titmarsh.

All approved unanimously.

6 Introduction of the new membership system: Ian described how the membermojo system would work, starting from April 1, 2027.
7 Subscriptions for 2027-2028: Remaining at £15 per individual, £25 per family and £40 group and corporate.
8 Any other business –
9 Date of next agm to be confirmed in due course.
Meeting closed 8.52pm.

Official business having been concluded all members and friends were invited to stay for an informal and brief chat over a glass of wine.

*Signed in (in signature order): Ian Turner, Jonathan Radnedge, Peter Hollinswaite, Ann Kennard, Tony Kennard, Irena Górzyńska, Frank Titmarsh, Lynda Evans, Colin Turnbull, Sharon Barnes, Liz Gill, David Taylor, Vivien Brown, Rob Foster, Derek Pickup, Royston Griffey, Zoë Gibbons, John and Ethne Dando, Lesley and Jim Scarborough, David Maggs, Anna Turner***.**

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REPORTS TO AGM:

IAN TURNER, CHAIR'S ANNUAL REPORT 2026:

Introduction

This is my second annual report since becoming chair in October 2024. It has been another very busy year.

We have had the pleasure this year of visiting our friends in Hannover once again — more later from Lynne and Frank. We have supported multiple visits by groups from Hannover to Bristol and vice versa — more on this from Ann Kennard. We have also been preparing for next year's 80th anniversary celebrations with our colleagues from Bristol-Bordeaux. You will hear more on these preparations later as well.

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

Governance and Administration

We have already covered the changes made to the constitution to update our objects as a charity. We have also set up working parties to introduce a new bookkeeping system and a new membership system, both designed to make our processes simpler and easier to administer. In addition, we have introduced Microsoft 365 for non-profits so that we have a place to store and access our files and to hand over files to new officers.

Member Events and Activities

This year saw a full programme of events for our members.

We continued with our traditional social gatherings: the Christmas lunch at the Weihnachtsmarkt and the Rosenmontag celebrations, both attended by the Lord Mayor, together with our annual display of sporting skills at the darts evening.
In January, we started our online talks with a presentation on the bridges of Bristol and the Königsberg Problem by Jeff Lucas, also attended by our friends in Hannover. This was followed by online talks in February and March, working with the GHIL and BGA.
In March, we visited the Werner Bischof photography exhibition at Lacock Abbey, and in April we visited an exhibition in the Ken Stradling Collection about Bauhaus and Bristol.
In June, we began the first of three film showings at Stoke Lodge, featuring films by German directors: Westen by Christian Schwochow, a director with Hannover connections; The Collini Case, about the pursuit of war criminals; and Gundermann, about a performer forced to compromise with the regime in East Germany. Compromise and the exploration of the boundaries of the possible were also themes of the novel The Director by Daniel Kehlmann, the subject of a book club run by our friends in Bath-Braunschweig, in which several members participated during August.
Partnership Working
We continue to work closely with BAGS and B Uni German dept. Both organisations make their talks available to members of the other organisation, and we publicise each other's events. We also work together on joint events, such as the visit of the new German Ambassador, Frau Baumann, in April, hosted by Bristol University. The event was well attended, with some 50 guests.
Also in April, BHC members took part in a very successful regional twinning conference organised by Ann Kennard and Zoe Gibbons.
Travel Grants and Learning Resources
This year, we have had three applications for travel grants to Hannover. We will hear more from the organisation's awarded grants later. We also allocated £560 to the creation of a learning pack for schools about Hannover. This, together with an accompanying activity pack for teachers, has now been completed and successfully trialled in Brentry School, where it was received with enthusiasm. We were fortunate to receive generous support for this from the Guild of Guardians.
Thanks, and Looking Ahead
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.
We thank all those retiring committee members for their support of BHC over the year and welcome the new members who are joining us.
Next year will be a great opportunity for BHC to raise its profile in Bristol. We will celebrate an impressive 80th anniversary milestone in our history and look forward to reinvigorating our efforts going forward. We plan a revamp of our website to take advantage of this interest as well as a social media campaign. It would be great to see other members of BHC becoming more involved. The events are for the benefit and interest of members as well as the public. If anyone has suggestions for things we can do together in 2027 — and, better still, things they would like to do for us — please let me know.
Ian Turner - October 2026

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ANN KENNARD: Organisations, exchanges etc
Group visits in 2025-26
• Some 16 visitors from Hannover arrived in September representing various civic societies and youth groups on the so-called Multiplier visit. They enjoyed a week of events organised by Zoe Gibbons and the Bristol-Hannover members, to put them in touch with possible partner organisations for future exchanges. Bristol-Hannover hosted a celebratory meal for them, their Bristol partners and invited guests, including the Lord Mayor, the Leader of Bristol City Council and the Lord Lieutenant.
• In October 2025 Linden Ruderverein visited the Ariel Rowing Club, and resurrected the 100-year old Chattock Fours regatta, the winning team being Ariel.
• Ariel have also already completed this year's exchange, as they went to Hannover in April 2026 for training, and again in September for their biennial visit: 14 adults and 3 juniors travelled, there were several races, including groups from elsewhere in Germany; all Ariel's teams won their races and brought a trophy home. Leisure activities included a banquet and exchange of gifts, and learning the Argentine tango at the Hannover Tango School.
• In November 2025 a group of representatives of youth organisations from all over Germany spent the day in Bristol, as part of a fact-finding tour from London to Cardiff, organised by the UK German Connection. Zoe Gibbons organised an afternoon of presentations and she and Ann K. also gave a presentation on BHC with particular emphasis on youth exchanges, such as Young Bristol and RISE Dance, which have been supported by BHC.
• The official visit of BHC to Hannover took place in May 2026, to be reported by Lynne and Frank.
• RISE Dance have been real stars this year. Having visited Hannover to dance during last year, they were successful in obtaining funding from the Cultural Bridge Fund, with the rubric 'Letters from Home' which enable them to visit Hannover once again to connect with their partners there this summer, and to have their partners come to Bristol. More details from Helen Wilson, their inspiring leader.
• There was also a Street Art festival in Hannover, Glocke Jam, formerly named Urban Nature, with artists coming from Hannover's partner cities Poznań and Bristol, the latter "45RPM" and "Vents137" doing some successful networking. This was organised by Hannover city council.

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FRANK TITMARSH: Exchange visit to Hannover 2026
Thursday, May 14: The visit started with a swing. We all met at the New Town Hall where the annual jazz festival was taking place. It was very well attended and there were some really good musicians on show. We finished our day at Petra and Martins house for a wonderful BBQ with an American supper using their home and garden.
Friday, May 15: We took a train to the VW Autostadt in Wolfsburg. Our group was taken on a tour of the motor museum and then left to our own devices to explore the gardens and pavilions promoting the new brands of vehicles that sit under the VW umbrella.

Saturday, May 16: Another busy day. We travelled to Bad Nenndorf for a visit to the Landesgartenshau. There was so much to see from, flower tents to concerts, external pieces of art and figurines over many acres. The show runs annually from March to October. The joint committee meeting was held at Odin Rugby Club. To finish the day, we met at Herrenhausen Gardens for a privileged view of the evenings firework display which was, preceded by a champagne reception organised by Thomas Hermann (First Deputy Mayor). This was a wonderful surprise for everyone.
Sunday, May 17: The day started at the New Town Hall. We were welcomed by Thomas Hermann to the council chamber and shown around some of the historical rooms. The afternoon started with a tram journey to the Ahlem Memorial (Formerly a pioneering Jewish Horticultural School and later, a Nazi concentration camp and Gestapo HQ). We were taken on and English tour of the buildings and gardens. The evening brought the farewell dinner at the customary restaurant Werkhof. The food, as always, was very good. Speeches given were in thanks for all the hard work and amazing hospitality of Thomas, Robert, Petra and Christine.
Again, we all need a holiday after this but look forward to our next visit.

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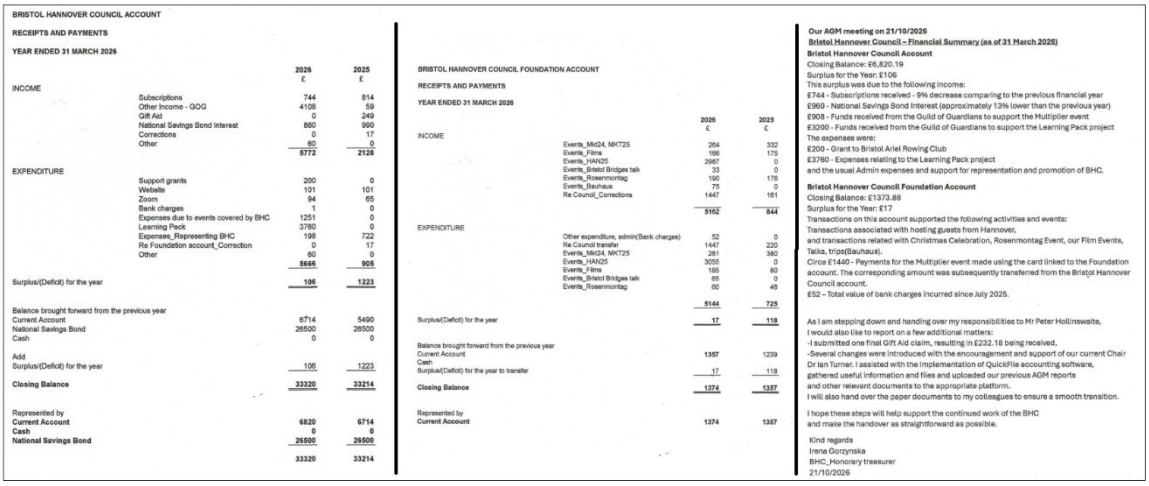
SUE THOMPSON: Membership report
The current member lists stand at about 130 people. However, many of these are long-standing members who are not paid up and managing defaulters has been difficult. Many earlier attempts have brought meagre results as my personal email address has not been recognised. Now, with the official membershipsecretary@bristolhannovercouncil.org.uk email address I expect to receive more responses and will be able to produce a definitive and up to date list of all paid up members. Those who do not respond within a given time frame (to be determined) can be relegated to the "Friends" of BHC list whereby they will receive regular emails about events and newsletters etc but will not be able to participate in events unless they are paid up.

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ANN KENNARD: 80th anniversary events
Some 17 joint Bristol-Hannover activities are in train for the 80th anniversary year. Dates agreed or scheduled:
26–30 Apr: English as a foreign language visit, 8–10 adults from Hannover to Bristol (BHC supporting)
27 Apr (to be confirmed): Bristol–Hannover rowing training camp, Lingen
10–14 Jun: Official visit of Bristol to Hannover
10–13 Sep: Hannover members visit to Bristol (City Hall reception planned; final confirmation due Oct 2026)
Month or period indicated
Jan: Launch of Bristol International Classroom Award with the Hannover learning pack
Apr/May and Aug/Sep: BHC–Gane Trust art student exchange, Hannover and Bristol legs.
Jun and Sep (tbc): Parkrun exchange, Blaise Castle and Georgengarten, aligned with the official visits
Sep: World Masters Rowing Championships, Varese (joint team of four Hannover and four Bristol rowers)
Oct: Ariel Rowing Club exchange, annual visit from Linden Ruderverein
Date still to be confirmed:
Young Königswinter delegate
School art competition linked to the Hannover learning pack
Writer exchange (University of Bristol and DAAD)
Ingress gaming competition (parallel Mission Days in both cities)
Classic cars display, Bristol and Hannover
RISE Dance performance, Bristol
Young Bristol Youth Club on Wheels visit to Hannover
Rugby: Odin Rugby Club v St Bernadette's RC
Girls' football: Long Ashton Girls FC v a Hannover team
Shared with Bordeaux: events, talks and concerts
Jan: Launch event in City Hall
Feb: Bristol Light Festival, Bordeaux/Hannover feature
Jul: Bristol Harbour Festival, Bordeaux/Hannover themed stage (with Swan Events)
Sep: Bristol Historical Association lecture, "Bristol's Gateway to the New World", with an afternoon walk; possibly aimed at Hannover and Bordeaux visitors
Nov: Wine tasting of Bordeaux, German and English wines for BBP and BHC members
Throughout 2027: St George's Bristol and All Saints, Clifton matinee series promote the anniversary with French and German repertoire
Date tbc: Bristol Music Club recitals (two, twinning-related repertoire), a youth choir concert (German and French repertoire) and a UWE Singers concert (French and German songs)
Date tbc: Slideshow of Bordeaux and Hannover twinning archive images (Bristol Museums)

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IRENA GORZYNSKA: Accounts



BRISTOL HANNOVER COUNCIL ACCOUNT

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS

YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2026

		2026 £	2025 £
INCOME			
	Subscriptions	744	814
	Other Income - GOG	4106	59
	Gift Aid	0	249
	National Savings Bond Interest	860	990
	Corrections	0	17
	Other	60	0
		5772	2128
EXPENDITURE			
	Support grants	200	0
	Website	101	101
	Zoom	94	65
	Bank charges	1	0
	Expenses due to events covered by BHC	1251	0
	Learning Pack	3780	0
	Expenses_Representing BHC	198	722
	Re Foundation account_Correction	0	17
	Other	60	0
		5685	905
Surplus/(Deficit) for the year		106	1223
Balance brought forward from the previous year			
Current Account		6714	5490
National Savings Bond		26500	26500
Cash		0	0
Add			
Surplus/(Deficit) for the year		106	1223
Closing Balance		33320	33214
Represented by			
Current Account		6820	6714
Cash		0	0
National Savings Bond		26500	26500
		33320	33214

BRISTOL HANNOVER COUNCIL FOUNDATION ACCOUNT

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS

YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2026

		2026 £	2025 £
INCOME			
	Events_Mkt24, MKT25	264	332
	Events_Films	166	175
	Events_HAN25	2987	0
	Events_Bristol Bridges talk	33	0
	Events_Rosenmontag	190	176
	Events_Bauhaus	75	0
	Re Council_Corrections	1447	161
		5162	844
EXPENDITURE			
	Other expenditure, admin(Bank charges)	52	0
	Re Council transfer	1447	220
	Events_Mkt24, MKT25	281	380
	Events_HAN25	3055	0
	Events_Films	185	80
	Events_Bristol Bridges talk	65	0
	Events_Rosenmontag	60	46
		5144	725
Surplus/(Deficit) for the year		17	118
Balance brought forward from the previous year			
Current Account		1357	1239
Cash			
Surplus/(Deficit) for the year to transfer		17	118
Closing Balance		1374	1357
Represented by			
Current Account		1374	1357

Our AGM meeting on 21/10/2026

Bristol Hannover Council – Financial Summary (as of 31 March 2026)

Bristol Hannover Council Account

Closing Balance: £6,620.19

Surplus for the Year: £106

This surplus was due to the following income:

£744 - Subscriptions received - 9% decrease comparing to the previous financial year

£960 - National Savings Bond Interest (approximately 13% lower than the previous year)

£908 - Funds received from the Guild of Guardians to support the Multiplier event

£3200 - Funds received from the Guild of Guardians to support the Learning Pack project

The expenses were:

£200 - Grant to Bristol Ariel Rowing Club

£3760 - Expenses relating to the Learning Pack project

and the usual Admin expenses and support for representation and promotion of BHC.

Bristol Hannover Council Foundation Account

Closing Balance: £1373.88

Surplus for the Year: £17

Transactions on this account supported the following activities and events:

Transactions associated with hosting guests from Hannover,

and transactions related with Christmas Celebration, Rosenmontag Event, our Film Events,

Talks, trips(Bauhaus).

Circa £1440 - Payments for the Multiplier event made using the card linked to the Foundation account. The corresponding amount was subsequently transferred from the Bristol Hannover Council account.

£52 – Total value of bank charges incurred since July 2025.

As I am stepping down and handing over my responsibilities to Mr Peter Hollinswaite,

I would also like to report on a few additional matters:

-I submitted one final Gift Aid claim, resulting in £232.18 being received,

-Several changes were introduced with the encouragement and support of our current Chair Dr Ian Turner. I assisted with the implementation of QuickFile accounting software,

gathered useful information and files and uploaded our previous AGM reports

and other relevant documents to the appropriate platform.

I will also hand over the paper documents to my colleagues to ensure a smooth transition.

I hope these steps will help support the continued work of the BHC

and make the handover as straightforward as possible.

Kind regards

Irena Gorzynska

BHC_Honorary treasurer

21/10/2026

ends