



Connections

BATH'S TWINNING NEWS LETTER

Issue 22 Jan 2016-Mar 2017



AIX-EN-PROVENCE

#

November 2016 Aix stall at Bath Christmas Market

This was our third vear running a Twinning stall at the Christmas Market, experience showed as once again all the merchandise sold out. Isabel and Marie-Claude shipped everything from Aix, and ran the stall for the week with the enthusiastic support of a rota of members. Many customers returned from last year to stock up on fabrics, wine, soap, lavender, honey etc.

December 2-7

For the 5th year
Bath was represented
at the Marché des
Villes Jumelles in Aix.
Lesley was unable to
go this year, but purchased all the usual
merchandise for the
stall - Christmas



L-R Chairman Bath Aix TA Marian MvNeir MBE, Marie Claude, The Mayor of Bath Cllr Paul Crosley and Isabel de Castro at the opening of the Aix stall at the 2016 Christmas Market.

puddings & cakes, mince pies, chutney & jam, biscuits and teas – and shipped them out to Aix. Isabel and Marie-Claude ran the stall and organised a rota of helpers from among the Twinning members and local English and American ex-pats.

Harmonie Municipale d'Aix-en-Provence

May 13-16

The band from Aix visited Bath as the guests of the Band of the Avon Fire and Rescue Service. They were hosted by the

Band members and Bath-Aix Twinning members, were given a guided walk by Mary Henderson, and a tour of the Roman Baths, but they were unable to fit in a Mayor's Recep-

tion. A joint concert was performed on the Sunday evening at St Michael's Church, and the French group visited Stonehenge on their way back to Heathrow.

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Special points of interest:

- Forced Walks
- Bath City Youth Football teams stunning success in Kaposvár
- ◆ Treve Erdmenger

Gardens visit to Bath

June 18 -25

We welcomed 12 visitors and their leader, Isabel de Castro, to Bath for a week of visiting gardens and Bath attractions. These included Highgrove, Iford and Stourhead as well as some private gardens. The visitors were hosted by members and friends of the Association, and were very appreciative of the friendship shown to them.

During their visit members joined them for a friendly game of boules, and they also assisted in the formal presentation by the Mayor of a collection of books on

Aix and Provence to the Bath Library.



Chairman's Review of the Year

We have had a very busy year in 2016 with many activities both here in Bath and with visits and exchanges to Aix.

Many of our members have contributed to the events and our monthly meetings are open to everyone.

The year started very well with a wine tasting at BRSLI by Master of Wine Charles Eve and this was followed in March by a very enjoyable French film, Gemma Bovary.

School exchanges between KES and La Nativite in Aix took place in Spring.

In May we were delighted to support the visit of the Harmonie Municipale brass band from Aix when they exchanged with the Band of the Avon Fire and Rescue Service. As with so many Twinning activities, this was an individual initiative this time by a student from Bath University who had spent a year in Aix and joined the Aix band.

In June we had a visit from garden enthusiasts from Aix which followed on from the Gardens of Provence visits organised by Marian in previous years. Our Aix friends were joined by their Bath hosts on visits to Highgrove, Iford, Stourhead and Derry Watkin's Rare Plants as well as private Bath gardens. (see photo). As usual a friendly game of boules was organised and books from Aix were handed over to the library.

In July we joined with the Bath – Beppu Association at the City Conference to raise the profile of Twinning in the city.

Our Bath - Aix team, led by Lesley ,was thrilled to win the Inter twinning Boules Challenge in July (see photo with Mayor).

Marian organised a Fetons la Rentree lunch at Bistro Pierre in September to welcome old and new members and in November we enjoyed another wonderful French film, Les femmes du sixieme etage .

The year ended with great success when Isabel and Marie- Claude brought their wonderful Provencal merchandise to the Christmas Market and for a week, Bath enjoyed the smells and tastes of wine, lavender, soaps, honey and tapenade from Aix. The Twinning Association provided a rota of willing helpers and the stall was again a sell out. (see photo)

At a reception with the Mayor, Cllr Paul Crossley , also attended by the French Consul, Mme Josette Lebrat, we heard from Daisy Walsh and Tanya Josham about the Bath City College competition for stonemason apprentices to design a stone bench to celebrate our 40th Anniversary of Twinning between our two cities , a long held dream of Marian's for 2017.

Our final activity happened in Aix when Lesley arranged for Christmas puddings, cakes, mince pies, chutneys, jams and teas to be sold at the Marche de Noel in Aix – another sell out event.

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Inter-Twinning Boules Challenge



Two teams from each Twinning Association battled it out on the piste in the evening to decide the champion for another year, and this year it was Aix who prevailed. The Mayor presented the trophy, which we keep for a year until we have to defend it.

The Mayor (Councillor Paul Crossley) tries his hand on the piste.

The friendly rivalry was once again on show at this years Boules event as Kaposvar attempted to hold on to the title after their victory last year.

Mayor's Civic Receptions

A Mayor's Reception was held on 25th to welcome our guests from Aix, and also to present the plans for a stone bench which is being made to celebrate our 40th Anniversary in 2017. Students of stonemasonry and stone carving at Bath College will be competing to design and make the bench. The College's Head of Department, Daisy Walsh, and the Stonemasonry Instructor, Tanya Josham, spoke at the Reception.



Civic Reception with members of Bath-Aix TA & French Honorary Consul Josette Lebrat.

November 30

Another Reception, this time for all of the Twinning Associations to meet together. The TAs set up displays about our activities and our twin cities, and as well as the Mayor, met with Councillor Mark Shelford representing the Charter Trustees.

ALKMAAR



ALKMAAR 70 70 YEARS OF FRIENDSHIP BATH - ALKMAAR



The past twelve months has seen plenty of regular activities, some new partnerships being formed, and the planning and launch of a special anniversary programme of activities, 'Alkmaar 70', marking 70 years of friendship between the cities of Bath and Alkmaar. We have welcomed several new members onto our committee, a number of whom joined after coming along to our regular monthly 'Alkmaar Café' social event, which is continuing to grow in popularity and attendance. We have also expanded our website, and now have a Facebook page and our own Twitter account, all aimed at raising our profile across the City. In March we gave what we hope will be the first of many presentations to schools on the story behind Bath's links with Alkmaar.

We are continuing to work hard to raise our profile, and stimulate new links across our two cities: football and hockey are currently being explored, as are a number of new musical connections. We are also trying hard to stimulate economic discussions across the two cities. A busy year lies ahead!

Rowing

There has been plenty of activity on the water this year: 22 visitors from Alkmaar rowing club joined their hosts, Minerva Rowing Club, in Bath in September 2015, and 7 crews from Bath made the return trip in April this year. The trip to Alkmaar was not just all about rowing – their hosts invited the Bath team to a cookery workshop, where they learnt to prepare 'Bitterballen', a traditional Dutch savoury meat-based snack.





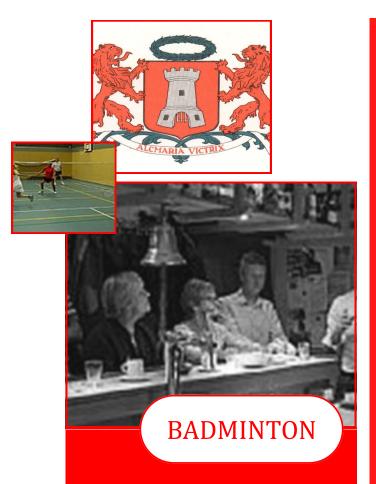
Petanque

The City of Bath Petanque Club were in Alkmaar in October 2015 for their third visit, with a number of new members making the trip for the first time. They joined with two clubs from Alkmaar in a mixed "melee" tournament, helping everyone make friends across the clubs.

In April, 11 members of Alkmaar's L'Autre Chemin petanque club accepted an invitation to play alongside 50 local players in an open competition, impressing everyone with their level of skill: another firm bond has been created between the two cities.



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In April the Bath Sports Centre Badminton Club visited Alkmaar, the 17th such exchange since the two clubs first forged links over 25 years ago, in 1989. Alongside some fine badminton games, their hosts, the Poona Badminton Club, arranged a salsa dancing session, a musical evening, and a programme of visits and trips: much fun was had by all.



PHOTOGRAPHIC EXHIBITION

The Bath Photographic Annual Exhibition, in November 2015, once again featured stunning images from our Dutch friends in the Heilooer Amateur Fotografen club, which is based in the Alkmaar district. Plans are in hand for a special exhibition during the Alkmaar 70

anniversary year.

Photograph courtesy Ton Thomassen.

Swimming

In March this year, the Bath Dolphin Swimming Club hosted a visit to Bath

of the DAW or "De Alkmaarse Waterratten" swimming club – and, yes, it means the Alkmaar Water rats! This exchange is the 30th such event since the first, in 1948. This year's trip included a major swimming competition, and a range of social activities, including a reception kindly hosted by the Mayor.

Alkmaar 70

70 years ago, in August and September 1946, barely a year after the end of World War 2, the people of Alkmaar generously invited 50 children from Bath to spend a Summer holiday with them in the wide open spaces of North Holland. The visit echoed one made a year earlier by 50 children from Alkmaar, who had been hosted in Bath over Christmas 1945.

Recognising September 1946 as

the year the 'circle of friendship' between our two cities was completed, we have decided to designate the 12 months from September 2016 as 'Alkmaar 70'; a way of stimulating new interest in our links, as well as strengthening the many which already exist.

- Search to find the "lost Alkmaar children": We launched the year with an appeal for information on the "lost Alkmaar children", generating media coverage in Bath and the Netherlands. Already a number of people have contacted us, and we are gathering their stories to keep, in a permanent digital record, the amazing tale of the early years of our link.



Tulips from...Alkmaar

Our first practical activity will take place in October and November, working with 'Bath in Bloom'. Our friends in Alkmaar have generously offered us 5,000 tulip bulbs – the same number sent to Bath as a thank you for Bathonian's generosity through the 'Alkmaar Appeal' in 1945.

These bulbs will be planted by the Council's Parks Department in the Alkmaar Garden/Orange Grove and in Parade Gardens. Over 1,000 bulbs are also being sent to Bath schools, where they will be planted by the children. Next Spring, a little bit of Dutch colour should be seen around our City!



Educational resources go online

We want more schoolchildren to be aware of the origins of our Alkmaar link. To help teachers across the curriculum, we've placed some source materials onto our website to act as stimulants for further creativity and investigation by pupils. The resource materials include photos of some of the characters who played a part in linking Bath and Alkmaar; a poem from celebrations of a decade ago, and a list of all the ways Bathonians re-

sponded to the original Alkmaar Appeal in 1945.



Eli Prins, the Jewish man whose escape from Alkmaar in 1941 started the chain of events

School Exchanges

We are really pleased to have helped stimulate an exchange between, from Bath, Beechen Cliff and Hayesfield Schools, and in Alkmaar the Petrus Canisius College. This link arose through the involvement of pupils from the Bath schools in the International Youth Games held in Alkmaar last year last year.

In March 6 young people each from the two Bath schools visited Alkmaar, and in June a return trip was made by 12 pupils from Alkmaar. The 14 and 15 year olds – all keen sportspeople and studying PE - spent time in each other's schools and learnt unfamiliar sports. The Dutch visitors were coached by their Bath hosts in cricket, rugby and netball – a novel experience which proved successful and fun.





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BRAUNSCHWEIG

The Bath Braunschweig Connection continues to flourish. The past 12 months have seen several successful school exchanges and petanque events, supported financially by the Bath Braunschweig Twinning Association . The first number of the BBTA Newsletter came out in January in paper for-mat; subsequent issues are on line and sent quarterly to all BBTA members.



The News from Braunschweig by Katrin Landsmann

The main news at present is the large number of refugees in the city. One of the three State Reception Authorities for Lower Saxony is in Braunschweig; there are thus between 3000 and 4000 refugees at any one time being assessed before being relocated within Germany or sent home if they come from a safe place. Not surprisingly reactions of people in Braunschweig vary. Some, especially those living near the camp complain of antisocial behaviour; on the other hand there are many initiatives trying to help the refugees in all sorts of different ways.

Other news is the emissions scandal at Volkswagen. Many people in the region, including my husband, work at the site in nearby Wolfsburg. He says that the atmosphere there is really bad and people are concerned about the possibility of losing their jobs.

But to finish on a more optimistic note: the carnival season has just started and people plan to make 2016 the best ever!

Forced Walks

Forced walks is a programme of public walks to commemorate the death marches in the closing years of WW2.

On 4th and 5th February Lorna Brunstein and Richard White led a small party of British and German walkers from Hannover to Bergen Belsen following the exact route of the forced march taken by Esther Brunstein (Lorna's mother) in

February 1945. The walk reminded us that a refugee's journey is long and troubled and continues until they find safety, a welcome and a sense of belonging.

Esther Brunstein died in January 2017

For more information see https:/forcedwalks.wordpress.com

"We walk at a time of our choosing to a place of our choice in solidarity with those who had, and have, no choice"

City of Bath Petanque Club 10th Anniversary July 2015

This was quite an international competition with teams from Aix-en-Provence, Kaposvár , Vienna, the Black Forest and Jersey as well as our group of 15 from Braunschweig

We were lucky to have warm, pleasant weather with only a light shower of rain. We managed to visit the well known sights of Bath and places of interest in the vicinity, as well as renewing friendly contacts with members of the BBTA.

We are not experienced players, and most of us do it just for fun and from interest in French culture. Well, we did not win the cup, but we did have a lot of fun on a warm sunny Saturday at the new pétanque terrain, that was ceremoniously opened that morning.

The cup winners were Kaposvar with Aix-en-Provence second. An unforgettable day for which we thank all the organizers, but especially Don Grimes, and Diane Greenaway.

These encounters and activities across borders are what makes twinning worthwhile. We came home with good memories, a sense of what the European Union really means and the wish to see our friends from Bath and other places back here in Braunschweig before too long.

DEG – New President Visits Bath

The new president of the Deutsch-Englische Gesellschaft of Braunschweig, Paul Kavanagh visited Bath on 19th September and met with a number of the BBTA committee members. During his visit he made contact with the City of Bath College to arrange a partnership with the Heinrich-Büssing-Schule in Braunschweig to initiate a project in robotics and also met a member of the Bath Operatic & Dramatic Society as they have been invited to hold 2 concerts next year in Braunschweig.

BBTA AGM News

At our AGM, held in July, Don Withers resigned as Vice Chairman and Margaret Burrows. a long standing committee member also resigned. Jeremy Key-Pugh is now our new Vice Chairman and we welcome Judy Spencer onto the committee.

We are also very sad to report that Bill Waterfield, a long serving committee member passed away in July.

In Remembrance



It was with great sadness that we learned of the sudden and unexpected death on 11 October 2015 of Treve Erdmenger.

Treve was the moving spirit of the DEG (Anglo German Society of Braunschweig) for more than 20 years and will be sadly missed.

Bridge Between Twin Cities

The long anticipated visit of our bridge playing friends from Braunschweig finally became reality at the beginning of July. We enjoyed three tournaments together at Bridge and Games - Bath in Queen Square, and at Bath Bridge Club, culminating with an evening of team games in Queen Square, which was won by our German guests. As well as playing bridge, the guests attended an official reception with the Mayor, Councillor Paul Crossley, and



visited the Roman Baths, the Museum of Costume and many other places of interest within Bath and in the surrounding countryside.

Guests and hosts agreed that the visit had been a very enjoyable experience and we are already planning a return visit, and hope that this exchange will lead to some lasting friendships between the citizens of our two towns surrounding countryside.

German Sixth Former visits Bath

"Thank you very much to Mr Friel and the Staff at St Gregory's who helped to make my dream come true....."

Sixth former Pia Landsmann, also from the IGS:FF school in Braunschweig spent three months earlier this year as a pupil at St Gregory's School in Bath. During her stay she studied History, Math's, Biology and English Language and Literature. Raymond Friel Head teacher of St Gregory's was instrumental in setting up this exchange.

Pia writes "Thank you very much to Mr Friel and the Staff at St Gregory's who helped to make my dream come true and to Simon and Shirley Withers my fantastic host family".

Don Grimes

We were saddened to hear of the death of Don Grimes, a member of the BBTA committee, who passed away on 24 November 2016.

Don & other Petanque players did much to strengthen our ties with the DEG and was instrumental in ensuring that the Twinning Competition was well organised. He organized several Annual Dinners for the BBTA and represented the City of Bath Petanque Club on our committee. He will be sadly missed.

Music for 2017

January 17 Song Recital at the Michael Tippet Centre, Bath Spa University, with works by George Odam, Purcell, Tippet and many others. Antje Siefert, mezzosporano from Braunschweig, with piano accompaniment further details from: www.bathspalive.com

••••••

End of May Choral music by Waggum Ladies Choir from Braunschweig

Kaposvár

The Twinning Partnership with the City of Kaposvár in Hungary continues to keep faith with its founding principles, that is to foster the continuation of established ties, while in parallel facilitating new friendships across generations. The Association is led and run by volunteers who give their time and expertise to meet these aspirations.



The past twelve months has seen no let-up in our endeavors - richly illustrated by two primary events:

A Civic Visit to Bath by the Deputy Mayor of Kaposvár & Delegation in April and Bath City Youth Football Club playing at the renowned Kaposvár International Youth Football Festival in July

The generous help given by so many people in the city, the Mayor of Bath Cllr William Sandry, the Charter Trustees, Bath City Youth Football Club, young footballer families and Bath Kaposvár Twinning Association members has allowed our 25+ years of Twinning to thrive.

Deputy Mayor of Kaposvár & Delegation Civic Visit to Bath.

The delegation from Kaposvár City Council arrived in Bath at the invitation of the Mayor of Bath from Thursday 31 March to Sunday 03 April. The draft programme from the Mayor of Bath office was fully discussed with members who become enthusiastically involved.

The Deputy Mayor Tamás Dér, Head of Municipal Sports led the delegation that included Cllr Ference Csutor, Dr Regina Gróf, Head of Secretariat & the Kaposvár International Officer Kinga Futó-Mogyorósi.





The Mayor's office created an excellent series of visits, including the Bath Abbey footprint project, enjoying a Bath Rugby Match, seeing how Wessex Water offers services to the people of Bath, hearing the latest on the Bath World Heritage Site and meeting young inventors to see how they realise ideas at a Bath Royal Literary & Scientific Institution workshop.

A relaxed Civic Dinner was held by the Mayor in the Parlour and BKTA members helped with translation and escorting the delegation to venues. This provided ample opportunity to brief the delegation on Bath and its future aspirations

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The Yumbrella invented by Niall O'Brien, a young member of STEM was one of the innovative designs seen by the Kaposvár delegation. It was conceived to collect rainwater and feed it into a filter at the top of an aluminium pole, (similar to a conventional umbrella) and allow it to be captured into a screw-on reusable plastic bottle at the stem ready for refreshing the thirst of the user!

The Mayor also kindly lent the Parlour for BKTA members to host light snacks and coffee prior to the delegation's departure.





This most fruitful civic visit by our Hungarian Twin, the City of Kaposvár afforded an opportunity for the Mayor of Bath, (Councillor William Sandry) to introduce his guests to aspects of Bath life and its people. During the Mayor's welcome reception, a number of the Bath City Youth Football Club players said hello as they prepared themselves for playing at the Kaposvár International Youth Football Festival in July.



BATH KAPOSVÁR TWINNING ASSOCIATION

www.bath-kaposvar.org info@bath-kaposvar.org







After two years of evaluation and discussion, BKTA members with the support of the Charter Trustees of Bath and the Mayor's Office determined to seek Company Limited by Guarantee Status. Our application to Companies House was granted on 23 June 2016.

The primary aim of BKTA Ltd is "to encourage and assist youth and adult organisations, clubs, businesses, schools, educational providers and people drawn from all age groups and walks of life Bath, England and Kaposvár and Hungary to communicate, exchange ideas and to enhance their mutual experiences".

The Twinning of Bath and Kaposvár commenced in 1987 and after 30 years of successful partnership now heralds a new phase of consolidation between the people of Bath & Kaposvár.

At the Annual General Meeting in September 2016, members elected three Directors of BKTA Ltd - Gerald Curran the Chair, (currang26@gmail.com) with Zsuzsanna Jenkins & Roger Button.

Bath City triumphal return Kaposvár International Youth Football Festival

A seventeen strong U14s Bath City Youth Football Team arrived back in Bath to celebrate with families - friends a week of success at the Kaposvár International Youth Football Festival.

An experience it certainly was as Alfie, a player reports "I have played for Bath City Youth Football Club for 9 years now. During my first year as Under 6, I could never have predicted being on a plane to Hungary representing Bath in a renowned international football tournament....playing in the opening ceremony in front of thousands of people against the local Kaposvár side – who we later found out to be Hungarian national champions. It was an incredible experience to play in front of so many people as we did which only made our desire to win even stronger. The game ended 2-0 to Bath City with a flamboyant trivela (check out YouTube) and a frenetic scramble by James O that sealed the victory."

The Youth Football Festival opened on Monday July 18th - Bath versus Kaposvár at 8pm. BKTA Vice Chair Peter Metcalfe gives his impressions of the Tournament.

The 31 national teams proceeded up the main drag with their flags proudly carried to the sound of drums and trumpets at full throttle as they entered a stadium filled with their cheerleaders





The magnificent opening of the festival saw all countries introduce themselves with music and a chosen song with their supporters rapturously yelling & waving flags.



Peter the BKTA Acting Chair was invited to sit with the Deputy Mayor of Sport, Cllr Tamás Dér who smiled benignly as we spoke on the respective merits of Bath/Kaposvár football prowess. As he was my host, I naturally did not contradict, though I had seen Bath City practice earlier that morning in 32C+ with great confidence.

At 8pm the referee whistle heralded engagement that saw Bath City score a goal in the first 10 minutes by Alfie P; a life enhancing moment! The second half saw relentless pressure on both sides, though with the second half Bath goal, City had gained new boy on the block status.



The Deputy Mayor of Kaposvár Cllr Tamás Dér gave a reception for the team, with all the good food, ice cream & Kaposvár hospitality, Bath City began to gain a taste of Hungary and the culture of twinning; jointly sustained by the Cities of Bath & Kaposvár since 1987.

Again Alfie "Our team was on fire all the way to the final where we faced up against the Academy of Brescia who play in Seria B in Italy. After a long week and carrying a few injuries we fell short in the final, struggling to compete with the relentless waves of attack from the Italians. Nevertheless, we returned home with a large trophy, silver medals, but more importantly an experience I am sure none of us will ever forget".





The days leading up to City's great victory at the semi-final of the Youth Festival, the team played hard and carried all before them, though not without injuries.





Mayor Congratulates Youth Football Team

The 789 Mayor of Bath, Cllr Paul Crossley met Ed Tann & the volunteer Youth Football Club coaches at Odd Down in December. He saw how groups from 6 years upwards trained, also met and congratulated the players on their brilliant success at the July Kaposvár International Youth Football Festival.

"It was great to meet the young footballers of Bath City Youth after their successful tournament in Kaposvár. It was also an opportunity to thank the coaches that give so much of their free time to ensure that the young people get the most of the opportunities that arise from the sport."



BATH'S TWIN CITIES



The modern concept of town twinning, conceived after the Second World War, was intended to foster friendship and understanding between different nations and former foes as an act of peace and reconciliation, and to encourage trade and tourism.

The City of Bath is twinned with four European cities. Aix-en-Provence in France, Alkmaar in the Netherlands, Braunschweig in Germany and Kaposvár in Hungary and has formal agreements with each one to promote cultural and commercial ties between them and Bath.

The Mayor of Bath is President of the City's four Twinning Associations and the Charter Trustees of the City of Bath assist the Twinning Associations to maintain these links.

The Mayor promotes Bath as a Member of the Organization of World Heritage Cities and welcomes thousands of visitors from home and abroad, including members of The Royal Family, Ambassadors, High Commissioners, International Students, and Tourists from the four Twin Cities.

All the Associations are keen to widen their base of supporters in the area and if you are interested in joining, please contact the relevant Secretary for further information.

If you are interested in Twinning, would like to know more or would like to join please contact the secretary of the relevant association or for more general enquiries please contact the Mayor's Office.

Aix-en-Provence

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