



Bath-Braunschweig Twinning Association



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Monthly meetings

Until further notice society meetings will be held by Zoom monthly on Friday evenings

to join contact: Martin Guest, Secretary BBTA
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Bridge News

Bath bridge enthusiasts continue their regular meetings with their counterparts in Brunswick and we have had some very enjoyable competitions. Many thanks are due to Christine MacFarlane and to Christina Lehne for directing these tournaments and for keeping us all motivated.

Letter from our new Chair

I was very honoured to be elected chair at our AGM in June of this year. What I hadn't anticipated was just how busy this would keep me! BBTa has worked closely with the Mayor's staff to find acceptable ways of celebrating the 50th anniversary of the formal signing of our twinning agreement; sadly however the planned civic visit of the Lord Mayor and colleagues could not take place due to Covid.

Many citizens of Bath will have memories of exchanges with friends in Brunswick, which often go back as far as 1951; I myself took part in a visit with Bath College Choir in the early 90s and our initial bridge visit to Brunswick in 2017. We hope to build on similar experiences in the future so that more of Bath's citizens will have the opportunity to get to know their "twins" in Germany."

Judy Spencer

Do you know where to find this?



From **1st December** we will meet at **BRLSI** in Queen Square. The time will remain the same: **12 until 2pm**. Coffee and tea will be provided, but you are also welcome to bring your own things to eat and drink.

Note that because we are using a BRLSI room, there is a small charge of £2 for members and £5 for non-members of the institute. But I feel that the extra cost is made up for because it is inexpensive to buy lunch from a local baker or bring along something to eat.

As an added bonus, we will not be in a crowded room that is part of a café! For those who need parking, Charlotte Street car park is just around the corner.

Simon Guyett

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Memories of the early days

Visit to Braunschweig - May 1980

My very first visit to Braunschweig, (but not to GERMANY, as I had been to Berlin shortly after the wall was erected) was with the Mayor of Bath's Age Concern (MOBAC) in May 1980 16 Senior Citizens (4 men, 11 women and myself) travelling with Roman City Coaches set off on 7 May for Braunschweig. The group stayed mainly with families - single guests staying with lady or gentleman hosts.

We spent five busy days with our opposite numbers, starting with dinner at a Senior Citizens' Home. The next day was a Sunday and another warm welcome was laid on with dinner at the Stadtpark.

On Monday we were given a Civic Reception, Kaffee und Kuchen in the Rathaus followed by a sightseeing tour of the city. On Tuesday a visit to Wolfsburg and the Volkswagen factory was followed by dinner at the restaurant. In the afternoon we toured the Heide, with a coffee break at the Stadthalle in Wittingen. On Wednesday we visited Wolfenbuttel and had a sightseeing tour with lunch at the Kaffeehaus, followed by a tour of the old town. Then on Thursday we were taken on a tour of the Elm Hills with lunch at a home in Grasleben and a coffee break at the Brunnenal following the then border with the DDR to Offleben. The next day was spent shopping or visiting the exhibition Harz und Heide. On Saturday we toured the Harz mountains with sightseeing at Goslar and lunch at the Cafe Goldberg. Sunday saw our departure and final farewells leaving at 9 am for the airport and for some the railway station, a few hours later.

In conclusion I wish to place on record that the hospitality we received at each and every one of the Senior Citizens' Homes was wonderful - great company, superb food - a grand introduction to German cuisine.

These two "grand tours" started my "love affair" with one of Bath's twinned cities Braunschweig, (and the members of the Deutsch-Englische Gesellschaft e. V.) I became Hon. Secretary of the Bath - Braunschweig Twinning Association in 2003, serving, until this year, at the 20th AGM, I stood down; however I continue to play a lesser role on the committee.

Hilary Elms

Online talk by Lord Mayor Markurth

"Urban development - planning for the future and strategic development in Braunschweig", Speaker: Lord Mayor of the City of Braunschweig, Ulrich Markurth

Unfortunately the civic visit planned for October had to be cancelled. However on Wednesday 27 October the BRLSI and the Bath German Society were able to arrange for the talk to be given on Zoom. The event was well attended and Lord Mayor Markurth was introduced by Dr Yuktेशwar Kumar, the Deputy Mayor of Bath.

The presentation was followed by a lively question and answer session.

During his time in office, the Lord Mayor of the City of Braunschweig, Ulrich Markurth, has made the process of urban development in Braunschweig one of his priorities. About six years ago, the city of Braunschweig began a major joint initiative and since then, together with citizens, experts, associations and organisations, has developed a plan for the strategic development of the city ("Integriertes Stadtentwicklungskonzept - ISEK"), which will now serve as policy guidelines for urban development until 2030.

During his talk Lord Mayor Markurth presented examples of projects that have already been implemented and outlined future projects.

Of particular interest was the recently completed 22.5 kilometer *Ringgleis* - a foot and cycle path which encircles the city. The 4 sections - north, south west and east- each having their own particular character.

In Memoriam



The Reverend Professor Clifford Burrows OBE DSc and Mrs Margaret Burrows

One of the great tragedies of the Coronavirus pandemic has been that we lost touch with some of our older members - and are only just finding out what has happened to them. So it was a shock and a deep sadness to learn that Margaret Burrows died in the Autumn of 2019, and her husband, Cliff, also died, in his case of Covid-19, in April 2020.

Margaret had been a member of our Twinning Association for more years than anyone can easily remember. She was a staunch supporter of the idea of twinning; she attended committee meetings assiduously and took a lively part in discussions and decisions. In recent years she has fought courageously against increasing mobility problems until the point came when she was obliged to move into a residential care home. Until that time, her husband was a regular fixture in the entrance hall at the Guildhall, where he waited for our meetings to conclude before helping Margaret return home, or go on to one of her frequent medical consultations at the Mineral Water Hospital. It was typical of his devotion to her needs. In a sense it was a role-reversal, for before that, Margaret kept the home while Cliff was fully occupied with his notable career.

Cliff and Margaret had four children and five grandchildren, to all of whom they were devoted. Sadly, contracting Covid shortly after the first lockdown began was too much for his body to fight off, and weakened as it already was with Alzheimer's, he was spared lengthy suffering. We salute them both for the dedicated service they gave to Bath in so many ways.

Jeremy Key-Pugh

Forthcoming events

- Wednesday 8 December: Marktbummel - a stroll round Bath's Christmas Market
- an opportunity to indulge in nostalgia, Glühwein, Bratwurst and other delicacies, and to meet up with friends old and new. Members are cordially invited to join us on Wednesday 8 December - meet at 2.00 pm outside the new Toppings Bookshop (formerly the Friends' Meeting House).
- Friday 4 February 2022: A tour of the Abbey Footprint Project led by Jeremy Key-Pugh - meet at 2.30 pm outside the west door of the Abbey (please contact Jeremy - jeremykeypugh@yahoo.co.uk - a day or so before to confirm time and meeting place)

The BBTA - who are we?

Our Mission Statement: 'The BBTA exists to encourage and support friendly relations between the people of our two cities, and in particular to encourage young people to make friends across borders. The BBTA also aims to inform our fellow citizens about events in Braunschweig and to involve them in related social activities.'

How are we funded? We receive a yearly grant from the Charter Trustees (who represent the local authority); our only other income is from membership subscriptions.

How do we spend our funds? By contributing to the costs of cultural and educational visits of groups from Bath to Braunschweig and vice versa. Recent examples are:

- **2018** a 4 week visit of 5 engineering students from the *HB Schule* in Braunschweig to Bath College. **2019** a 3 day visit of 3 scientists from Braunschweig to take part in an Environmental Forum in Bath. **2019** a visit by *Bath Operatic and Dramatic Society* and *Uke Can't be Serious* to the Kulturnacht in Braunschweig

What do members get for their yearly subscription? An opportunity to participate in all the above activities - for only £10 (or £15 for a couple)