



# Bath-Braunschweig Twinning Association



No 20

June 2022

## In this issue

German Society Twinning Evening  
Forthcoming events  
Bridge News  
Stammtisch  
Brunswick Garden  
Bath Abbey Footprint Visit  
Brunswick Visit  
In Memoriam

## Monthly meetings

Until further notice society meetings will be held by Zoom monthly on Friday evenings, starting at 7.30 pm

The next meeting is on Friday 10 June 2022

to join contact: Martin Guest, Hon. Sec. BBTA  
[bbta18@hotmail.com](mailto:bbta18@hotmail.com) 07932 144136

links: [www.bath-braunschweigtwinningassociation.co.uk](http://www.bath-braunschweigtwinningassociation.co.uk)  
[www.deg-bsjimdo.com](http://www.deg-bsjimdo.com) (German English Society Braunschweig)



## A Celebration of Twinning and Friendship 21 April 2022

This was organised by the Bath German Society at the BRLSI in Queen Square. After a welcome by the Mayor of Bath (Cllr June Player) the chairs of the Bath Twinning and Friendship Associations each made a short presentation setting out the origins of their partnerships and the attractions of their twin towns.

Bath's twin towns are Aix-en-Provence (France), Alkmaar (Netherlands), Braunschweig (Germany) and Kaposvár (Hungary). Bath also has a Friendship Agreement with Beppu (Japan)

Certain themes were common to most of the associations: the need to increase awareness of the links, different exchanges and the need to involve young people with the possibility of e-twinning in schools.

It was generally agreed that meeting and talking to people from other cultures was a good way to know ourselves.

## Forthcoming events

Saturday 2 July 2022: [Visit of Cardiff Stuttgart Association to Bath](#)

Sunday 17 July 2022: [Visit of Bristol Hannover Council to Bath Herschel Museum](#)

10 to 17 Sept 2022: [Proposed visit of group from Braunschweig](#)

6 Dec to 8 Dec 2022: [Christmas Market BBTA stall](#)

Members are very welcome to participate in these events. Please contact:

Martin Guest (Hon Sec): [bbta18@hotmail.com](mailto:bbta18@hotmail.com)



Throughout the pandemic, our bridge tournaments with bridge + art brunswick have continued on a fortnightly basis, and we now have an occasional "Mixed Pairs Fun Tournament" in which we forsake our usual partners for a player from the other twin town. This could be a recipe for chaos - but provides us with much merriment and the chance to "meet" other players. As always, we are extremely grateful to Christine MacFarlane and Christina Lehne for their organisational and motivational talents. Watch this space for further news on the next bridge exchange !



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

[bathgermansociety@gmail.com](mailto:bathgermansociety@gmail.com)



Did you guess correctly? Yes, the Plaque marks the Brunswick Garden in the Parade Gardens and was formally re-dedicated by the Mayor of Bath, Councillor June Player, on 27<sup>th</sup> April to mark the 51<sup>st</sup> anniversary of our formal twinning link with Brunswick; (the celebration was postponed from 2021 because of the pandemic). To mark the occasion the staff of the Parks Department had replanted the area around the plaque in Germany's national colours, and the German flag was flown from the flag staff in the Gardens. We were pleased that this celebration coincided with the visit of 19 of our Brunswick twins, and that they - along with members of BBTA - could attend and enjoy reminiscences of previous exchange visits.

The re-dedication followed an official reception by the Mayor on the Tuesday, when members of BBTA also had the opportunity to get to know our visitors, who then went on to explore the main sights of Bath.



## ***Bath Abbey***

## ***Footprint Visit***

At the beginning of February some BBTA members and friends, including many U3A members, were invited by our very own Jeremy Key-Pugh to see the changes that the Footprint Project has created after several years of hard work in the centre of Bath. Jeremy's talk was both informative and entertaining, giving us an insight into some of the more bizarre aspects of the Abbey's history and the technical difficulties faced in restoring the Abbey floor and in using Bath's natural hot spring to heat the Abbey. We were able to descend to the lower levels of the Abbey and admire the fantastic new musical and educational facilities which have been created there, all displaying a very high standard of craftsmanship. The Abbey will now continue to serve the local community in a variety of ways for the foreseeable future.

It has been suggested (in Richard Wyatt's *Newseum*) that the Abbey may also in future install solar panels on its roof, in which case we shall certainly aim higher on our next visit.

Judy Spencer

## Braunschweig Visit finally happens

25 to 29 April 2022

Our trip to Bath planned in 2019 has finally taken place after three postponements. The main problem was the credit notes we had received were about to become invalid - but we do not give up that easily!

So 18 of us set off to visit our twin town Bath. Our first outing was to Wells with its wonderful cathedral and Vicars' Close, one of the oldest streets in Europe still in use by the members and workers who belong to the cathedral. The most important impression most of us had, was that the British were always so friendly, polite and often went out of their way to help us, something we could perhaps take home with us.

The highlight of our trip was on the second day, a reception in the Mayor's parlour. Wow, some of our ladies even wore special little hats as if they were at Ascot. The Mayor with her pink coloured hair was really someone very special with her chain of office as she welcomed us individually and Anthony patiently explained the function of the mayor's work, a job which she fulfilled with great pleasure and enthusiasm. The re-opening of the Brunswick Garden with the gardener David in attendance was also a sensation. During a walk around the garden we were told about the film scene which had been made there and that would soon be shown on German TV.

Thank you Judy and the other members of the twinning association for the support and help given to us on this unforgettable trip to Bath.

Paul Kavanagh

## In Memoriam

We were saddened to learn of the death of Noel Joyce on 9<sup>th</sup> April 2022.

Noel and his wife, Maria, have been long standing members of the Lutheran Community in South West England.

We send Maria our sincere condolences

### The BBTA - who are we?

**Our Aims:** '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** visits 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). There is also corporate membership for £30 p.a.