



GUILDFORD-FREIBURG ASSOCIATION

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To: Cllr Tony Rooth

With compliments

Peter Slade

Tony:

Vivace Chorus / Freiburg Bach Chor report
is on page 4. Please pass on to your wife

Peter



A MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

In September 2009 Guildford and Freiburg will have been twinned for 30 years. At the official twinning ceremony in 1979 the Mayors of Guildford and Freiburg signed a Deed of Partnership as a token and promise of lasting friendship between the two communities and an encouragement to regular mutual liaison, to exchange experiences and to support the coming together of our citizens in every sphere.

I hope that all our readers will agree that this Newsletter demonstrates that Guildford's twinning with Freiburg is fulfilling those aims. Its accounts of the many activities and events arranged by the Association or by other groups in Guildford that have taken place over the past year demonstrate the ongoing strength of the partnership with our twin city.

But of course we could do more. As we move into the fourth decade of our partnership with Freiburg it would be good to see even more of Guildford's citizens and groups participating in it. We'd love to hear from people who'd like to contribute.

Finally some thanks. To Ros Calow whose excellent initiatives on schools' liaison have led to increased contacts between Guildford and Freiburg schools. To Katie Butcher who has managed our social programme with her customary flair. To Hilary Mills for her sterling work as our Secretary. To Barbara Ford for her expert editing of the Newsletter. To Michael Gorman for his work as Membership Secretary and for careful husbanding of our financial resources. To Wolf Pietrek for his help with our Christmas market and in other ways. To Susan and Brian Lewis whose hard work helped make the Partner Cities Market a success and who have used their link with Freiburg to great effect to help in many other ways. And to all those, in the Association and outside it, who have made valuable contributions to making the twinning a reality.

Peter Slade



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boys and approximately 60 adults. Most travel by coach and some fly out. Boys are placed with German families and parents generally stay in a hotel or guest house – as is the case when the Freiburgers visit Guildford.

The English visitors are astounded by the Blau-Weiss Club's outstanding facilities - clubhouse, live-in groundsman, etc. Matches are held on the Friday and Saturday of the trip and trophy matches and a dads' match take place on the Sunday. A reception for Guildford visitors has been held by a member of the Freiburg City Council for many years and since the late 1990s the Mayor of Guildford has hosted a reception in the Guildhall, which has been much appreciated. Both Guildford and Freiburg families are pleased to accompany their guests on trips to attractions in the surrounding area.

By the end of each visit to Freiburg strong friendships have been forged, an understanding of the hosts' lifestyle and culture has developed, and most boys would like to stay longer in Germany. The boys return to the UK with many stories and younger players eagerly anticipate their chance to join a trip.

"150 people travel to Freiburg"

GUILDFORD BOYS PLAY FOOTBALL IN FREIBURG AGAIN

Now Phil reports on last year's match:

The annual matches against Freiburg's Blau Weiss club are traditionally played at Easter, but in 2008 the early date of Easter caused no end of a headache. In Germany all the Freiburg players were off school for the two weeks either side of Easter Sunday. But English schools held their mid-term holiday in April. Fortunately some of the Guildford schools with boys in the teams, recognising the cultural significance of our trip, gave permission for time off school. In the end we were able to take 54 players and 56 adults to Freiburg.

As ever the players and their team managers travelled by coach. Once again we chose to use a German coach company who charged two-thirds of the quotes from UK local companies for the same trip – although effectively making four full trips. Driven once again by our good friend Johannes we received excellent service and use of the 72-seater coach over the entire weekend. The rest of the group flew from Heathrow to Basel, with an arranged pick-up to take us to our hotels.

The snow

The adult group stayed as usual in our favoured hotels in Lehen - the Bierhäusle and the Hirschengarten which were as ever hospitable and good value. Also as usual the players were accommodated with the Blau-Weiss players' families and received excellent care. The early Easter dates presented a new and welcome sight - snow on the outlying low hills around Freiburg and the prospect of more to come had many of the boys (and some of the parents) quite excited about the suggested trip to Schauinsland.

We received a formal welcome from Ulrich von Kirchbach, Freiburg's Bürgermeister responsible for Youth and Culture, who acknowledged our continued contribution to the Guildford-Freiburg twinning. During the weekend the players were entertained by their host families, leaving the adult group free to use the hired coach for a guided tour of the area, a trip to Titisee in the Black Forest and to see Schauinsland and Feldberg in the snow.

Fortunately the snow held off long enough for us to play both Friday practice games and the Trophy games on Sunday. But by Sunday evening the pitch was covered in snow and certainly unplayable. On Monday there was a coach trip through the snow-covered mountains. By far and away the highlight for the adult group was an excellent night out at Strausse, a rustic style restaurant, where we tried a menu of local food in a barn-like setting.

The football

Oh yes – the football. We lost three games and won one. Was that what we went for? As ever the experience of a visit to our twin town and its people, customs and snow-covered mountains left us all with excellent memories

Easter 2009 will see the Blau-Weiss footballers visiting Guildford and plans are already in the making for the return to Freiburg in 2010 to mark the 25th exchange. Watch this space!!

Phil Dyas

Chairman of Guildford City Boys Football Club

MUSIC

FREIBURG CHOIR SINGS IN GUILDFORD

In November the Freiburg Bachchor joined Guildford's Vivace Chorus and Romsey Choral Society in a performance of Verdi's Requiem. Often considered as the composer's supreme masterpiece, it was first performed in St. Mark's Basilica in Venice and last November's performance in Guildford Cathedral was a worthy successor. The Requiem was composed in remembrance of the poet Manzoni, whom Verdi greatly revered, and it was fitting that this performance was dedicated to the memory of Vernon Handley, a past musical director of the Guildford Philharmonic Orchestra.

"The conductor melded these forces together..."

The combined choirs, four excellent soloists and the Brandenburg Sinfonia under the baton of Jeremy Backhouse ensured that, from the breathtaking pianissimo of the opening, through the vast ranges of dynamic and emotional intensity which culminate in the utter stillness of the final 'Libera me', there were forces capable of providing all that Verdi could have required. The conductor melded these forces together into a seamless whole - the three choirs sounded as if they always sang together. Their

choral discipline was excellent and they rose to every challenge of dynamic, range and emotion.

Extracted from Gillian Ramsden's review in the Surrey Advertiser

GUILDFORD FRIARY BRASS BAND IN FREIBURG



Guildford Friary Band performing

Stephanie Westwood, a member of the band, shares her experience with us:

Friary Guildford Brass Band were full of Zufriedenheit (happiness, satisfaction) after a very successful trip to Germany last September. Basing themselves in the Land of Baden-Württemberg the band gave concerts in Freiburg and Waldbronn to very welcoming and receptive audiences.

A long journey

After a Wednesday evening rehearsal and a pre-tour curry, band members helped load all nooks and crannies of a Safeguard coach with suitcases, uniforms, brass instruments, percussion and the kitchen sink before setting off on their 550-mile journey across Europe. Despite the prospect of a twelve-hour journey in a confined space, band members were in high spirits. A 4am ferry crossing from Dover to Calais, stops for refreshments, and a devilish quiz helped to make the journey pass swiftly, with the band eventually arriving at the hotel in Ettlingen at around 4pm.

Strengthening ties with Freiburg

On Friday the band left their hotel early to spend a day in Freiburg, some band members revisiting old haunts and others visiting the beautiful town for the first time. After an enjoyable day sightseeing, band members were treated to a short traditional programme from the Freiburger Rathausmusik Band, who were celebrating their 10th anniversary, before giving a concert themselves at the Bürgerhaus in Zähringen, one of Freiburg's nearby villages.

"two magnums of champagne..."

A varied programme from the Friary Guildford Brass Band, directed by Chris King, led to rapturous applause, and after

two encores the band were rewarded with a standing ovation from an appreciative audience that included members of the Guildford-Freiburg Association and the Freiburg Anglo-German club. Afterwards, band members were able to chat with members of their twin town band and audience over some excellent local wine very kindly laid on by the Freiburg International Office. The gifts of two magnums of champagne and two boxes of wine were also very much appreciated!

Fun at the fest

Over the weekend the band were delighted to participate in the Waldbronn Kurparkfest, a two-day music festival that attracts several thousand visitors every year. The band gave two concerts, one on Saturday evening and another on Sunday lunchtime, and managed to attract quite a crowd. Host band, Edelweiss, ensured that members of Friary were very well looked after, plying them with locally brewed beer and schnitzel at every opportunity.

"a superb firework display..."

The festival itself featured many different musical groups (including an excellent concert by Edelweiss), with over 40 stands selling a wide variety of food and drink, and a superb firework display on Saturday night. On the second day, the mayor of Waldbronn presented the Friary Guildford band with a 300-year old tile from the roof of the oldest house in Waldbronn - we hoped that this didn't leave somebody with a hole in his roof!

Many thanks

Trips such as these strengthen international and local relationships and improve the standard of the Band, and the Band would like to thank all those involved in making the trip such a success. Particular thanks go to the Guildford-Freiburg Association (who provided some financial assistance), the Freiburg International Office, and Edelweiss Band.

*Stephanie Westwood
Friary Guildford Brass Band*

LITERATURE

A NOVEL EVENT IN FREIBURG

Guildford writer Irene Black gave readings from her work in Freiburg and enjoyed her sightseeing:

In June 2008 I was invited to give readings from my novels 'Darshan' and 'The Moon's Complexion' at the municipal library in Freiburg during their Literary and Musical programme as part of their annual 'Twinning Market'. My writing and publishing colleague, Jennifer Margrave, a Guildford solicitor, came along too, to spread the word about Goldenford Publishers Ltd and our books (and to help carry them!).

Our charming host, Herr Steimel from the Freiburg Stadtbibliothek, met us off the airport bus late on Wednesday afternoon and taxied us to the Goldene Krone guesthouse where the delightful lady