



Bath-Braunschweig Twinning Association



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Until further notice society meetings will be held by Zoom. Following consultation with members 6 pm on a Friday suited a large majority.

to join contact: Martin Guest, Secretary BBTA
bbta18@hotmail.com 07932 144136



Bridge News

Members of two of Bath's bridge clubs continue to enjoy their Friday online tournament with bridge + art Braunschweig. Currently this is taking place fortnightly to allow time for other summer pursuits, and the situation will be reviewed in the autumn. Meanwhile, we are still hoping that a group of players will travel to Brunswick in 2022.



DEG

Letter from Braunschweig

We won't mention the virus ! Rather let us focus on positive aspects. The DEG has learnt to enter virtual paths which has been long overdue. During all the hard and exhausting times we have stayed in touch virtually via videoconferences with our friends in Bath and we have even established new friendships with partners from Cardiff. A DEG Literature Club has been founded which meets on a regular basis to discuss various pieces of literature and from time to time we also offer an online pub quiz or a presentation. We are very pleased to welcome friends from the UK to our meetings as well as taking part in events of the Bath German Society. We are planning to keep up the mutual exchange by streaming our future events which hopefully will take place once again in person.

Hoping you are all safe and healthy.

Take care and best wishes from Katrin and the DEG

Memories of the early days

My association with Germany goes back nearly 70 years. The twinning with Braunschweig started in 1951. In 1952 the Percy Boys Club was invited to join the second visit to Braunschweig and as a member of the club I joined the group. We spent a week in Braunschweig and a week in Bad Harzburg. I was on embarkation leave at the time. I had joined the army for three years, spending most of my time in Sierra Leone. On my return I rejoined the club who had by this time arranged their own twinning with Wolfenbüttel. I went on this exchange for many years. In 1959 I got married and took my wife with me. Whilst at a party a young lady came in and took me away to meet her mother, leaving my wife rather perplexed. It was Lohne, a lady I had stayed with on an earlier visit. It took some explaining but we sorted it all out. Our visits to Wolfenbüttel always included a few days in Berlin. One year I took a dance band in the group and we played three times in Berlin and in three other towns in Germany. We were in Berlin the day before the wall went up; we had actually been in east Berlin the previous day and there had been no sign of any activity. As well as visiting Germany my wife and I used to put young Germans up for a fortnight and we have many German friends as a result. The Percy Club is no more but I stayed on to the end serving the last few years on the management committee. When the Bath twinning associations decided they could no longer afford a paid official they asked for volunteers. I immediately put my name forward as it was a chance to renew my contacts with Germany. Some of my friendships go back nearly seventy years. I was honoured to be your chairman for the first 12 years. A few years ago I had a triple heart bypass; in addition I am now full time carer to my wife Lynn who sadly has Alzheimers. I am now awaiting a further heart operation as I have a leaking mitral valve. With coronavirus on top of everything I have only left my house three times in over a year but my heart is with the twinning and may it long continue and prosper.

Don Withers

Don't speak German? Why not learn?

U3A Bath have 2 beginners groups that meet weekly

German a bit rusty? Why not brush it up?

U3A Bath have an intermediate group that meets weekly

German quite good? Why not come to the Stammtisch?

See box on p3 above

or come to a Bath German Society monthly meeting?

The BBTA 20th AGM was held on line on Friday 11 June 2021

The following officers were elected:

Chair:	Judy Spencer
Vice Chair:	Jeremy Key-Pugh
Hon. Secretary:	Martin Guest
Hon. Treasurer/Minutes Secretary:	Tony Horstmann
Membership:	Secretary Ruth Malloy

There are in addition 2 committee members: Hilary Elms and Diana Guest