



Bath-Braunschweig Twinning Association



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Society meetings are normally held monthly on Thursday afternoons at 2.30 pm in the Mayor's Parlour in the Guildhall

Members are notified by email about a week in advance

to join contact: Martin Guest, Secretary BBTA
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Letter from Braunschweig

The first half of 2023 was full of events for the DEG in Braunschweig. In addition to several interesting outings and evenings in our room we had the chance to meet some of our dear friends from Bath while they were here for numerous Bridge sessions. The town arranged a wonderful reception at Schloss Richmond, a meeting in person of the Literature Club took place and we used the occasion to also come together with a delegation from Braunschweig's other English-speaking twin city, Omaha in Nebraska. Close ties and a fruitful cooperation were agreed on. We are looking forward to the next visit from Bath in August for the inauguration of the Bath Garden.

Ending on a sad note: The DEG wishes to thank Don Withers for all his achievements in connection with twinning and for uncountable cheerful moments.

Our sincere condolences to his sons and families.

Katrin and the DEG



Visit of the Münsterchor to Bath

The long-awaited inauguration of the Bath Garden in Brunswick took place on the 21st August, and was attended by the Lord Mayor of Brunswick, a delegation from Bath, members of the DEG, and other guests. The Münsterchor of St. Aegidien sang for us in this beautiful setting, and we will have a further opportunity to hear them when they visit Bath in October. Among various venues, they will be giving a lunchtime recital in the Abbey at 1.00 pm on Thursday, 19th October. Our thanks go to the officials of the Town Hall and to all our friends in Brunswick for another memorable and enjoyable visit.



Birding Walk

On a beautiful early summer's day in mid-May a group of members of BBTA and BGS was guided around Prior Park Garden by our members Pat and Bob. The Garden was alive with birdsong and we identified many different varieties, including our favourite: the "Zilpzalp" (chiffchaff)! Some of us had to admit to difficulties distinguishing a "Blaumeise" from a "Kohlmeise" (blue tit and great tit) but Pat and Bob were always on hand to explain and help. Not to mention distinguishing a "Saatkrähe" (rook) from a "Rabenkrähe" (crow) - a crow is slightly bigger, usually (but not always) seen alone and has a black beak, a rook is usually (but not always) in a flock and has a light beak. We also glimpsed an "Eichelhäher" (jay) flying through the trees. We also admired the flora and the views, and discussed the literary associations of the House and Garden. Some of us can be seen on the famous Palladian Bridge, possibly counting the ducklings just below us.

WALLY'S CARDIFF



On 27 July 6 of us from the BBTA and 5 from the Cardiff Stuttgart Association enjoyed a convivial lunch at the iconic Wally's Kaffeehaus in the Royal Arcade in Cardiff. Wally's was founded by the son of an Austrian family who emigrated to Cardiff in the 1930s and it retains many Viennese traditions.



Among other activities that it organises, the Bath German Society meets every Wednesday for German conversation between 12 and 2pm.

During the winter we normally meet at BRLSI but sometimes we meet at the Hilton Hotel next to Waitrose or in summer at the Holburne Museum garden café.

The regular members of the Wednesday meeting are of differing levels, and include many ex-teachers who naturally have a very good level of German, but also some of an intermediate or beginner level.

If you would like to be included in the Stammtisch email list to be informed of any update of location. Our email address is:

bathgermansociety@gmail.com.



Learn German in Bath with U3A

U3A Bath currently have weekly sessions in German at Beginners, Improvers and Intermediate levels. Contact: www.u3ainbath.uk

or come to the Open Morning at the Pavilion on Thursday 19 Oct 10.30 to 12.30



The long anticipated visit of Bath bridge players to Brunswick took place at the beginning of June. We had a very full programme, against stiff competition, in Brunswick itself and in three of the surrounding towns. It was a wonderful opportunity to meet old friends, and those we had made online in the past few years, and also to see something of the surrounding countryside.

As well as playing bridge, we took part in an official reception in Schloss Richmond, which was also attended by a group of High School students from Omaha, Nebraska - one of Brunswick's nine twin and sister cities - who spoke excellent German.

We hope to welcome some bridge players to Bath in the near future on an informal basis, and to have a further exchange in the spring of 2024.

In Memoriam Don Withers

Don sadly passed away peacefully aged 88 in June 2023. He became chairman of the BBTA in 2001 and stepped down in 2012 because of ill health.

He spent his school days in Salisbury and Bath before joining the Army Pay Corps as a corporal. He was posted to Sierra Leone for 21 months where he became Acting Sergeant. After leaving the army he worked for Duck Son & Pinker and then for a short while at The Horstmann Gear Company before joining Stothert & Pitt as a buyer for the rest of his working life.

Before he became involved with the BBTA he was involved with the Percy Boys' Club (in Bath). Don, his wife and their two boys had several trips to Germany as part of the Percy Boys' exchange. Don & Lynn also went to Braunschweig many times with the BBTA.

He loved his music and played keyboard semi-professionally in clubs & pubs in and around Bath and was very knowledgeable about classical music and jazz. He won a car in 'Name that Tune' television programme. Another passion of his was Somerset Cricket, When they played in Bath he would watch them as much as work allowed. In the evenings, if he wasn't playing the keyboard, he would be playing skittles.

His other love was railways; he would take his boys on a '3 Day All Line Rover' to Scotland and back with several different destinations on the way. His last rail trip was a weekend in Scotland in April 2022.

Don certainly had a full life.

"Sober Sundays", a group of young musicians from Bath Spa University performed in Brunswick for the Kulturnacht music festival on 17th. In previous years, Bath has been represented by BODS and "Uke can't be serious". We hope this tradition will continue for many years to come