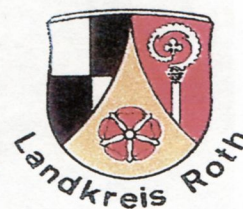




**Brentwood**  
Borough Council

# KONTAKT

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE BRENTWOOD LANDKREIS ROTH  
TOWN TWINNING ASSOCIATION 1979  
SPRING 2009



## GERMAN YOUTH HITS THE TOWN

In recent years we have occasionally despaired of getting more young people involved in Town Twinning but over the past few months there has been a resurgence of youth activity, particularly on the German side, which augurs well for the long term health of our two Associations in Brentwood and Roth. Last year saw three visits from teenagers from Landkreis Roth, over and above the twin school exchanges.

### Hauptschule Hilpoltstein

The first of these was in May, 2008, and was a group of final year students from the Hauptschule in Hilpoltstein. This is a school which would dearly love to exchange but for whom no partner school has yet been found, so they decided to come on their own and stay at Stubbers, in Upminster.



*Enjoying the facilities at Stubbers*

Although not initially impressed by the standard of accommodation being offered there, they were soon won over by the tremendous enthusiasm, friendliness and commitment of the staff, and by the very high quality of activities on offer. It was not just outdoor pursuits they were after, however, they also visited London and met up with young people from Brentwood. A football match with a team from Hartwood Club was organised for them

by John Tyler where the Germans showed their mettle by winning very convincingly!



*The German boys (in yellow) were definitely bigger!*

At the Hermit Club, Paul Green and his team organised a very enjoyable evening of music and other activities. Here they were able to meet up with Brentwood youngsters in less competitive surroundings.



*The computer games were a hit at the Hermit*

The stay in Brentwood was rounded off by a visit to the Mayor, Cllr Dudley Payne, where the school presented the Mayor with a class photograph as a

memento of their visit.



*Teacher, Jürgen Bundgaard, presents the photograph to the Mayor*

### Scouts from Spalt

A large scout jamboree in Essex brought Jörg Stroh and his Spalt Pfadfinder to Thriftwood. Being scouts, they wanted to spend their time here finding their way around Brentwood and getting to know the area, so a Brentwood quiz was devised which they had to complete by exploring the High Street area and, where necessary, asking questions of passers by. Some of them showed a certain amount of initiative by simply going into the information office in the High Street and gleaning as much information from them as they could!

They were also hosted by the Mayor at the Town Hall – and then reciprocated by inviting some of us and scout leaders to a BBQ at their camp.

A torrential downpour did not dampen anyone's spirits and the whole meal, was served up cheerfully with expert attention to detail – including the mustard. A full barrel of local beer had been transported all the way from Spalt and added the final touches. It was only a pity that the local scout groups who had also been invited were not able to join us. There would have been enough food!!



*Spalt beer was the highlight of the BBQ*

### Kreisjugendring

In September the Roth Youth service paid us their second visit of the last couple of years under the leadership of Rainer Geier. They had done a short tour of Southern England prior to arriving in the Brentwood. They stayed at Stubbers, taking

advantage of the slightly cheaper self catering option, and made use of the facilities and the ease of transport into London.



*Our Mayor meets his German double*

They were entertained by the mayor, with a Town Hall reception, by the Twinning Association with take away pizza and by the Hermit Youth club with a Heavy Metal (I think!) band night and the chance to meet local youngsters. The Kreisjugendring has already planned and booked another trip for August this year, which will hopefully include working together with some Duke of Edinburgh award students and some youngsters with special needs. Overall, the youth visits from German have been extremely successful. If we only had youth accommodation in Brentwood, we could do so much more. We are now hoping that there can be some reciprocal visits from youth groups from Brentwood, but much youth activity has unfortunately been curtailed because of the very stringent conditions of the Child Protection Act, which is making it very difficult for youth leaders to take young people abroad.

## TWIN SCHOOLS

One of the positive outcomes of the move towards teaching foreign languages in primary schools is that more schools in Brentwood are learning German and becoming interested in Town Twinning. Four primary schools are now twinned. The first school to approach us was Larchwood Primary (where Angela Bailey is chair of governors) and they are now twinned with the Grundschule in Kammerstein (with the help of Walter Schwarz). Then followed St Thomas's CE Junior School, with the Grundschule in Roth, Doddinghurst CE Junior School with Meckenhausen and Hollytrees Primary with Schwanstetten. Some of these schools have joined the Association and we hope to welcome their staff on the next official visit. Two German schools are still seeking partners: the Grundschule in Schwarzenlohe and the Volksschule Roth Kupferplatte, so if you know of any school interested please put them in touch. There is a new senior school exchange, between Shenfield High and the Gymnasium in Roth, and two on-going exchanges between the Brentwood

School Big Band and the Wolfram von Eschenbach School in Schwabach, and St Martins, with the Gymnasium in Roth. The St Martins exchange is almost as old as Town Twinning itself and it is a credit to the school that it has managed to maintain this link. This is what one of the pupils, Kiera Sherlock, recently wrote about it:



*St Martins students and their German partners*  
*"Over the past three years I have been on two exchanges and in the summer I plan to go on a third. I keep going on these trips because I think they are extremely enjoyable. Now I have a large groups of friends, not only different people from my school, but from another country! Every time I go I get to meet new people and take part in different activities. I have been on a hike, tobogganing, a blind walk, on visits to castles and to Munich, to historic buildings, to local restaurants and swim- ming pools. When the exchange comes to England they go to London and the last two times they were here we took them bowling and ice-skating and to Southend. Every time I go I learn new things and it helps me develop a better understanding of the German language and I have a lot of fun. The German exchange is an exciting trip to participate in and I'm glad that my school holds it.*

## SOCIAL EVENTS

As we all know, social events are crucial to our work. They give us the chance to meet up with other members, enjoy ourselves and raise funds to finance our twinning activities and host our guests from Germany. Thanks to Anne Long and her team we have held a full programme of events so far over the past year. At the end of September a lunch was hosted by Roger and Jane Norris which was enjoyed by all, and a coffee morning at Tom & May's in January was well attended. The first major event of the year was the jazz evening, held in February. This is Angela's account of it.

*"It was a cold and frosty evening with more snow threatening the town when members and their friends arrived at the Brentwood School Sports Hall for an evening of jazz..... What a cheesy opening sentence I can hear you remark and you would be quite right, but that was the only thing that was cheesy that night. Helen Keating and her backing group were recommended to us by a committee member and the group surpassed all expectations. In short, they were superb, singing familiar songs and some less well known. There was*

*some light-hearted banter with both the audience and the musicians so nothing and nobody was taken overly seriously. Everyone was there to forget the cold and snow that gripped us all in February and just enjoy the evening. Helen's face was very familiar because as well as singing she is also a well known actress, having appeared in TV programmes such as The Bill and Eastenders.*

*There had been a slow start with requests for tickets but, as the attendance on the evening showed, there is always an audience for quality."*

This was then followed by our quiz night, with questionmaster Derick Lock. Those of us with old brains found ourselves severely tested -



*-but some of us found something to laugh about!*

Our next event will be on **Friday, June 19<sup>th</sup> at 7.30** and will be a talk from **Brian Curtois**, BBC correspondent at Shenfield Parish Hall. Tickets £7.

## WORKING IN BRENTWOOD

From time to time the Association is asked to find jobs and work placements for young people from Roth. One of these is Hanna Ackermann, who has kindly written us this account in German – for those of you who want to get a bit of practice in before the official visit in September.

*"Was, du willst im Sommer nach England, dort regnet es doch dauernd und zum Frühstück gibt es immer Bohnen, Eier und Speck!" Das war eine der Reaktionen, die ich von meinen Freunden bekommen habe, nachdem ich ihnen mitgeteilt habe, daß ich von Ende April bis Ende August als au-pair in Danbury arbeiten werde. Ich kam mit gemischten Gefühlen in Stansted am Flughafen an. Aber keines der üblichen Klischees ist eingetroffen. Die Sonne scheint seit zwei Wochen nahezu ohne Unterlass und ich bin jetzt schon meh gebräunt, als nach meinem letzten spanisch Urlaub. Es gab bis jetzt auch noch nie das berühmte englische Frühstück, worüber ich gar nicht traurig bin. Die Familie ist sehr freundlich und ich fühle mich schon jetzt als ein Teil der Familie. Da die zwei Kinder, genau wie die Eltern tagsüber aus dem Haus sind, habe ich nicht besonders viel zu tun. Nach ein bisschen Hausarbeit kann ich meinen Tag so gestalten wie ich möchte. Ich jogge jeden Tag, lese viel im wunderschönen, großen Garten und möchte demnächst auch mal nach London, um dort die üblichen Sehenswürdigkeiten zu besichtigen. Am Wochenende unternimmt die Familie immer etwas mit mir, so daß ich neue Leute kennenlernen und etwas vom Land sehe.*

**Continued over**

# OFFICIAL VISIT 2008



*The Mayor welcomes Ingeborg and the Mayor of Büchenbach at Hutton Poplars*

The official visit last year took place from 5<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup> June and was led by Ingeborg Werner of the Brent-Freundeskreis and Helmut Bauz, the Mayor of Büchenbach. It was very refreshing on this trip to see lots of new faces and the tone of the visit was set very early on, at the reception on the Friday night at Hutton Poplars, when the Mayor introduced to us his 'Youth' team – a selection of teachers and youth workers determined the make use of the visit to initiate and cement connections between young people of the two areas.

The theme of this year's visit was 'Essex' and all of the trips were within the county itself. On the list were Easton Lodge, Maldon, Cressing Temple and Southend. A particular success was The Bell, the pub chosen for lunch on the Maldon trip. Our German visitors were particularly impressed by the deserts - so much so that at one table, where the mayor of Büchenbach was seated a novel system of rotation was set up, whereby, at the given sign, everyone had to stop eating their chosen desert and move it round one, so that everyone had the chance to try them all!

The social events were an enormous success. On the 'free' evening many of us met up, either in one another's homes, or, as in our case, at the Tower Arms in South Weald, where we could mix in a real pub atmosphere. Here we discovered the intricacies of trying to tell jokes in one another's language. Some jokes suffered in the translation but there were others which definitely improved!. The two informal social evenings went off very well in two venues being tried for the first time.

*continued from previous page*

*Ich freue mich schon darauf, wenn die Kinder Ferien haben, denn dann hat auch meine Gastmutter Urlaub, da sie Lehrerin ist, und wir können viele gemeinsame Unternehmungen machen. Ich bin froh, daß über die Partnerstädte ein Kontakt zu einer Familie hergestellt werden konnte und ich viele schöne Erfahrungen hier in England sammeln kann. Ach und zum Schluß möchte ich doch noch ein Klischee bestätigen: bei den Engländern ist wirklich immer "tea time"!*

The barn dance was held at Nightingale Hall, in the old Warley Hospital grounds.



*The barn dance was, as usual, great fun*

The 'darts evening' was held at Ashwells Country Club and was a very enjoyable relaxed evening.



The Official Visit 2008 was, all in all, a great success and thanks to all the committee members who helped to organise it. We all look forward to our 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary return visit in September.

## HANS WEISS

It was with great sadness that we learned in March of the sudden death of Hans Weiß, (68) ex-mayor of Roth. During his time in office (1985 – 1999) Hans was an enthusiastic supporter of town twinning, and he and his wife Monika came to Brentwood several times and also hosted visitors frequently. We send our heartfelt condolences to Monika.