

Projects so far

Thank everyone for coming. Will get a full report as Agenda item for AGM – meanwhile we would like to tell everyone briefly about our projects. As some of you will know Buxton one of 5 towns who form a twinning group. Bad Nauheim are the lead town but also in the group are Bad Langensalza, formally in East Germany, Chaumont, France, Oostkamp Belgium. Way back last March we received an email from the art gallery in Bad Nauheim about a proposed exhibition with the work of artists from all 5 towns. They invited a Buxton artist to the exhibition. With the help of Caroline Small from the Green Man and Pauline Townsend from High Peak Artists we publicised the event and drew up a short list from the applicants. We sent images of the work from our shortlisted artists to Germany and they selected Pam Smart. Pam is now communicating directly with Johannes Lenz who is curating the exhibition in Germany. The exhibition is planned for the end of September 2020.

One of our guiding principles when restarting this group was that we wanted to be inclusive and give opportunities to many people. We have a 6th form student, who has taken on the task of trying to encourage younger people to develop an interest in forming links with Germany, and other European countries. Her first initiative is to run an after school German club at one of the local primary schools. This will be starting shortly.

Many years ago some youngsters from Buxton made a DVD about Buxton. Each year all the school children of a certain age are taken to the Town Hall, shown the DVD and given a talk about the importance of twinning. Bad Nauheim asked us if we could update the DVD. We have been very fortunate that Kitty Randle from the REC theatre group has agreed to make a video with her newly formed REC film group. This will give the youngsters a real project to engage with and we are all looking forward to seeing the finished film.

The Buxton Bad Nauheim twinning was very active in the late eighties and early nineties. There are older people in Buxton who speak very fondly of the mass visits that took place. After this flurry of action things became quieter until Jane McGrother revived the association around about 2002. This was when the DVD was made, when some apprentices came to work in Buxton and when there were links with a choir in Bad Nauheim We have been working with Chapel Ladies Choir, Kaleidoscope choir and the U3A choir in trying to revive these links. A video of the choirs, which includes interviews with the people running the choirs, is in the process of being produced and will be sent to Bad Nauheim.