

Bassetlaw Twinning Association

September 2020 update for members

The BTA committee met on Zoom again last night with no business whatsoever to discuss! We did however have a visitor, Oliver Hegemann from Pfungstadt, (chair of the council and twinning lead), and had a very enjoyable time talking to him and comparing notes about our situations.

Oliver reported that life in Germany is slowly edging its way towards something more normal. Infection rates in Hessen are low. Schools are back, churches beginning to reopen, singing is allowed again (though only with 6 metre spacing!), bars and restaurants are busy, but only outside (temperatures are very warm for the time of year), and gatherings of up to 250 people are permitted.

Those of us with happy memories of riding on a float through the streets of Pfungstadt will be sad to think of the Kerb (autumn festival), which should have taken place this weekend, being cancelled. This routinely attracts up to 30,000 people.

In a welcome reminder that twinning activity still exists, Oliver informed us that he was just back from a 4-day visit to their Italian twin town, and, moreover, that he had attended a series of concerts, three nights running, ranging from classical to Italian rock, out of doors, masked, with seating 2 metres apart.

Pfungstadt in fact had an early cluster of Covid-19 cases with Oliver himself the first victim. On 11th March he and Patrick Koch and their wives were amongst a party of 45 who set off on a skiing trip to Austria with the Fire Brigade. A day later the resort was closed due to an outbreak of the virus, the day after that they returned, and on the way Oliver started to feel ill. He reported being laid very low for at least five weeks and is still feeling the after-effects, though getting back on top of things. 28 people on the bus went down with the virus.

Elections which should have taken place in March are now scheduled for November and we can expect to hear of a new chair for their twinning committee after that.

We heard during the meeting that some members are also in touch with friends in Pfungstadt. It is great that modern technology enables us to do this at a time when travel is so problematic. The committee hopes to invite a representative from Garbsen to the next meeting so we shall continue to try to keep members informed about what is going on in our twin towns.