



# ANGLO POLISH NEWS



WORKING TO BUILD A FUTURE TOGETHER

AUTUMN 2008

## Delegation from Lublin visits Bristol

A delegation from the Polish city of Lublin has recently visited Bristol – part of the European Union’s “Intercultural Cities Initiative” The aim is to develop a project called Living Together in Europe Tour, with the objective of exchanging experiences and practical visits. At present there are 23 participating cities. Lublin chose to come to Bristol.

The Vice President of Lublin, Włodzimierz Wysocki, who is responsible for culture, sport and education, led the party in Early August. He was accompanied by Mariusz Banach, Michał Karapuda and Rafał Sadownik, all linked to the city’s cultural department.

Asif Khan, the Community Engagement Manager at Bristol Libraries, assisted by Tammi Redman, made the arrangements for the visit. On the first day, there was a meeting at the Council House with Councillor Peter Hammond, deputy leader of Bristol City Council, Dr. Madge Dresser, Rosie Gilmour (University of the West of England), Anne Foot, Danuta Trotman-Dickenson, Anna Jozwiak (Anglo Polish Society), as well as representatives dealing with European affairs, Watershed and radio.

There followed an informative presentation on Lublin, and others on the Bristol Harbour Festival, Creative Learning Partnerships with Warsaw and Ruda Śląska, and Bristol community radio. It was a perfect opportunity for ideas to be exchanged on the development of policies in Lublin and Bristol – on multiculturalism working with non-governmental organisations and universities.

During their visit the delegation had the chance to learn how Bristol ran some of its cultural schemes, as well as the Harbour Festival. It was also an ideal occasion to discuss Bristol’s attempt to become European City of Culture, as Lublin will be a candidate for this title in 2116. There were many chances to meet representatives of the various groups based here – ranging from the Legacy Commission to those having links with other European cities and beyond.

The explorative approach of both Lublin and Bristol was typified by the trip around the harbour on the “Matthew”, the replica of the wooden ship which sailed from this dock to discover Newfoundland.



**Delegation from Lublin, with Anglo Polish Society members and guests including Marie Hackett (Legacy Commission) and Rosie Gilmour (UWE)**

On the Saturday evening, the visitors joined the Anglo Polish committee for supper at the home of Sir Aubrey and Lady Trotman-Dickenson. Everyone present was delighted to be welcomed to such an historic house. Conversation flowed on wide-ranging topics in English and Polish. It was opportune that nine of the committee, or their spouses, were Polish-speaking. By a happy coincidence, Irena Warne, a committee member, originally came from Lublin! Our guests were most appreciative of the hospitality and we enjoyed their company. We shall look forward to building on this association.

**Notes from our Lublin visitors and Anne Foot**

### Information, Translations and Help

Monday Evenings 7 – 9pm

Either telephone 0117 973 8198 or visit the Office, at the Polish Ex-Combatants Club at 50 St. Paul’s Road, Clifton, Bristol BS8 1LP.

## Don't forget to support the Anglo Polish Society Dinner Dance

The Dinner Dance will take place on Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> October 2008 at 7.00 for 7.30pm at the Bristol Marriott Hotel City Centre, 2 Lower Castle Street, Old Market, Bristol BS1 3AD

**Tickets at £38 for a three course dinner and live band**

### MENU

Warm Balsamic Onion and Goats Cheese Tart, Tomato Concasse and Lemon Oil

Pan Fried Chicken Breast Filled with Wild Mushrooms **OR**  
Avocado, Mozzarella, Basil Pesto and Cherry Tomatoe Filo Tart  
with Parmentier Potatoes and Mediterranean Vegetables

Apricot Franjipan

Tea and Coffee

Good Quality Raffle Prizes are needed, if you can donate something; drop it off at the office on a Monday evening between 7 - 9pm, give to a Committee Member or bring it along on the night.

### Polish Apprentices at RAF Halton

Our Patron, Air Chief Marshal Sir Michael Armitage tells us of "the most remarkable group of non-RAF apprentices ever to complete their training." They were made up of several hundred boys from Poland who arrived in the middle of the Second World War"

Their story begins, with the German invasion of Poland in September 1939 and the treaty signed by Russia and Germany, which divided Poland between these two countries. "Both parts of the country were to suffer severe hardships in the years that followed but in the Soviet-occupied eastern half, three waves of arrests and deportation started as early as February 1940 when judges, doctors, soldiers, policemen and other professional classes were rounded up for deportation or worse and were never heard of again. However in April 1943, the discovery by the German forces in the forest at Katyń of more than 4000 Polish officers murdered by the Soviets, gave a chilling indication of what probably happened to the rest of them.

"Meanwhile, the families were marched to railway stations, herded into cattle trucks filled to the brim with children, mothers, old men and their meagre luggage. The over-crowded trains trundled slowly eastwards to the Soviet Union, finishing after seven days in the endless wastes of Siberia. Many people died of hunger and illness in the bitterly cold winter weather"

In 1943, our Vice President, Stefan Petruszewicz arrived at RAF Halton to become an apprentice. He was only 13. Sir Michael says: "During the process of selection, it became quite clear to the Polish authorities that many of the boys were much younger than the lower age limit of 15 and a half for acceptance. But since none of them held any documentation, quite a number "adjusted" their recorded age sometimes by two or almost three years. Often the modest height and slight build of these boys was attributed to the extra hardship they had suffered while prisoners in the Soviet Union"



**Stefan Petruszewicz welcomes Gen. Sosnkowski,  
Commander in Chief Polish Forces Sept 1943**

Future newsletters will return to the story of the experiences of these boys and the problems they faced.

**Anne Foot**

## **Avon and Somerset Police Officer in Kraków**

I arrived in Kraków on Sunday the 13<sup>th</sup> April with nine other employees of the Avon and Somerset constabulary. Taxis were there to collect us having been organised by The Prolog Language Academy in Bronowicka where we were to be studying for the next two weeks. The Prolog had also arranged local host families for us to stay with as well as a programme of cultural and social activities.

The taxis drove around the suburbs of Kraków dropping us off at the homes of our host families. Our driver spoke no English and at this stage I spoke no Polish, I was dropped outside of row of what looked like recently built houses on the outskirts of Kraków in an area which was still under development. The taxi driver pointed at a house and then drove off. I knocked on the door and it was answered by a very surprised man, it instantly became apparent that I was at the wrong address. Nevertheless he invited me in and offered me a cup of tea. Fortunately for me this gentleman's English was considerably better than my Polish and after making a couple of phone calls he was able to establish that I should have been staying at a house just a short distance down the same road. His kindness and willingness to help a confused traveller was the first of many examples of similar behaviour that I experienced during my trip.

Having found the right address I was met by my host Mariusz, an air conditioning engineer who lived there with his wife Ewa, who worked for the local authority and their three year old daughter Nadia. Mariusz spoke excellent English having studied at university; Ewa's English was also very good as she was a part time student at the Prolog Academy studying English. My course wasn't due to start until the following day so they took me on a tour of the local area and showed me where the academy was, showed me which trams to catch as well as giving me a tour of Kraków's historic centre.

The following morning at the academy we were given an introduction to the course and met our tutors. Polish language was used almost exclusively during the lessons with the tutors using pictures, actions, role play etc to get their subject across, English only being used when a real impasse was reached.

Lessons finished at 2.30 in the afternoon when other cultural and social activities were organised. These included a Polish folk dancing workshop, guided tours of Kraków and the surrounding areas with a very knowledgeable and enthusiastic guide, a visit to a nearby salt mine, a walk in the mountains at

Zakopane, a visit to Kraków Police Headquarters and a day at Auschwitz.

Our visit raised some interest from the local media, a reporter and photographer from News Week joined us for some of our lessons and excursions, causing them some amusement as we struggled with the language.



### **Kraków - Wawel Hill with the Royal Wawel Castle and Wawel Cathedral**

During the evening I spent time with Mariusz and Ewa, they took me to a family barbeque in a village outside of Kraków; I went with them to do the weekly shop at the super market and to buy building materials from the DIY store. I believe that trips like this helped me see more of Kraków than had I remained constrained to the tourist areas. Due to being aged 30-40years old Mariusz and Ewa had seen dramatic changes in Poland during their lifetime so this along with comparing Polish and English culture were the subject of some late night conversations assisted by a glass of vodka. They would also help me go over what we had been doing in our lesson that day, check my homework and let me practice my new found language skills on them.

Since returning I am trying to make the police service more accessible to the local Polish community and with the help of a Polish resident I have produced some information posters in Polish which deal with such issues as how to contact the police, information on personal safety, advise on driving standards and document requirements I have also included information on how Safer Stronger Community Groups work and how to become involved. I hope to get this information out into the community through local employers with Polish workforces, churches, residential letting agents, doctor's surgeries etc.

I have kept in touch with Mariusz and Ewa via letters and email, and try to write in Polish to improve my understanding of the language.

Should there be sufficient interest following distribution of the posters I am intending to hold police beat surgeries at factories in my area, who have Polish workforces.

**PC John Gillman**

## **2008; The Year of Olga and Andrzej Małkowski in Poland**

In January this year, a few days after getting back from a trip to Kraków, I was astonished and thrilled to receive an email from a Polish Senator in Warsaw.

“It’s with pleasure I write to inform you that the Senate of the Republic of Poland have declared 2008 to be the Year of Andrzej and Olga Małkowski - your Grandparents and the Founders of Polish Scouting.

“Please accept my congratulations and we hope to see you here with us soon!”



**Olga and Andrzej Małkowski**

It’s been a long road. Just under a hundred years ago, in 1910, my grandfather Andrzej Małkowski translated into Polish Robert Baden-Powell’s smash hit bestseller, ‘Scouting for Boys’, introducing a system of bringing up children (and creating good citizens and freedom fighters) to an unsuspecting Polish nation firmly under the yoke of Austro-Hungarian, Prussian and Russian partition.

Andrzej was a student, an idealist and by all accounts a charismatic sort of guy. The kids followed him and loved Scouting. With his wife Olga, a dark-haired beauty with prodigious gifts of poetry, vision and organisation, he set up the movement that would survive two world wars, diaspora, Communism and fracture, emerging victorious for the hundredth anniversary with a big smile.

There are some hundred thousand Scouts and Guides in Poland today, and several thousand more scattered in all corners of the world. All of these young people

are proud to live by the Polish Scout Law, serving God, country and neighbour, and fully experiencing the most fantastic social life involving camping, travel, independence, extra chances to learn and new experiences.

Sadly it hasn’t been without struggle. Andrzej and Olga married in their twenties and lived for a while in Zakopane, which at that time was an artists’ and intellectuals’ colony and health spa. But when the First World War broke out, as insurrectionary organisers of youth they had to flee. They ended up in Chicago, where my father Lutyk was born and Andrzej himself founded the first Polish Scouts in North America, before signing up to fight in the First World War.

Tragically, he was killed just after the war ended when, sent on a diplomatic mission to General Haller’s army in Odessa, his ship struck a stray mine and went down.

Olga, a widow like so many others, now with a sickly little child in tow, went back to Poland and served the Movement for 60 more years as Chief Guide, founding a revolutionary school for girls run on Guiding principles, organising conferences and jamborees, writing and lecturing, and becoming a founder member of the League of Nations.

In the Second World War Scouts and Guides, like all the population of Poland, suffered and fought heroically. Organised in their Scout and Guide troops as part of the Polish Resistance, they were slaughtered by the thousand. Olga, who had made it to Britain, organised relief, Polish orphanages and Polish Scouting in Exile. giving hundreds of speeches up and down the country. The English Girl Guide Movement, including her good friend the World Chief Guide Olave Baden Powell, helped her and rallied to the Polish cause, sending relief supplies through the Guides International Service, organising fundraising and doing everything they could in support.

After the War Olga stayed in England, creating and running a care home for Polish children in Devon before returning to Zakopane in 1961. She died and was buried there in 1979, just a year before Lech Walesa climbed the gates of the Lenin shipyard in Gdansk and a new era began in Polish history.

Part of the mission of the Polish 1980s was to resurrect the “real” Poland - and that meant Olga and Andrzej. Their love for each other, their patriotism and their service to Polish youth throughout all the cataclysms of the twentieth century, and the movement they inspired, became iconic to the

Solidarity generation. Nine books were published and an Olga and Andrzej Museum of Scouting was established in Zakopane. Schools, streets and city squares were named after them and young Scouts and Guides were proud to take them as patrons. Outside Poland too, Polish scouting flourished, with world jamborees every four years allowing Polish youngsters everywhere to meet.



**Olga Malkowska and her granddaughter  
Christina Żaba**

As Olga's legal heir and literary executor and the only daughter of their son, and a Polish Guide (harcerka), I've grown up with the idea that it's great to serve the community, that sustainability matters, that God loves you and you should love Him back. To me it's obvious that the biosphere is something to value and protect, that it's good to get outdoors and live close to nature, that the mind-body-spirit link is real and healthy, that simplicity of lifestyle is a good idea, that you should aim for a work/life balance and that the world's your oyster - the only limitations are the ones you give yourself.

These are all Scouting ideas. They were revolutionary in their time, a hundred years ago, and, it seems, they're revolutionary still.

On this special year in Poland there are activities and programmes re-explaining, for the new generation, what this movement, with Olga and Andrzej as its Founders, has all been about. From the President of Poland to the tiniest Brownie, people are getting excited about its insights all over again.

Call me biased, but from where I stand, that looks like a pretty good sign.

**Christina Żaba**

## **Picnic and Music at Woodlands House**



At first the weather wasn't looking very promising but, as luck would have it, we arrived at Woodlands House around 3.00 pm, erected our picnic table and chairs and guess what, the sun came out and stayed out. It was a little chilly but at least the rain held off. The hostess, Mrs Cherry Bretton, made us all very welcome to her beautiful grounds at Woodlands House which is set in the countryside close to Wrington, Somerset. The setting could not have been more perfect. Woodlands House is an old Georgian country house built around 1755. The house is set in 6 acres of land incorporating a beautiful large garden with pavilion and pond with water lilies, a large walled 18<sup>th</sup> century kitchen garden and stables. I also noticed a couple of bee hives, although I am not sure these are still in use.



**Zyta Szulejewska presents Cherry Bretton with a  
thank you gift for hosting APS**

As we approached 4.00 pm a lovely old bus brought more merrymakers celebrating David Garmston's big birthday. The bus was one of many birthday surprises organised for David's special birthday and, I believe, was the same age as him (ssh--- 50!). The picnic then really got under way. Everyone sat on the lawn enjoying their picnic, talking to old and new friends whilst, at the same time, being serenaded from the veranda by the Muskrats Jazz band. Oh, and there was also a second-hand book sale, the proceeds of which went to the Anglo Polish charity. The day ended with a few speeches and thank you notes then we packed up at around 6.00 pm and left for home. A great day was had by all.

**Roz Rowe**

**Corpus Christi in Kraków**  
**An Account by Canon Melvyn Matthews**  
**Chancellor Emeritus of Wells Cathedral**



I do not think that all, or even any, of our party realized that it was the Feast of Corpus Christi that Thursday. We emerged from our hotel rather slowly, intending to walk down to the Wawel and tour the royal apartments, perhaps having a coffee in the main square on the way. Imagine our surprise, therefore, to round the corner and hear singing and see family groups making their way to the square often with the children in national costume. We arrived in the square to find that a tented platform had been erected in front of the façade of St. Mary's Church and that a large robed choir was leading the singing as literally hundreds of people gathered – an open air celebration of the Eucharist was about to begin. Robed priests lined the platform and incense assailed our noses. I remembered that it was Corpus Christi, a feast observed by Anglicans but in varying degrees, as is our custom, some giving it full weight and ceremony, others ignoring it as too 'popish' or superstitious.

We gently circumnavigated the square, keeping an eye on proceedings as we went and eventually settled in a café for coffee or chocolate. Some thousand or so people were deeply engaged in following the mass. Others were, like us, taking coffee; others hovered on the edges, observing rather than being engaged. However people behaved what was clear was that this was a central event in the communal psyche. It was not a sideshow or something eccentric that the church had decided to do. As the Eucharist came to its climax and the Archbishop offered the mass, those following knelt on the pavement of the square and then priests carrying banners stood at numerous points around indicating where communion could be received and long lines of people stood to receive the body of Christ.

Then the procession began to form, marshalled by a rather fussy army of young clerics in white cottas with walkie-talkies. First the cross and candles, then two statues of Our lady borne aloft by proud men and accompanied by girls dressed in white or blue carrying the insignia of Our Lady, her crown, her lilies and so on. As the procession came past children rang little hand bells and behind them came serried ranks of clergy, the Franciscans being determinedly muddled and out of step and hassled by a priest with a radio. Then row upon row of nuns from every order you could think of – mostly, to our eyes looking very pale and wan – and then the trades unions with their banners including the chefs complete with their hats. After these came the concelebrating clergy the Archbishop and the Blessed Sacrament under a canopy with children in national costume scattering rose petals in the way. There were several stations around the square where everything stopped and at a temporary altar hymns were sung and prayers were said while incense rose into the sky. As the Body of Christ passed by people knelt on the pavement.



The obvious devotion was moving. But what was even more affecting was the fact that secularization had not bitten as deep as it has in our own country. Years of communism it seemed had probably only served to strengthen people's determination to hold on to faith as part of their essential humanity and national identity. We walked on thoughtfully, wondering how to re-establish the place of faith in our own national culture, fearful that things had, in fact, already gone too far.



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## Meetings and Projects Undertaken by the Committee

The Anglo Polish Society is represented on the following:

- Independent Advisory Group (Police) South Gloucestershire
- Race Hate Group (Patchway)
- Links Steering Committee (NHS)
- Bristol Museum Archive Group
- Patchway Community Fair, Patchway Festival
- Meeting with Mayor, Councilors and other Groups at Patchway Town Hall
- Meeting with Organisers of visit to Bristol of the Mayor of Lublin and three colleagues
- Polish and East European meeting Bristol City Council
- Working with Chief Librarian South Gloucestershire for a Polish Section in Libraries
- Collecting Polish books being donated to Libraries in South Gloucestershire
- Meeting with European Alternative Organisation regarding event on 28<sup>th</sup> September
- Hosting a visit of the Mayor of Lublin and Colleagues with Anglo Polish Society
- Katyń Memorial Service
- Talk to students at Clifton College
- European Year of International Dialogue 2008
- Corporate Equalities Forum
- Supporting Polish and Other European Communities in Bristol
- Joint Parish Councils

## The Polish Year – Autumn

As the long hot days of summer sun slowly ripen the crops in the fields, harvesting begins, the crowning event of the year's hard work and toil. Once the last grains are safely harvested and stored away, the Polish farmer could relax, and celebrate. The symbol of the harvest celebrations or dożynki was a wieniec (harvest wreath), made of a mixture of cereals, wheat and rye were considered the most important, and decorated with flowers, ribbons, nuts, fruits and berries.

The conclusion of the harvest and the making of the wreath generally fell around the Feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin, 15<sup>th</sup> August, and taken to the church to be blessed, together with a large ceremonial loaf of bread, baked from the fresh grain.



Following the blessing, a procession of harvesters wind their way to the Manor House, stopping at the gate singing until the owner came to greet them. The high point of the festivities was when the wreath and bread was presented to the Lord and Lady of the Manor who, in turn, gave a slice to the guests who had worked hard to make the harvest possible. Signalling to the musicians to start playing, the Lord of the Manor took the przewodnica (leading female harvester) in his arms and started the dancing, a part of the festivities all had been waiting for. The celebrations and feasting started in earnest.

The Feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin, 15<sup>th</sup> August, is also known as Matka Boska Zielna (Our Lady of the Herbs), the most important date for gathering flowers and herbs from gardens, forests and fields, occasionally spikes of grains were included. These bouquets are taken to church and blessed, believing that this heightened the powers of the herbs. The bouquets are carried home and kept until the following year. When there is sickness in the household, the herbs are brewed and used for medicinal purposes, not just for the people, but also for livestock.

**Grazynka**

## Anglo Polish Society Badges

The Society's committee has arranged with one of the country's leading producers of badges to supply new Anglo Polish Society badges with either lapel or safety-pin fittings. The badges are similar in appearance and quality to the badges which we had earlier.

The new badges should be available from 1<sup>st</sup> September from the Society's office at 50 St Paul's Road, Bristol, BS 8 1LP or at any of the Society's functions. The badges will cost £2 each, but as they make attractive, if small, presents or mementos, some members may want to buy in quantity. In that event, the badges could be supplied at a discounted price of £15 for 10 badges. When ordering badges, don't forget to specify which fitting is required."

## Do you want to talk on Radio?

Community FM would like to hear from Polish speakers who wish to take part in a Polish-speaking programme. Please telephone our office on Monday evenings (0117 973 8198).



## Programme of Events for 2008

### Bridge (starts again 23<sup>rd</sup> September)

Some members meet for a bridge session in the afternoon, if you are interested in playing please contact Helena Eason Tel: 0117 962 4306 or Barry Millet Tel: 0117 968 4248.

### Monday 7<sup>th</sup> January

10.00am - 12 noon: Meeting - Talk 'Lifelong Learning' by Professor Stephen Hill, Pro Vice Chancellor, University of Gloucestershire.

### Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> February

2.00 – 4.00pm: Meeting - Display and informal talk on Polish china, glass, fabrics and wood carvings.

### Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> March

7.00pm: Lecture - Forefront astronomy in the 17th century, Hevelius of Gdańsk and his wife Elisabetha, the first woman astronomer by Professor Mark Birkinshaw, University of Bristol, Professor of Cosmology and Astrophysics.

### Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> April

7.30pm: AGM at the Apostle Room, Clifton Cathedral, Pembroke Road, Clifton, Bristol.

### Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> April

7.00 for 7.30pm: Lecture - Count Adam Zamoyski to talk about his new book "Warsaw 1920 Lenin's Failed Conquest of Europe".

### Monday 14<sup>th</sup> April

Inaugural dinner, at the White Hart, of the Wells branch of the Anglo Polish Society.

### Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> May

2.00pm: Ecological visit to Towns of Weston Ltd, Waste Disposal Plant, Weston-Super-Mare .

### Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> June

3.00 - 6.00pm: Music and a delicious picnic (bring your own) in an English country garden.

### Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> July

Polish Day and opportunity to ride behind 'Karel', the lovingly restored Polish steam engine at Avon Valley Railway, Bitton.

### Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> September **POSTPONED**

7.00 – 9.00pm: Meeting - "IQ and the Wealth of Nations" by Professor Richard Lynn.

### Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> September

7.30pm: Meeting for members and their invited guests at South Wing, Siston Court, Siston Lane, Siston, South Gloucestershire BS16 9LU (off the Ring Road to Pucklechurch). Talk on police work in Bristol and Poland by Inspector Mark Evans, Avon and Somerset Police. Bring and buy, including books. Tea, coffee and Polish cakes.

### Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> October

7.00 for 7.30pm: Music, with a special band from London, dancing and dinner at the Bristol Marriott Hotel City Centre, 2 Lower Castle Street, Old Market, Bristol BS1 3AD. Tickets £38 per person. This is going to be a fun evening so why not come along or even make up a table (8, 10, or 12).

### Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> November

7.30pm: Talk by John Sansom "Publishing for love or money" – includes "Art in Exile, Polish Painters in Post War Britain". At the Apostle Room, Clifton Cathedral, Pembroke Road, Bristol. Parking available. Followed by tea, coffee and Polish cakes.

### Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> December

12.00 – 2.00pm: A chance to meet other members, celebrating Christmas at the APS office, with complimentary wine and Polish snacks at 50 St Paul's Road, Clifton, Bristol.

We are currently working on an exciting programme for next year.

## New Members

Welcome to the following new members of the APS:

Ms Anna Jozwiak

Ms Ella Slakowski

## Members News

Please remember to share your news or news that may interest our members; let us know by writing or sending us an email to the address detailed.



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