

Footsteps into the future

- I think the twinning of Bristol and Hannover offers a lot of opportunity for young kids to like meet people that are different to them and just have a relationship with someone who doesn't speak their language.
- It's friendships that we've got forever until you're no longer here isn't it? That was the idea wasn't it? That's why it all started to make friendships to stop any anger.
- Having relationships at a personal level does change one's perspective somewhat you know. It's easy to read about diplomatic comings and goings at a national level, but you get a very different perspective when you talk to people and I find that not only important, but very very encouraging as well.
- The Hannoverians are really really passionate about the twinning. I think all Germany is passionate about international relationships especially with Britain. You might think that we're all in Europe, but we're all very different countries and we can learn a lot from Germany.
- The twinning arrangement makes the 2 sides see themselves in a different light somehow. It makes them develop certain aspects of their own character as it were if you can speak of a character of a city. Bristol as a port city has in some sense always been quite open, but I think it's made Bristol feel more open and tolerant too I hope.
- At least against the background of Brexit we're able to establish this personal connection with people which makes them realise that there are a lot of us who are essentially pro-European.
- We made friends with the German people. They were really nice and like they were really easy to talk to and it's going to be really fun when we go back to Germany to see them again.
- Yeah we've added them on different types of social media so we're all still in contact so I think it's a friendship that will progress.
- You know the twinning's going to stay on no matter where we are with the EU like we're still going to be twinned with Hannover and like we're really similar to them.
- I think it made me feel like a lot more connected to Germany knowing that we've been twinned for 70 years and I hope things will stay the same.
- I think twinning in the early days was immensely important for ordinary people to get together and be aware that we're all really very similar. In the middle period things became much more kind of even and perhaps twinning wasn't quite as important, but I think it is immensely important again now because the whole world seems to be fragmenting and we can't afford for that to happen. Human beings need to be together. They need to work together for a better future.