

# News from the Bristol Tbilisi Association Chair

As promised here are some updates of things that have happened or will happen in relation to the BTA.

## Upcoming talk by Tony Anderson

We have managed to secure Tony Anderson to come and talk to us on Tuesday 28 March. The Council House has been booked and we look forward to listening to Tony talk about 'Sacred Places' in the mountains and villages of Georgia. With Tony will be John Ingham, photographer and his photos accompany the talk.

## EURO MP Claire Moody is joining us

Currently has been having discussions with the Guild of Guardians, regarding a planning visit to Tbilisi in April 2017 to organise the programme for the business delegation in 2018.

The joint Chair of the European Parliament 'Friends of Georgia Group' Clare Moody MEP, has agreed to work with us on the business delegation and is keen to support us in any way she can and will come on the delegation visit in 2018 and hopefully join us for the planning visit in 2017. Claire went to Georgia just before Christmas and is enthusiastic about the twinning link.



## Cyclists in Georgia

We will contact the British Georgian Society to get the details of two people, who did a cycling tour of Georgia to ask if they can do a talk for the BTA.

## Funding

Bristol city council have agreed to fund BITA for another six months and negotiations are continuing regarding permanent funding for an officer to support BITA and the twinning associations. This is a huge success if all is agreed, given the financial challenges Bristol City Council is currently facing.

## Film Programme

A huge thank you to Colin and Stephen for the organisation of the current very successful film programme. We have seen three films and there will be three more in the current programme. All Hallows Community Cinema is an excellent venue, well worth exploring more.

## Rugby

Derek and Esther travelled to Scotland to watch the friendly international match between Georgia and Scotland. Whilst they held their own, Georgia lost to Scotland. There were about 500 Georgian fans there, sponsored through TBC bank. Derek and Esther met with a good number of the fans for a chat. We bought a rugby ball, which we had signed by the majority of the Georgian rugby team and we propose to put that ball up as a raffle price in a future fundraising raffle. We met Justin McKenzie, the British Ambassador at the rugby match and had a good chat with him.



## Talk from Onnik James Krikorian

We had the talk by Onnik in November. There was a good turnout and some people became members.

## Nini Lolashvili

Executive members might remember Nini Lolashvili, the Law Student, who spent a year in Bristol, studying at Bristol University. Derek and Esther have kept in close contact with her and recently Esther helped her write an application for a vacancy at the British Embassy. Just before Christmas, she was called for interview and we are pleased to announce that she was accepted and has started her new job after the Christmas break