

German and French activities in the Region

The German Ambassador, Mr. Thomas Matussek visited the North East in October 2003. The visit, which was organised by the German-British Chamber of Commerce (and partly by Wibke Baumann in her function as Secretary of the Chamber), brought Mr. Matussek in contact with different companies and educational organisations in the North East. Some of those contacts were the University of Northumbria at Newcastle, Monkseaton High School and Dräger Safety, a Blyth-based company specialising in safety products and services.

One of the many positive results of this visit was the recruitment of North East business representatives for the German Circle, an informal social circle in the Region for people interested in German culture, language and business, which was set up in 2003 by Wibke Baumann.

Following the success of the German Circle, the FBC is launching a similar social event in the North East for Francophiles, French nationals and business representatives who are interested in practising their French language skills. Pierre Scotto Di Freca, FBC Project Coordinator, is organising the first gathering of the "French Circle" on the evening of the 20 April 2004. For more details, please contact Pierre by e-mail (pierre@frenchbusinesscouncil.co.uk).