

Mardi Gras German style!



THE burghers of Titisee-Neustadt welcomed a party from their twin town of Leighton-Linslade when they threw a weekend of Mardi Gras-style celebrations that attracted more than 4,000 people from four countries.

Chris Hinchliff, chairman of the Leighton-Linslade Twinning forum, went over to Southern Germany to join in the fun of Fasnet where the natives dressed as badgers, owls, boar, wolves, witches and heart

Titisee's Fools' Guild, known as the Seeraeuber or Pirates, celebrated its 50th anniversary with a twoday party and they were joined in the celebrations by some 94 similar groups from Southern Germany, Switzerland and Austria and Leighton.

Neustadt, the other half of our German twin town, was represented by the Gigs.

Among the events to take place were a concert and a procession that took more than two hours to parade through the streets.

carved and take a good wood carver two days to produce from the block of wood.

"The mask then has to be hand painted to the exact design that has been registered. Many of the masks worn in the parade are over 30 years old the oldest was 122 years old from a Swiss Guild."

Saturday was a day for the bands who played music called Guggemusik, a cross between brass band music or jazz. There is always a mobile drum section which not only provides the beat but also

commercial establishment where they will play a few tunes and usually receive a crate of beer or glasses of schnapps," said Chris.

"Their most popular targets are bars and restaurants, hotels and banks, the latter for the acoustics in the entrance halls.

"The main event on the Sunday was the parade of over 90 guilds which was prefaced in the morning with a church service in the Catholic Church where