



## HENLEY LEICHLINGEN TWINNING ASSOCIATION Report 2014



2013/14 has been another active year for twinning with Leichlingen. Two of the highlights for the year were the Music Workshop which took place at Christchurch in September and our visit to the Christmas Markets in Leichlingen and Cologne at the beginning of December.

We have had very strong youth activities. The Schools Link organised by Cathy Davidson at Gillotts took place in September. As an exchange for GCSE pupils with the Gymnasium in Leichlingen.

Henley hosted The Youth Music Workshops this year at Christchurch, thanks to the support of the Henley Educational Trust and The Henley Festival Trust. We had 30 young people visiting from Leichlingen and this was more than matched by 32 local participants. The orchestra were set an ambitious programme and they rose to the occasion giving a very enjoyable concert in Christchurch on the Sunday evening. The Jazz tutors worked their usual magic with their groups, who gave a lively and talented performance at the Eyot Centre on the Monday night.

The Easter Football exchange did not take place, however Henley AFC now have a very active group of parents and club members which is organising this year's event. In October a U13 team visited from Leichlingen and Henley were the convincing winners. Both teams had a great time visiting Reading Football Club at the Madejski Stadium

Our adult membership has increased this year from 45 to 54, and there have been various activities going on through the year. We had regular monthly conversation and Craft groups and joint Summer and Autumn parties with the Falaise twinning group.

In December we made a Civic Visit to Leichlingen and Cologne for the Christmas Markets. This was a visit with a difference. Our small party were treated when we arrived to a reception with the mayor. We spent Saturday afternoon visiting the "Bratapfelfest" in Leichlingen where we sampled the baked apples and had a chance to sample the Gluhwein as well!. On Sunday we visited the Christmas Markets in Cologne as well as making a tour of the nativity scenes that the churches and some local businesses had on display.

We also ran our own stall again at the Christmas Market in Henley where we sold Gluhwein and biscuits. We are planning to bring even more of a German flavour to this year's event.

### Looking forward to 2014/15

We have a regular programme of monthly events in our calendar. For our main events we have invited the Leichlingers over to Henley for a weekend on the 19<sup>th</sup> June. Later in the year we have an Autumn Party and the Christmas Market. For the young people, Gillotts School are running their regular exchange, AFC Henley will be visiting Leichlingen with a U13 Football team, and we will be travelling to Germany for the Music Workshops in October.

Patrick Fleming  
Chairman.  
April 2014