

HENLEY-LEICHLINGEN TWINNING ASSOCIATION

The town's first steps towards twinning were taken in 1976 with an exchange between Gillotts School and Leichlingen Gymnasium. By 1979, more formal links had been established and the Henley Leichlingen Twinning Association (HLTA) was officially created; our partner group in Leichlingen is the Henley Club www.henleyclub.de. Visitors in both directions usually stay with families, and many firm friendships have developed. Both organisations enjoy the support of their respective Town Councils.

Through twinning we aim to develop long-lasting links between Henley and Leichlingen. An annual general exchange helps consolidate existing relationships and stimulate new ones, while various other exchanges take place between different interest groups, some going back many years. Relationships have moved in various directions, including house swaps and an Anglo-German jazz quartet, known as the Temporal Twins. There have also been occasional exchanges between the Leichlinger Kantorei and the Henley Choral Society, while the medieval wind instrument group in Leichlingen used to visit us from time to time. The Henley Symphony Orchestra has given concerts in Leichlingen and the swimming clubs from both towns continue to enjoy a long-standing twinning relationship.

We have a strong focus on youth, especially in music and sport. AFC Henley's U13 football team play the U13s from SC Leichlingen every October in Henley and reciprocate with a trip to SC Leichlingen's annual Easter football tournament. Also in the autumn, alternating between Henley and Leichlingen, young musicians from both towns meet for a weekend of rehearsals, culminating in a public concert, often involving a choir.



Twinning is fun - why not try it?

At the local level in Henley HLTA runs regular social events: a members' Garden Party every summer, an Autumn Twinning Party and a regular film night – all held jointly with the Henley & Falaise Twinning and Borama Friendship Associations. We have an annual dinner immediately after the AGM in February or March.

Getting involved

Two categories of membership are available: **individual/family (£10 p.a.)** or **group (£20 p.a.)**. If you would like to join, please contact a member of the committee. And if you would like to help run the organisation please contact the Secretary, Patrick Fleming. The current committee comprises:

Secretary: Patrick Fleming (new chairman sought) flemings5@googlemail.com 07733 026906

Membership Secretary: vacancy

Treasurer and Falaise Liaison Officer: Peter Stone petercstone99@aol.com 01491 412330

Marketing: Trevor Howell trevor@impactwords.biz 07711 845956

Minutes: Fiona Franks

Events: Sue Fitzsimons

General member: Lisa Drage

LEICHLINGEN



Leichlingen lies in a fruit and flower-growing region by the River Wupper in the Rhineland. Its famous blossoms have spawned the town's nickname of Blütenstadt (blossom town). HLTA's visits are characterised by warm and generous hospitality. The Leichlingers love to show us the local sights, surrounding upland scenery and nearby Cologne and Düsseldorf.

Leichlingen has a population of about 27,000. It is noted as a centre for growing apples and berries, although it was once a fishing village and can trace its earliest history back to the 10th century. By the 12th century there were records of a parish seat at Leichlingen and by the 14th century it was known for oil, corn and mills, forerunners of today's metal and textile industries. Weaving, bleaching, dyeing and tanning were also recorded. But by the 19th century Leichlingen still largely made its living from agriculture, particularly fruit.

Its coat of arms is based on the old 17th century seal of Leichlingen. The upper part shows the lion of the Counts of Berg, while the lower part shows a fish, which might be a symbol for the river Wupper fisheries. Leichlingen is well known for its fruit market, held annually in October, and is also nationally renowned for its annual festival, held for the first time in 1973 to mark the town's 1,000th anniversary.

The construction of the Cologne-Wuppertal railway line created conditions for the first industrial centres. In 1856 Leichlingen was granted town rights. Notable buildings in the town and its area include Nesselrath House, a medieval knight's castle, and Haus Vorst, a well-preserved hilltop castle. Vorst probably dates from the 11th century and became a knight's seat, later burnt down in 1795 after occupation by French troops. The painter Werner Peiner bought the castle in 1948 and restored it.

AFFILIATED TWINNING GROUPS & SOCIETIES

AFC Henley

AFC Henley, which started out in 1974 as Henley Boys & Girls' Football Club, has long-established links with Leichlingen, and teams regularly visit Germany and host reciprocal team visits. [Go to website](#)

Henley Symphony Orchestra

The Henley Symphony Orchestra was founded in 1970 and attracts some 70 players from across the Thames Valley. Under the guidance of Music Director, Ian Brown, the orchestra promotes an annual

series of four concerts and engages internationally acclaimed soloists, providing high-quality classical music for the enjoyment of local concert-goers. [Go to website](#)

Henley Choral Society

Henley Choral Society first met in the music room of Henley Grammar School in 1973 and gave its first concert in the Spring of 1974. Since then they have sung music from a wide range of styles and periods: from Monteverdi to old favourites like Bach, Mozart, Schubert and Brahms, right through to a new piece commissioned especially for them by Ian D. Crew. The latter was only made possible through the generosity of the Henley Festival Trust. HCS always employ professional soloists for their concerts as well as a professional orchestra or organist, as required. [Go to website](#)

Henley Swimming Club

Henley Swimming Club is a small but very friendly local competition club for swimmers aged 9 to 19. It has approximately 70 swimmers from Henley and the surrounding area, including Reading, Caversham, Twyford and South Oxfordshire villages. The club is over 120 years old. Its members originally trained and raced in the River Thames at Henley. Nowadays it offers a warm and totally flexible 'pick and mix' approach to swimming sessions. [Go to website](#)

The Henley Club



The Henley Club is the sister organisation of the Henley-Leichlingen Twinning Association in Leichlingen. It was founded to foster and promote understanding and tolerance amongst residents of the two towns. [Go to website](#)