

Tunbridge Wells

Twinning association since 1994



Councillor
Julian Stanyer
Chairman
Tunbridge Wells Twinning
and Friendship Association

Twinning, in its broadest sense, promotes international understanding, encourages tourism and helps us experience new places and cultures among people with shared interests. Between Tunbridge Wells and Wiesbaden, there are strong links between music groups, schools, horse riding clubs and our sea cadets and sports groups, many of which undertake regular exchange visits. The Twinning Association, with some 100 members and an active committee, acts as a vital intermediary in helping to make these exchanges possible and in encouraging more groups to take part. In part, that is proven by the celebration last year of twenty-five years since the formal Twinning Charter was agreed in 1989. As I have indicated above, we go back a long way. It is some 55 years since our initial friendship declaration was made, and this eventually led to a formal Twinning Charter being agreed in 1989.

Our links were ratified again in 2014 during my mayoral year; a symbol, I think, of our determination that the links between our twin cities will continue to grow and have significance whatever the turbulence in the world as a whole. My personal view is that the world would benefit from an expansion of twinning in all its many forms - economic links which help war-torn countries re-construct their broken economies, educational links which open up the world of knowledge and build up respective skill bases, cultural links which emphasise our distinct histories and identities, and sporting links which draw together communities in competitive games. There is much to be achieved.

