

The Twinning concept.....

was for towns to have close ties through business and friendship post WW2.

For Chippenham this was through a chance encounter between a French engineer, Maxence Mulocher, who was working for the Milk Marketing Board as part of his training, and who met Reg and Shirley Coates locally. Maxence subsequently returned to France and suggested to the Mayor of La Flèche that Chippenham might be a suitable twinning partner. The towns were of a similar size and travel between the towns was relatively easy. After further exploration it became clear that this particular twinning was both feasible and desirable so the Twinning Charter was drawn up and formally signed by the Mayors of the two towns in 1982.

Whilst not legally binding, the signing of a formal twinning "oath", charter or agreement, facilitates the setting up of a long term, trusting relationship.

The Twinning agreement with Friedberg, Bavaria was promoted through personal contacts between individual citizens of the 2 towns starting in 1990. The first delegation, from Friedberg visited Chippenham in April 1991 and the return visit followed in September. The twinning was then formalised in July 1992.

Today the town ties with both La Flèche, France and Friedberg, Bavaria are still very strong, with the Twinning Association working continuously to retain them. Each year we host visitors from one of the towns and visit the other. A programme for each visit is prepared for our visitors and the host families.

Over the years these programmes have included many guided tours of our town and other local towns, canal boat trips, day trips out, (often by coach), local factory visits, castles, museums, caves, bell towers and even a visit to the Houses of Parliament.

Apart from groups visiting the town we have organised internships with local companies and facilitated exchanges between choirs and sports groups. We continue to support language achievements through our local schools.

Travel costs to our twin towns has to be covered by members but the Twinning Association will do all it can to organise a coach, (where appropriate), or help organise car sharing with other members. It is customary to take a gift for your host family and you will possibly need some spending money but your programme for the visit will be covered by the host town. Members usually want to receive their host family back into their own home the following year. Long lasting friendships are often established this way.

Fundraising to cover the programme expenditure is an important part of what we do. It also has the advantage of helping you to meet with other association members in an informal way prior to a visit. Non-members are welcome but may be asked to pay a supplement.

The majority of the committee are experienced members of the association and welcome the chance to chat to you about membership. to see and experience twinning.

Why not join us to see and experience twinning.



Scan the QR code with your phone & apply for membership online now!



Chippenham Twinning Association

Twinned with

La Flèche,
France



&
Friedberg,
Germany

Fostering Friendships and Links
with Europe

An introduction to our
beautiful twin towns.

Find out more:

Follow us on Facebook.

or

<https://www.chippenham-twinning.org.uk>



FOOD



FESTIVALS



Chippenhams Twinning Association

FOR

Friendship & Fun

Culture & Festivals

Visits & Architecture

Music & Dance

Food & Drink



FUN

CULTURE

