



Celebrating
60 Years
of Friendship
1949-2009

Halifax and Aachen through the Ages

Halifax

| | |
|-----------|--|
| 1-4c | Roman communication routes in the district |
| 1120 | Norman church built, religious centre for large rural hinterland |
| 12c | Beginnings of textiles as a supplementary economic activity to agriculture |
| 1286 | Use of Halifax Gibbet begins |
| 1348 | Black Death plague claims up to 40% of the population |
| 16c | Growth of textile industry, coal and mineral deposits exploited |
| 1750-19c | Rapid industrial expansion and population growth, development as an important manufacturing centre in the West Riding of Yorkshire |
| 1779 | Piece Hall cloth market opens |
| 1844 | Connected to trans-Pennine railway route |
| 1848 | Incorporation as Municipal Borough |
| 1853 | Halifax Permanent Building Society formed |
| 1863 | Opening of the Town Hall, designed by Sir Charles Barry |
| 1890 | Mackintosh's first confectionery shop opens |
| Early 20c | New housing areas created and parks opened at Shibden Hall and Manor Heath |
| 1974 | Halifax becomes part of Calderdale local authority |
| Late 20c | Growth of financial and service occupations, refurbishment of Dean Clough and environmental improvements in the town centre |
| 1992 | Eureka! Children's Museum opens |
| 2001 | Halifax Royal Hospital completed |

Aachen

| | |
|-----------|--|
| 1-4c | A Roman spa |
| 8c | Charlemagne develops his Palace and court |
| 1166 | Town Charter granted |
| 1267 | First Town Hall built |
| 1450 | Guild Charter |
| 1531 | Thirteenth and last coronation of a German king in Aachen |
| 1656 | Great fire destroys 80% of city |
| 1748 | Aachen Peace Congress at the end of the Wars of Austrian succession |
| 1794-1814 | Period of French occupation |
| 1815 | Aachen becomes a province of Prussia |
| 1841 | Arrival of the railway |
| 1870 | Foundation of today's Technical University |
| 1871 | Unification of Germany |
| 1939-1945 | Most of the city destroyed in World War 2 |
| 1950s | Restoration and redevelopment of the city, new industries and growth as centre of learning with 40,000 students by early 21c |
| 1952 | Centenary of City Symphony Orchestra |
| 1972 | Expansion of Aachen to include surrounding communities |
| 1978 | Aachen Cathedral is one of the first buildings included as a UNESCO World Heritage Monument |
| 1985 | Inauguration of Klinikum University Hospital, the biggest single building hospital in Europe |

This booklet has been prepared by George Keith, Margaret Barnes and Geoff Barnes. All responsibility for any inaccuracies is accepted by the authors.

Forewords

Sixty years of friendship is no mean achievement, and the Halifax Aachen Society can celebrate it with pride as well as pleasure.

When you read this anniversary booklet you will discover a story that began in the most desperate of circumstances and went on to historic achievements. It is a celebration of the goodwill and commitment of hundreds of people over the years in both England and Germany.

As the most recent Chair, I am very conscious of my distinguished predecessors who have given so much to the partnership between Halifax and Aachen. I am aware too of the breadth of collective experience and expertise in the Society. Some members grew up with it, their memories going back to the late 1940s.

Our earnest hope is that, come 2049, a new generation will be celebrating the Society's one hundredth anniversary.

Dank sei Dir, Gott.



George Keith
Chair, Halifax Aachen Society



Im Zeitalter weltweiter Vernetzung ist es ein Leichtes innerhalb von Sekunden Kontakte und Verbindungen rund um den Globus herzustellen. Heute können wir problemlos reisen, ferne Länder und Kulturen kennen lernen. Ganz anders war die Situation nach Ende des 2. Weltkrieges, der nicht nur in Europa ein Desaster in unvorstellbarem Ausmaß hinterlassen hatte.

Dank der Menschen, die sich in jener Zeit über alle Barrieren und Emotionen hinweg setzten, können wir in diesem Jahr das Doppeljubiläum von 60 Jahren Freundschaft und 30 Jahren Städtepartnerschaft feiern. Auf diese Freundschaft, die auf dem Fundament von Humanität und gegenseitigem Respekt über Generationen gewachsen ist, blicken wir mit Dankbarkeit zurück, sie ist aber auch zugleich Verpflichtung in Gegenwart und Zukunft. Deshalb ist es besonders wichtig, gewachsenes Vertrauen und das alltägliche Miteinander zu hegen und zu pflegen.

Ich wünsche der Städtepartnerschaft zwischen Aachen und Halifax weiterhin eine erfolgreiche und lebhaftere Entwicklung.



Hannegret Stuckenburg
Vorsitzende Partnerschaftskomitee
Aachen-Halifax/Calderdale e.V.



Friendship grows out of war-time ashes

At the end of World War II Aachen, the historic seat of the Charlemagne empire, lay devastated. In 1944 its residents had been instructed to evacuate their homes because of the heavy air-raids, which were at their fiercest in September and October that year. 42,000 out of its pre-war 52,000 buildings had been destroyed or severely damaged. Survivors had to exist amongst the ruins, living on their wits. Young people and the many orphans wondered what sort of future was in store. There were no schools and little food.

The fighting in Aachen had been long and fierce before the German army was finally forced to retreat further east. Only then could the Aacheners, who had sought safety in the cellars and surrounding countryside, return to the city. With the fighting over, planning the city's reconstruction could begin.



By Hans Koenigs



1950 Visit by Clare Hall School to Aachen

Aachen lies at the western boundary of Germany, close to Belgium and the Netherlands. By 1945 it was within the British Zone of Occupation where it remained for the next ten years. A local lawyer Franz Oppenhoff was asked to take on the office of Mayor and lead the many tasks of reconstruction that faced the city. This he agreed to do knowing full well the risk of an SS reprisal. Sure enough, a small SS commando group returned secretly and murdered him for what they saw as a betrayal of the Reich.

One of the greatest problems to be tackled was the large number of rootless children who had lost their parents and were in need of care and support. In March 1946 Mr J A Eccles was appointed by the British as Youth Officer and one of his first acts was to acquire a building in which youngsters could be housed temporarily. The chosen building, the Gelbe Kaserne (Yellow Barracks, above), even though badly damaged had been used as an air raid shelter at the end of the war. Its restoration came to symbolize the beginnings of recovery and the starting point of sixty years of links between Aachen and Halifax. The early seeds of friendship planted at this time have continued to bear fruit ever since.



1949 Group visit at the Gelbe Kaserne - M.Melech



1954 - New Friends

Early Exchanges

In the early years after the War new administrative institutions and democratic arrangements were being created - the British set up councils based on the kind of local government that existed in England at that time. The first elections to the new Aachen local government were held in 1946. The new Aachen Council not only focussed on youth work and education but also was encouraged to study local government in England. This led to a group of Aachen Councillors and officials spending three weeks in Halifax. This group included Councillor Fritz Thouet - the Thouet family is still a strong part of the twin town links.

Meanwhile the first organised group of helpers, members of the British Youth Hostels Association, went to Aachen and gave technical assistance. This quickly opened up the possibilities of contacts between English schools and their counterparts in Aachen.



Early in 1949 the first contact between Halifax and Aachen took place. Alderman Percival N Whitley, Chair of Halifax Borough Council's Education Committee (left), travelled there with the Chief Education Officer Mr C E Gent and the Youth Organiser Miss Gladys Elders. They met Dr Erich Ullrich (right), a teacher, to discuss the possibility of an exchange between young people. The outcome of this was the very first group of Halifax people to go to Aachen - that same summer. There were 34 in the party, mainly in their late teens and early twenties. They included people from a whole range of walks of life - including joiner, bricklayer, medical lab assistant, typist, post office clerk and grocery assistant.



They actually stayed in the Gelbe Kaserne and worked every morning repairing and improving it - making window frames, painting walls, making curtains and even underwear! In the afternoons they looked around the local area and socialised with young Aacheners.

This must have been a real eye-opener for all involved - but also the beginning of person-to-person contact between young people who shortly beforehand would have considered each other to be enemies.

Further working parties went to Aachen in 1951, 1952 and 1953. They included groups of apprentices under the supervision of Maurice Jagger, a well known local builder, Councillor and later Mayor of Halifax.



Town Halls work together - Archiv PK

These young people managed to make habitable three damaged houses - a gesture that was greatly appreciated. This was also the start of a still continuing connection with Aachen of members of the Jagger family.

Another strand of contact developed in 1950 through Mr Wrin, the Headmaster of Clare Hall School. He was invited to take a party of schoolchildren to Castle Blankenburg Youth Hostel near Aachen (right) where they would be joined by children from an Aachen Senior School and take part in debates, discussions, social activities and also community work - such as helping with the harvest! (below, right) A return visit followed in 1951.



Soon, however, this contact between schoolchildren led to a group of 60 people - including 45 adults - setting off for Aachen. The core of this group was from Forest Cottage Community Centre. Later, a large group of Aacheners came to Halifax as guests of Ovenden Youth Club. During that visit Dr Ullrich and his English hostess exchanged the front door keys of their homes - a declaration of trust and friendship that would have been unthinkable only a few years earlier.



En route in the 1950s



The Charlemagne Legacy and Prize

Even during his lifetime in the eighth century Charlemagne was known as the “Father of Europe” and his influence is still strongly felt in Aachen to this day. As king of the Franks he was the most important ruler of his time and doubled the size of his kingdom to include what is now a large part of modern Western Europe.

He was crowned Emperor and it was in Aachen that he built the most magnificent of his palaces in the entire empire. This led to the development of today’s city. The Aachen court became the intellectual and spiritual centre of the empire and was frequented by scholars and artists from all over the world. It gathered the most brilliant thinkers from many countries and it was here that the “Carolingian Minuscule” was developed, the type of hand-writing that we still use today. This cultural renewal is known as the Carolingian renaissance and its influence became of prime importance for the development of Europe.

Charlemagne died in 814 and was buried in his Palace Church, the modern day Cathedral. The Emperor’s Palace was badly damaged by fires and wars over the centuries and between 1334 and 1377 a Town Hall was erected on the site, to serve as the city administration and celebrate the Empire Charlemagne founded.

Since 1950 the standing of Aachen and Charlemagne in European history has been commemorated in the award each year of the International Charlemagne Prize of Aachen (“Karlspreis”). It is one of the most important political awards in Europe and recognises outstanding services to Europe in political, economic and intellectual ways. British recipients include Prime Ministers Sir Winston Churchill (1955), Edward Heath (1963), Tony Blair (1999) and Roy Jenkins, President of the European Commission (1972).

The prize medal (right) is presented at a very special ceremony in the Town Hall. There, in the Coronation Hall (above, right), a splendid vaulted room where German kings were crowned, a bronze life-size statue of Charlemagne watches the proceedings carefully!

Representatives of Calderdale Council and of the Halifax Aachen Society have been privileged to attend the ceremony on a number of occasions. It has always been considered a great honour to be invited.



The ceremony day begins with a special church service in the Cathedral. This is followed by a colourful procession of church dignitaries and guests from various European countries, as well as the prize-winner and any previous prize-winners who can be there.



In the Katschhof (the square between the Town Hall and the Cathedral) Aachen's seven twin town associations organise displays in small marquees. It is an opportunity to publicise Halifax and Calderdale – handing out information on tourist attractions – plus a chance to taste some local specialities such as Quality Street and parkin!

The country of origin of the year's prize winner is also represented by musicians who perform on stage in front of the gathered crowds. When Tony Blair was awarded the prize the invited British musicians were the Halifax Young Singers – chosen because of the twin town connection. Their singing was well appreciated and the young people had an eye-opening and enjoyable few days in Aachen.

The Karlspreis does indeed celebrate great achievement but also enables people of different nationalities to meet and develop friendships and understanding.

The partnership continues to grow

During the 1950s and 1960s the degree of contact between Aachen and Halifax increased. Throughout, the spirit of camaraderie that had developed in the Gelbe Kaserne continued in the formal and informal exchanges.

Trips took place nearly every year and sometimes there were several different groups visiting in the one year – some were community centre groups whilst others were exchanges undertaken by organisations such as football teams, scout troops, youth clubs, Ladies' and Male Voice Choirs. Particularly in the nineteen sixties, a number of people attended international conferences and events organised to encourage the development of town twinning.

Several organisations have maintained links with Aachen over many years – Crossley and Porter School pupils first went in 1966 and its successor, Crossley Heath School, still runs exchanges with an Aachen school. Some people have only visited their twin town once but others have been able to go more frequently – many have said that they feel so comfortable when they are in Aachen it's just like being at home!



Learning the skills of bowls



Visitors at Princess Mary's High School for Girls



The significance of the twinning exchanges and contacts can be appreciated by the presentation of honours to some of the people involved.

In 1971 Mr Arnold Edwards, Warden of Forest Cottage Community Centre (left), was presented with the West German Knights Cross of the Order of Merit in recognition of his special efforts in promoting Anglo-German friendship. Some years later Dr Erich Ullrich was awarded an honorary MBE for services to international friendship.



A happy group of visitors

Time marches on

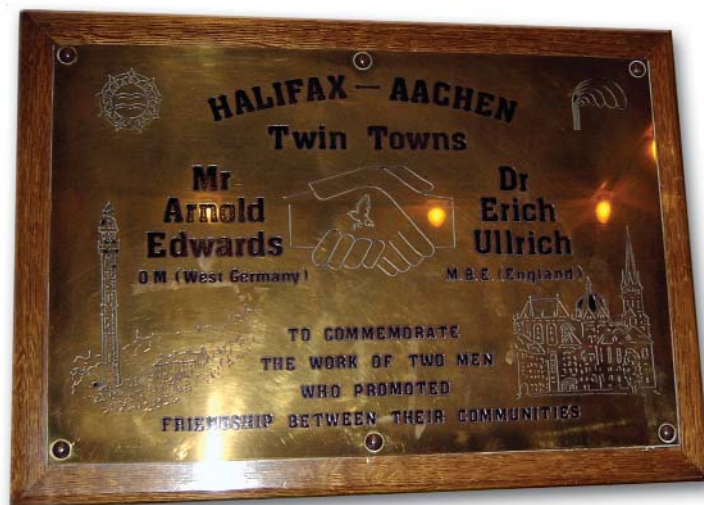
During the 1970s there were important changes in the leadership and organisation of the links between the towns. Arnold Edwards, a key player in the early days, retired in 1972 from his work at Forest Cottage and also wanted to hand over the reins of organising exchanges with Aachen.



Maurice Jagger and Arnold Edwards, lifelong stalwarts of the links, with a party at Forest Cottage

Iris Sharpe had become involved in the exchanges after learning German at an evening class at Forest Cottage. She had seen the range of people, particularly young people, who had visited Aachen and benefited from that contact. She was determined that the links would continue. She accepted an invitation from Arnold to act as organiser, although with some trepidation about what it entailed. She soon realised that a more formal structure was needed to plan future exchanges. With the backing of the Council and the help of some friends "the Halifax Aachen Society" was established in 1974.

Iris's name is the first of a dozen or so names engraved on the Society Chair's Medallion of Office. Without her foresight and commitment the links might have weakened or even disappeared entirely.



Through the 1970s a wide range of exchanges continued to take place – for example, visits to Aachen were made by a group of boys from Mixenden Community Centre, Sowerby Bridge Scouts, St Malachy's Scouts and Heath School Choir. Calderdale received visits from, amongst others, Aachen Scout troops, a Ladies' Choir (below, with Maurice and Mary Jagger), a football team and a group of young people. Regular visits between families also took place.

A sign of the growing importance of the link was the naming in 1974 of a main road to the new Aachen hospital as Halifaxstrasse (Halifax Street). A few years later the new bypass at King Cross was named Aachen Way (see page 14).

A notable milestone in 1979 was the signing of a Twinning Charter between Aachen Council and Calderdale Council (see page 23). After 30 years of friendship, the close acquaintance had at last led to marriage!



Farewell party at Ingwood Restaurant



Visitors at the new Halifax Swimming Pool

From strength to strength through the next 30 years



By the end of the 1970s an estimated 1500 people had made an exchange visit between Halifax and Aachen (both directions!)

Following the signing of the Charter biennial visits continued – a Halifax group travelling to Aachen in even-numbered years and guests from Aachen visiting Halifax in odd-numbered years. These trips have always been really enjoyable, with the visitors experiencing a whole array of both town and country attractions. Visits have been made to Aachen's historic centre and to villages around the city as well as to famous and attractive towns such as Bonn, Maastricht and Cologne. Other trips have been to power stations and castles, to fairgrounds and country parks, to breweries and museums, to mountains and lakes, to architectural gems and gastronomic delights. Such a broad spectrum of visits has provided something to suit everyone's tastes.



Photo - Evening Courier, Halifax

When Aacheners have visited Halifax they have seen the highlights of the area – the Piece Hall and Town Hall, Shibden Hall, the canals and moors, and other great Yorkshire places outside Calderdale – Saltaire, York, the highways and byways that the German visitors love to see – and sometimes it has taken the Aacheners to remind Halifax people how interesting this area really is. An outsider's view of our area can be eye-opening.

On the whole Aacheners visiting Halifax stay with local people and it's the same when Halifax folk go to Aachen – it's so great to be invited into someone's home – and experience their everyday life – instead of just staying in another anonymous hotel! Just as here, some Aacheners live in flats, some in houses, some in the centre and some in suburbs or villages – but their welcome to Halifax people is universally very warm and heartfelt. Friendships have developed that have stood the test of time – some for decades or more than one generation of a family. In addition, new friendships are always being developed, so the link carries on.

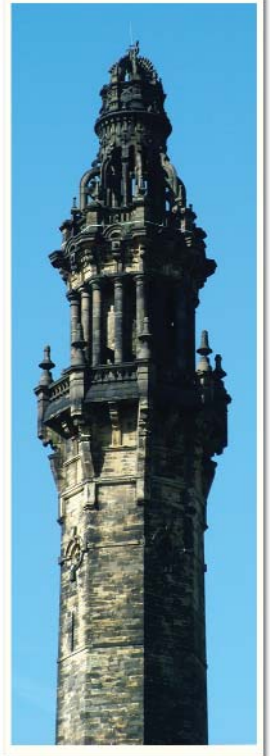


As well as visits arranged by the Halifax Aachen Society, many other organisations and individuals have been forging links with Aachen too. Schools, sports clubs and a group of local people with learning disabilities - these are just a sample of those who have learned about or visited the twin town. Primary and Secondary school children in the two towns have been in regular contact using email.

The visits of groups and organisations are now only part of the Aachen Halifax story. Throughout the year the two Societies assist residents of their towns who wish to go to the partner town for reasons such as furthering their education within a different country's school system, developing language abilities, undertaking a work placement in a foreign country or learning new skills. Arrangements have been made by the two Societies in conjunction with Calderdale Council's Twinning Officer for these individuals to attend local schools, work in businesses, public organisations or with voluntary groups. By living with local families during their stay the exchange visitors immerse themselves in the culture of the area and benefit from a breadth of experiences that would not otherwise be possible.

As the partnership enters the twenty-first century, improvements in communication links between the two towns have made it so much easier for residents of the localities to contact and visit each other. This has contributed to a wealth of informal contacts and personal inter-relationships that has further strengthened the ties between the two communities.

We have seen that the origins of the Halifax Aachen link lay in the unique circumstances at the end of World War II. Since then the partnership has grown and developed in many ways but always based on a common bond of friendship and goodwill. Along the way, the Halifax link with Aachen has provided great fun and enjoyment for all involved.



A trip to Whitby



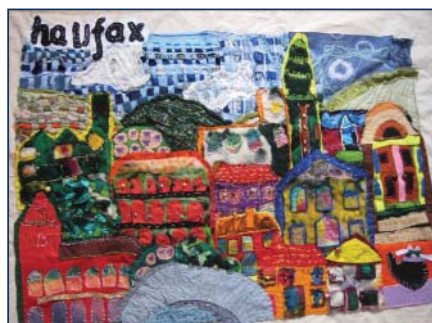
Promoting the twinning in the Piece Hall



2009 Crossley Heath and Viktoriaschule students



Dr Christa Schmidt and Maurice Jagger



Wallhanging by Special Needs Adults



Entertainment in Katschhof square



1999 Halifax Young Singers at Karlspreis award



Farewells after a week together



A day out in Monschau in the Eifel region

Twinning makes the news over 60 years

FIFTY YEARS OF FRIENDSHIP

It's wunderbar!

Ancient Aachen heaps praises on choir

Groups to mark golden links

IN July, Halifax will be celebrating the 50th anniversary of its twinning with the German town of Aachen.

The town was linked by the Home Office in 1949 because of similarities between the towns and residents have remained firm friends since.



One of the founders of the link, Mrs. Maurice Jenner

exchanges after 1933. Mr. Jaeger remained great friends with two German girls from Dornum, whom family friends from Dornum, when Mr. Jaeger and his wife, Marie, were great friends and members of the same church.

"I could not have chosen a better family," she says. "I was very happy to meet them and to see how they had grown up."

There have been reciprocal visits by both towns, and several football teams, often with the local national football team, have been invited to Aachen and back to visit the German friends.

Helping improve Aachen cathedral

The group was also asked to help with the restoration of the cathedral in Aachen.

The group was also asked to help with the restoration of the cathedral in Aachen.

The group was also asked to help with the restoration of the cathedral in Aachen.

Well-built bridge of friendship

EIGHTEEN YEARS OF HALIFAX-AACHEN VISIT

EXCHANGE visits to Halifax's twin town, Aachen, in Germany, have built a bridge of friendship between the two countries.

There are now 18 years of exchange visits, and the work has been well advanced.

Ein herzliches Willkommen in einer „geliebten Stadt“

Im Rahmen der Partnerschaft Aachen/Halifax wurden 21 Gäste im Rathaus begrüßt.

VON CHRISTOPH GLASSEN

Nach mehr als einem Jahr nach Aachen, die Stadt der Freundschaft.

Schon im Jahre 1949

Das heißt „Künderstadt“

Aachen und Halifax aus den Anfängen einer langen Freundschaft

Twin towns folk meet up

THREE met yesterday at the town of Aachen to mark the 50th anniversary of the twinning of Halifax and Aachen.

The group was also asked to help with the restoration of the cathedral in Aachen.

The group was also asked to help with the restoration of the cathedral in Aachen.

The group was also asked to help with the restoration of the cathedral in Aachen.

The group was also asked to help with the restoration of the cathedral in Aachen.

WHY NOT JOIN US AND MAKE NEW FRIENDS?

International appeal

BY LESLEY GIBSON

It is not just the way other people live that is different from us.

The Aachen trip big occasion for schoolgirl sisters

Evening Courier reporter Miss Sheila Crampton, is on the trip and in this article tells why they are

in the 1950s (she writes) she has travelled in the Aachen district.

There will also be a counter established by the Halifax Aachen Society.

There will also be a counter established by the Halifax Aachen Society.

There will also be a counter established by the Halifax Aachen Society.

There will also be a counter established by the Halifax Aachen Society.

There will also be a counter established by the Halifax Aachen Society.

There will also be a counter established by the Halifax Aachen Society.

There will also be a counter established by the Halifax Aachen Society.

There will also be a counter established by the Halifax Aachen Society.

There will also be a counter established by the Halifax Aachen Society.

Thumbs up for Aachen plan

THE AACHEN trip is being planned by the Halifax Aachen Society.

The Aachen trip is being planned by the Halifax Aachen Society.

The Aachen trip is being planned by the Halifax Aachen Society.

The Aachen trip is being planned by the Halifax Aachen Society.

The Aachen trip is being planned by the Halifax Aachen Society.

The Aachen trip is being planned by the Halifax Aachen Society.

The Aachen trip is being planned by the Halifax Aachen Society.

The Aachen trip is being planned by the Halifax Aachen Society.

The Aachen trip is being planned by the Halifax Aachen Society.

The Aachen trip is being planned by the Halifax Aachen Society.

From Aachen for pie 'n' peas

ACHEN visitors who have been invited to Halifax for a special occasion.

Aachen visitors who have been invited to Halifax for a special occasion.

Aachen visitors who have been invited to Halifax for a special occasion.

Aachen visitors who have been invited to Halifax for a special occasion.

Aachen visitors who have been invited to Halifax for a special occasion.

Aachen visitors who have been invited to Halifax for a special occasion.

Die Wurzeln der Freundschaft reichen weit

Bürgermeister Verheyen empfängt Gäste aus Halifax im Rathaus.

Bürgermeister Verheyen empfängt Gäste aus Halifax im Rathaus.

Bürgermeister Verheyen empfängt Gäste aus Halifax im Rathaus.

Bürgermeister Verheyen empfängt Gäste aus Halifax im Rathaus.

Bürgermeister Verheyen empfängt Gäste aus Halifax im Rathaus.

Looking Ahead

Town twinning has always shown that it is through personal face-to-face contacts and the friendships between ordinary people that understanding and cooperation between different peoples are nurtured and the barriers of prejudice and separatism are avoided. This is increasingly important in an ever more impersonal world dominated by large institutions.

Today, twinning continues to broaden outlooks and further international understanding and friendships. When you take part you have to be prepared for mind expansion! Finding out about and being puzzled by each other's cultures is a great experience: new menus and recipes, new music, new arts and entertainments, 'foreign' football teams, new sights, different ways of life. The lively discussions and arguments are an important part of the enjoyment!

The qualities that have sustained the partnership so far remain strong and relevant today. Modern communications and common interests in the challenges facing the world at the beginning of the twenty-first century mean that the two towns are as close together as ever, enabling their peoples to continue their full lives together, sharing experiences and their aspirations for the future.

The Society welcomes enquiries from anyone interested in the twinning with Aachen. Its members are also happy to come to meetings of local groups or make presentations about the partnership and describe the many activities that take place under its wing.

We hope that new friends will join us on the next part of the exciting journey.



Many groups have taken part in visits and exchanges...



...including Halifax Borough Council - Kaiser Karl Gymnasium - Pellon Youth Club - St Ursula Gymnasium

Ovenden Youth Club - Crossley and Porter School - Hebden Bridge Band - Aachen Council - Halifax Round Table

Calderdale Council - Rugby Club Aachen - Mixenden Community Centre - Aachen Ladies Choir (Damenchor)

Halifax Male Voice Choir - Sowerby Bridge Sea Scouts - Burtscheider Kammerchor - Heath School - St Jakob Scouts

Forest Cottage Community Centre - Einhard Gymnasium - Rastrick Grammar School - Halifax Wine Circle

Christus-unser-Friede-Kirche Youth - Halifax Aachen Society - Partnerschaftskomitee Aachen-Halifax/Calderdale

Horbach Male Voice Choir - Halifax Catholic Amateur Operatic Society - Viktoriaschule - St Malachy's Scouts

Halifax Young Singers - Aachener Europa Union - Halifax Council of Churches - Hepton Singers - Crossley Heath School

Clare Hall School - Katholische Frauengemeinschaft Deutschland - Calderdale College - Todmorden Old Brass Band

Ryburn Band - Sowerby Bridge Rushbearing Group - Waldschulheims Breuer - Inda Gymnasium - Highlands School Band

Maintaining and developing friendship between Halifax and Aachen



Leading contributors to the 60 years' partnership

Halifax 1949 – 1979

Alderman Percival N Whitley JP
C E Gent
Gladys Elders
Maurice Jagger
Maurice Wrin
Arnold Edwards
Iris Sharpe

Aachen 1949 – 1995

Dr Erich Ullrich
Cllr Fritz Thouet
Anne Houtermanns
Dr Hugo Fischer
Martin Hans
Ina & Manfred Solmsdorff
Dr Jürgen Linden, Oberbürgermeister

Signed the Twinning Charter 1979

Councillor Betty Wildsmith
Mayor of Calderdale

Geoffrey P Key
Chief Executive
Calderdale Council

Kurt Malangré
Oberbürgermeister

Dr. Heiner Berger
Chief Executive
Aachen Council

Chairs of Halifax Aachen Society

1975-1978 Iris Sharpe
1978-1980 Tony Sharpe
1980-1982 Ian Mulhall
1982-1987 Arnold Edwards
1987-1992 George Fearnley
1992-1994 Donald Pickles
1994-2000 Cllr Wilfred Sharp
2000-2002 Chris Freeman
2002-2003 Jean Pickles
2003-2005 Susan Hill
2005-2006 Marilyn Briggs
2006-present George Keith

Chairs of Partnerschaftskomitee Aachen-Halifax/Calderdale

1995-1997 Gisela Lenze
1997-1998 Jürgen Kraft
1998- 2005 Dr Christa M. Schmidt
2005-present Hanneget Stuckenburg

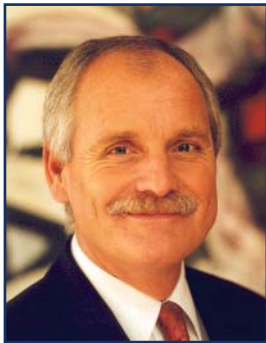
Honours

Dr Erich Ullrich Honorary MBE
Karlskreuz der Europa-Union
Mr Arnold Edwards Knights Cross West German
Medal (Bundesverdienstkreuz)
Karlskreuz der Europa-Union

The Twinning Charter and Council support

The Society continues to appreciate and enjoy the support provided by the Councils of Calderdale and Aachen. Exchange visitors have always been made most welcome by the Mayors of both twin towns who have also shown great interest in the activities of the Society and achievements of the partnership.

The Twinning Charter (below) was signed on 29th October 1979. It has formed the basis on which the friendship has developed and continued through the past thirty years.



Dr Jürgen Linden
Oberbürgermeister
von Aachen
1989-2009



Councillor
Arshad Mahmood
Mayor of Calderdale
2009-10



1949
2009

Halifax
Aachen



Mail frank used by Calderdale Council in 2009



Acknowledgements

Many people and sources have provided information for this booklet. The following have been particularly helpful:

- Past and present members of Halifax Aachen Society
- Calderdale Council
- Virginia Mason and Halifax Courier Ltd
- Exchange visitors to Aachen for photos and memories
- John A Hargreaves - *Halifax, 1999*
- John C Stainton - *The Twinning of Halifax and Aachen, 1994*
- Karlheinz Dannert - *Eine kleine Chronologie der Verbindung Aachen-England, 2007*
- Annette Fusenig - *Aachen City Guide, 1997*

This booklet and other celebrations of 60 years of links have been made possible by generous donations gratefully received from:

