

## How to join us

To join the Reading Düsseldorf Association please complete the form below and send it to:

Miss Sylvia Clarke  
7 Epsom Court, Coley Avenue  
READING, Berks, RG1 6LW  
E mail [sylvia.clarke10@btinternet.com](mailto:sylvia.clarke10@btinternet.com)

Mr/Mrs/Ms.....Forename.....  
Surname.....  
Address.....  
.....  
Postcode.....  
Telephone.....  
E mail.....  
BANK STANDING ORDER  
To the Manager.....Bank  
Branch Address.....  
.....  
.....Postcode.....

Please pay Lloyds Bank plc, 24 Broad Street, READING, RG1 2BT, sort code 30-91-31, for credit of the Reading Düsseldorf Association, a/c no 1717326, the sum of £..... immediately and annually thereafter every 1st November until further written instruction is received. This standing order replaces any previous standing order on this account in favour of the Association.

Account Name .....  
Number .....Sort Code.....  
Signed .....Date .....

OR – I enclose a cheque for £ ..... for my/our subscription for the first year.

SUBSCRIPTION RATE £5.00 per person per year.

## SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

Each year the Reading Düsseldorf Association holds several social activities to give members a chance to meet and share their experiences and to help raise money.

The current programme includes:-

Friday 26 February, 8 pm – Wine and Cheese Evening, Kennet Room, Civic Offices, Reading  
Speaker – Susanne Holly

Friday 26 March, 7.30 pm – Annual Dinner, The Maltsters, Rotherfield Greys

Saturday 17 July – Annual Barbecue

For more information contact the Chairman:

Mr Robert Dimmick  
12 Lowfield Road, Caversham  
READING, Berks, RG4 6PA  
Telephone 0118 947 0258

Email: [chairman@reading-dusseldorf.org.uk](mailto:chairman@reading-dusseldorf.org.uk)

Website: [www.reading-dusseldorf.org.uk](http://www.reading-dusseldorf.org.uk)

Each year our president is  
The Mayor of Reading

# About the Reading Düsseldorf Association



Join us. You can make friends here and in Düsseldorf and help to maintain and strengthen links between Reading and our sister city.

Reading has had links of friendship with Düsseldorf since 1947, making us one of the oldest international partnerships in Europe.

*Here is how you can get involved.*

## Why Düsseldorf ?

- Many town twinings link places of similar sizes or history. Reading's link with Düsseldorf is different. *So, how did it happen?*
- During the Second World War most of the houses and almost all of the factories and other buildings in Düsseldorf were destroyed. By 1947 while British people suffered rationing, those in Düsseldorf were starving. The city was occupied by the Royal Berkshire Regiment, whose senior officer, Major-General Robert John Collins, recognised the needs of the people and asked Reading to help.
- The Mayor, Phoebe Cusden, invited young people from Düsseldorf to stay in Reading and helped bring reconciliation and friendship between nations that had been fighting.
- Ever since then people and groups from Reading and Düsseldorf have visited each other and made friends. We believe that this friendship is a very important way of securing international peace and co-operation for the future.

## Just for councillors?

- People sometimes imagine that only mayors, councillors and people like that can get involved in town twinning.
- It's not like that in Reading. We aim to involve people of all ages and all sorts and to encourage group exchanges.
- We are a voluntary group paid for by our members. The Council backs town-twinning strongly but does not control it. Our committee includes local people from all backgrounds.

## Making friends

*How can I get involved in an exchange with Düsseldorf or make friends there?*

- Many join us because of an interest in Germany or a desire to be part of our town twinning or the possibility of exchange visits.
- People also get involved as members of local organisations which establish links with a similar group in Düsseldorf. Many of the groups arrange regular visits to share in their particular interests.
- Some of the organisations that have had links recently are:-
  - Reading-Düsseldorf Churches Interchange (part of Churches Together in Reading)
  - Caversham Football Club
  - Reading Guild of Artists
  - Reading Phoenix Choir
  - Reading Symphony Orchestra
  - Reading Blue Coat School
  - Kendrick School
  - Reading Barbershop Harmony Club
  - Reading Male Voice Choir
  - Aldbrickham Clog & Step Dancers
  - Reading Festival Chorus
  - Berkshire Young Musicians' Trust

## About Düsseldorf

- Düsseldorf is in the west of Germany on the east bank of the Rhine. It has over half a million people and it is the capital of the "Land" or State of North Rhine Westphalia, the largest in Germany.
  - Originally a riverside fishing village, its name means "Village on the Düssel", which is a small stream flowing into the Rhine. It became a princely residence and later an industrial centre.
  - It is now a major centre for trade fairs, the focal point for fashion and the headquarters of many major companies.
  - The university is named after Düsseldorf's most famous citizen, the poet, Heinrich Heine.
  - As a commercial centre, Düsseldorf has substantial overseas communities, particularly from Japan.
- ## Do I need to speak German?
- All our activities here are in English
  - If you are staying with a family in Düsseldorf, it helps to be able to say *bitte* and *danke schön* or even a little bit more – but many people there speak good English.
  - A visit is a good chance to brush up your German, if you want to.