

## Five things to know about Düsseldorf

**1.** Düsseldorf is the state capital of North Rhine-Westphalia and in 2017 was among the top 20 'most liveable cities' in the world.

**2.** It's known for art (Joseph Beuys, Gerhard Richter), music (Kraftwerk), its Japanese community, fashion and trade fairs, and it's an international centre for business and finance.

**3.** Düsseldorf's Altstadt (old town) boasts five pub-breweries that serve Altbier, a local hoppy beer similar to British pale ales.

**4.** The Rhenish carnival in February/March, celebrated by hundreds of thousands, culminates in the Rose Monday parade with its hundreds of floats, when public life practically grinds to a halt.



**5.** Düsseldorf's tradition of cartwheeling goes back centuries, and cartwheelers can be seen on fountains, storm drains, door knockers and in numerous sculptures.



## Why join the RDA?

As an individual or institutional/organisational member, you will...

- be kept up to date with forthcoming RDA and other related events and activities
- receive our newsletter by email
- benefit from members' rates for social events
- have opportunities to meet others with a shared interest in the people, culture, language and other aspects of our twin town
- be entitled to apply for grants and bursaries that support activities/projects joining Reading and Düsseldorf

**Above:** 'The Cartwheeling Boys' by Brian Slack, near the Hexagon, Reading.

**Right:** Every year, a group of Lore Lorentz School pupils come to Reading for work experience.



Make friends  
Exchange ideas  
Enjoy culture  
Play sports  
Learn about the past  
Build community  
Cross borders  
Shape the future

Become  
a member

Reading  
Düsseldorf  
Association



## About the RDA

Since 1947, Reading and the German city of Düsseldorf have had a special bond that originated in the then Mayor Phoebe Cusden's determined effort to provide relief to the famished children of Düsseldorf in the immediate aftermath of the Second World War.



In 1948, the first group of Düsseldorf children came to Reading, where they stayed with local families

The Reading Düsseldorf Association (RDA) – founded by her in 1947 – is Phoebe Cusden's legacy, and it continues to foster close links with Düsseldorf, which has been twinned with Reading since 1975.

## What we do

The RDA builds and maintains relationships between organisations, schools and individuals in Reading and Düsseldorf. We run public events to raise awareness of the RDA and the remarkable work of Phoebe Cusden, sometimes in association with other organisations. At our social events, both members and non-members are equally welcome. We are always looking for ways to engage with local groups and individuals to run events that engage with the ethos and the history of the RDA.

## Looking to the future

In 2017, the RDA celebrated the 70th anniversary of the friendship with Düsseldorf. To build on the success these last 70 years, the RDA wants to encourage a new generation of individuals, groups and organisations to participate actively and contribute to this long-lasting relationship by becoming members.

The mayors of Reading and Düsseldorf cut a cake at the affirmation of the friendship in 2017 on the occasion of the 70th anniversary of the founding of the RDA



Membership fees enable the RDA to offer grants and bursaries for cultural, educational, sports and community projects joining Reading and Düsseldorf.

The Association also supports the broader idea of building bridges across national, cultural and political divides between children and young people in particular to promote acceptance, peace and reconciliation. That ethos remains as relevant today as it was in 1947.

**Become a member and help us make this vision a reality.**

## I would like to become a member of the RDA

### Type of membership

- individual (£10)
- organisation/institution (£10)
- concession (pupils and students) (£5)
  - please enclose copy of student ID

Contact name(s) .....

Organisation .....

Date of birth (students/pupils only) .....

Address .....

Telephone .....

Email address(es) (please print clearly)

I agree to the newsletter and other RDA correspondence being sent to the email address(es) above. I understand that my details will be used by the RDA only for purposes relating to my membership, will be held on a database and will not be passed on to anyone else.

Signature .....

Date .....

**By post:** Please enclose a cheque for the correct amount made out to 'Reading Düsseldorf Association' and send it with this form to Sylvia Clarke, 7 Epsom Court, Coley Avenue, Reading RG1 6LW.

**By email/BACS:** Please make payment for the correct amount to Reading Düsseldorf Association, account number 1717326, sort code 30-91-31, using reference '[your initial & last name] Membership' and email your payment confirmation and a scan/photo of the completed membership form any concessionary documents to [membership@reading-dusseldorf.org.uk](mailto:membership@reading-dusseldorf.org.uk)