



**WIMBORNE-OCHSENFURT
TWINNING ASSOCIATION**



Founded 1989

In the 1980's a priest from the Bavarian town of Ochsenfurt came to Wimborne in search of the roots of their church. His research in Germany had revealed that Christianity had reached their town through St. Boniface and his team of nuns, in the decade around 740AD, in particular their own local Saint Thekla. The nuns who were involved came mostly from the monastery in Wimborne, and several of them were beatified.

They are also credited with taking over vines which apparently started off the local wine-making business. (That's what our Ochsenfurt researchers tell us!)

Just imagine what kind of journey those women would have faced in those days! Sailing over to the continent was not the simple affair it is now, and then to travel at the pace of a mule, or even on foot ----. In 1985 the Bürgermeister of Ochsenfurt came over to take part in the service of thanksgiving for the anniversary of the end of the war. As a result of the visit, Wimborne decided to formalise a Twinning agreement with Ochsenfurt, and this was signed in November 1989, just as the Wall came down!

Ochsenfurt is situated on the river Main, southeast of the city of Würzburg, in the area known as Franken. The State is Bavaria, but our friends there say they are Franken first, Bavarian second and German third!

The area is rural, and Ochsenfurt's main industry is sugar-refining, using the sugar beet which is grown in the fields around the area. This is also wine-growing country, and all along the Main the banks rise steeply and are covered in vines. The varieties of grape vary from vineyard to vineyard, but in the main they grow the Sylvaner, Müller-Thurgau, Kerner and Spätburgunder, but there is an increase in red grapes, such as Domina and Acolon. They also still use the traditional 'Bocksbeutel' bottle, although they now use the more modern shape with screw caps, to appeal to the younger drinker.

The food in the area is rich and varied, with many types of sausages, delicious pork and game, and many luscious cakes!

Visits take place annually, with Wimborne people visiting Ochsenfurt one year and they visiting Wimborne the next year. Many times our visits coincide with one or other of their festivals, when there is usually a great time had, sampling many local delicacies and drinks and watching local entertainments.

Relationships and friendships between the communities have developed well, with many private visits taking place throughout the year.

Aims and Objects of the Association

a) to promote and foster friendship and understanding between the people of the Wimborne area and those of Ochsenfurt and its German twin town of Colditz. (This is helped by members hosting our friends from Ochsenfurt)

b) to encourage visits by individuals and groups to and from the two towns, particularly by young people, and the development of personal contacts to broaden the mutual understanding of the cultural, recreational and commercial activities of the linked towns.

If you would like to know more about the Association, or would consider joining, please contact the membership secretary, Philip Hoath on p.hoath@btinternet.com or just fill in the form and send it to him.

Membership

Membership of the Association is open to anyone interested.

Individual membership	£8
Family membership including all those resident at the given address	£12
Corporate membership e.g schools, companies, clubs etc	£15

Please send completed form to
WOTA Membership Secretary,
1, Brookside Park, Waterloo Rd. Corfe Mullen, Wimborne, Dorset BH21 3SB

Application for membership of the Association

Mr./Mrs/ Miss. _____

Address

Tel. no. _____

E-mail _____

I/We wish to join the Association, and enclose
a cheque for £_____ , made payable to Wimborne Ochsenfurt Twinning Association.

We hope that you will be able and willing to host when our friends come over.
In order to help us, please would you say how many guests you would be able to accommodate:

I/ We can accommodate _____ people.

A knowledge of German is not essential, as many of them speak very good English, but if you have any German, we would like to know.

Good _____ A little _____.

We like to put new members in touch with any existing ones in the same locality.

If you are happy for us to do this, by giving them your contact name and number, please sign the consent below.

Yes, I /We agree to have my/ our contact details to be shared with members local to me.

Signed. _____.