

Die Lokale Zeitung “Devon Live“ berichtet über den Besuch Hofheimer Bürger

Tiverton bestows honorary burgess to friends who help town twinning thrive

German visitors headed to Tiverton between Thursday, July 11 and Tuesday, July 16

By Lewis Clarke, 2 AUG 2019



(Image: Lewis Clarke)

Those who have worked tirelessly to secure the ongoing friendships between Tiverton and its German twin town have been praised.

German visitors headed to Tiverton between Thursday, July 11 and Tuesday, July 16. Visitors enjoyed a trip to Minehead via the West Somerset Railway, a tour of Exmoor via coach, a reception with the mayor at Tiverton Town Hall, a BBQ with cèilidh and a trip to Buckfast Abbey.

At the reception, mayor of Hofheim Gisela Stang and twinning organisers Wolfgang Winckler and Renate Hoffman were made an honorary burgess of Tiverton by the Town Council for their many years of service for twinning.

Mrs Stang said: “We would like to thank the whole twinning committee. We have had a wonderful time, and it’s always nice to come to Tiverton and see familiar faces and the town. We are looking forward to the fortieth anniversary next year and a very special celebration.

“This is a special journey for me as after 18 years this will be my last visit to Tiverton as the mayor of Hofheim. It has always been an honour for me to welcome people from Tiverton and all of our twinning towns, and we have shared many wonderful moments. We have laughed together, cried together, have seen children grow and say goodbye to those who have died. This is what twinning is all about; it’s not just about being somewhere, it’s about the friends and family.



German Twinning Trip to Tiverton 2019 (Image: Lewis Clarke)

“There are strong bonds between our towns and the people of Hofheim and Tiverton. It’s not easy, and the world outside is not getting easier, but almost 40 years ago, the people who started our twinning did not have an easy time. Then, they had been enemies who fought against each other, now seeing what the twinning did and the power of twinning, enemies became friends and very often part of the family. This is what should give us optimism and strength to carry on. It is so important that people know each other so nothing can destroy those bonds.”

Mayor of Tiverton, Councillor Colin Slade added: “For us, it’s very important to maintain our relationships with Hofheim as we have done for nearly forty years, and we’re looking forward to the fortieth anniversary next year.

“That is a cause for celebration, and that everyone is here having a good time, the weather has been keeping fine, and we hope our guests have enjoyed getting about not only in our town but around the surrounding countryside as well.

“We should also acknowledge the hosts and all who put so much work into the organisation with the Tiverton Twinning Association.”