

## **Official Visit to Bad Wildungen in September 2022**

Following the visit to Bad Wildungen in September 2018 with the then Mayor, Cllr Fairhurst, it is proposed that a second official visit is made in September 2022. Ralf Gutheil, Burgermeister of Bad Wildungen, has been contacted and would be very pleased to receive a delegation from Saffron Walden.

The dates put forward are: out on Monday 19th September, returning on Wednesday 21st September. Flying from Stansted Airport to Frankfurt and then a 1.75 hour car journey to Bad Wildungen. We tried going from Frankfurt to Bad Wildungen by public transport in 2018 and it took about 6 hours!

It is proposed to invite members of the community too, with invitations having gone out to Saffron Walden Museum, St Mary's Church, SWCHS, Fairycroft House, the press and members of the business community.

The intention of the trip is to establish connections between groups and people, leading to an enhanced relationship with our twin town.

The trip will need to be funded by the individual themselves and I estimate that a two night stay will cost in the region of £350 + all in. Suggested flights and hotels will be made to group members, it will then be up to the individual to make their own booking and arrange their own insurance.

### **Benefits of Town Twinning:**

In the age of Brexit, it is vitally important to keep the relationship with our twin town alive. An excellent rapport has been established between the two administrations over the last few years (after years of neglect and the collapse of the Saffron Walden Twinning Association).

Since the last trip, we have:

1. Developed an excellent relationship with the administration lead by Ralf Gutheil
2. We have welcomed Ralf and his wife to Saffron Walden in 2019
3. We welcomed Ingo Fromm to Saffron Walden in 2019

### **Future Objectives:**

1. SWCHS no longer arrange exchange trips with Bad Wildungen schools (there is a background story to this if anyone wants it); it would be nice if this could be looked at again.
2. It would be good to establish an arts and cultural exchange
3. It would be good to establish business connections.

The only way to achieve the above is to facilitate connections and dialogue between groups and people.

To note that I am not suggesting the resurrection of the Saffron Walden Twinning Association at this stage, but by involving the community in this visit, it may be something that transpires.

Mark Starte

26<sup>th</sup> October 2021.