

*Mayor Sheila Magnall, Bury*

May I on behalf of the Members of the Bury Metropolitan Community Twinning Association, the Mayoress and myself, thank the Mayor and the Townspeople of Schorndorf, most sincerely for the warmth and generosity of the welcome accorded to us.

I do recall the occasion when Bury and Schorndorf entered into a Twinning Pact of Friendship.

Much has happened in past years, but firm foundations for successful twinning were established and have continued to grow. Many true friendships have been formed and strongly consolidated. I feel certain that these will continue to develop.

The Bury Metropolitan Community Twinning Association promotes the links between our Twin Towns. I do commend the Association upon their outstanding achievement and I am sure that our twinning is sure and certain.

Unfortunately I haven't before had the opportunity to visit Schorndorf, but I do know that regular visits from my predecessors have taken place. Previous Mayors have happy recollections of these occasions and have been deeply satisfied with the twinning links.

This special Anniversary Year presents an opportunity for our twinning links to be reaffirmed and strengthened. Twinning is a close link between communities and encourages a better understanding between peoples of different ways of life. A twinning link between towns is a responsibility placed on all, but it is a responsibility that can be enjoyed. Better knowledge of other countries, through personal contacts can be achieved.

The Townspeople of the Bury Metropolitan have a genuine affection for the people of Schorndorf; and in fact all our Twin Towns. We believe that the bonds of friendship made during the past will continue to grow and let us hope that the children of today and future generations will long continue this happy relationship.

May I thank you Oberburgermeister for your enthusiastic conviction to promote our twinning links and make them so successful.

I feel sure that we all have faith in the future of twinning.

It has been a pleasure to come to Schorndorf and to participate in this ceremony today.

Finally may I express the hope that the friendship between our towns will long continue to flourish.