

## Cologne

Population : 1.061million

4<sup>th</sup> largest city in Germany

[www.stadt-koeln.de](http://www.stadt-koeln.de)

Oberbürgermeister: Mayor Henriette Reker

The objective of twinning is to help develop links in many areas – cultural, educational, social, tourist, technical, scientific and economic and it is hoped that the development of such links would have benefits for all communities involved. Links with Cologne were formally established in May 1988 in Cologne and subsequently when a party visited Cork in May 1989 when the second stage of the formal twinning ceremony was completed. Since then the exchange has gone from strength to strength especially in the fields of education, training, music and athletics.

### **Twinning activities with Cologne:**

#### **2019**

- 35 members of the Cologne Cork sister city committee visited Cork in April. The group paid a courtesy visit to the Lord Mayor where they also met with members of the International Relations Committee, had a walking tour led by Councillor Kieran McCarthy and visited the Knocknaheeny Youth Centre and Urban Gardening project.
- A group of athletes from Cork travelled to Cologne in October to take part in the marathon/half marathon in the City. The city of Cologne invites athletes from all of their twinned cities to take part in the marathon. Prior to their departure for Cologne the group visited the Deputy Lord Mayor, Cllr. Derry Canty at City Hall who wished them well in their endeavours. In Cologne the Deputy Lord Mayor hosted a reception at City Hall for all athletes from twinned cities.

#### **2018**

- **Cologne:**  
On 1st October, 2018, a group of three athletes from Cork took part in the Cologne half marathon. Exchanges between athletes from the two cities have been taking place for a number of years now. The group also attended a welcome reception in City Hall, hosted by Vice Mayor Andreas Wolter.
- In June, 2 athletes from Cologne, travelled to Cork to take part in the Cork city marathon.
- The Deputy Lord Mayor, Cllr. Fergal Dennehy attended a St. Patrick's Day Reception in Cologne on 16<sup>th</sup> March, hosted by the Honorary Consul General, Mrs. Brigitte Wagner Halswick. The function was very well attended by a wide spectrum of the business, social and political community of Cologne including the Irish Ambassador, Michael Collins and Mayor of Cologne, Mayor Reker.
- Matthias Welpmann, President of the Cologne Cork Sister City Committee led a 7 person delegation from Cologne to Cork on May 10<sup>th</sup>/May 11<sup>th</sup>. During the delegation's visit to

Cork, they had meetings with German teachers in Cork schools in the city to discuss beginning new and expanding existing school exchange programmes. They paid a courtesy visit to the Deputy Lord Mayor, visited and had a tour of the Fire Station provided by a member of the Cork Fire Brigade, visited the NICHE offices in Knocknaheeny to discuss areas of collaboration, attended a lunch hosted by Cork City Council and took a walking tour of the City provided by Cllr. Kieran McCarthy.

- Exchange students from the Herder Gymnasium Cologne, paid a courtesy visit to the Lord Mayor on May 4<sup>th</sup>, 2018. This school exchange between Cork and Cologne has been taking place for almost 20 years. Cork students travelled to Cologne in Jan/Feb, 2018 where they spent half of their visit at school, and the remainder on work experience. This project was assisted under the Twinning Grant Programme.
- As part of the 30 year anniversary of the Cork/Cologne twinning the 75 piece Junge Sinfonie Cologne orchestra, played a concert in aid of the Cope Foundation on the 17<sup>th</sup> October in City Hall. The concert was attended by the German Ambassador to Ireland, Mrs. Deike Potzel and the Lord Mayor.



2017

- **Cologne:**  
On 1st October, 2017, a group of 17 athletes from Cork took part in the Cologne marathon and half marathon. Exchanges between athletes from the two cities have been taking place for a number of years now, with two athletes from Cologne also travelling to Cork to take part in the Cork city marathon which is held in June. Mr. Matthias Welpmann, Chairperson of the Cologne-Cork sister city committee and Councillor with Cologne City Council arranged a walking tour of Cologne City Centre for the group. The

group also attended a welcome reception in City Hall, hosted by Vice Mayor Andreas Wolter.



*Picture shows the group of athletes from Cologne's twinned cities that travelled to Cologne for the Marathon/half marathon. Included are the athletes who travelled from Cork.*

- To develop the twinning between Cork and Cologne further, a new "Cork - Cologne -Lecture series started on 20th September, 2017 as part of the showcase of the Cork Lifelong Learning festival which was part of the UNESCO Conference of Learning Cities. S Jauernig was the guest from Cologne for this first lecture which took place in UCC.
- Exchange students from the Herder Gymnasium Cologne, along with their partner schools in Cork (Douglas Community Scholl and Christ the King) paid a courtesy visit to the Lord Mayor on May 8th, 2017. This school exchange between Cork and Cologne has been taking place for almost 20 years. Cork students travelled to Cologne in Jan/Feb, 2017 where they spent half of their visit at school in Herder, and the remaining half of the exchange on work experience. The project was assisted under the Twinning Grant Programme.



*Students from the Herder Gymnasium, Cologne, pictured with students from their Cork partner schools, Mr. M Schmidt, teacher and Lord Mayor, Cllr. Des Cahill.*

- Ms. Miessler from Cologne Council visited Cork from May 31<sup>st</sup> to June 2<sup>nd</sup> to attend the Grow Smarter General Assembly meeting which was hosted by Cork. Up to 100 delegates from 10 cities across Europe were shown smart initiatives and innovations devised by the Council in the areas of infrastructure, energy and transport.
- Highfield Rugby Club U12 team undertook a tour to Cologne, Germany. There they played AFC Koln, and other German teams, including Bruhl RFC (a suburb of Koln) and a team from Hamburg. An exchange of plaques, pennants and gifts was made after the games. Koln and Bruhl rugby clubs were especially delighted to have established links with a rugby club in their twinned cities. The tour was a wonderful experience for the players, as they had the opportunity to see a major European city and the tour exposed them to memories they will have for years to come. The visit was assisted by the Council's Twinning Grant programme.
- Irish Wheelchair Rugby travelled to Cologne in April to take part in the Bernd Best tournament. This is the largest club tournament in the world of wheelchair rugby. A total of six members from Cork attended the tournament. The visit was assisted by the Council's Twinning Grant programme.
- Two athletes from Cologne, travelled to Cork in June to take part in the Cork City Half marathon.

2016

- In February, a group of students and staff from the Cologne University of Applied Science travelled to Cork to attend their project –webpages launch and award –ceremony in UCC on February 12<sup>th</sup>. The collaboration titled “Intercultural Learning through Digital Skills: The Virtual Irish-German Classroom took place the previous semester, covering the 12 week teaching period between September and December. Students met online in regular weekly sessions and worked on their projects outside of class time. The project covered 7 lines of inquiry, the aim of which was to develop a module which captured student’s experiences as well as their cities, their places of study and other areas, both in written and digital format. The project webpages were launched in UCC on February 12<sup>th</sup>. The students and teachers paid a courtesy visit to the Deputy Lord Mayor, Mick Nugent also on the 12<sup>th</sup> February. The project was assisted under the Twinning Grant Programme.



*Picture shows staff and students from the University of Applied Science, Cologne, with course leaders from UCC during their courtesy visit to the Deputy Lord Mayor.*

- Students from Cork travelled to Cologne in January/February February as part of a Cork-Cologne school exchange and work experience programme that has been running for the past 19 years. Students from Douglas Community School, Coláiste an Spioraid Naoimh and Christ the King School took part this year. The students spent half of the exchange in the Herder Gymnasium in Cologne and the other half on work experience. The students met with the Mayor of Cologne during their time in Germany and presented her with a letter of greeting from Lord Mayor Cllr. Chris O’Leary. In May, the students from

the Herder Gymnasium School in Cologne paid a reciprocal visit to Cork where they met with the then Lord Mayor, Cllr. Chris O'Leary.

- The Deinemaids Vocal ensemble travelled to Cork for the Choral Festival in April. They have links with the Cork Vocal Ensemble Cantabile. While in Cork, they paid a courtesy visit to the Deputy Lord Mayor, and Cllr. McCarthy brought them on a walking tour of the City.



*Picture shows the Deinemaids Vocal Ensemble paying a courtesy visit to the Deputy Lord Mayor, Cllr. Ken O'Flynn in April.*

- Athletes from our twinned cities of Cologne, Rennes and Swansea travelled to Cork to take part in the Cork City marathon/half marathon. The group paid a courtesy visit to the Deputy Lord Mayor.
- An intern from Cologne commenced an internship in the finance department in the City Council on June 22<sup>nd</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup> September.
- Mr. A O'Shea, Cork City Fire Brigade travelled to Cologne in October to take part in the Cologne City Marathon. Alex met with Mr. Matthias Welpmann, Chairperson, Cologne/Cork Sister City committee and the Deputy Lord Mayor.
- The tall ship, Roald Amundsen travelled from Cologne to Cork at the end of October with a delegation of 50 people from Cologne on board, including Mr. Matthias Welpmann, Chairperson Cologne/Cork Twinning Committee and some other members of the committee. The group was accorded a welcome reception at the Port of Cork on 31<sup>st</sup> October where they met the Lord Mayor, Cllr. Des Cahill, other councilors and senior representatives from the Port of Cork. On November 1<sup>st</sup>, the group paid a courtesy visit to the Deputy Lord Mayor, Cllr. Joe Kavanagh, and Cllr. Kieran McCarthy brought the

group on a walking tour of the city. The ship was open for visits from members of the public for a time during its' stay in Cork.

- Tischrunde Ehemaliger Ratsmitglieder. On Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> September, 29 former Cologne councillors and their guide paid a courtesy visit to City Hall. They were received by Deputy Lord Mayor Cllr Joe Kavanagh and Cllr Paudie Dineen. The group is part of a circle of former councillors from Cologne. Each year the group go on a cycling tour and in 2016 the group selected Ireland and in particular Cork and Dublin for their visit.