

Town Twinning

What is twinning?

Most of us know town twinning as a post-World War II concept, creating international friendships and understanding in 1950s Europe. What many of us don't realise is how much the idea has developed since then and the dynamic range of opportunities it offers to citizens. In fact, even the term "twinning" is no longer up-to-date as many twinings involve more than 2 partners. Twinning isn't limited to size either – it can take place between villages, towns, counties and cities. In fact, with thousands of towns and villages proudly declaring who their twin towns are when you enter the area, it is also perhaps one of the most visible forms of international cooperation in the world.

What are the benefits?

If you think twinning is just about school exchanges you are wrong – it covers a vibrant array of areas, for example art & culture, young people, sports, business, sustainable development, citizenship, public services, economic growth, social inclusion etc. Successful twinings bring scores of benefits to both the community and the municipality. By bringing people together from all over the world, it gives us an opportunity to share problems & solutions, exchange opinions, learn from each other, and create friendships through common interests and issues.

Who is it for?

Everyone! Whatever your age or interests, twinning has something for all members of the community. And the emphasis is on community because that is what twinning is – a **resource for the community**. Although a successful twinning carries the support and commitment of the local authorities involved, there can be no twinning without the active participation of its citizens. So if you want to get involved, if you have ideas or if you've got a project you want to run with our twin towns, let us know – we want to hear from you!

Town Twinning in Enfield

London Borough of Enfield is twinned with 4 towns in Europe:



Courbevoie (northern Paris), France



Gladbeck (Ruhr Valley), Germany



Halandri (northern Athens), Greece



Sariyer (northern Istanbul), Turkey

Why are we twinned with these towns?

When twinning partnerships are formed, there is usually a mix of similarities and differences between the towns. This helps to ensure that the link benefits both partners: there are areas of mutual interest and also opportunities to learn from each other.

Generally speaking, Enfield has formed partnerships with northern suburbs of major cities and with similar population figures to the Borough. Just like Enfield they are areas rich in green spaces, heritage and culture, and have similar industries such as manufacturing, retail and food. They also reflect some of the international communities who live in Enfield, particularly of Greek and Turkish origin.

But there are many differences too. Enfield is learning and sharing knowledge all the time with our twin towns, improving our public services such as recycling & waste management, sports, music, art, regeneration, business, academic, youth, senior citizen services and tourism.

The amount and variety of towns twinned with Enfield also means that we are able to find European Union funding to create new projects and exchanges for citizens. These programmes offer citizens of Enfield and our twin towns to participate free of charge, travelling all over Europe, learning and benefitting from each other and offering life-changing experiences to ALL members of the community. Read more about the opportunities are out there in our “Twinning Experiences” section or contact us to find out more.

How Twinning Began in Enfield

Enfield has a long and successful history of town twinning. It all began in 1954 when Leonard “Pip” Fortune started a sports exchange with Gladbeck, Germany. In 1959, Gladbeck became our first twin town and 2009 marks the 50th Anniversary of the partnership.

Since then, we have twinned with Courbevoie - France (1993), Halandri - Greece (2008), Sariyer - Turkey (2008).

Pip Fortune: Enfield’s town twinning pioneer

Thanks to Pip Fortune, Enfield was one of the first North London boroughs to develop town twinning.

During the Second World War, he organised activities for service men and women on leave and in 1949 he became the first municipal entertainment officer for the borough. He revolutionised Enfield’s social scene and created events to showcase local talent.

In 1954, he invited sport enthusiasts in Gladbeck to take part in a sport exchange with Enfield and this was the beginning of our rich history in international partnerships. It wasn’t easy though, especially at the beginning. The idea of twinning with a German town, so soon after the War was not always met with enthusiasm, but Pip and his wife persevered, laying the foundation for a Borough proud of its international culture. When asked about his life’s work, Pip said, “I’ve had a wonderful life and I think what I’ve done has helped make the name of Enfield known all over the world”.

Pip passed away in 2006 at the age of 100. We will continue Pip’s good work for our future generations.

Enfield's Twin Towns

Courbevoie, Paris



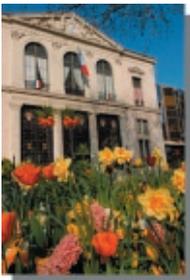
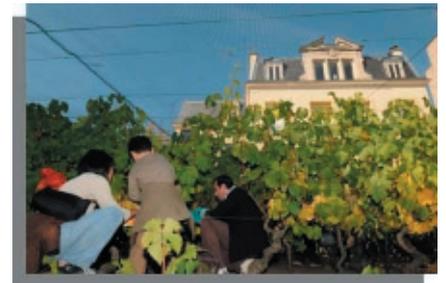
Courbevoie is Enfield's second twin town, formalised in 1993. A northern suburb of Paris and home of the city's business district, La Défense, Courbevoie's population is approximately 80,000.

With vineyards from the Middle Ages producing local wine and 286 green spaces in Courbevoie, the town is a green haven for Paris.

Similar to Enfield in Bloom, Courbevoie has its own urban greenery festival and the excellent arts facilities

such as theatres and exhibition spaces compliment the developed business area of the town.

Courbevoie also provides an ideal base to explore Paris with easy transport links into the centre of Paris.



Courbevoie has a fantastic range of historical, cultural and tourist sites and activities and is also a great location to discover the rest of Paris.

Things to do

- Admire the modern architecture of La Défense and contemporary French design.
- Indulge your senses in Courbevoie's food markets and be inspired by the delicious French cuisine, local food festivals and surrounding restaurants.

Experience culture the French way and take advantage of the free open-air concerts, dance and theatre productions, and exquisite art exhibitions.



Gladbeck, Ruhr Valley

Enfield's first twin town, 2010 marks the 40th Twinning Anniversary with Gladbeck. Situated in the northern Ruhr Valley, the city's name means "clear brook" and has a population is approximately 77,000.

Gladbeck has a long history as a centre for coal mining, but now chemical, electronics and metal manufacturers are based in the city. Gladbeck suffered heavy damage during the Second World War, however some historic buildings still remain and the city is now known for its excellent cultural events such as the annual Jazz festival.

Gladbeck has a vibrant history and heritage places just waiting to be explored. A family-friendly city, it has something for everyone.

Things to do



- Discover the urban jewel: the moated castle of Wittringen Explore the museum, from its skeleton of a bison to its BBQ and sporting areas.
- Take in a bit of culture by visiting the city's art exhibitions and joining in its famous music festivals.
- Sample authentic German beer and traditional cuisine in the city's many restaurants, bars and cafés.

Halandri, Athens



Enfield twinned with Halandri in 2008. A northern suburb of Athens, the population is approximately 120,000.

As the birthplace of Euripides, Halandri has a rich history of tradition and culture. Similar to Enfield, the district has a wide range of architecture and archaeological sites.

As well as multinational companies, like Enfield, Halandri is also home to a many small and medium sized businesses in the service and food industries.



The suburb is full of excellent parks and open spaces. The Olympics 2004 main stadium is situated in Halandri.

With excellent transport links into the city centre of Athens, Halandri is a convenient and picturesque base to explore the city.



Things to do:

- Taste authentic Greek cuisine and join the Athenians who flock to Halandri's famous cafés and restaurants.
- Be transported back in time when you visit the beautifully preserved Roman aqueduct and tombs.
- Indulge in some retail therapy in Halandri's shopping district.



Sariyer, Istanbul



Twinned with Enfield in 2008, Sariyer is the northernmost district of Istanbul, Turkey with a population of approximately 260,000.



Similar to Enfield, Sariyer has a well-established food industry and extensive restaurants throughout the district. It is surrounded by beautiful parks and open spaces as well as many historical buildings and traditional architecture.

Like Enfield, Sariyer holds excellent sports and cultural events and has many centres of learning including a university.



Known as “The Pearl of the Bosphorus” Sariyer is a great place for discovering the delights of both Istanbul and the Black Sea. Surrounded by Mediterranean beaches and emerald green forests, the district is also steeped in history, culture and traditions



Things to do

- Sample authentic Turkish cuisine and Sariyer's speciality - seafood, while overlooking the Mediterranean.
- Visit Rumelihisari, the impressive Ottoman fortress that is also an open-air concert venue.
- Swim in the Black Sea, take boat trips along the Istanbul Strait and hike in the beautiful local forests.

