



**75 years  
Bochum – Sheffield:  
This will be  
celebrated!**

# Dear Bochum residents,

This year we are celebrating a very special anniversary: 75 years of city twinning between Bochum and Sheffield.

The partnership has existed for more than seven decades with mutual visits and exchanges at various levels: between schools, choirs, clubs and universities.

As former industrial cities, Bochum and Sheffield have changed considerably since 1950 and have undergone far-reaching economic transformation processes. Today, both cities are innovative, forward-looking and important university centres. One thing that has remained despite the changes is the town twinning relationship.

I would therefore like to sincerely thank all those who have contributed to maintaining contact between our cities with their commitment and dedication. Links that transcend national borders and linguistic and cultural differences stabilise our democracy and protect our liberal values, and town twinning has helped nations that were enemies during the Second World War to work together as partners today.

**Thomas Eiskirch**

Lord Mayor of the  
City of Bochum



This town twinning began with the active help of Sheffielders who were part of the occupying power in Bochum and wanted to alleviate the hardship of the population.

This is what still unites Bochum and Sheffield today: friendship, solidarity and trust.

We therefore have every reason to celebrate '75 years Bochum - Sheffield' in a fitting manner! What is planned for the year, which who are involved in the friendship with Sheffield and how you can get to know our oldest twin city (better) can be found on the following pages.

Yours sincerely,  
Thomas Eiskirch

# 75 years Bochum – Sheffield

Sheffield in England is Bochum's oldest and first twin city. The establishment of the town twinning in 1950 – just five years after the end of the Second World War – marked the beginning of a cautious rapprochement between the former enemies at a local level. From 1945, what is now North Rhine-Westphalia belonged to the British occupation zone. The partnership with Sheffield began with the active support and help of Sheffielders who were part of the occupying power in Bochum and wanted to alleviate the hardship of the population. The twinning relationship officially began in October 1950: under the then Lord Mayor Willi Geldmacher, parliamentarians and civil servants from Sheffield were invited to Bochum. The aim of the exchange was to establish personal contact and organise the first youth exchange between the two cities. The co-operation of European youth was to form a new, strong community of European nations.







*Stadium visit on the occasion of the delegation visit of Lord Mayor Colin Ross to the Music Summer 2023 (Source: VfL Bochum)*

Sheffield proved to be a suitable and, above all, reliable partner with an equally great tradition in steel production and processing at the time. For decades, the most extensive exchange of visits took place here at various levels, particularly focussing on young people.

In the 1990s, the EU-funded Work Experience Programme gave school pupils the opportunity to complete a work placement in the respective partner city. Up until 10 years ago, there were also a number of school exchanges, which were cancelled due to a lack of financial resources and Brexit. A new school partnership is currently being set up.

There have also been Erasmus student exchanges between various faculties at Ruhr-Universität Bochum and the University of Sheffield for many decades.

In the economic field, there were links between the Chamber of Industry and Commerce and the Chamber of Commerce. Since 2023, Bochum Economic Development and the Investment Team of Sheffield City Council have been cooperating in various areas.





*Delegation visit by Lord Mayor Thomas Eiskirch to Sheffield in May 2024*

Most recently, the 'Tech Tour AI for Health' was jointly organised in Bochum in January 2025.

In 1996, a first step towards more intensive co-operation at municipal level was a joint EU project application on the subject of 'New governance - citizen-friendly administration'. Unfortunately, Brussels rejected the application.

Today, the city administrations are in close dialogue in order to put the town twinning on an even broader footing. The cooperation is characterised in particular by reciprocal visits with exchanges of experience in order to find joint solutions to global challenges.





## Sheffield and Bochum: A good team since 1950

### 1950

A delegation consisting of five parliamentarians from Sheffield visits Bochum. They agree with Lord Mayor Willi Geldmacher that youth exchanges should take place between Bochum and Sheffield – so that young people can learn “brotherly love” again.

In the following two years, the first international youth exchanges in the social and health care sector take place between both cities.

### 1964

The connection between Bochum and Sheffield strengthens by reciprocal visits.

A delegation from Sheffield came to Bochum on the occasion of the first comprehensive exhibi-

# 1971

tion of 'Works of Modern English Art in Germany after the War'.

During the return visit to England in 1965, Lord Mayor Heinemann was given the honour of opening both the new Sheffield Art Gallery and the Sheffield Culture Week.

A delegation from Sheffield visits Bochum from 20 to 24 March on the occasion of the 650th anniversary celebrations.

Meetings between youth and sports groups from Bochum and Sheffield are organised in the following years with financial support from both cities.

# 1981

Norton Parkway in Sheffield is renamed the 'Bochum Parkway' – based on the Bochum Sheffield ring road.

*Lord Mayors Parade 1986*





*Sheffield Brass Ensemble and Bläserkreis Höntrop:  
25 years of friendship*

1986

Bochum Bell (located in the Peace Gardens) presented to the City of Sheffield on the occasion of the 30th anniversary of the twinning arrangement.

In the same month, Lord Mayor Heinz Eikelbeck takes part in the 'Sheffield Lord Mayor's Parade'.

1995

In July, Lord Mayor Ernst-Otto Stüber makes his inaugural visit to the Lord Mayor's Parade in Sheffield at the invitation of Lord Mayor Ian Saunders.

2000

In 2000, the 'Sheffield Blass Ensemble' is invited to a reception at Bochum Town Hall to mark 25 years of friendship with the Höntrop brass band.



*Reception for international guests, including the band Unite the Union from Sheffield, on the occasion of the Bochum Summer of Music in 2018*

**2018**

The brass band 'Unite the Union' is coming to Bochum for the Bochum Music Summer. The band gave two concerts during the festival weekend.

**2023**

Lord Mayor Collin Ross will be in Bochum with a three-person delegation for the Bochum Summer Music – after more than 10 years without any delegation visits at representative city level.

**2024**

A small delegation led by Lord Mayor Thomas Eiskirch will visit the twin city in May and focus on new areas of cooperation: Youth and culture.

**2025**

Both cities celebrate 75 years of friendship and connection





# Sheffield – a look at our twin city

Sheffield, with a population of around 590,000, is the fourth largest city in England and is located in the north of the country, in the region of Yorkshire and The Humber, which, like the Ruhr area, was long characterised by coal and, above all, steel. The Sheffield metropolitan region comprises around 1.2 million people. Sheffield is one of the birthplaces of the Industrial Revolution.

## University City

Today, Sheffield is an innovative city on the move and one of the most important university centres in the UK. Similar to Bochum, around 60,000 young people study in Sheffield, including over 10,000 international students from 25 countries. The city's two universities - the University of Sheffield and Sheffield Hallam University - are renowned for their teaching in the

computer science, among others. Not least because of this, the city is characterised by a strong culture of innovation and is a centre for modern materials research as well as sustainable technologies and design, healthcare technologies and financial and business services.

20,000 graduates per year also characterise Sheffield as a business location: 30 percent of the workforce is under 30 years old.

## **The Outdoor City**

Sheffield is the only major city in the UK with a national park within its boundaries: A third of the city lies within the Peak District National Park. Hills, rivers, deep valleys, reservoirs and world-famous gritstone are all just minutes from the city centre. With 4.5 million trees in streets, parks, woodlands and nature reserves, Sheffield has more trees per head of population than any other city in Europe and, at 61 % green space, the second highest proportion of green space of any city in the world.



## The Cultural City

But Sheffield also attracts more and more tourists thanks to its lively arts and culture scene and as an important centre for pop and rock music: Joe Cocker, ABC, The Human League, Pulp and the Arctic Monkeys are among those from Sheffield. And anyone who has seen the film 'The Full Monty', which is set in Sheffield, will also know one of the best brass bands in England: the Sheffield band Unite the Union.

British brass bands can only be compared to German brass bands to a limited extent. They have a competitive culture similar to the one we know from sport in Germany. Unite the Union were last heard at the Bochum Music Summer 2018, and this year the famous brass band will once again be part of the programme on the last weekend in August. Sheffield also hosts numerous cultural events, including the Doc/Fest (internationally renowned documentary film festival).





Foto: Benjamin Elliott/Unsplash





Sheffield has nothing to hide in sporting terms either: The football club Sheffield United plays in the Premier League – Sheffield FC is also officially recognised by FIFA as the oldest football club in the world and, alongside Real Madrid, is the only club in the world to have been awarded the FIFA Order of Merit.

And fans of many other sports will also get their money's worth: the Cazoo World Snooker Championship is the oldest and most prestigious tournament in professional snooker and has been held at the legendary Crucible Theatre in Sheffield since 1977. The event takes place every April and attracts thousands of snooker fans from all over the world to Sheffield. The event is televised to 500 million viewers in 150 countries – with comprehensive coverage.

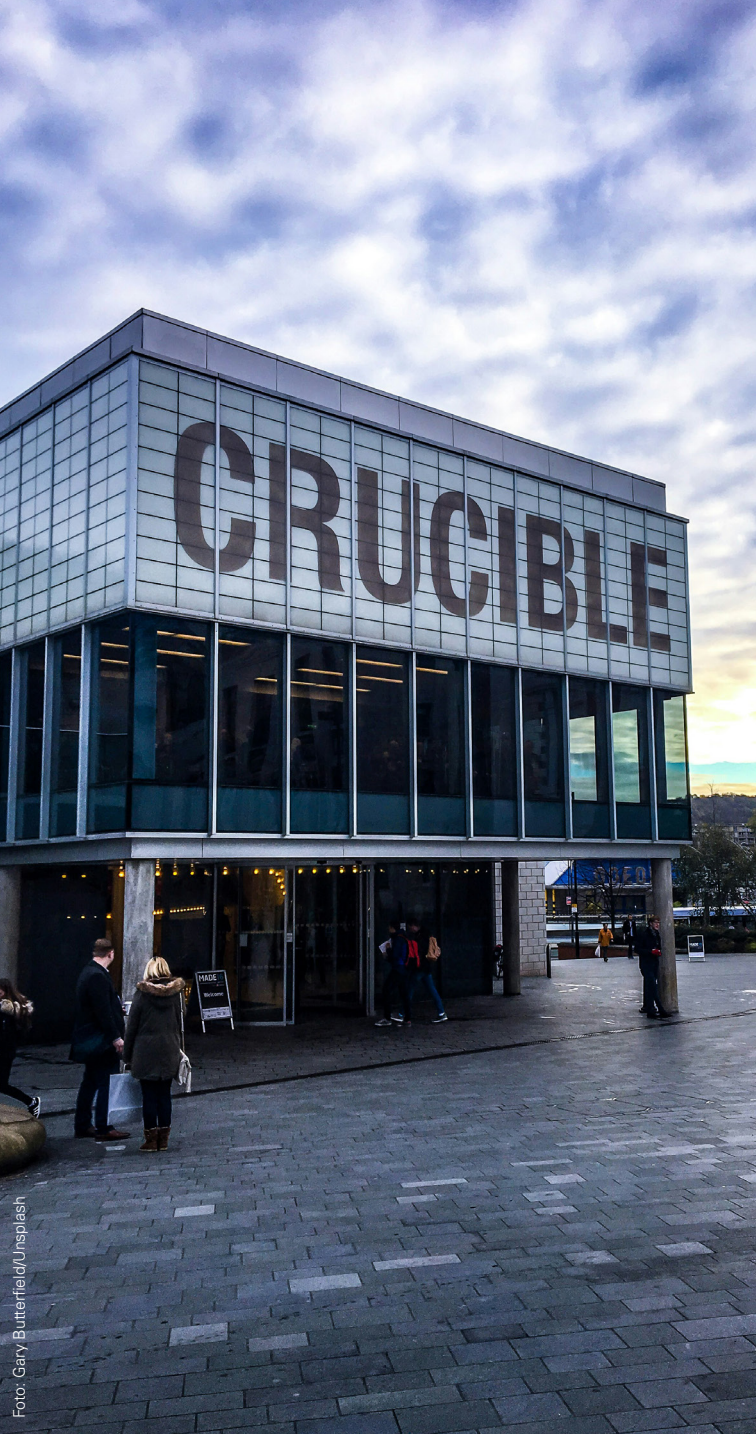


Foto: Gary Butterfield/Unsplash

# Bochum connections to Sheffield

In seven decades of town twinning, many friendships and acquaintances have developed – mostly through clubs, societies, associations or schools. Not all connections have been maintained, but new ones are constantly emerging.

From the very beginning, the focus was on international youth exchanges, especially between schools: From 1994, there were many years of exchanges between the Schiller School and the Erich Kästner School with the Tapton School in Sheffield. The Falken Bochum have also organised a large number of exchange trips with their partner organisation 'Woodcraft-Folk' since 1985. In addition, pupils from the Goethe School and King Edward VII School in Sheffield organised a climate protection conference in 2008.

The 'Young Artists' art competition for pupils has been organised by the Rotary Club Bochum-Renaissance since 2022 – the idea came from its Rotary Club of Abbeydale in Sheffield. The two clubs are in close contact with each other.

Another important area of cooperation is cultural exchange: the Höntrop brass section of the Höntrop Protestant parish has maintained a friendship with the Sheffield 13 Brass Ensemble for more than 25 years since 1985. The 'Lucky Moonlight Dancers' from Bochum have met the 'Sheffield Swirlers' and the 'Sheffield Gemini Squares' several times since





*Visit to Bochum Town Hall on 3 May 2024:  
the Rotary Abbeydale Club from Sheffield together  
with the Rotary Club Bochum-Renaissance and the  
Chairwoman of Freunde Sheffields e.V.*

2013 to dance together. The Bochum Philharmonic Choir has been friends with the Sheffield Philharmonic Chorus for many years. They organise joint concerts and reciprocal visits.

On a sporting level, the two cities are in no way inferior to each other, and not just in professional football: a long, intensive friendship still exists between DJK Adler Riemke and Wisewood Juniors FC.



**[www.bochum.de/sheffield](http://www.bochum.de/sheffield)**

## **The partnership association: Freunde Sheffields e.V.**

Freunde Sheffields e.V. has been promoting the town twinning between Bochum and Sheffield at a civil society level since 1990.

On the one hand, the association has set itself the task of deepening the connection between Bochum and Sheffield, particularly through the direct exchange of citizens, by organising citizens' trips and exchange programmes.

On the other hand, the Friends of Sheffield invite people to learn more about Sheffield and its surroundings and the British way of life through a variety of formats.



*Monika Wulfhorst-Werner, Chair of the Friends of Sheffield, and Lord Mayor Jacqueline (Jackie) Drayton at a reception in Sheffield Town Hall in 2006*



*The Friends of Sheffield visit Sheffield Town Hall  
in September 2012*

Recurring activities organised by the Friends of Sheffield include joint activities, club evenings and cultural events. Anyone interested is cordially invited to take part in the activities and support the German-British friendship.

**[www.freunde-sheffields.de](http://www.freunde-sheffields.de)**



## **The sporting connection: DJK Adler Riemke 1923 e.V.**

The Bochum-based football club DJK Adler Riemke has maintained a sporting partnership with its counterpart Wisewood Juniors F.C. from Sheffield for 35 years now.

DJK Ader Riemke already had a long-standing partnership with Old Edwardians FC from Sheffield in the 1970s. At the beginning of the 1990s, members of Wisewood Juniors FC from Sheffield approached Bochum with a request to find an official partner club. That same year, the two clubs met for the first time over the Easter holidays, from which a close friendship has developed.

Since then, the two clubs have organised an annual youth exchange with an international football tournament at Easter - always alternating between Bochum and Sheffield. Only during the coronavirus pandemic has the exchange been cancelled three times. The format, which usually attracts over 50 people, including around 30 children and young people, was

*Visit of the Wisewood Juniors FC in 2022 to  
the town hall of Bochum (Foto: Stadt Bochum)*







*DJK Adler Riemke in 2024 in Sheffield  
(Foto: Patrick Heße, DJK Adler Riemke)*

resumed in 2023. This year, the 32nd official meeting between the two clubs took place at Easter.

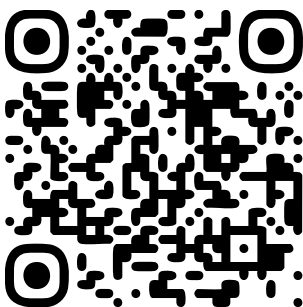
For several years now, DJK Adler Riemke and Wise-wood Juniors FC have also organised an international senior tournament in the summer.

The clubhouse of DJK Adler Riemke is therefore home to a number of souvenirs, pictures and other artefacts from numerous encounters during the intensive friendship between the clubs.

**[www.djk-adler-riemke.de/](http://www.djk-adler-riemke.de/)**



**All current events  
can be found here:**



## **Impressum**

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