



## Felixstowe/Salzwedel Partnership Association

Salzwedel is one of Felixstowe's partner towns. It's in Northern Germany, 141 Km southeast of Hamburg. As a mediaeval town, it was a member of the Hanseatic League, the powerful Baltic trading organisation, and the town centre still has many beautiful buildings from that period.

Salzwedel was formerly part of the GDR (East Germany) but after reunification looked to make new links. The Felixstowe/Salzwedel Association was formed in 1994 and this year will be the 32nd Anniversary of the Partnership. The main aim of the Association is to promote friendship and cultural exchanges. Alternate years have seen visits from Felixstowe to Salzwedel and vice versa, staying either in hotels or with local hosts.

The past year has been successful for the Association with membership remaining steady. We have held fund raising events which as usual were well supported and enjoyed by all who attended.

A group of our members visited Salzwedel in the autumn of last year and enjoyed a very memorable long weekend. The hospitality was as usual immense, with amazing food and drink and very interesting excursions into the local countryside, the highlights of which included an afternoon cruise on the River Elbe and a visit to a working re-creation of an Iron Age settlement. Whilst we were in Salzwedel we discussed issues of mutual interest. Like us they would very much like to see more young people involved in the partnership. We agreed to make this a priority. It was also agreed that their Burgermeister, Olaf Meining, would visit Felixstowe together with members of their Partnership Association to take part in the town's Carnival. We look forward to replicating the hospitality we received in Germany.

We would like to thank the Town Council for their annual grant which helps with the day to day running of our association

Photos of part of the town centre and members enjoying the Burgermeister's reception in their old town hall.

