

About Leichlingen

Leichlingen lies in a fruit and flower-growing region by the River Wupper in the Rhineland. Its famous blossoms have spawned the town's nickname of Blütenstadt (blossom town). Our visits to the town are characterised by warm and generous hospitality. The Leichlingers love to show us the local sights, surrounding upland scenery and nearby Cologne and Düsseldorf.



Leichlingen has a population of about 27,000. It is noted as a centre for growing apples and berries, although it was once a fishing village and can trace its earliest history back to the 10th century. By the 12th century there were records of a parish seat at Leichlingen and by the 14th century it was known for oil, corn and mills, forerunners of today's metal and textile industries. Weaving, bleaching, dyeing and tanning were also recorded. But by the 19th century Leichlingen still largely made its living from agriculture, particularly fruit. Its coat of arms is based on the old 17th century seal of Leichlingen. The upper part shows the lion of the Counts of Berg, while the lower part shows a fish, which might be a symbol for the river Wupper fisheries. Leichlingen is well known for its fruit market, held annually in October, and is also nationally renowned for its annual festival, held for the first time in 1973, to mark the town's 1,000th anniversary.

The construction of the Cologne-Wuppertal railway line created conditions for the first industrial centres. In 1856 Leichlingen was granted town rights. Notable buildings in the town and its area include Nesselrath House, a medieval knight's castle, and Haus Vorst, a well-preserved hilltop castle. Vorst probably dates from the 11th century and became a knight's seat, later burnt down in 1795 after occupation by French troops. The painter Werner Peiner bought the castle in 1948 and restored it.

Henley Club Leichlingen

Henley Club Leichlingen www.henleyclub.de is our sister organisation in Leichlingen. It was founded to foster and promote understanding and tolerance between residents of the two towns.