



## Perth 800

Dear Friends in Perth,

Hermann Hesse once said: "Where paths meet in friendship, for a moment the whole world looks like home". Many paths have met and crossed in friendship between Perth and Aschaffenburg. And everyone who is involved with and who fosters this twinning arrangement feels not just that Perth looks like home for a moment. They *are* at home.

I am delighted to be sending you the warmest congratulations of the Aschaffenburg Twinning Association for the 800th anniversary of the City of Perth as a Royal Burgh. An anniversary of such significance proves that this ancient settlement on the banks of the River Tay with its gentle slopes on the west bank has remained a vibrant and attractive location all that time - despite wars and famines, floods and other catastrophes. There has always been a community of people for whom Perth is home, their place under the sun that they would not exchange with anyone in the world - and there surely always will be. And anyone who visits this city as a guest is immediately captivated by the warmth and friendliness of its inhabitants.

Perth 800 - 800 years of Perth: a date like that tells us something else as well. It testifies to the universality and timelessness of the European lifestyle itself, in other words the life of the European city. It was the cities that brought people together in the earliest Middle Ages, that overcame the barriers of language, religion and culture to exchange goods and knowledge. And it was the cities and communities that cautiously extended the hand of

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Erreichbarkeit  
Bürgerservicebüro Öffnungszeiten  
Mo, Mi, Fr 08.00 - 14.00 Uhr  
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Sonstige Ämter Servicezeiten  
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nur nach vorausgehender Terminvereinbarung

Oberbürgermeister  
Do 08.00 - 12.00 Uhr  
nach Vereinbarung

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friendship across borders again after the devastation of the Second World War - through town twinning arrangements. The concept of a united Europe was born in the cities.

I am delighted that so many associations, institutions, schools and businesses help to make the twinning association between Perth and Aschaffenburg such a lively one. In 2006 we celebrated 50 years of our partnership in great style. And just recently numerous delegations from Aschaffenburg - including me - enjoyed your Scottish hospitality, for example again on the occasion of the Global Partnership Conference at the beginning of May. Now we are looking forward to meeting the Council and various associations and friends from Perth again for our cultural exchange days at the beginning of July. I am confident there will continue to be a whole range of events in coming years centring on the connection between our two cities. But at the moment we are celebrating the 800 year anniversary and I would like to thank you here and now for the invitation from Perth to join you in your great festival in July 2010. Art, culture, music and history will provide a vivid demonstration of the cultural delights and riches to be found in Perth.

I send all participants my very best wishes for their anniversary celebrations and wish the city of Perth and all its citizens a prosperous and successful future.



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