



**BIELEFELD-  
BRACKWEDE**  
*Twin City*



**ENNISKILLEN/  
FERMANAGH**  
*since 1958*



***Dear Citizens of Enniskillen!***

Together with the District Mayor Mr von Kuczowski, Andrea Kimpel from the Brackwede District Office and the Friends of Enniskillen-Brackwede, we are delighted to present this brochure to you on the occasion of our delegation trip to Enniskillen in March 2025. This trip marks a special moment in the history of our twinning, which was established in 1958 and has since created a deep bond between our communities. At a time when European co-operation and international friendships are of great importance, our twinning is a significant sign of mutual respect, understanding and co-operation.

Over the past decades, the twinning between Bielefeld-Brackwede and Enniskillen has resulted in numerous joint projects and exchange programmes that focus on both cultural and social aspects. From exchanges between young people and cultural

events to joint meetings in a wide variety of areas, we have learnt from each other and grown as towns and as communities.

For the future, we hope that this partnership will be further strengthened. We want to promote the exchange of ideas and people, particularly in the areas of education, culture and volunteering. Our cities face similar challenges and by working together, we can find solutions that benefit our citizens. Get involved!

We look forward to the coming years with confidence and optimism and also to many more personal encounters, experiences and projects with Enniskillen and its people.

***Vincenzo Copertino***

Deputy District Mayor Brackwede





Brackwede was mentioned in documents as early as 1151 and was an independent town until 1973. Since then, Brackwede has belonged to the city of Bielefeld and forms its own urban district, which extends south of the Teutoburg Forest and consists of the districts of Brackwede, Quelle, Ummeln and Holtkamp and has a population of around 41,000.

Brackwede is one of Bielefeld's largest industrial, commercial and trade locations and the most important secondary centre of the East Westphalian metropolis.

The metalworking industry has a particular strong local presence.

Brackwede was also the centre of the bicycle industry until the middle of the



information about brackwede



20th century.

The district is connected to the German motorway network via the A33 and has an important railway station.

A light rail system connects Brackwede with Bielefeld city centre.

There is a hospital on site and a good network of medical specialists.

For leisure activities, there is an indoor swimming pool "Aquawede", an ice rink "Oetker Eis Bahn" and many other sports facilities, parks and green spaces.

The "Lutter" river has its source in Brackwede and flows through a scenic valley towards the Ems.

on the left: "Glassblowing Monument" in the City Park

above: Brackwede St Bartholomew Church

## location and landscape

Brackwede is on the southern slope of the Teutoburg Forest. The Teutoburg Forest is a small low mountain range with extensive beech, oak and mixed forests.

The highest elevation in Brackwede, in Quelle district, is the Hünenburg at 313 metres above sea level.

Brackwede district stretches from the Teutoburg Forest into the Westphalian Basin. In addition to the urban areas, this flattening area is characterised by many groves, meadows, fields and small streams. It is precisely this constant alternation between residential areas, forests, wetlands and agricultural land that characterises the appearance of Brackwede



© Markus Poch\*

© Markus Poch\*



and its districts. Both the Teutoburg Forest and the many groves and streams attract residents for walks and recreation.

One of the many streams is the Lutter. It is the only river that constantly flows in two directions.

Originally, the Lutter only flowed southwards through Brackwede and its neighbourhoods of Quelle and Ummeln. In 1452, part of the spring was dug up so that the Lutter also flowed northwards to supply settlements in the north with fresh spring water. The name, which means 'clean' or 'pure', was retained for both directions.

*\*The labelled photos are taken from the book "Ein Fotospaziergang durch das Großstadtdorf"*



Brackwede has a lot to offer tourists. Its proximity to the Teutoburg Forest and numerous hiking trails attract nature-lovers. In particular, the “Hermannsweg”, a long-distance hiking trail through the Teutoburg Forest, partly runs through Brackwede. This trail, which offers breathtaking views and historical sites, attracts hikers from all over the region. Historic former mills (for example the old “Niemöllers Mill” (picture below) by the “Lutter”, and the natural surroundings invite explorers.

Brackwede also offers attractions for those interested in culture. The old town centre with St. Bartholomew Church (photo on the right),



© Markus Poch\*



places of interest

which bears witness to the history of the district, and the nearby Brackwede Local History Museum provide interesting insights into the history and development of the region. The ruins of the old Jostberg monastery from the 16th century are located in the Quelle district (photo at the top).

There are also some beautiful, well-preserved half-timbered houses in the typical Westphalian style. From the 30m high observation tower at the “Hünenburg” near the television tower, you have a panoramic view over the south of Bielefeld when the weather is fine.



## history of the partnership

This partnership began in 1958: the music corps of the Royal Inniskilling Dragoon Guards, stationed just a few kilometers from Brackwede, took part in the annual rifle club festival held by the Brackwede shooting club. One year before, there had been initial inofficial contact between the “Festival Queen” Margret Lückel and her husband and Major Tony Price. This led to a meeting with Mr. Harold Vince, conductor of the military band of the 5th Royal Inniskilling Dragoon Guards. The music corps participated in the festival procession and gave a highly successful concert. The soldiers were invited home by the people of Brackwede and friendships gradually developed.



This was the start of the relationship between the two towns, which today is one of the oldest of its kind in Europe. Just one year later, high-ranking guests from Enniskillen took part in the annual Brackwede shooting festival. The mayor at that time Mr. W Bryson MBE, Noble Connor-Johnston, the mayor of Brackwede Fritz Menke as well as several council members welcomed the guests. Mr. Harold Vince composed the march “Saluting Brackwede” in 1959. In 1983 a delegation comprising 90 visitors came to Brackwede to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the twinning arrangement (photo at the top). Cultural relations have also been maintained.







# FREUNDESKREIS ENNISKILLEN

Brackwede – Enniskillen

**JOIN IN! JOIN US! CONTACT US!**

**66 years of town twinning**

with Bielefeld-Brackwede and Enniskillen/Northern Ireland!

Would you like to help shape this friendship –  
help maintain it – build cross-border bridges –  
get to know people and cultures – want to get in touch  
with other clubs or people in Bielefeld-Brackwede?

We are committed to this and look forward to  
hearing from and getting in touch with you!

**You're Welcome!**

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Brackwede's economy was initially shaped by industrialization which began in 1847 with the construction of the Cologne-Minden railway. This led to the establishment of industries in Bielefeld and the development of expertise and know-how. Many companies emerged and became market leaders in their specialized niches.

Some notable examples include "Goldbeck Bau", specializing in system construction for halls, parking garages, and residential complexes; "Böllhoff" in joining technology; "Heiler" in sports flooring; "Gestamp" in forming technology for the automotive industry; "Mannesmann Precision" Tubes; "Möller Werke" in plastics

*Industry and commerce along the motorway*



*Bielefeld by night*



processing; the "Oetker Group" in food production; and "Diamant Software". These are only a few of our specialized market leaders. The "Bielefelder Braumanufaktur" brewery was also established here. The commercial center is the "Hauptstraße" (Main Street) with many specialty shops. The service sector, particularly medical practices, has also settled around this area. Large-scale retail is located on the outskirts, with self-service warehouses, supermarkets, and hardware stores. "Lucky Bike", one of Germany's largest bicycle retailers, has its headquarters and a retail branch here. Wholesalers, including a pharmaceutical distributor, are also based in Brackwede.



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Welcome to the  
Teutoburg Forest  
holiday region



[en.teutoburgerwald.de](http://en.teutoburgerwald.de)



There have been regular school exchanges between Enniskillen and Brackwede for 60 years. Many friendships have been established over the years and the town twinning has been cultivated. Enniskillen Royal Grammar School and Brackwede Gymnasium (Grammar School) currently maintain and live this friendly exchange.

But it is not only the regular exchange with Enniskillen that makes Brackwede Grammar School special, it also has its own star observatory for pupils to work with.

There is not just one grammar school in the Brackwede district; Brackwede is home to all types of school, be it primary, secondary, grammar or



*On the campus at Bielefeld University*

*Brackwede Gymnasium (grammar school) and observatory;  
© Markus Poch\**



comprehensive. There are also two vocational colleges in Brackwede, where students from all over the East Westphalian-Lippe region come to complete the theoretical part of their vocational training.

Not far from Brackwede, in another district of Bielefeld, is Bielefeld University. Together, Bielefeld University and Bielefeld University of Applied Sciences have a total of 35,000 students. Bielefeld University is known throughout Germany for sociology and law. But of course many other fields of study are also taught there, such as medicine, physics, economics and education.

*\*The photo is taken from the book "Ein Fotospaziergang durch das Großstadtdorf"*



Brackwede's large Schweinemarkt folk festival has been held at the end of August since 1442. The district administration organises the festival with typical fairground attractions, a concert stage and stalls in the town centre and on the market square. In memory of its origins as a cattle market, porcelain pigs (filled with money) are raffled. The Glückstalertage is an annual district festival in October and has been organised by the "WIG" (organisation of self-employed and merchants) for 50 years. Retail shops, stalls and a concert stage for artistic performances invite you to stroll and shop.

Three Christmas markets on two Advent weekends are organised around

*The "Glückstaler Tage" festival in Brackwede city centre*



**cultural life**

*Bielefeld Museums' open night*



the churches in Brackwede, Ummeln and Quelle. Choirs and club musicians perform, home-made goods and Christmas decorations are sold.

There is also a good selection of food and drink, especially mulled wine.

The large Bielefeld Christmas market takes place in the Old Town throughout December.

The touring theatre in the hall of the Brackwede secondary school is organised by the district office: Guest theatre performances with well-known German actors are a great success. The "Cultur Konsum" association also offers a varied cultural programme with author readings, comedy and concerts. Art exhibitions are held regularly in the district office's exhibition hall.

Brackwede is home to a variety of clubs and associations that reflect its rich cultural and social life. The clubs thrive on volunteer commitment and bring people together.

Brackwede Cultural Association organizes concerts. Brackwede carnival association performs impressive events with dance shows and carnival speeches.

The district also has a strong tradition of civic engagement. Associations like the Queller community, the Naturrefreunds, or Pro Brackwede work to enhance urban development, environmental protection, and community well-being. They organize events that shape social life.



*Setting the maypole every year in the centre of Brackwede; © Markus Poch\**

*Traditional Easter bonfire in Ummeln*



History enthusiasts find a home at the Brackwede History Society which preserves local documents and exhibits. Music lovers can join different clubs, like the Brackwede Choir or Orchestra, the Trombone Choir Ummeln, or the male choral society (“Harmonie”), which all perform in the region. There are also clubs catering to special interests, such as shooting or chess.

These and all the other clubs in Brackwede strengthen local bonds and welcome visitors, offering a glimpse into German community life. If you are ever in Brackwede, be sure to explore its vibrant network of associations!

*\*The “maypole”-photo is taken from the book “Ein Fotospaziergang durch das Großstadtdorf”*

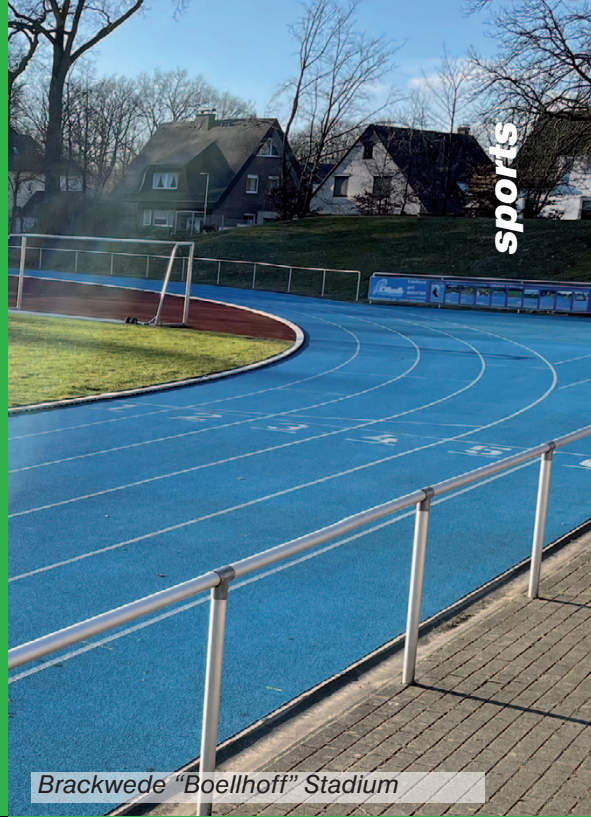


Sports have a long tradition in Brackwede and Bielefeld and are an important part of community life. The region can look back on a particularly successful history in trampolining, handball, ice hockey, basketball and football.

VFL Ummeln for example offers numerous opportunities for sporting activities for all age groups and levels of ability.

The football department is a central component of the club and is characterised by committed coaches and motivated players.

It is particularly worth emphasising that the club has had a football partnership with Lisbellaw FC from Northern Ireland since 2004.



Brackwede "Boellhoff" Stadium

"Schueco Arena" - Central stadium of DSC Arminia Bielefeld Football Club



Several friendly matches and cultural exchange programmes have already taken place as part of this partnership. This partnership not only promotes sporting exchanges, but also the mutual familiarisation of the two cultures. The joint activities have strengthened the friendship and team spirit and offer both the players and everyone else unforgettable experiences. VFL Ummeln is committed to further expanding the international exchange and thus promoting sporting and interpersonal interaction. Other sporting activities are offered locally by the SV Brackwede and TuS Quelle for example. In Bielefeld the DSC Arminia is a traditional football club which currently plays in the Third League.

## The Enniskillen circle of friends

### The Brackwede-Enniskillen Circle of Friends -

#### Bridges between Cultures -

Founded in August 2023, the Brackwede-Enniskillen Circle of Friends is a civic, voluntary initiative that strengthens the town twinning between the Bielefeld district of Brackwede and the Northern Irish town of Enniskillen. The aim of the Circle of Friends is to promote personal exchange and understanding between the people of the two towns, far beyond political and economic relations.

A central concern is, for example, the promotion of young people through school exchanges, which offer youth the opportunity to overcome prejudices and make friends with evenings



to present and honour the traditions and customs of both cultures, for example.

At a time of global challenges, the Circle of Friends fosters intercultural dialogue and builds bridges between generations and cultures.

It shows how local initiatives can create long-term, positive relationships between people from different backgrounds.

With a clear view to the future, the Circle of Friends actively contributes to the promotion of tolerance, peace and international understanding and sees itself as a link between Fermanagh and Omagh District Council and Brackwede District Council.



Brackwede is one of Bielefeld city's ten districts. In administrative terms, Brackwede is part of the city of Bielefeld, which is governed by the city council and the Lord Mayor. At district level, Brackwede is represented by a district mayor and a district council. The district council is made up of 17 elected representatives of the political parties and is responsible for local issues such as the development of districts, the design of public spaces and the promotion of social infrastructure.

The political structure in the borough is based on the decisions made at city level and incorporates these into the local level. Brackwede district council has an advisory function



Brackwede District Office  
© Markus Poch\*

*Old Office Building: Among other things, the local history archive is housed here.*



and can pass on recommendations to the city council. The district mayor also plays a central role, representing the interests of the district vis-à-vis the city administration and politicians. In administrative terms, Brackwede is integrated into various specialist departments of the city of Bielefeld which are responsible for different areas such as construction, education and social affairs. The administration ensures that set political goals are implemented at local level. Bielefeld is an independent city in the German state of North Rhine-Westphalia.

*\*The "district office"-photo is taken from the book "Ein Fotospaziergang durch das Großstadtdorf"*

## Large City in the Countryside

Urban and yet green, a big, yet manageable city. This special mix is what makes Bielefeld so attractive. With around 340,000 inhabitants, Bielefeld is one of the 20 largest cities in Germany. People here particularly appreciate the high quality of life, the strong business location and the educational and scientific opportunities. These qualities make Bielefeld the centre of a strong region: East Westphalia - Lippe.

Bielefeld has more greenery than almost any other major German city - thanks to its location in the middle of the Teutoburg Forest. The city's landmark Sparrenburg castle is located on one of the most beautiful high-altitude hiking trails in Germany - the



## Hermannsweg.

Not only is the panoramic view from the 31.5 metre high tower of Sparrenburg Castle wonderful, a guided tour through the underground corridor system is also worthwhile. In the heart of Bielefeld's old town, the impressive historic facades of the patrician houses on the Alter Markt marketplace provide a beautiful backdrop for a stroll. The Old Market is also a popular meeting place during event highlights such as the Leineweber (Linenweaver) Market and the Wine Market. Bielefeld has an active theatre, art and music scene. The Kunsthalle Bielefeld is one of the most renowned galleries for modern and contemporary art.

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# VISIT BIELEFELD



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**The importance of town twinning in Europe with cities in the UK**

Town twinning has been a key instrument for cultural and economic exchange in Europe for decades. Especially in view of Brexit, these partnerships between European cities and the UK are becoming increasingly important. They remain a valuable network that connects cities on both sides of the English Channel. Originally created as a symbol of reconciliation after the Second World War, town twinning today primarily promotes the exchange of knowledge, culture and joint solutions to urban challenges. Despite Brexit, close links continue to exist, for example between cities such as Edin-



burgh and Paris, which are working together to combat climate change, or Manchester and Cologne, which are carrying out cultural projects. City partnerships also have an important economic dimension. At a time when trade barriers have arisen following Brexit, direct exchange between cities remains a crucial link. Local companies can thus tap into new markets and citizens benefit from international perspectives. In a globalized world, city partnerships help to find common solutions to challenges and strengthen European identity. They are a living network that will continue to play a central role in the future.



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und Chef der Staatskanzlei





### **“Westphalian Pickert”**

Pickert has been a potato dish in Westphalian cuisine since the 18th century. It was originally a poor man's meal and only developed into a regional speciality from the late 1980s onwards. In the past, Pickert was only used to satisfy hunger with simple means and was ideal because it is very substantial. Traditionally it is still eaten with salted butter, liver pate, coleslaw or jam and washed down with coffee.

#### **Cooking:**

Mix 40 g of yeast with a little lukewarm milk, flour and sugar and leave to rise for 15 minutes. During this time, grate 500 g of raw potato,

squeeze out excess liquid, pour 1/2 litre of boiling milk over the potato and stir.

Add 500 g flour, 5 eggs, 100 g saltanas and leave the dough to rise for about 1 hour.

Bake round cakes in a covered pan with a little fat over a low heat.

Enjoy!



**westphalian recipe**

### **Legal Notice:**

published by:  
Freundeskreis Enniskillen  
c/o Regina Kopp-Herr  
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idea/concept,  
editorial team and realisation:  
Andreas Kimpel, Carsten Krumhörn

supported with translation:  
Helen Cleary

printed by:  
www.wir-machen-druck.de

texts:  
Bielefeld Marketing GmbH, Christian Bornemann, Karl-Uwe Eggert, Martin Eggert, Sabrina Keseberg, Andreas Kimpel, Carsten Krumhörn, Tim Pollvogt and Ralf Sprenkamp

#### **photos:**

Carsten Krumhörn (p 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15); Teutoburger Wald-Tourismus/ D. Ketz (p 1); Vincenzo Copertino (p 2); Markus Poch taken from the book "Ein Fotospaziergang durch das Großstadtdorf" (p 4, 5, 10, 12, 15); Heimatverein Brackwede (p 6, 14); DSC Arminia Bielefeld (p 7); Bielefeld Marketing/Tim Fröhlich (p 8, 11, 16, 20); Bielefeld Marketing/ Detering Design (p 10); Thomas Bornemann (p 12); DSC Arminia Bielefeld (p 13); Freundeskreis Enniskillen (p 6, 14); Andreas Kimpel (p 14); Bielefeld Marketing/P. Pilz (p 16); Bezirksamt Brackwede (p 18); Pixabay (p 18); Steinkrögers Hof (p 19)

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*Every year in December:  
Bielefeld Christmas market in the  
wonderfully decorated old town  
centre.*

