

European Walled Towns

for **friendship** and **professional** cooperation among walled towns

June 2012



**Don't miss EWT Annual Conference in Gmünd in Kärnten
about Revitalizing European Walled Towns –
sustainable urban development.**

Come and experience one of the most charming and colourful small towns in Europe! Being rewarded the 2011 European Destination of Excellence Tourism Award (EDEN) and located at the intersection of two awe-inspiring national parks, the Nationalpark Hohe Tauern and the Nationalpark Nockberge, the walled, medieval Artists' Town of Gmünd (appr. 2.600 inhabitants) offers a unique cultural experience: Exhibitions, museums, sculpture gardens, artists' house galleries, arts and craft studios and various art galleries allow for arty experiences for everyone to indulge in! The Artists' Town of Gmünd has prepared an excellent programme and is looking forward to welcoming you !

Read more about the programme in Gmünd and about other European Walled Towns in this newsletter.



Contact us

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For the latest news on new EU funding calls, partnership requests and international events in member towns, please check the website walledtowns.com

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Dear Friends of EWT

In Gmünd in Kärnten, you will all be introduced to a new way to give your centre of town new economic impulses.

Gmünd is a perfect example of HOW and with which MEANS one can tackle the new economy to revive job opportunities and tourism. Heidi and Erika will and can show you how relatively simple it is and how with persistence a small town can make a huge change in its economy. Point of departure is, naturally, using one's strengths. Your town can copy these principles, to start the same process! Better to steal well than to invent badly says a Dutch proverb! Gmünd will provide you with their plan without cost; free of charge.

Under the motto "together you and me", the Friendship Circle has transformed to an association of European Walled towns, where benefit and functionality are a priority. Our main objective is securing EU funds with an exchange of knowledge while at the same time, friendships develop when working together. I believe that with friends, the best result is reached within optimal cooperation.

Our last European bid might not have been successful this time, but the issue of strengthening the economy of our walled town centres, resulted in the EWT receiving many reactions from all over Europe. We intend to use the theme here and together we will have to explore new methods in the new economy in order to prevent our centres from degenerating; but more specifically making them more attractive to our visitors. Developing new ways to reach more people and anticipate the rapidly changing demand e.g. by internet shopping.

We need each other's input and it is imperative that we use the advantage of the cultural history of our towns to maintain our lead position. Radical decisions that might encounter strong opposition at first, for example concerning parking space, are necessary to gain a profit in quality and size in the long run. More specifically, an approach in phases with steps neither too small nor too big is important. We will give this a lot of our attention in Gmünd!

In Gmünd I will also say goodbye as President. Most of you know that I have been an advocate for continuity within a member town: before retiring or departing the EWT contact person should make sure that someone else takes over. It is evident that when the contact person retires, the involvement of the member town declines as the town loses its direct contact and EWT loses the member eventually. I will continue working for s-Hertogenbosch (my first boss) until the end of the year and will then retire after working there for 43 years with much pleasure. Based on the above principle, which I always supported, I have made sure that there is a successor to represent our town. Perhaps an extra reason for you to be present at the AGM in Gmünd,you never know.

I thank you for all those years, from 2001; we have gone through a lot together: as they say: for better and for worse!!

Peter van Roosmalen
President EWT



Contact us

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The Friends of **York Walls**

Introducing “The Friends of York Walls” from York, UK





YORK is a walled city in the north east of England, UK. The Bar Walls of York are the finest and most complete of any town in England. There are five main “bars” (big gateways), one postern (small gateway), one Victorian gateway, and over 40 towers. At just over two miles (3.4 kilometres), they are also the longest town walls in the UK. Over a million people a year take a walk through 1900 years of history on York’s city walls. Built in Roman times, they’ve been added to and rebuilt over time and now have parts from across the centuries. Originally built as defences, the focus is now on conservation.

The Friends of York Walls (FYW) is a voluntary non-profit making group. The group aims to help promote, manage and develop York’s Walls and Defences (including the Bar Walls, St Mary’s Abbey, Clifford’s Tower and The Castle) for the benefit of local residents and visitors. We organise and undertake practical work and organise public events in co-operation with the City of York Council and other like-minded groups or individuals. We seek to establish York Walls as a major worldwide attraction, one that the residents of York can take pride in, and residents and visitors can enjoy to the full. For more information please see our website at <http://yorkwalls.org.uk>

The Friends of York Walls is a fairly new but rapidly expanding group formed just over a year ago. We currently have a volunteer membership of around 150 with a committee of 10 members. We have quite an active program planned for 2012 and we have just held our first AGM. We are forming a UK charity ‘The York Walls Charitable Trust’ to administer our activities. The Friends of York Walls have no income other than from donations and fund raising activities. All our current small income is going towards administration costs, but we have an ongoing major fund raising activity to re-open one of the disused towers along the York Walls. We have no actual assets as the York Walls are in the care of and maintained by the City of York Council (CYC). CYC are fully supportive of our aims and objectives and are helping us to achieve these.

In the short time that FYW has been in existence we have organised a number of events and already established new traditions and activities on and around the walls. One such event is an annual inspection of the walls by The Lord Mayor of York when he is accompanied by hundreds of local schoolchildren. We have also held open days, given talks on the history of the walls and organised guided tours. One of the biggest ongoing objectives of Friends of York Walls is to re-open Fishergate Postern Tower for community use. FYW are working in close partnership with City of York Council and English Heritage to bring the Fishergate Postern Tower into community use. The tower was built between 1504 and 1507. It has 4 storeys, which are linked by a narrow spiral staircase. The tiled roof was added in 1740. It has stood empty for many years and was last used as an artist’s studio.

Contact The Friends of York Walls

E-mail: info@yorkwalls.org.uk

Website: <http://yorkwalls.org.uk>



The Friends of **York Walls**

We have made a bid for support from the Heritage Lottery Fund to refurbish the 500 year old tower and give it a new lease of life as a visitor centre with informative displays, education facilities and a small cafe. The City of York Council has been asked to provide funding to complete repair work, which is essential to the heritage fund bid. The Fishergate Postern Tower re-opening has received coverage by the York Press, on their website, and on local radio stations. The plans and proposals for the tower refurbishment have been exhibited at various FYW events and public opinion on the proposals has been sought via a questionnaire.

The Friends of York Walls are currently seeking to raise funds towards the Fishergate Postern Tower project by inviting the general public and local businesses to "Sponsor a Stone". The fundraising was officially opened on 17th January 2012 by the Lord Mayor of York Councillor David Horton, patron of the Friends of York Walls, when he was presented with a certificate of ownership of a stone by Friends Chairman Keith Myers and watched by fellow friends. Full details of "Sponsor a Stone" are on our website at http://yorkwalls.org.uk/?page_id=272 We are very keen to establish links with other UK and European walled towns that have experience in similar ventures and fundraising activities.

Photography: Alan Fleming



ENCLOSE project kicked off in Lucca

Energy efficiency in city logistics services for European historic towns

The project ENCLOSE - *Energy efficiency in city logistics services for small and mid-sized European historic towns* was officially approved in May 2012. Being the EWT president, the town of Den Bosch will represent the EWT in this European project. ENCLOSE focuses on logistics problems facing small and medium-sized historic e.g. Walled Towns. Targeted actions are proposed to increase energy efficiency and decrease environmental impact of freight distribution in historic urban areas

European small and mid-sized historic towns (SMHT) are a major component of Europe's urbanised structure, with over 1000 centres located in all EU27 countries. While city logistics innovation efforts have been undertaken in most European major centres, ENCLOSE proposes to focus attention on SMHTs and to enhance the diffusion of energy efficiency and sustainable urban logistics planning solutions in EU towns. ENCLOSE addresses urban energy-efficient transport themes by:

1. qualifying the demand of Local Authorities of EU SMHTs for sustainable, energy-efficient urban logistics and freight distribution solutions,
2. spreading good practices and suitable strategies for affective integration in the overall urban mobility and town governance policies,
3. supporting the development of urban logistics and freight distribution plans, and
4. contributing to the definition recommendations to relevant institutional bodies, decision and policy makers.

The partners in ENCLOSE are the two EWT member towns of Lucca and Den Bosch and Norway Post from Trondheim (Norway) as the three fore-runners. The other partners in the project are the towns of Barchnik (Bulgaria), Serres (Greece), Almada (Portugal), Alba Julia (Romania), Burgos (Spain) and Dundee (UK) and the following technical institutes or Energy agencies: Austriatech (Austria), Tipperary Energy Agency (Ireland), Institute of logistics and warehousing (Poland), Energy Agency for Southeast Sweden (Sweden), Heritage Europe (UK) and M&C marketing (Italy). The lead partner is the consultant MemEx from Livorno, Italy.

At the starting conference in Lucca all technical aspects of the cooperation project were discussed with the participating partners. **A questionnaire related to distribution of goods in urban areas was sent to all EWT member towns.** We would highly appreciate your collaboration. Your input is extremely valuable to the success of this project. The findings and best practices will be shared online and through this newsletter. Thank you for your consideration.



Welcome to **Woudrichem**

Walled town Woudrichem, where Maas and Waal meet



Woudrichem is a small, compact walled town, strategically situated on crossroads of important Dutch rivers: the Maas, the Waal and the Merwede. As a result of this strategic location, Woudrichem knows a moving past, with not only flourishing periods of vast prosperity, but also with periods suffering from raids, sieges, poverty and decay. The military history is visible throughout the town, foremost in the fortifications which have been constructed between 1583 and 1588 on proposal of William I, Prince of Orange.

Since then, the walled town has hardly been involved in battles, as a result the historic atmosphere and buildings have been beautifully preserved. Paradoxically, this is also due to the presence of military staff, who maintained the town and its walls exceptionally well.

The population depended on river fishing for a long time and the people of Woudrichem still keep this part of their history alive. Every year, sailing and rowing races are held with classic flat bottomed boats, which were used for salmon fishing. Also, fish-frying competitions and other manifestations are organised yearly to show the old trade of river fisherman. Schoolchildren learn all about netting, tanning and rope spinning, or sewing sails with traditional tools and materials. Furthermore, in 1995 Woudrichem restored its old city harbour to its original state, as published in the City Book of Joan Blaeu from 1649. In connection with extreme high water levels, which occur regularly, extra storage capacity for the river water was needed. This resulted in digging the old city harbour. Nowadays approximately 10 classic 19th century river fishing boats are located there permanently, there is a small shipyard where small traditional ships are repaired and there is a floating restaurant with splendid views of the harbour.

More information?
Visit the website:
www.woudrichem.nl



The 20th century has certainly not been an easy era for the walled town of Woudrichem. It lost its military status. In the end, the importance of river fishing declined as a result of the damming of the Maas, overfishing and pollution. The 'poorters', as the original and registered inhabitants of Woudrichem are called, on no account lived in prosperity. The town was subject to great decay. Fortunately since the 70's, extended renovations have been executed and nowadays both administrators and residents deal with our special heritage with much more care.

Woudrichem has become a sparkling bastion, moderately and respectfully renovated, where very active and committed residents create liveliness, supported by the council. Military buildings have been given modern destinations: the bomb-free gunpowder cellar is turned into a creative atelier and a cappuccino bar, the officer's house houses a highly ranked restaurant, in the arsenal many big parties are held. Where the traditional baker's and butcher's used to be, we find small shops. The local residents organise many cultural, culinary or nautical activities each year.

You can understand, that I'm very proud of the small walled town and its residents. However, our work is not finished by far, everything remains in motion and there are still many things to be done. For example, next to the walled town, a business area is situated, that doesn't contribute to the beauty of the landscape. Together with many interested parties, I am committed to developing a new destination for this area, which will enhance the scenery and the walled town. To me, it seems extremely useful to share our experiences with our walled towns in the broad European connection and to support each other in our jobs.

I am ambitious to commit myself to this purpose as your new treasurer.

I would very much like to welcome you to Woudrichem. Come and enjoy wandering around the town, having a drink on one of our terraces, dining royally, relaxing on the riverside and cycling through the polders and our beautiful surrounding villages.

Frank Petter, PhD,
Mayor of Woudrichem



Annual Conference of EWT in Gmünd

Revitalizing European Walled Towns – sustainable urban development



20th to 22nd of September 2012

Künstlerstadt Gmünd / Carinthia / Austria

Theme: "Revitalizing European Walled Towns – sustainable urban development"

Conference venue: Lodronsche Reitschule Gmünd



ALL INCLUSIVE CONFERENCE PACKAGE

Conference fee, bus transfers and accomodation

The annual general meeting is organized by the office of the Kulturinitiative Gmünd. As Gmünd in Kärnten is not connected directly to airport or railway, we will provide a shuttle bus from Salzburg airport and Salzburg main station to Gmünd on Wednesday evening and back on Sunday morning. And as most of our good hotels do not participate in international booking services, we have prepared an **all inclusive package for the whole conference**, covering transports from and to Salzburg airport and main station, four nights' accommodation in one of our *** Hotels and the conference fee including all lectures, transports during the conference, all meals and refreshments from Wednesday evening until Sunday morning:

EUR 450,-- /per person in a single room

EUR 400,-- /per person in a double room for delegates and

EUR 350,-- for social companions in a double room.

Gmünd is a very small town and accommodation is limited.

Therefore we can only guarantee our all inclusive package until July 31st 2012. Within the next month you will receive a registration form from us via email and we kindly ask you to register until the end of July 2012.

Please keep in mind that a binding registration can only be confirmed by bank transfer of the entire package fee until that date to:

Raiffeisen Bank Liesertal

Account: Kulturinitiative Gmünd

IBAN: AT 27 39464 00000 132803 | BIC: RZKTAT 2k464

If you prefer to make your own travel and accommodation arrangements, the conference fee will be EUR 250,-- for delegates and EUR 200,-- for social companions. Please do not hesitate to contact us with your questions.

Information

Künstlerstadt Gmünd/Kulturinitiative Gmünd

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Programme **Annual Conference**

Wednesday, 19th September 2012

Arrival of the conference's participants

- 05.00 p.m. bustransfer from Salzburg Central station and 05.30 p.m.
Salzburg International Airport to Gmünd/Carinthia.
- 08.00 p.m. Welcome dinner to the conference's participants
Carinthian dinner.

Thursday, 20th September 2012

09.00 a.m. – 11.00 a.m. EWT Executive meeting

- 11.00 a.m. Official opening of the conference by Gerhard Dörfler,
President of Carinthian Government and Peter van
Roosmalen, President of EWT.
"What EWT does and stands for: Connecting cities –
building success"
- 12.00 a.m. Opening speech by Dr. Barbara Neubauer, A, President of
Bundesdenkmalamt, president of the Federal Department
for the Protection of Historical Monuments.
- 12.20 a.m. Dr. Claudia Fräss-Ehrfeld, Director of Geschichtsverein,
Carinthian Historical Association.
- 01.00 p.m. Lunch and Get-together at the Old Castle Gmünd by
invitation of the municipality of Gmünd, Joseph Jury, mayor.
- 02.30 p.m. Get to know the artists' town of Gmünd EDEN Award 2011,
as a best practice example of sustainable development
of smaller cities. Colourful tour through town and
history, guided by MMag. Ronald Woldron, masonry technics
expert, and Dr. Erika Schuster, general manager artists'
town of Gmünd.
- 05.30 p.m. Departure by bus to Malta Valley, National Park Hohe Tauern,
to the largest wall (dam) in Austria, visit of the dam
Kölnbreinsperre (1.933m a.s.l.).
- 07.30 p.m. Dinner at Berghotel Malta.
- 09.30 p.m. Departure to Gmünd.



Friday, 21st September 2012

09.00 a.m. - 12.30 p.m.

“Lower Austrian Walled Towns – an example of success through cooperation”

DI Hubert Trauner, Provincial Government of Lower Austria– Executive Director –

Regeneration of villages, towns and city centers.

Questions / Discussion

Best practice examples of successful sustainable urban development:

City of NIN, Croatia

Marija Dejanovic, Director Tourist Board of Nin, EWT Member and EDEN Award winner Croatia 2010.

Questions / Discussion

City of ISLA/SENGLEA, Malta

Mr. Ramon Mangion, councillor, responsible for Tourism, EWT Member and EDEN Award winner Malta 2010.

Questions / Discussion

Coffee break

Mag. Florian Felder, Austrian Tourism Board, EDEN Austria, speaks about EDEN in Austria and leads discussion and workshops upon criterias of successful sustainable tourism.

- 12.30 p.m. Departure by bus, driving the Nockalmstraße throughout National Park Nockberge (up to 2.042m a.s.l.).
On the way typical Carinthian “Jausn” and visiting the brandnew National Park Center Nockalmhof.
- 04.00 p.m. Arriving at the walled town of FRIESACH (EWT member town)
Official welcome to one of the most picturesque medieval towns in Austria; Presentation of activities and projects, followed by a guided tour, showing that the past can be successfully transported into future
- 07.00 p.m. Dinner by invitation of the municipality of Friesach,
Josef Kronlechner, mayor.
- 09.00 p.m. Departure to Gmünd (direct route).



Programme **Annual Conference**

Saturday, 22nd September 2012

09.00 a.m. – 10.30 a.m. EWT Pres. Peter van Roosmalen

Up-to-date information about EU-projects;

exchange of information by members

Discussion

Coffee break

- 11.00 a.m. AGM - Annual general meeting of EWT President's election for the next period.
- 01.30 p.m. Snack served at the conference venue.
- 02.30 p.m. Departure to the walled town of RADSTADT, Salzburg (EWT member town) by bus.
- 03.45 p.m. Official welcome to Radstadt, vivid heart of the Lungau region Presentation of activities and projects of Radstadt, followed by a guided tour.
- 06.30 p.m. Dinner by invitation of the municipality of Radstadt, Josef Tagwercher, mayor.
- 09.00 p.m. Departure to Gmünd.

Sunday, 23rd September 2012

- 08.00 a.m. Departure of the conference's participants by bus to Salzburg International Airport and Salzburg Central station.

Latest news

For the latest news on new EU funding calls, partnership requests and international events in member towns, please check the website:

www.walledtowns.com





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Bastionder, 's-Hertogenbosch, photography Natalie Ypma

Future events

2013 (Spring) Executive in Capdepera, Mallorca, Spain

2013 AGM / EWT annual conference in Derry, Northern Ireland

Welcome to New members:

- Chichester District Council, Great Britain
- Euregionaal Historisch Centrum Sittard –Geleen , the Netherlands

How to join European Walled Towns?

You can find the application form on the website:
www.walledtowns.com