

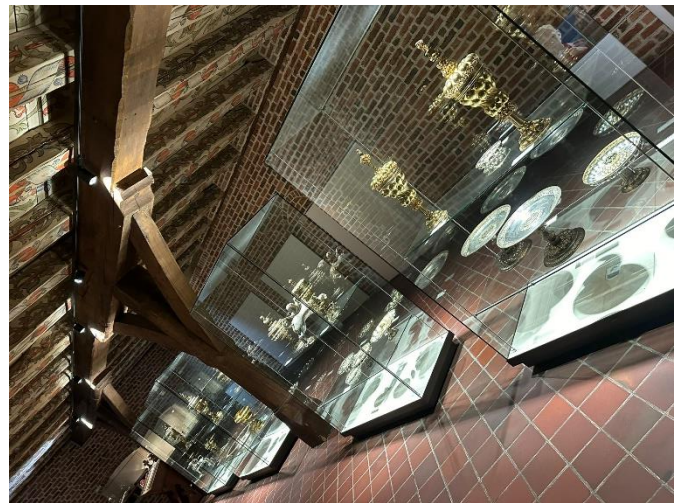
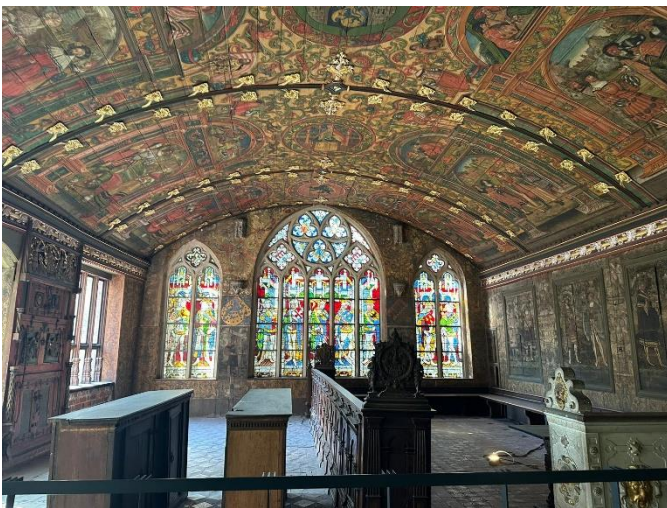
## Mayor's report on the visit to Geesthacht, Germany

Lowestoft Town Council was invited to attend a 5 day event in Geesthacht to celebrate the new twinning partnership between Geesthacht, Germany and Bedzin, Poland. I attended as Mayor and Cllr Christine Moore accompanied me as consort. Due to the Tour of Britain event, we left early and so spent 2 nights there instead of 4.

We arrived in Hamburg on the 5<sup>th</sup> of September and the organisers had arranged for us to be picked up from the airport to our hotel which was about an hour and a half away. We got to our hotel just before 6pm and met everyone at 7pm for dinner. In attendance were representatives from France, Poland, Latvia, Germany and us from England. The first night we spent time networking with each other and getting to know one another. The language barrier was difficult, but we had translators (and google).

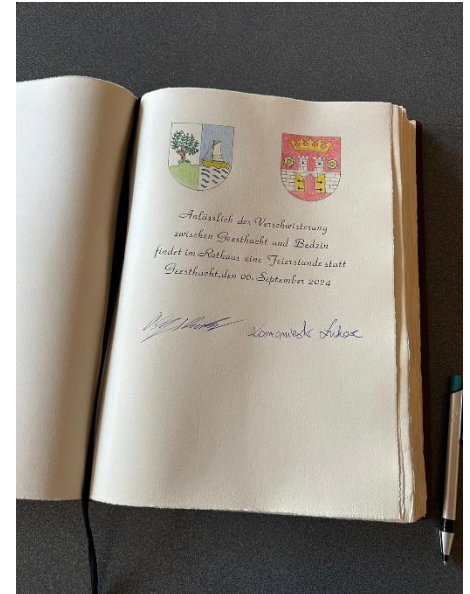


The next morning, we were taken around to see the Luneburg City which included a guided tour of the now unused city hall. The architecture and artwork of the building was breathtaking, the pictures do not do it justice. It was a shame to see that main parts of the building weren't being used as a hall but nice that it had become a tourist attraction that anyone could visit and enjoy.





In the afternoon, we were invited to the twinning ceremony which took place in the Geesthacht city hall. This was a very formal event and was well attended, around 80 people. It consisted of live classical music, speeches and the signing of the twinning agreement, followed by the erection of the Polish flag in the Geesthacht city hall. Celebrations continued into the evening which included dinner and music.





We handed our gift of the portrait of King Charles to the Mayor of Geesthacht who was very pleased to receive it. Through a translator, I had a long chat with him where he expressed his desire for Geesthacht to twin with Lowestoft. I told him that I would take this back to Lowestoft Town Council for discussion.



Our flight back to the UK was the next day on the 7<sup>th</sup> of September which unfortunately meant we could not take part in the dragon boat race that they had planned that morning. However, we did manage to quickly go and watch the twinning organization's team before we had to leave.



On behalf of Christine and I, I would very much like to thank councillors for supporting this visit and for the twinning association for giving us the opportunity to witness a new twinning partnership. We had an incredible experience and met some amazing people.

