

GALSTON-AHRENSFELDE PARTNERSHIP

The story so far!

- November 1987: Rev. Loudon Blair was introduced to Pastor Bruno Schottstadt of Marzhan Nord Church (near Ahrensfelde) and made aware that Pastor Peter Johann of Ahrensfelde Church was interested in contact with a Scottish Church. This contact was made and the Partnership was established.
- November 1988: Mr Blair, accompanied with his wife, Pat, made the difficult journey to the then East Germany and took with them the greetings of Galston Parish Church.
- November 1989: Rev. Peter Johann and Harmut Fritsch visited Galston when Peter Johann preached at the Remembrance service. It was during this visit that the Berlin Wall came down.
- July 1990: Rev. Peter Johann visited Galston while on holiday.
- March 1991: The Kirk Session accepted an invitation from Ahrensfelde and Mr Blair, along with three others, attended the induction of a new Pastor, Bruno Muller.
- February 1993: Joerg-Arno Zilch visits Galston with daughter, Anne.
- October 1995: A party of 17 young people and 13 adults from Galston visit Ahrensfelde.
- October 1995: A party of 36 from Ahrensfelde visit Galston.
- October 1998: A second Galston group (30) visit Ahrensfelde.
- October 2000: A second Ahrensfelde group (34) visit Galston.
- September 2001: Seven people from Galston visit Ahrensfelde for the dedication service of the newly restored Ahrensfelde church.
- October 2002: A third Galston group (30) visit Ahrensfelde.
- October 2004: A third Ahrensfelde group (39) visit Galston.
- April 2005: Eleven people from Galston visit Ahrensfelde for the retrial of Pastor Bruno Muller.
- June 2005: Nine people from Ahrensfelde visit Galston for the retrial of Rev. Loudoun Blair.
- January 2006: New Ahrensfelde Pastor Martina Sieder visits Galston with two others for the induction of Galston's new minister, Rev. Graeme Wilson.
- June 2006: Joerg-Arno Zilch visits Galston for the funeral of Rev. Loudon Blair.
- October 2006: A fourth group from Galston (35) visited Ahrensfelde.
- November 2007: The 20-year-old Galston – Ahrensfelde Partnership celebrated in Ahrensfelde (1st-4th) attended by seven Galston folk and the celebrations will continue in Galston (9th-12th) attended by nine people from Ahrensfelde.
- October 2008: Eight teenagers from Ahrensfelde visited for six nights.
Led by Elisabeth Gnilitza.
- May/June/October 2009: A fourth group (36) from Ahrensfelde visited Galston in October. In the same year six people from Galston were guests at a Railway Festival in Ahrensfelde and four people from Ahrensfelde came over for the Bicentenary celebrations.
- May 2011: 8 from Galston visited Ahrensfelde.
- April 2012: 8 young people visited Galston.
- October 2012: 22 people from Galston visited Ahrensfelde.
- January 2014: 4 visited Ahrensfelde for the inaugural Burns Supper.
- October 2015: A group of 40 visited Galston from Ahrensfelde (20 years since the first large group in 1995.)
- May 2017: Celebration of the 30-year-old Galston – Ahrensfelde Partnership and 500 years since The Reformation.
A group from Galston will visit The Kirchentag in Berlin and Wittenburg.

Early visits were made by road and sea (coach and ferry). With cheaper air travel the fourth Group from Galston took the easy option! The large groups from Ahrensfelde continue to make their journey by coach and ferry. On other occasions not listed above, families from Ahrensfelde have visited Galston for holidays in Scotland. Many lasting friendships have been forged. The Galston-Ahrensfelde Partnership continues to flourish.

There have been 21 'Ahrensfelde' coffee mornings held between 1996 and 2016 to help raise funds for the partnership.