

Strzelce Opolskie

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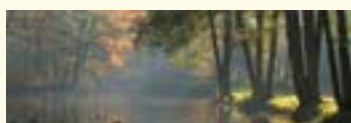
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Strzelce Opolskie is a town open and friendly to residents and visitors. Nowadays nearly 20 thousand people live here, and there are over 33 thousand inhabitants in the whole commune. The commune consists of 22 villages and 5 village administrative districts within the boundaries of the town.

Majority of our residents are young people. In view of them and next generations we shape present and future profile of our town.

We want them to find here their home and prospects of both professional and social development. Proximity of two university centres – in Opole and Gliwice – makes it even easier.

Commune area is a good place for investment because of several factors: location, convenient communication links, and local policy towards investors.

You can do good business here and have a good rest as well. The town and neighbouring area are attractive to fans of horse riding, nature lovers, fishermen and hunters. Modern sports and recreation facilities located in the area will surely satisfy those who prefer to spend their leisure time being active.





A statue of a hunter in front of the Town Hall symbolises proud history of the town and possible origins of its name. One of the hypothesis says that shooters (bow hunters) belonging to dukes of Opole hunter teams settled here - in a town surrounded by forests rich in game and perfect for hunting.

Archaeological excavations indicate that this area had already been populated in the times of Łużycka Culture and early Bronze Age (9000-700 BC), however the settlement probably dates back to 10th - 12th century.

First mentions of it appear in written sources in the first half of 13th century – a burg city that was transformed

from a trading settlement is recorded in the documents as "Strelci" (1223). Fast development of the town was related to its favourable location close to some important trade routes. In ancient times they were: the Amber and Salt Routes, in the Middle Ages – Hanzeatic Route leading from Hamburg to Kiev.

It is not precisely known when the town was established. It may have taken place in 1281, when Bolesław I, Duke of Opole, rebuilt the town after it had been destroyed during the attack of Bolesław Wstydlivy. However, establishing of the town based on German law took place in 14th century.

Strzelce principality, that was created after the death of Bolesław I in 1313,

was inherited by his son Albert, who improved fortification of the town. In 1327 it was surrounded by a wall with two towers, water moat and on the eastern side of the town there were marshlands.

Up till 1532 Strzelce belonged to Silesian Piast dynasty. After the death of Jan, the last Duke of Opole, lands of Racibórz and Opole principalities were vested to George, Margrave of Brandenburg, and after his death – to his son George Frederic.

Before Strzelce fell into the hands of other magnate families: the Rederns, the Promnitz, the Colonnas, and the Renards, it belonged to the Czech king Ferdinand, and in the years

The oldest view of Strzelce, a picture from 16th century





1551-1554 to Hungarian queen Isabel as a lease deposit of Emperor Ferdinand.

From the Middle Ages on, there was a hop branch next to Piast eagle in the emblem of the town. The region was famous for beer production, and a

significant stretch of land in Suche Łany was called "hop garden". In Strzelce Opolskie itself there were quite a few houses having the right to brew beer.

In 1600 the emblem changed. A hop branch was replaced by a bunch of grapes, a plant that was more and more frequently grown here at that time. The emblem has been preserved unchanged ever since.

The history of the town was rich in dramatic moments. It seemed many times that it would not get over the losses and destruction, yet the town revived.

And so it revived after a plague had afflicted Strzelce in 1572 - 85 and in 1680, or when the town had been plundered by the Swiss (1627) during 30 Years War, and also after numerous fires, the most terrible of which were in 1592, 1754, 1826 and 1827.

Also economy of the town was affected by equally dramatic turning points. There were many ups and downs. 16th century period of prosperity had been halted by 30 Years War that came in the following century. The war brought about substantial decrease in the population of Strzelce.

Seven years long war of Silesia between Austrian Empress Maria Theresa and Prussia brought about, among others, occupation of Strzelce by Prussian army in 1741. A period of economical revival took place in the first half of 18th century, but it didn't

last long - Strzelce suffered huge losses in the fire of 1754.

The town fell into debt during the Prussian - French war because it was laid under contribution. Bad financial situation of Strzelce may be proved by the fact that in 1877 the mayor was not able to pay salaries to the clerks, although municipality authorities had already made all possible savings. In the second half of 19th century, however, the town itself as well as industry and craft prospered. Many new institutions were formed, municipal infrastructure developed (gas-works were set up). It was when Opole - Strzelce - Bytom railway line was installed (1880), and it extended further to provide access to other cities in 1912. Another economical crisis affected Strzelce after World War I.

The town endured many crises, including almost total destruction after World War II.

In January 1945 Soviet army entered the nearly deserted town. A few days after, they murdered several residents, among others a parson Karl Lange, and they burned the town. Destruction covered more than 75% of housing estates, infrastructure and industrial potential. However, Strzelce was rebuilt, as it had already happened many times throughout the ages.

Nowadays Strzelce Opolskie develops dynamically. Nevertheless, the town does not forget their past.



Strzelce Opolskie castle



Szkolna Street (current name: Ludowa Street), the 20s of 20th century



Young people constitute the greatest share of our residents. We want Strzelce to become a place they relate their future plans with. They must, however, find perspectives here for comfortable life and professional development. And this is our target.

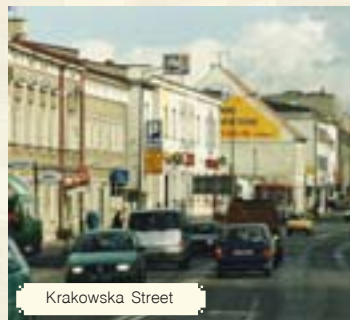
We ensure high quality education, create favourable environment for the development of initiatives for the most entrepreneurial persons, we provide social care to those who need it. We do our best to make living in our commune easier.



A statue of a hunter



Only 6 km away from A4



Krakowska Street



Town of young people



Apartment houses in the Town Hall Square



Festival of Strzelce Opolskie Region







Town Hall by night

There is a modern water treatment plant and municipal waste disposal facility that meet European Union standards. Numerous sports and cultural events take place in a newly built entertainment and sports hall.

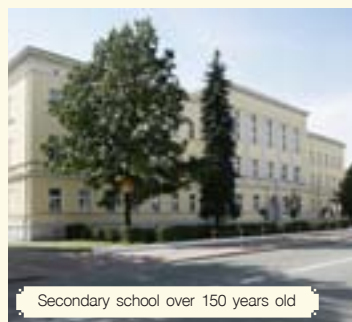
Strzelce Opolskie community is extremely open to contact with foreigners, which is a result of historical experience and being brought up in the spirit of tolerance and deep respect towards other nations, religions and cultures.



Piastów Śląskich housing estate



New sports hall



Secondary school over 150 years old

A bird's eye view of the town from the Town Hall tower



There are many things in our commune worth attention. Visitors will surely be interested in our historical architectural monuments, mostly sacred ones, admire enchanting landscape spots and their unique atmosphere.

The oldest monument in Strzelce is a wooden church of St. Barbara that has remained nearly unchanged since its construction in 1505. It was rebuild in the years 1683 - 1690 by a carpenter Jan Brychcy. After 1720 it was renovated several times. In 2006 its altar, roof and wooden walls were restored.

Church of St. Lawrence is dated before 1290, when the first Strzelce parson - Mikolaj, also a notary to Boleslaw I, Duke of Opole, was recorded. In the period of 1575-1629 the church was in the hands of protestants. Present day neo-baroque building was erected in 1904 - 1907 by an architect Georg Goldenpfening in place of the previous baroque church from 1724.

A defence turret next to St. Lawrence Church is a remaining fragment of medieval fortification of the town. It dates back to 15th century and has been converted into a bell-tower at the turn of 17th and 18th centuries.

Corpus Christi Church was built in the years 1825 - 1826 as an Evangelical church. Church tower was built about 1888. In 1982, the Catholic commu-

nity took over the building and renovated it completely in the years 1982 - 1985.

The earliest information about the castle dates back to the beginning of 14th century. In 1562 - 1595, it was thoroughly renovated by the Renders. However, rebuilding works arranged by count Andrzej Maria Renard in the middle of 19th century made the former style of the castle disappear. At that time a castle tower and some extension was built. The last owner - between the wars - was the count family of Castell-Castell. The castle was destroyed at the end of January 1945, when it was burned down together with the town by Soviet troops.

Horse stables situated in the park

area date back to the 30s of 19th century and they are the only remains of a few stud farms run by count Andrzej Renard. There were 50 horses in Strzelce stables, including bloodstock stallions imported from England that won many races throughout Europe.

Former horse stables have been converted to White Hall, a place for business and social meetings.

The present Town Hall was erected in the years 1844 - 1846 according to a project by an architect Roch. All previous town halls, the first of which was recorded in 1581, shared the history of the town - they were completely burned several times in the fires destroying Strzelce. Town Hall tower is currently being renovated.

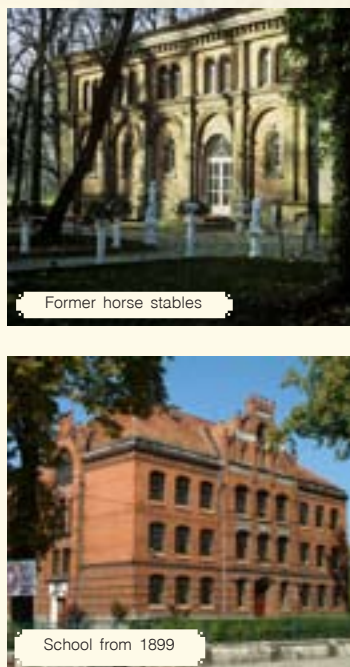


A relief in St. Lawrence Church

Church of St. Lawrence









**M**ultiplicity and diversity of cultural events organized in our commune as well as perfect sports conditions in the town and neighbouring area make it impossible to feel bored. Irrespective of the season, age and type of interests, you can find here ideal conditions for fishing, hunting, walking trips, and cycling. Amateurs of strong sensations can practise moto- and paragliding, horse riding, can play paint ball or participate in knight battle shows .

In nearly every village district music bands and dancing or theatre clubs are set up. Special attention is paid to cultivate regional traditions and customs. Particularly interesting are annual harvest festivals organised by each village district with inherent harvest wreaths that are made collectively by nearly all village residents. Long term tradition is a Festival of Strzelce Opolskie Region held in June. Moreover, there are many important cultural and

sports events that reach beyond the local level, i.e.: international art workshops (both painting and sculpture), Festival of Amateur Puppet Theatres, New Year's Eve Race, Strzelce Race, numerous concerts, and Christmas fair.

All of them attract many visitors, also from abroad. And there are more and more places that are well worth visiting. The latest one is the old Strzelce brewery that has been renovated and converted into a multi-function recreation centre.



Swimming pool in Strzelce Opolskie



Happening



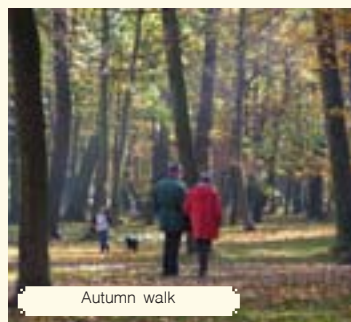
Cyclists' paradise



Open air workshops in painting



Travelling by carriage along the park's lanes



Autumn walk

Commune harvest festival







Boxing show



Chestnut hill



Knight battle show



Volleyball contest



The Structura



"Klik" dance team



Cross country race



Nativity play in the House of Culture



Sports complex



One of many concerts

Rybaczówka recreation area



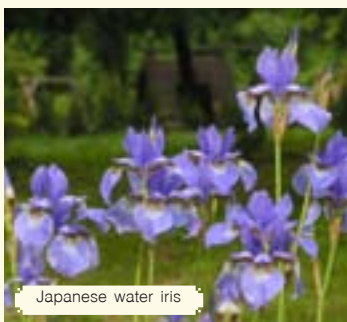


It took count Andrzej Renard, or rather Schmidt - his gardener, more than 30 years to create parkland in Strzelce, modelled on English style parks,. Foundation of the park is dated back to 1832. It was surrounded by a stone wall from the side of the town, and on the south it bordered with natural agricultural landscape, with linden alley that led to the Isch tower. Up till now, the park belongs to one of the largest and most beautiful parks in Opole region, although it is separated by a national road (Kozielska Street) into two parts – Small and Great Park.

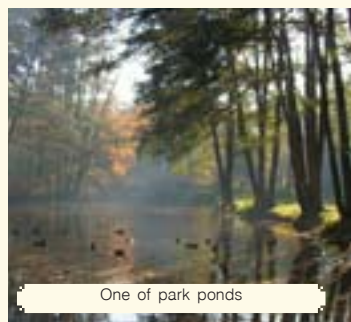
Originally, there were many ponds connected by water canals and stone bridges crossing them. At that time many park buildings were created: greenhouse, pineapple house, mausoleum and Greek - style temple. Sculptures made the park look even more glamorous. Unique specimens of old trees were brought from very distant places. Today the old time splendour is only a memory, but still the park is one of the magical places. You can admire here 300 years old yew trees, and also other interesting specimens: white poplar, hemlock-spruce, maidenhair tree, London plane tree, silver maple, oak, chestnut, and beautiful American tulip tree. Detailed inventory of the trees and bushes carried out in 2003 has started the process of revitalisation of Strzelce Opolskie park.



American tulip tree



Japanese water iris



One of park ponds

Municipal park Autumn



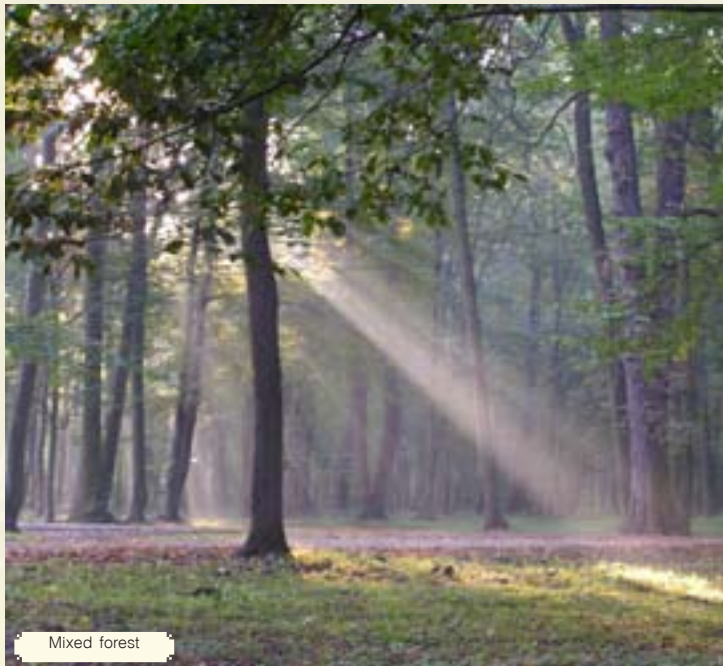


### PLUŻNICA

It is situated in the eastern part of the commune, between Centawa and Plużnica settlement, a partial reservation covering the area of 3,17 ha and created in 1957.

It was founded for scientific and didactic reasons in order to preserve fragments of natural mixed forests that grew in the local area.

Mixed forest consisting of: beech, pine, spruce, hornbeam and common oak is subject to protection. Average age of the trees amounts to 160 years, however, you can find here even much older specimens.



Mixed forest

### LIGOTA DOLNA

It is a strict floristic reservation situated within the area of St. Anne Mountain landscape reservation. It was created in 1959 on the slope of Chelmska Mountain and covers 4,9 ha.

Xerothermic plants and thermophilic shrubs with various rare specimens are under protection. The greatest value of the reservation lies in its diversified relief with stony cliffs and limestone outcropping beds.

The area is home to many plant rarities including: white stonecrop, biting stonecrop, hairy stonecrop, austrian flax – typical steppe specimen that

is very rare in Poland, allium montanum, asparagus and cut-leaved germander.

Stemless carline thistle - a typical mountain flower also grows in the protection area.



Stemless carline thistle



Peacock butterfly

### TĘCZYŃÓW

The reservation was created in 2000 and spreads over the area of 31,37 ha. It is situated west of Szymiszów.

It is covered with about 140-years old beech forest stand. Particularly interesting are some mountain species: broad buckler fern, galium rotundifolium (a "red list" plant, like baneberry), thermophilic plants, eg. swallow-wort, and protected plants: the orchid family- red helleborine and white helleborine as well as bird's nest orchid, martagon lily, lesser butterfly-orchid

The only amphibians recorded here are common frogs and common toads, but there are also some pro-

tected reptiles living here: viviparous lizard, sand lizard and adder.

Tęczyńów reservation is home for numerous protected species of birds: tawny owls, woodpeckers, ravens and hawfinches.



Common toad



Red Helleborine

## BŁOTNICA STRZELECKA

Former knight properties already mentioned in 1240, were transformed into entailed estate in 1754 by the then owner Karl Fryderyk von Wehner. Since 1851 the estate belonged to the Posadowski family and remained in their possession till World War II. A relic of those times is a Posadowski-Wehner family vault preserved in the area of palace park.

The most impressive historic monument of Błotnica is a 19th century neoclassical palace surrounded by park land that was founded in the period of its greatest prosperity. Nowadays it covers over 6 hectares of land and a lot of rare specimens of trees can be admired. On 20-23 May 1921 Supreme Command of the Uprising Army resided in the palace. Since 1946 it became a seat of Folk High School. For several years now, it has hosted open air art workshops (painting and sculpture) that are willingly visited by home and foreign artists.

The place is worth visiting, especially in June on Midsummer Day celebrations.



## BRZEZINA

The name of the village is a topographical one – it has its origins in the words „brzoza, brzozowy” meaning „birch, birch grove”. The oldest mention of this place as „Bresini” comes from the year 1223.

In 1770 it belonged to the Colonna family. Afterwards, it became property of count A. Renard.

There were two granges within the area of the village: Brzezina and Koczorownia. Brzezina grange was established in 1710 by count Gustaw Colonna.

Once Brzezina was a self-dependent commune, which is proved its seal – presenting a flying pheasant and two spruces. However, later on administration system was changed. During German times the so far separate village communes, both close and relatively distant ones, were incorporated into Strzelce Opolskie commune. Brzezina was among them. On 1st of January 1962 Brzezina was excluded from town boundaries and was taken over by another administrative unit - Strzelce Opolskie district.



## GRODZISKO

It is one of the oldest settlements of Strzelce Opolskie region, which is indicated by archaeological finds from the Neolithic period (4200-1700 BC).

Most probably, already in the early Medieval Ages a burg city was situated here, as the name of the place meaning „a destroyed town” indicates.

We do not know much about its history. The first mention of it comes from 1429, when it was recorded by an affiliated church of Rozmierz parish. Originally, it was the property of Mitzko von Gaschowitz, afterwards it belonged to Principality of Opole and shared the fate of it. In 1562 emperor Ferdinand I leased Grodzisko to Jan Kokorz von Kamenz. 13 years later the village was bought for 25000 thalers by Jerzy von Redem, and in 1665 by count G. von Colonna. At the end of 18th century the village got into the hands of the Strachwitz family and it remained in their hands until 1945.

St. Katarzyna parish church mentioned already in 1516 had two side altars: one was dedicated to St. Valentine, and the other to St. Maria Magdalena. The present-day building comes from 1812. In the year 1924 sacristy and north side chapel were added.





## DZIEWKOWICE

From the dawn of history the village was connected with Jemielnica parish, although it belonged to dukes of Strzelce. The name origins from the old Polish word „dziewka” meaning „girl” or from a nickname. In some sources there is a legend mentioned about a count bringing young woman workers to the grange – and so the village may owe its name to those girls. The romantic legend, however, does not have much in common with the real story. Duke Albert sold the village in 1361 to the knight Hanlinus from Strzelce. One year later it was bought by Mikołaj Gaszowiec. In the following years the village was repeatedly sold, it was also a subject of many arguments and deposits, especially in the 18th century. It is worth mentioning that in the years 1604 -1628 no baptism ceremony of a child from Dziewkowice was recorded, which may prove that in this period the village was of protestant denomination. However, 128 parishioners from Dziewkowice have taken communion in the church of Jemielnica in 1685. Based on that, we can assume that the village counted at that time about 167 inhabitants.

In 1682 count Gustaw Colonna bought „Dziewkowice together with the knight's seat, a forest called Obora, and a grange by the road from Strzelce to Toszek with 6 serfs and their children” from Jarosław Strela.

First attempts to build their own church in the village were made in the 30s of 20th century. Eventually, it came into effect much later – in the years 1972-76. The parish was created by bishop



A. Nossol on 13 June 1980, separating it from Jemielnica parish district. Residents of the village are very active. Folk Sports Club (LKS) was reactivated on their own initiative and brass band, which now cooperates with their Swiss equivalent, was created. The most interesting annual celebrations are as follows: St.Barbara's Day, St. Martin's Day, fishing and sports competitions. In 2005 this district participated in the Beautiful Village of Opole Region contest.



## KADŁUB

It consists of two village districts - Kadłub Piec and Kadłub Wieś. The name origins from the word „kadłub” meaning a hollow log, that serves as timbering of a well or a vessel for keeping cereal.

The first notice preserved in the documents comes from 1375. Next time it was mentioned in 1429, when the owner of Grodzisko and neighbouring villages Mitzko von Gaschowitz divided his property between three sons: Krzysztof, Piotr and Bartłomiej. In 1665 the village came into the possession of the Colonns, then it was governed by von Tenczin, and afterwards by the Strachwitz family. It remained in their hands until World War II.

Kadłub residents experienced many disasters during the ages: floods, fires, and also cholera epidemic in 1873. First, the deceased were buried in the cemetery in Grodzisk, then on the hill nearby the forest, which is still known as Choleraberg. Another threat of cholera epidemic appeared in the second half of 19th century. It was at that time when inhabitants probably recalled the altar with the image of St. Valentine (protecting from diseases) in their church in Grodzisk, and the worship of the Saint blossomed again. Since then, the day of 14 February is a real feast in Kadłub, Grodzisk and all neighbouring area.

But for the real commitment of the residents, sports hall would have never been erected nor House of Fireman renovated. In 2006 Kadłub got the IIIrd prize in Beautiful Village of Opole Region contest in the category „the best project of village restoration”





## JĘDRYNIE

The village most probably was established in the 15th century. Its name stems from the word „Jędra”, a diminutive of Jędrzej (Andrew) and means his property.

The first notice of this place as „Gendrynia” comes from 1528. In the documents of 1531 it was recorded as „Yedzrinia”. In 1930 the first Polish school in the poviat was created in the house of Antoni Grobelus and it operated till May 1939 . In 1983-1984 Madonna of Fatima chapel was erected in the village and there is a stone cross dating back to 1902 .

For centuries the village was within the administrative district of Rozmierka, and only after 1945 a separate village district was created, which is the smallest one in Strzelce Opolskie commune. Its inhabitants belong to Rozmierz parish district. Sowing cereals in the shape of a heart and a cross, as presented in the picture, is an original, cultivated tradition, a custom not recognized anywhere else.



## KALINÓW

Former knight properties, the name of which is mentioned for the first time in 1393 along with the name of Strzelce Opolskie judge – knight Gayke von Kalinow. In 1447 the name of the village appears in the register of Peter's pence collecting, which indicates that a parish administrative district had already functioned there. It is not known when the church was erected, but after 1700, when a lot of residents died of cholera, Wysoka was turned into a parish.

From the beginning of 15th century the village belonged to the Zwoyski family, then to Strzeła and Kalinowski families. In 1833 Kalinów area of about 2400 morgs (~3300 acre) was bought from count Andrzej Renard by Franz von Zawadzki. After his death the property was taken over by his wife, Barbara. In the past there was a palace in the parkland situated in the middle part of the village. It was however completely destroyed during the Silesian uprisings. Nowadays, you can admire only a historical grange and a granary dating from mid-19th century. The condition of forest stand and the parkland itself does not resemble the old one very much – it is pretty destroyed.



## KALINOWICE

Most probably village name has its origins, like in case of Kalinów, in the name (nickname) „Kalina”. According to some sources, it is a topographic name that stems from the name of a shrub „kalina” (viburnum).

It is mentioned for the first time in the documents in relation to the sale of a field situated in Poznowice to Jan Gwóźdź by Jan, village administrator of Male Kalnowcze in 1538.

From the oldest times it was in possession of the Kalinowski family and sold in 1789 to Gaszyn line. Since 1819 it belonged to von Gron family. This dominion was famous also out of Silesia as a model community.

The nearby parkland in Kalinowice is located within the area of St. Anne Mountain landscape reservation. Most probably, the park was created in the first half of 19th century. Numerous lanes and paths spread in all directions encircling the most interesting spots. Forest stand mostly consists of deciduous trees. In the north-western part, there is still a large pond, which

some time ago was supplied with waters from the spring . Today, the canal has been filled up, and the pond is filled with rain waters. The parkland has lost its old-time glamour. Nowadays, there are only a few objects from the past left: an avenue of 48 lindens stretching alongside Wiejska Street, which once led to the residence of the owners, and two exotic trees: (ginkgo biloba and a plane tree), both classified as nature monuments. Currently renovation works of the historic parkland are being carried out. About 400-years old pedunculate oak growing at a crossing of Przeskok and Wiejska streets is also a nature monument.

Thanks to the inhabitants' activity, the former nursery school was converted into a common room and fire station for a newly created fire brigade.

Particularly interesting and rare example of old wood art is so called bell of the dead.



## NIWKI

The village was founded most probably in the 15th century. The first mention of it as "Nywky" comes from 1531, in 1534 it is recorded as „Niwki". The name stems from the word „niwka, mala niwa" i.e. „plough, field surrounded by stump wood". The village is situated west of Strzelce Opolskie. A Route of Silesian Insurgents, which starts from Bytom and ends in St. Anne Mountain, passes through this village.



## LIGOTA GÓRNA

It is one of the smallest and most picturesque village districts in our commune. „Ligota", is a very popular name. It appears in Silesia even forty times, but it is also pretty common in the region of Moravia. The word „Lgota" (relief) meant a village set up in the area that was exempt from tax for a definite period of time.

Ligota village close to Strzelce is mentioned in 1443, and in 1783 as „Wirchna Ligotta". The name of the village appears in 1689 along with Ligota Dolna in St. Florian parish records in Wysoka, when count Ferdinand Otto von Gaschin bought both Ligota villages for the amount of 7600 Silesian thalers from Jan Krzysztof Chornberg. In the following years the village changed hands: it was in the possession of K.L. Schimoin-ski, then baron Gustaw Welczek, for a short period of time (1793-99) it got back to Gaszyn family, and finally remained for longer in the hands of von Thun officer family that came from Mecklenburg. In 1927 Jan von Thun widow sold the village along with other possessions to Upper - Silesia Province in Opole.



## LIGOTA DOLNA

On the south-eastern edge of the village spreads a vast plateau called Kamienna Góra. As a legend says, a castle, which some bandit knights temporarily took over, was later on transformed by the owners of Ligota into a palace residence. On the top of the plateau a destroyed chapel with remains of a tomb vault used to stand. It was taken apart in the inter-war period, when the land was converted into the glider landing area which started to operate in 1936. Specific microclimate provided excellent gliding conditions throughout the whole year. Such landing area, however, soon attracted attention of army forces. Two years later, it became a spare airport for Luftwaffe bombers. After World War II, authorities of reconstituting Polish air forces decided to establish here the first in the country school for pilots, which in fact started its operations in 1946. For training purposes they used planes that had been saved from the war. The school was closed in 1950.

Some leaders of Village Restoration Scheme, which was a project the village

joined in 2004, have decided to come back to the aircraft tradition from the old days.

A number of lime furnaces is located in the village area. One of the furnaces presents Icarus wings, which commemorates tragic death of one of the aviators.





## OSIEK

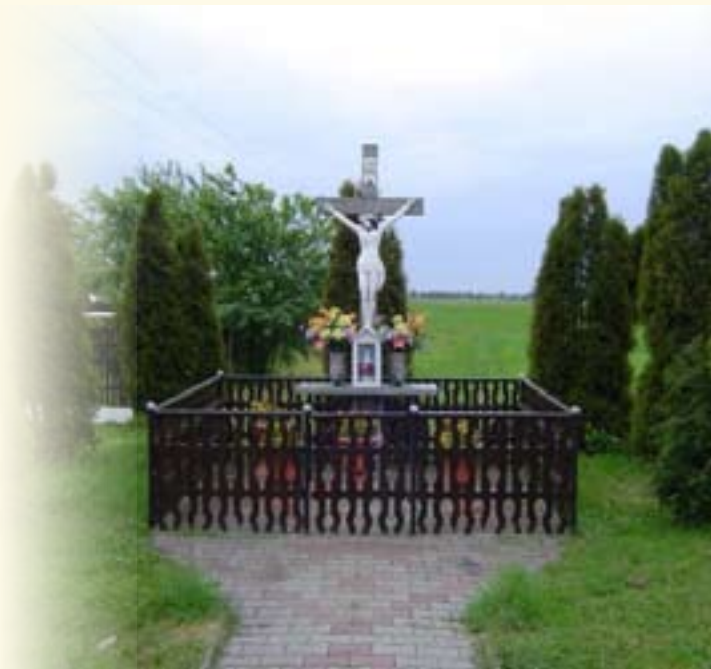
It is one of the oldest villages in Strzelce Opolskie commune. A burg city had already been established in the early Middle Ages, probably in the 10th century.

The name stems from the word „osiek” meaning a place with a forest stronghold made out of tree trunks. Osseg (such as original spelling) forest belonged in the first half of the 8th century to the knight Adam from Kokorz. In 1824 Carlsthal ( Karol's valley) settlement was established close to the village .

On 14 August 2003 village residents were affected by a tornado, and the damages were estimated at hundreds of thousands zloty. Broken trees, destroyed buildings and roofs of many houses, broken power and telephone lines – this is how it looked. Luckily, no one was injured.

In 2004 the village district joined Village Restoration Scheme.

Inhabitants willingly get involved in various community activities. As a result of voluntary works new pavements have been laid and the old ones along Strzelecka and Szkolna streets have been renovated, and each year agricultural transport lanes surface are hardened with breakstone.



## PLUŻNICA WIELKA

The name origins from the word „plug” meaning „plough”, and is mentioned for the first time in 1299. Then it appears in 1302 in a bull by Pope Bonifacius VIII, enumerating tithe payments and is recorded as „Plusnitz maior” next to „Plusnitz minor” (present day Pluzniczka village). Cholera epidemic at the turn of 18th and 19th centuries certainly belongs to the most important events in the history of the village. As a result of it Pluznica residents were decimated. However, new settlers from neighbouring villages and from more distant places came in their place.

In 1854, a very crucial year in the history of this place, Franciscan Leopold Moczygemba's family emigrated to Texas and the first „Silesian” congregation was set up there. It was named „Panna Maria” (Madonna). Letters that came from abroad made some other families emigrate out to the new land of opportunity.

There is a romantic legend related to the still existing inn about a pot full of gold coins hidden somewhere in the wall, chimney or bread oven. This treasure has never been found, real treasures, however, can be admired in the nearby nature reservation of Pluznica.



## SZCZEPANEK

The village is only about 2 km distant from Strzelce Opolskie, but belongs to the parish church district of Jemielnica situated farther away.

The name stemming from the name of Szczepan, is mentioned in 1723 in reference to „a field near Czepanek”. In 1831 the settlement was established here under the name of „Stephanshain” (Stephanshayn).

It is famous for St. Mary's Visitation Church, a historic wooden building that was brought here in 1960 from Polska Nowa Wieś, where it was built as a parish church in 1666-1668. Renovation of the church was carried out by a local carpenter Antoni Piontek. The main and side altars as well as baroque sculptures date back to 18th century, baroque pictures come from the turn of 18th and 19th centuries.

Like in other places in our commune, the residents eagerly participate in many voluntary works. Thanks to their commitment former school building was converted into a common room.





## ROZMIERKA

Archaeological research indicates that the beginnings of permanent settlement date from the 10th to 12th century. It may be proved by numerous fragments of clay vessels found in the fields within the distance of about 1km west of the middle part of the village.

There are two hypothesis, like in case of Rozmierz, as regards origins of the village name. One states that it stems from the name Rozmir (Czech: Rosmir) or Rozmier, according to the other - form the word „rozmierca" (the one that measures).

The village lying next to the old road to Opole is mentioned in the files in 1413. Originally, it was belonged to Duke of Niemodlin. In 1539 it became property of Paul Nawoy, in 1575 - of Piotr Strzela from Obrowiec. Subsequent owners were as follows: Johann Koschütski (in 1650), owner of Kochcice and Lubliniec, duke Gustaw Colonna (in 1685), and in 1832 in was taken over by the Strachwitz family. Land property with Bulow and Schymonia granges covered the area of app. 300 ha. Palace buildings were developed gradually throughout the 19th century. The oldest building is a manor-house dating from 1800 and a granary, the youngest ones are cowshed and heifer shed. The brewery, currently turned into a residential building comes from the first half of the 19th century.

Rozmierka was once a self-dependent commune, in 1945 it was seated in Kadlub, afterwards in Rozmierz.

Village inhabitants have - on their own initiative - renovated a chapel and expanded a sports hall with a common room. Also pavements along Strzelecka and Szkolna Streets were .renovated.



## ROZMIERZ

It is mentioned for the first time as 'Lozymyrza Polska' in 1256, but traces of a settlement in this area are found from before 5000 years.

The first known owner of the village was knight Reinecius. In the following centuries, it was a property of the following noble families: Gaschowitz, Lambinowski, Nawoy, Redern, Strzela-Chmelnik, Promnitz, Colonna, Peterswalde, Lagnasco, Tenczin, Wasek, Tillgner, Strachwitz.

There were a few dramatic moments in the history of the village, however the most tragic one was a fire in 1733, when nearly all the buildings were burned, with the exception of a church, three houses and a few cowsheds. In the fire 60 years later mill buildings of the Brummer family were burned. In 1849 the village was afflicted by an enormous hailstorm, and the hailstones were as big as walnuts or even small hen eggs.

However, the most significant phenomenon in the history of the village started 5 years later.

It was in 1854 when the first residents of Rozmierz left the village for America in search for better living conditions. They settled in Texas and became founders of town called Bandera. During the next 50 years about 100 more people emigrated. Further emigrants left for Germany after 1945, but the biggest wave of emigration in that direction started at the end of the 80s of 20th century.

However, bonds with the family village are still strong. A lot of former residents and their descendants met in June 2006 during the celebrations of 750th anniversary of the village.

One of the most significant persons descending most probably from this village is Piotr Gaszowiec, known as. Petrus Strzelec (app. 1430-74) – an astronomer, astrologer and doctor, rector of Krakow Academy in the years 1464-65 and in 1470; court doctor of Kazimierz Jagiellończyk. He worked out methods of using astronomical tables calculated for the Krakow meridian and is also famous for creating medical and astronomical code.



## ROŻNIĄTÓW

Rosinatou is mentioned for the first time in Pope's Bull of 1302 as a village owned by Cistercians of Jemielnica. It was probably passed on with Jemielnica and other villages to a Cistercian abbey by Adam from Kokorz in the second half of the 12th century. It remained in their possession until dissolution of the monastery in 1810. The only exception was of a period before 1562, when it was pawned by abbot Leonard Tworzyjański for a short time. Eventually, the monastery redeemed the property.

There are two legends related to the village. One legend says about a smith working in a forge situated under „chapel hill” who is to wake up some sleeping knights in the right time to save the whole Earth from oppressors. The other legend is related to a local spring that, just like an oak forest nearby, was a sacred place in pagan times.

Particularly interesting from a historical point of view are arguments regarding the parish membership of Rożniątów. One of them in 1369 carried on between a parson of Jemielnica and a vicar from Strzelce. In the 19th however, there was a suggestion that Rożniątów should be included into Szymiszów parish church district, which all in all didn't happen at the time.

Another interesting story connected with this place is arresting the elders of two villages - Jemielnica i Rożniątów - who refused to pay a rent twice as high as it had been before, for a period of 14 days by an abbot of Jemielnica.

Arguments fall into oblivion, buildings disappear. Who remembers about Rożniątów mill today? About Szewkowska inn of the 18th century, in which not only Cistercians beer, but also other drinks were sold? What remains is history and legends.



## SZYMISZÓW

The first mention of it appears in 1223, then in 1439 and 1441. It belonged to knight properties. We don't have much knowledge about the first owners of the village; we know more of those who owned the village in 16th century. They were: knight Jan, Mikołaj and Piotr Strzela-Chmelnik. In the first half of 17th century the village was in the hands of Wilhelm von Warlowski from Warłów, to whom building of the early-baroque church (nowadays Social Help House) and establishment of the surrounding park is ascribed. Some time before - in 1607 a protestant church was built, founded by Jan Krzydłowski from Krzydłowice. Several years later (in 1620) Barbara von Rechenberg was buried in the church vault, and there was an inscription on the gravestone: *Memori esto annos nostros perennes* - Remember that our times go by. It is not known what happened to the gravestone, but the inscription is still up-to-date. Since 1700 the church has been in Catholic hands. It has been expanded in the years 1909-10 by adding transept and presbytery with sacristy. The first parson of a self-dependent parish church district in Szymiszów was A. Skowroński (1894-96); former mother parish was located in Rozmierz.

From 18th century Szymiszów often changed hands. Finally, after financial crash of subsequent owners, which happened to many landowners during Napoleon wars, Szymiszów was put up to auction. In 1832 it was bought by duke Hiacynt Strachwitz from Land Credit Organisation. And it stayed in their hands till World War II.

In the second half of the 19th century along with intense industrial development,

substantial demographical growth could be observed. This process also affected Szymiszów, where cement and lime mill developed. Only in 1889 about 600 new workers settled in this area.

The village consists of two village districts: Szymiszów Wieś and Szymiszów Osiedle.





## SUCHA

The first mention of it appears in 1254, next to the name of a witness Egidius (Idzi) de Sucha. However, since this document is thought to have been falsified, a more reliable source is 50 years younger, in which another witness is mentioned - Sandco de Sucha.

Sucha parish church district is mentioned in 1312. In the middle ages, the village was knight's property.

At the beginning of 16th century, Sucha had two owners: one of them was Strzela family. In the second half of 16th century Piotr Strzela bought the other part of the village and became the only owner of the settlement. He was a mercenary soldier in the ranks of Polish army. He died in January 1600, and his tombstone is well-preserved in the church in Sucha. There is an inscription on it: S KORUNY POLSKE (from Polish Kingdom)

In the following two centuries, the village changed hands: Skrzydłowski (Krzydłowski), Kochcicki, Frankenberg, von Tenczin and von Wassek. Since the first half of the 19th century till 1945 the village belonged to the Strachwitz family.

Originally, the village was a self-dependent parish district, however, along with poorer living conditions of the residents and difficulties in church maintenance it joined Rozmierz parish. Only on 13 June 1980 bishop Alfons Nossol made it to be again a separate parish district.

Not only parish membership joined the two communities, but also education. Before school was built in Sucha at the beginning of 20th century, children attended school in Rozmierz.

After 1945 Sucha has changed dramatically. New streets have been built: Jemielnicka, Mikołaja Kopernika, Opolska. Thanks to a great effort of the residents themselves a new school building was erected (in place of the old one). Also: fire station building with garages, a common room, nursery school, health centre, presbytery with catechesis room, a grocery and general store



## WARMĄTOWICE

Warmątowice village is recorded in the property inventory of Wrocław bishop in 1300 as Warmunthowitz.

The name origins from the name „Warmąt”, being Polish equivalent of a German male name „Warmund” – „a brave defender”.

The village was a part of family possessions of von Wehner and Posadowski lines. So were other settlements: Płużnica Wielka, Balcerzowice, Błotnica and Centawa - a mother parish district of village residents. .

Open for general use Gajdowe fishery is particularly worth visiting. It covers the area of app. 5 ha of water surface. Visitors can stay at the nearby hunter lodgings - apartments with hotel services.



Rising the quality of our life and developing the town are our priorities. Also ensuring safety of residents in all its aspects – safety in their everyday life, which is raised by a monitoring system installed in our town, and safety understood as taking care of the weakest that need help. “Barka” Association of Mutual Help, Social Integration Centre and social cooperative operating in this area prevent social exclusion.

An example of concern about each resident of the commune is a modern House of Mutual Help for Disabled Children.

A network of educational units characterised by high level of service fosters the development of the young generation. Having them and their prosperous future in our minds, we create favourable conditions for professional career. Local authorities set up various instruments of support to promote enterprise development and encourage to invest in our region.

A perfect opportunity to promote local products and services are exhibitions held in Strzelce Opolskie that attract attention of subjects from beyond the local level as well.



Opening of Social Integration Centre



House of Mutual Help



Strzelce Opolskie Business Exhibition



Social Cooperative





On the website of Strzelce Opolskie commune, apart from contact details of each department of the Municipality Office, there is precise information on how to fix things in the office.

The website and the news are regularly updated and are visited daily by several hundreds of people. It also serves as a rich source of information about history of the town and each village district. You can send post cards via internet, download a newsletter and pictures.

In order to meet expectations of residents who do not have access to the internet, "informat" machine was installed in front of the entrance to the Town Hall. The device serves to monitor how things are being fixed in Strzelce Opolskie Municipality Office. It is a part of "e-Office" project run by the commune that aims to provide a complex service to its clients.

The whole commune has access to broadband internet. Each school is equipped with computer labs, there are internet clubs in the town and villages.

Visit us at our website  
www.strzelceopolskie.pl



For many years now we have kept developing international cooperation, following the long-lasting tradition of our town.

In 1998 Strzelce Opolskie was accepted as member of the New Hanza Association, that was brought back to life.

We maintain friendly and partner relations with many towns and communes of both eastern and western Europe. And they are not only formal in character. Social organisations, associations, non-government institutions and the young of Strzelce schools closely cooperate with their foreign friends and build new relations for their common future.

International contacts are rich in various sports contests and cultural projects, like open air workshops, concerts, or artists' works exhibitions. Moreover, there are many educational

schemes helping students and teachers to create the feeling of membership to the European society. Multiple youth exchange projects were supported by European Union (e.g. by Socrates programme).

Strzelce is an open town. In the past, it was a contact point of cultures of many nations: Polish, German, Austrian, and Czech. Cultivating tolerance towards other cultures and openness to the world does not stem only

from historical tradition of our town. It is our future in the united Europe.

Since 1995 we have been co-operating with German town Soest. In 1997 we signed partner agreement with Lithuanian town Druskininkai. Other partner towns of Strzelce are: Tismenica in Ukraine (from 2002), Holice in the Czech Republic (from 2006) and American Bandera (from 2006)

#### Our partners:



Soest



Druskininkai



Tismenica



Holice



Bandera



Visit of Turkish youth



Signing partner agreement with Holice



Swede Visit





Cover: Picture of 1857 r. – Strzelce Opolskie castle (still without the tower )

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Strelcí

*Strelicz*

Maior Strelící



*Wielkie Strzelce*

*Groß Strehlitz*

Strzelce Opolskie