

IN POLAND



“This is a magical place and I will be back”

Swindon's mayor Ray Fisher, pictured in Torun with his wife Christine.

TOMORROW: The second part of the Adver's report on our friends in Poland

He said: “I was working nearby in Wlocawek and we would come to Torun at weekends for a night out. I remember you could only buy beer in absolute dives. It's much cleaner place now, very cultured and there's no trouble at all. The town is absolutely vibrant.”

Chris Bulzacki, 39, grew up in Old Town. When his uncle in Torun died he came to the city to look after his grandmother for a while. At first he taught English at the University but now he divides his time between Swindon and Torun, running a website design company, Rubber Dragon.

He said: “It's a very easy place to live without a car. Lots of people walk everywhere because the town centre is in reach. It means there's better communication between people. You know faces and it's easier to make contacts.”

“I'd like to settle here at some point.” The two cities have recently been brought closer together following the opening of a new low-cost air route between Stansted and Bydgoszcz.

During the return journey to Swindon former mayor Stan Pajak said he thought the trip had been very worthwhile.

He said: “The people here have been ambassadors.”

“We've seen the benefits of preserving heritage and we've made several really good contacts but for me the most useful thing was getting normal people to come to Torun. I'd encourage everybody to visit the city, and maybe we could make links with the university too.”



ENTHUSIASTIC Above, president Michal Zaleski, below, Chris Bulzacki



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