

# NAGYCENK



"The village of count István Széchenyi, 'the greatest Hungarian'". The name of our village in the past two centuries became interwoven with that of the Széchenyi family. It was here that count Ferenc Széchenyi, the founder of the Hungarian National Museum and his son, count István Széchenyi, the outstanding politician of the reform era, with the words of Lajos Kossuth 'The greatest Hungarian' lived and are buried. This is the heritage which is kept alive and can be found in our village through the Széchenyi memorials. We welcome you to these places.



The village is only 12 km from Sopron, at the meeting point of mainroads 84 and 85. Apart from the main roads, our town can be reached by rail, on the Sopron-Szombathely line, operated by GySEV. The number of inhabitants is 1,860. In the past 15 years all the public infrastructures have been built. After several years of planning and negotiating, the outline of a future industrial, commercial and economical park, is to be drawn up, which would give hope and impetus to the district.

The town is situated in the valleys of the two creeks, the Ikva and the Arany, which originated from the integration of two villages, Nagy- (earlier Gödör-) Cenk and Kiscenk. In recent years, archeologists have excavated Arpadian age dwelling houses, built on a

bronze age cemetery, which goes to show, that this area was suitable for human settlements even in ancient times.

The name of the community, in the form of Zenk, was first written in 1291 in a latin deed regarding the sale of property. The village was the property of the Nádasdy family from the XVIth century, which was later passed on to the Széchenyi family, through György (II.), in 1711.

The centre of the properties became Cenk only during the occupation of Count Ferenc Széchenyi, in 1781, when the court of the count moved from Horpács to the castle.

Count Ferenc Széchenyi offered to his nation an enormous book, map and coin collection concentrated at Cenk, and with that, founded and established the Hungarian National Museum and the National Széchenyi Library which bears his name.

Count Ferenc Széchenyi divided his possessions while still alive, and Cenk has been inherited by István.

## WORLD HERITAGE



Nagyecenk is part of the World Heritage list by two of its areas. The judges when examining the unity and the harmony of the built up environment found the Széchenyi castle of Nagyecenk and the park surrounding it, as well as the linden tree alley and its surroundings which is the connecting link with the Fertő region, suitable for being under the patronage of the World Heritage, as part of the Fertő region World Heritage.



Lake Fertő - which boasts the largest dimension of reeds in Hungary, though only a quarter of the lake belongs to Hungary - was declared as a biosphere reservatum by UNESCO, because of its unique natural assets. As it is the continent's largest salt water lake, it is the most western example of the Eurasian steppe lakes.



The uniqueness of Fertő-landscape's flora is that here plants requiring different environmental background can live together (i.e. the Hill messenger, the heartleaved cocoon flower globularia (Sopron, Viennese hill) and the anemone or pulsatilla which brings steppes to mind).

The park around the Széchenyi-castle, which has also won the world heritage title, is also full of plant specialities.

The sycamore maples are over 200 years old, the exotic Californian mammoth fir, and the rest of the different tree specialities brought here from far fetched lands are all sheltering places for birds and other small animals. According to bird specialists one can observe 20-25 different bird species among the trees.

## CULTURAL



Annually there are two cultural events that make our life colourful. At the beginning of August is the time for the programmes of the Arts Festival with assistance and organisation from SONARE funds, and of which one of the permanent supporters and debuter is Jeno Jando, the world famous pianist. The location of the Arts Festival is in the Széchenyi-castle and the banqueting hall of the Castle hotel as well as Saint Stephen's Parish church and the village hall.

On the last weekend of September, we celebrate Nagyecenk's Harvest Festival. On the two days we are

awaiting visitors with sport, cultural and musical programmes, as well as with the harvest procession that became famous around Hungary.

The visitors are looked after by three restaurants, hotels, bed and breakfasts and by the villagers who let rooms.

## Twin town, Eu-Charta



In 1991, a twinning has been established with the neighbouring Deutschkreutz (Austria).

We exchange educational and governmental experiences yearly with the Austrian village, that boasts about 4000 inhabitants.

Our latest common gathering was on the 1st May 2004, on the day of EU (joining) celebrations, the opening of the border. (The first time since the passage in 1956).



In the recent past, because of a request, our village joined the rural districts' of the European community, in which all EU countries represent itself with one habitation. In the process of the enlargement of the Union it was possible that from the newly joined countries a habitation would become a part of this organization, and our community was honoured by this privilege that we can represent Hungary.