

# Heimathaus Dingden

museum of local history



People enjoying themselves at  
the „Frühlingstreff“  
- a Sunday open for business -  
held every year in spring

## Heimatverein Dingden e.V.

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is one of the seven villages that were joined together in 1975 to form the community of Hamminkeln. Meanwhile Hamminkeln with its more than 25.000 inhabitants has become a city.



The Dingden coat of arms reminds of the time when the lords of the manor of Dingden had the right to hold a court of law.

The earliest documents that mention Dingden date back to the year 1163, when Dingden was a place where "THING", that means a court of law, was held under a lime-tree. This is symbolized in the Dingden coat of arms by a green lime-tree on a red hill with red swords on a golden background. The word "THING" gave our village its name.

St. Pancras church with its Romanesque steeple - a place of refuge in troubled times



In early times Dingden had a wooden church. In the 12th century it was replaced by a church in the Romanesque style. As can be seen from the embrasures its steeple also served as a fortified tower. In times of war people used it as a place of refuge and as a store-room. It is still there - watching over our village from a height of 43 metres.

The half-timbered houses that were first built in Dingden are of course gone. The village was devastated by several fires, not least because of the thatched roofs. Today there are stone houses with tiled roofs.

The fireplace in the museum, where the local dialect can often be heard



The museum is one of the oldest houses in the centre of Dingden. It was built about 1690 - with people and animals living under the same roof. The crook-pitched roof, the arched door, the small window-panes with their outside blinds and the barrel-vaulted cellar under the so-called "Upkamer" (upper chamber) are typical characteristics. After renting the house in 1979 the "Heimatverein" (the local history society) restored it and turned it into a museum of local history. Historical furnishings, linen and traditional costumes, tools and farm equipment, as well as local documents can be seen on three floors



An exhibition of old china from Dingden

There is also a unique geological collection from the Dingden mica, f.e. the fossilized snails and shells - all carrying the latin name "...dingdensis" after the place where they were found.

A collection of fossils and historical equipment in the attic of the museum.



The museum is also used for temporary exhibitions, social evenings in the local dialect, films and slide-shows. Publications by the "Heimatverein" are available in the museum.

The "Heimatverein" put up inscriptions at the "Heimathaus" and other historical buildings in Dingden which tell visitors about the buildings and their former inhabitants.

### Opening times

For guided tours please get in contact with Willi Mümken +49-2852-2558.

Entrance is for free, a donation for the work of the Heimatverein would be fine.

Several local pubs and a café offer their services. For excursions into the surroundings, especially into the nature reserve "Dingdener Heide" bikes can be hired.