

Warsteiners celebrated town twinning in Hebden Bridge

Warsteiner Europafreunde (Warstein twinning society) flew to England for an anniversary

With a two-year delay, the Warsteiner Europafreunde (WEF) were finally able to celebrate their 25th anniversary with their English twin town Hebden Royd. Warstein's deputy mayor, Gregor Dolle, was also part of the 15-strong tour group. He was delighted with his first visit to the English sister town.

After the welcome speeches at the official reception in the town hall, gifts were exchanged; in the form of selected books in English and German, which are made available to the schools in both partner cities.

In addition to the Warsteiner Europafreunde, four scout leaders from the DPSG were also part of the tour group. They had made their way to England by train and made a stopover in London. They too were overwhelmed by the hospitality and warmth they experienced from the hosts and the scout group there.

"Our absolute highlight was the visit to the Hebden Hey Scout Centre with the course, which we were allowed to test ourselves! Our Rovers and Scouts would love that too... so maybe it's time for a camp in England. One thing is certain: it wasn't our last visit to the partner town, and we'll stay in contact with each other," summarizes Corinna Köhler from the scouts.

The host twinning association, Hebden Bridge Twinning Society (HBTS), had organized an enjoyable weekend programme. On the first evening, voluntary organizations from the districts of Mytholmroyd and Heptonstall gave an impressive and entertaining presentation of how they managed to restore protected buildings threatened by decay and demolition, such as a railway station with a signal box and a post office and make them usable for the public.

Hebden Royd was extraordinarily lively this weekend, which was not only due to the good weather but also to the supporting events. There was a large vintage car exhibition in the open air, whose polished bodies could be admired during the obligatory tour of the town. At the same time, strangely dressed people impressed us in the town centre. It was a meeting of the so-called Steam Punks, a group, who strolled through the streets in clothes from a Victorian-futuristic style and attracted the attention of passers-by and

photographers. "These costumes are simply fascinating, we would like to actively participate," say Gerd and Sylvia Stockhausen from the WEF.

In the evening, the incumbent mayor, Jane Hoyle, welcomed us to the civic reception and it was celebrated in a friendly atmosphere with the host families.

Finally, on Sunday morning, the twinning association invited us to a hike in Cragg Vale, a nearby gorge. During the guided tour, the group of guests was able to learn a lot about the textile industry that used to be based here and about the method of generating energy through hydropower.

In a meeting scheduled at short notice, the board of directors of the WEF then agreed on the future organization of the encounters in the partner cities. "We are confident that our English friends will visit Warstein as early as next year," says WEF Chairman Helmut Schulte, "and we are all trying to bring young people and clubs together."

