



Press Release

A celebration of 27 years of twinning between Hebden Royd and Warstein

When Warstein Deputy Mayor Gregor Wolle stood up to speak at the civic welcome at the Town Hall on Friday the 5th of August, his greetings to everyone in Hebden Royd were warm and heartfelt. Gregor Wolle said that “Over the past 27 years, we have become close and, in some cases, personal friends. Every Warsteiner who has ever visited West Yorkshire and your beautiful town raves about the attractive landscape and about the hospitality of the people! It leaves behind lasting memories and the desire to embark on a journey from Germany across the English Channel to see you again.” Gifts of books and book tokens were exchanged between the two towns strengthening the bonds of culture between us. Our guests from Warstein really appreciated the warm words of welcome from our Mayor Jane Hoyle at the town hall and at the civic dinner at the Dusty Miller especially as she was bravely keeping going despite a broken arm! At the end of her speech in the Town Hall Mayor Hoyle said “I hope that the next few days will be a joyful time for you as you catch up with old friends and make new ones. I look forward to getting to know you better over this weekend” – and her hope was certainly fulfilled.



Deputy Mayor of Warstein Gregor Dolle and Mayor Jane Hoyle share a joke at the Civic Welcome!



The four scout leaders from Warstein enjoying the facilities at Hebden Hey Scout Centre



Joining Deputy Mayor Bernice Hayes for the Hiroshima commemoration



Our visitors enjoy the buffet at the HBTS Social

The moving ceremony at the Wavy Steps to commemorate Hiroshima was very much appreciated by the Warsteiners who attended it. At the same time, the four young scout leaders from Warstein who joined the visit loved the programme arranged for them, especially the time spent at Hebden Hey Scout Centre. They are hoping to bring some of their scouts over in the future.



Marianne Hood shows us the “penny steps” on our historic walk in Cragg Vale



Helmut Schulte plays the organ in St John in the Wilderness

On the Sunday morning a walk arranged by Mayor Hoyle and led by Marianne Hood OBE from the Cragg Vale History Group, followed by tea and cake provided by the Cragg Vale Community Association at the church of St John in the Wilderness was a delightful conclusion to the visit.

As the President of the Hebden Bridge Twinning Society Val Stevens said, “Our long-established twinning links with Warstein, and with our French twin St Pol-sur-Ternoise, are very important to help promote international understanding and friendship. We were delighted to have the Warstein party with us for the weekend.” This view was heartily endorsed by President of the Warsteiner Europa Freunde, Helmut Schulte.

Anybody wishing to join the Hebden Bridge Twinning Society would be very welcome! Do contact Jane Jackson (see below) for details.

Contacts:

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<http://www.hebdenbridgetwinning.org.uk/> <https://www.facebook.com/Hebden-Bridge-Twinning-Society/>

Jane Jackson, 11th August 2022.