



**Hurst Green Twinning Comes of Age**

The Hurst Green and Ellerhoop Twinning Association is very proud to announce its twenty-first year of friendship with its twin village in North-Western Germany. For over two decades we have been fostering stronger links with Ellerhoop, which is situated in *Schleswig Holstein*, about fifteen miles north of Hamburg, and giving people the opportunity to enjoy a different kind of holiday – meeting new people, eating different food and enjoying German hospitality at its very best.

The twinning has come a long way since its small beginnings in 1982, when the district Councillor for Bexhill, Colin Smith, instigated relations with Ellerhoop, and from 1984 when twinning officially began. In that time the groups travelling from Britain to Germany have grown from a couple of cars to full coaches. The day trips too, have become more adventurous, allowing British guests of our German friends to see more of North Germany – and have included most recently, tours of Berlin, Hamburg and Bremen, a visit to Heligo Island in the North Sea and to open air museums. Aside from organised trips, the German hosts and organising committee have excelled themselves in laying on socialising events and evening entertainment. In 2003, our most recent visit, we enjoyed a joint game of *Boßeln*, a little known North German game which involves hurling balls up country lanes, and drinking lots of Schnapps.

Now in its 21<sup>st</sup> year of official trips, the Hurst Green Twinning Association is looking forward to another visit, between the 26<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> of May this year. It promises to be one of the best ones yet, with a brewery tour already planned. Even for those who are not beer fans there will be much to enjoy with many opportunities to socialise with friends new and old, and to enjoy time with host families. There are a few places still remaining on this year's 21<sup>st</sup> anniversary visit, and more information can be obtained using the contact details below.

The Hurst Green Twinning Association is somewhat different from many of the other organisations in the country. Whilst twinning, in some towns, is an activity solely for dignitaries and officials, we are not like that. In fact, quite the opposite, we want as many people, young and old to get involved with the association, and to come on our trips. Indeed, over the years people of all ages have travelled with us to Ellerhoop and enjoyed the experience of staying with a family in a different country. Many have continued to return year after year, and have even arranged private trips to see their friends.

At the root of the twinning is a desire to foster a strong friendship between our two villages – communities which are similar in terms of size and spirit. We want to give as many people as possible to opportunity to enjoy the hospitality of our hosts and see something of an area with which they may be familiar. In order to do this we take it in turns to either host our German friends or visit them in Ellerhoop in alternate years. We do this purely through our own funds, raised at events throughout the year, and do not benefit from any external funding. Whilst the European Union has schemes to fund new links, it is becoming increasingly difficult for small, long-established organisations to apply.

## **Hurst Green and Ellerhoop Twinning Association**



### **PRESS RELEASE**

Whilst the friendship between Hurst Green and Ellerhoop has stood the test of time, it is now becoming more difficult to interest people in our activities. Growing scepticism of the European Union, and the increasing availability of cheap holidays in warm places has led many to miss the opportunities offered by the twinning. But for those who are fed up of the normal sun, sea and sand holidays we offer something new and refreshing – the chance to visit a different country, to make new friends and to try new experiences, well away from European politics.

### **Notes**

- The Hurst Green and Ellerhoop Twinning Association was established between 1982 and 1983 by Councillor Colin Smith, and Chairmen Patricia Barnes and Peter Munster.
- We last hosted the people of Ellerhoop in May 2004 when we enjoyed visits to Hampton Court Palace in London, and Bewl Water reservoir.
- Ellerhoop is located in Kreis Pinneberg, which is twenty minute drive from the centre of Hamburg, the second most populace city in Germany. Hamburg is famous for its many parks, and enormous port, and for hosting the Beatles in their early years as a band.
- Our next trip to Germany takes place between the 26<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> of May, and will cost no more than £150 per person, including a coach to and from Germany and channel crossings.
- For more information please contact Chairman Derek Johnson on (01580) 860710, email [twinning@rjnet.co.uk](mailto:twinning@rjnet.co.uk) , or see our website at <http://www.rjnet.co.uk/twinning> .

Written by Robert Johnson

On behalf of Derek Johnson, Chairman, Hurst Green Twinning Association.