

**Ringmer Twinning Association**  
**Twinning Visit from Geschwenda, Germany**  
[www.geschwenda.de](http://www.geschwenda.de)

On Wednesday, 19<sup>th</sup> October, members of the Ringmer Twinning Association gave a resounding welcome to 41 visitors from our twin village of Geschwenda in the hall of St Mary's Church at the start of their 5-day visit to Ringmer. The event was greatly enhanced by the church bell-ringers, who were practising at the time. After their 15-hour coach journey, our visitors enjoyed a buffet, laid on by their Ringmer hosts, and were advised of their accommodation. Twenty-one visitors, including 12 young people (aged 10-17), were staying with host families. Ringmer Parish Council Chairman, John Kay, mingled with them and greetings were exchanged by Ringmer Twinning Association Chair, Sharon Gunde, and Berg Heyer, President of the Friendship Circle of Geschwenda. Many thanks to Peter Butler, who made a 'twinning' cake to celebrate the occasion.



The following day, the visitors all went to London and had a wonderful day sightseeing.



On the 21<sup>st</sup> October, they toured Beachy Head and Eastbourne by coach. Both trips were escorted by Jim Stock, Susan Noone and Barbara Longhurst. In the evening, everyone enjoyed an evening of dancing, led by Chester, at the Ringmer Football and Social Club.



On Saturday morning, 10 interested guests enjoyed a talk and demonstration of the church bells and ringing the changes, given by Jonathan Franklin and Ken Jones and were allowed to join in on a muffled bell. Later that morning, the younger visitors played a game of football with a team of Ringmer Rovers at the Ringmer Community College - many thanks to all concerned and for the sunshine.



That afternoon their coach driver took the group to Brighton. Saturday ended with a gathering at the Halland Forge Hotel (where the remainder of the visitors were staying) and an impromptu musical finale, accompanied by Norbert on his accordion. This was a fitting finish to a happy and successful visit. At 7.30 a.m. on Sunday, 23 October, we waved goodbye to our visitors at the end of their 5-day visit to Ringmer. Many thanks to everyone who helped and supported us.

Next year (2012), Ringmer will host a music festival with Geschwenda and Belgentier (Southern France) from 16<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> May, which will coincide with the Village Fete organised by the Committee of the Village Hall Extension Appeal. Over this period, the Chairman of Ringmer Parish Council is due to sign the twinning agreement with Belgentier, which should complete the triple twinning partnership and should attract funding from the EU for such events.