

# Wigan steals march on the Tykes

It's enough to stump Geoffrey Boycott and make your average Yorkshireman choke on his famous pudding and Pontefract cakes....

The distinctly white rose Colne Valley Twinning Association welcomed a party of 60 Germans to Huddersfield this week to formally team up with their cosy West Yorks community.

But when it came to cementing their Anglo-German friendship, there was only one possible venue - our pride of the Red Rose, Wigan Pier!

The visit will be followed by a slap-up meal at Haigh Hall and then Lancastrian entertainment to boot, courtesy of the local Rumworth Morris Men, some of whose dances date back to those days of the Wars of the Roses.

Rumworth, 12 years old and whose conductor is Abram man Geoff Hughes, the man who researched and gave re-birth to the historic Abram Circle Dance, are "well chuffed" to have been chosen to dance.

Haigh Hall Manageress Mrs Ivy Stazicker explained: "I remember talking to some Huddersfield people when they visited the hall in the summer. They seemed very impressed with what we had on offer and now it seems they want to share it with their German guests."

The Germans are from the small town of Overath, 20 miles from Cologne. And their Lancashire treat was organised by Twinning Association Secretary Mrs Margaret Fearnley.

She said: "This is the highlight of their five-day visit."