

## **Rossendale links with Engels**

Rossendale has had a link with the town of Engels in Russia since 1998 with the signing of an official Friendship Agreement between the Engels and Rossendale Councils.

The Agreement sought to develop co-operation in the areas of business, health, education, youth, culture and sport, and to work towards the establishment of long term links between the two areas. No formal twinning has yet been established but it is hoped that this may be possible in the future.

Since then we have continued to develop a fruitful relationship between our two communities.

The Rossendale Russia Association was formed to develop links between Engels, Saratov and Rossendale. The link also involves the Universities of Salford and Saratov who have co-operated on European funded projects and many exchange visits have been made between the three areas mainly of an educational and cultural nature. Other exchanges have involved students "work shadowing" and visits by teachers of English to work with native speakers and for semantic research.

Engels is situated on the right bank of the Volga, Russia's greatest river, some 850km from Moscow. There is a population of 265,000 in the immediate regional area covered by the Engels Administration. Saratov is larger with over 1m population. The two cities are linked by one of the longest bridges in Europe, 2.8 kilometers. The area's climate is continental and arid with hot dry and fair summers and winters lower than -10c.

Both All Saints RC Language College and Haslingden High School have developed links with Engels and Saratov and a number of exchange visits have taken place between the schools, teachers and pupils and also private exchange visits by individual citizens.

The Rossendale Russia Association organises group visits and private exchanges.

### Useful Contacts

Rossendale Russia Association:

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