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TEXT: Dominique Müller-Grote

LAYOUT: Nadine Letocha

PICTURES:

Jennifer Wolf: S.4, S.6-7, S.10-11, S.13 Primary School Uckerath,
S.14-15, S.18-19, S.24, S.25 Uckerath, S.30

Ingo Teusch: S.19 Kur-Theater Hennef

Naturregion Sieg: S.22-23, S.27

City of Hennef, Dominique Müller-Grote, Nadine Letocha

Januar 2021



Hennef isn't just a great city to visit, it's also an amazing place to live.

City Hall of Hennef



Dear Reader,

Hennef is home to around 50,000 people. I am one of them and am therefore particularly pleased that we as a town can bring you a little closer to our home with this brochure.

The brochure is intended to show how and what Hennef is: diverse, warm, rural and yet urban. Hennef is the proverbial „town of 100 villages“ and of course owes its attractiveness to its committed citizens. We are also very closely connected to our villages, hamlets and districts. Nothing works in Hennef without the village communities. This is where home and solidarity come alive, regardless of whether residents are firmly rooted or newcomers. Some of our villages can look back on a long history and are among the most important sights in the region. For example, the place of pilgrimage Bödingen and our „Stadt Blankenberg“ with its castle ruins from the Middle Ages.

Villages and history are one thing, the urban centre with its diverse shopping facilities and cultural offerings as well as the good infrastructure of our industrial estates are another. With our location in

the Cologne-Bonn area, we are part of a „booming“ economic area in the heart of Europe. Through our three twin towns in England, France and Poland, we are also networked in Europe on a human level: tolerant, cosmopolitan and equipped with the typical Rhenish cordiality, we quickly make friends with guests and new citizens.

With this in mind, welcome to Hennef.

Yours

Mario Dahm, Mayor

P.S.

This booklet is printed in our own print department. We only print as many issues as we need at any one time. So we don't produce stock to throw away old issues at some point. This saves resources. And it gives us the opportunity to revise the booklet again and again so that it is always up-to-date. However, if you should find any outdated information, we look forward to hearing from you!

Home, city and villages in the heart of Europe

According to a local saying, Hennef is „the city of 100 villages“. And there are indeed around 100 villages and hamlets dotted throughout the picturesque countryside surrounding the city (25,000 inhabitants) and its second centre, Uckerath (3,300 inhabitants), ranging from Altglück with one resident through Bödingen with 335 to Weingartsgasse with a population of 230. Stadt Blankenberg is also counted as one of these villages along with Geistingen with its deep-rooted traditions and Lauthausen, which used to be an independent municipality. Altogether, a total of 49,000 people live in all of these districts. They are spread over an area of 106 square kilometres located at the start of the valley, at the end of which is the mouth of the River Sieg, between the Bergisches Land, the Rhine Bay and the Siebengebirge and Westerwald mountains.

In short, it offers a unique mix of urban flair and rural charm. The city's 300 clubs are the driving force behind its active community life. This includes 50 sports clubs with over 11,000 members. The many village and local heritage clubs, which are organised under the umbrella of the committee for local heritage clubs, also play a key role in making Hennef a great place to live. The town centre with its boulevard-style main shopping street („Frankfurter Straße“) and marketplace together with the centres of Uckerath and Geistingen and the business parks are all important hubs for the inhabitants of Hennef and for many people from the surrounding countryside.

The historical, cultural landscape of the lower Sieg valley, which encompasses Stadt Blankenberg and Bödingen, has grown and evolved over centuries. Together with the many hiking and biking trails and bridle paths, this landscape offers some of the best tourist destinations in North-Rhine Westphalia. The Natursteig Sieg hiking route and River Sieg cycle path are particular highlights here.



Hennef is also firmly embedded in a network of European partners and has developed very close ties with the three towns in particular: Hennef has been twinned with the English town of Banbury since 1981. Banbury is located in Oxfordshire, halfway between London and Birmingham. Hennef's French twin town, or „ville jumelée“, is Le Pecq sur Seine near Paris. This partnership stretches back to 1997. Hennef has also established strong ties with its

A unique mix of urban flair and rural charm



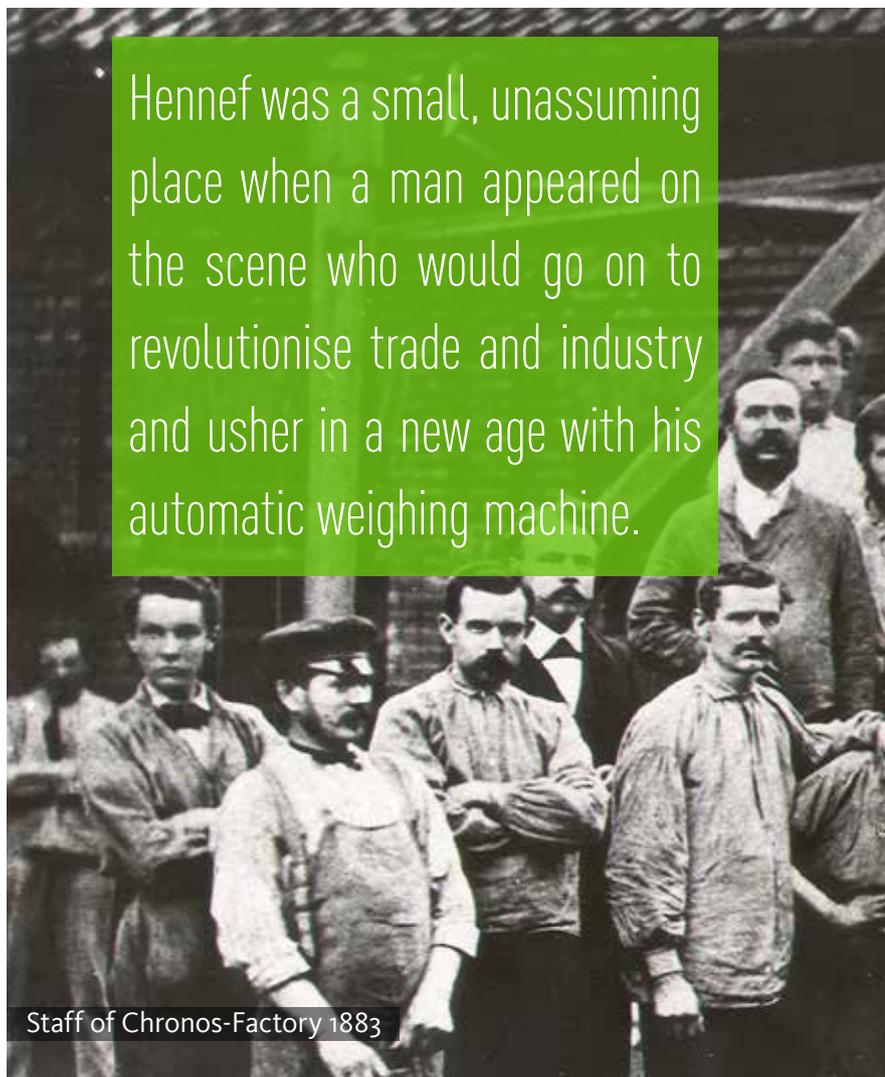
Polish „Miasta partnerskie“ since 2001. The town of Nowy Dwór Gdanski is located near the estuary of the River Vistula, close to Gdansk. The driving force behind all of these partnerships is Hennef's European twinning association, the „Verein für Europäische Städte-Partnerschaft Hennef“. There is also a lot of contact between the schools and clubs in each of the towns and many personal friendships have formed with mutual visits and exchange programs.

Where do we come from? A brief history of Hennef.

The village of Hennef has a „second-class post office“ and is situated in a „splendid region“. This was the description in the 1894 edition of the Brockhaus Encyclopaedia. The region remains splendid to this day, however, the post office in the city centre is a very normal, modern branch. What's more, Hennef hasn't actually been a „village“ since 1981. This was the year when Hennef was awarded the status of city. However, Hennef as it is today was actually formed from three former municipalities (Uckerath, Lauthausen and Hennef) following a reorganisation of municipal boundaries in 1969. The word „Sieg“ was added in parenthesis to the name of Hennef back in 1934.

Our history in fact stretches back even further. It is almost certain that prehistoric humans passed through the region where Hennef is located today either on the hunt for food or following migratory routes. From around 1,000 to 400 years BC, during the Hallstatt Period, farmers and herders settled in and around the district of Geistingen. This was confirmed following the discovery of an extensive burial ground that contained pottery artefacts and bronze offerings. Geistingen is also the first settlement to be mentioned in historical documents around the year 800. Hennef is mentioned from 1075 on (as „Hanafo“), followed by Blankenberg from 1181 and Bödingen (Altenbödingen today) from 1190. For a long time, Stadt Blankenberg was the most important settlement in the present-day region of Hennef. Blankenberg received its town charter in 1245 and the castle was an administrative centre of the duchy of Berg for several centuries. The castle complex was destroyed in the 30 Years' War. The small half-timbered idyll, with its impressive, well-preserved town gates

Hennef was a small, unassuming place when a man appeared on the scene who would go on to revolutionise trade and industry and usher in a new age with his automatic weighing machine.



Staff of Chronos-Factory 1883

and largely intact town wall, is a magnet for visitors, particularly in summer. The tower museum, a small viniculture museum and a wine hiking trail bring the town's history to life.

The history of the Bödingen pilgrimage site also stretches back to the Middle Ages. After experiencing a vision in the second half of the 14th Century, the hermit Christian von Lauthausen commissioned and displayed a picture of the Virgin Mary. In light of the many pilgrims who visited the site, Geistingen-based priest Peter Meisenbach organised the construction of the „Mater Dolorosa“ pilgrimage church from 1397 on. The picture of the Virgin Mary can still be seen in the church today. The image is always carried through the village on the fourth Friday

The Chronos weighing machine allowed bulk goods to be weighed accurately and fully automatically for the first time.



after Easter during its compassion feast. The feast of Marian compassion („Compassio Mariae“) was first held in 1423 and Bödingen is the only parish in Germany that still celebrates it today.

It would be impossible to write a brief history of Hennef without mentioning the „Chronos weighing machine“. Hennef was a small, unassuming place when a man appeared on the scene who would go on to revolutionise trade and industry and usher in a new age with his automatic weighing machine. Carl Reuther and the Chronos weighing machine. Until 1883, humankind had weighed goods by

hand for several millennia. The Chronos weighing machine allowed bulk goods to be weighed accurately and fully automatically for the first time. The machine was built in the „C. Reuther & Reisert“ machine factory in Hennef, which later went on to become the Chronos factory. The plant had a global monopoly on automatic weighing machines until the middle of the 20th Century. The Chronos weighing machine invented by Hennef-based entrepreneurs Carl Reuther and Eduard Reisert triggered a development that would lead to the modern industrial and computer-based weighing technologies that are used throughout the world today.

Family-friendly, multi-generational town



Youth Park

There are plenty of opportunities for single and working parents in Hennef to balance their family duties and working lives.

To ensure that Hennef remains a family-friendly place, our town planners assess every new construction project to make sure they always factor in the needs of children, young adults and families. Hennef is home to around 9,000 people under the age of eighteen. The town offers 72 playgrounds and football areas as well as a youth centre, a skate park and a youth park, which was designed by young people and includes a converted train as a place for them to meet up.

There are plenty of opportunities for single and working parents in Hennef to balance their family duties and working lives. All primary schools offer all-day schooling and all secondary schools are also all-day schools. Nurseries offer up to 45 hours of care and the youth welfare office has a very well-developed day-care system.

Hennef also has a lot to offer senior citizens, including the senior citizens' office and the services provided by the „Bürgerstiftung Altenhilfe“ foundation. The town also has some very well-run retirement homes and a dedicated municipal department that focuses on issues related to ageing.

The town is also tackling the diverse subject of inclusion. In 2018, the city council approved an inclusion action plan, which it has been gradually implementing since then. One of the projects focuses on plain language. The aim here is to ensure that all texts produced by the city council in future will be able to be read and understood by everyone. Which is why this image brochure is also available in German plain language!



Nurseries and schools = a broad choice and available to everyone!



Let's stay on the subject of schools because we have a lot more to say here. Hennef has one of the most extensive education systems in the Rhine-Sieg district with over 1,420 kindergarten children and over 6,000 primary and secondary school children. The city is served by eight primary schools, all of which offer all-day schooling. There are also two municipal comprehensive schools (Gesamtschule), one private comprehensive school specialising in art, and a municipal grammar school (Gymnasium). Hennef also boasts a vocatio-

nal college as well as the Hennef campus of the Bonn-Rhine-Sieg University of Applied Sciences with the Department of Social Security Studies and the Rhine-Sieg Academy for Realistic Art and Design. The city also has two schools for children with special needs, both with different areas of focus.

Since the 1950s, Hennef has also been a place where professional athletes come to train. The guest book of the Sport-schule Hennef football academy, which is funded by the

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Campus of the municipal comprehensive school Hennef-West and the municipal grammar school



Nursery
„Haus am Allner See“



Auditorium of the comprehensive school Hennef Meiersheide



Primary School „Am Steimel“ Uckerath

Mittelrhein Football Association, reads like a who's who of international football, featuring greats such as Sepp Herberger, Franz Beckenbauer, Wolfgang Overath and Lukas Podolski. Following extensive expansion in recent years, Sportschule Hennef remains one of Europe's leading sports academies. Boxers, wrestlers, judoka and weightlifters also train at the academy as it is home to a training centre for martial arts and several federal performance centres.

Hennef's claims to academic fame don't end there. The city is also home to the Richard-Schirrmann special needs school for the Rhine-Sieg district. The school is named after Richard-Schirrmann, who came up with the now global concept of youth hostels in the school building in Hennef-Bröl on 26 August 1909. He and his class of students sought refuge in the school's buildings after being caught in a sudden thunderstorm.

Halls, playing fields and clubs: Hennef – City of Sport

While we're on the subject of sport: Hennef is home to 50 sports clubs with over 11,000 members, half of whom are children and young adults. The town has invested heavily in its sporting infrastructure in recent years. In addition to ongoing improvements to existing sports facilities, the city has built artificial pitches, numerous small playing fields and soccer courts, outdoor sports facilities, several sports halls and a new gymnastics hall. A new stand has been added to the stadium and the athletics facilities have been renovated. Many other projects are currently being planned. The town even recently renovated the old mini golf course and chessboard in the Kurpark gardens, so even the chess players have their own stadium in Hennef.

The city implements all sports projects in close collaboration with the StadtSportVerband, the umbrella organisation for sports clubs in Hennef. The organisation has had a major say in planning sports facilities in the town since the Pact for Sport was concluded in 2005. In short, the oft-used phrase „Hennef – City of Sport“ is more than just a slogan. This can be clearly seen in the annual awards for successful athletes, where over 450 sportsmen and women have been honoured in some years. It is also reflected in the children's sport festival, which has been held on the marketplace in Hennef on the first Saturday after the summer holidays since 2005. From morning until evening, over 3,000 children have the chance to try out the activities offered by Hennef's sports clubs from vaulting to tennis.



One of the many artificial turf pitches in Hennef



Hennef is home to 50 sports clubs with over 11,000 members, half of whom are children and young adults.



Europe-Run in Hennef

Hennef: Business, companies and structure

With close links to the motorway in all directions, the neighbouring Siegburg/Bonn ICE train station and rapid connections to three international airports (Cologne/Bonn, Düsseldorf and Frankfurt), Hennef boasts an excellent position in the Rhineland metropolitan area. The Rhine-Ruhr and Rhine-Main regions can also be quickly reached from the city. So it's no wonder that so many well-known domestic and international companies have settled in Hennef in recent years. Lightweight manufacturing halls, industrial marquees, precision engineering, fruit juices, weighing machines, electronics, warning triangles, industrial centrifuges, plastic ropes, food, dry goods and sanitary equipment are just some of the many products manufactured and distributed in Hennef. And they can all be found on supermarket shelves and in the production halls of successful businesses across Europe.

But Hennef doesn't just offer companies outstanding roads and transport opportunities. Its technical infrastructure is pretty impressive too: 99 percent of households in Hennef can now receive internet connections with speeds ranging from 6 Mbit/s to 100 Mbit/s. The majority of homes and businesses, particularly in areas outside of the city centre, are provided with broadband services through fibre optic cables connected to local distributors. This is supplemented by wireless LTE and radio link connections. Although the expansion of broadband services is carried out by the private sector with network operators competing freely in the market, the city tries to steer developments wherever possible to ensure its citizens and businesses get the best services.

This is also the perfect place to mention just how much companies based in Hennef value the services offered by city's business development agency. Short communication channels and unbureaucratic support – even from the mayor himself. What can we say, we take business seriously in Hennef.



Hennef boasts an excellent position in the Rhineland metropolitan area. The Rhine-Ruhr and Rhine-Main regions can also be quickly reached from the city.



Bus and Train Station Hennef

Festivals, events and art: Hennef - city of culture



„SummerOpenAir“ on the market place

The city's cultural life also owes a huge amount to its many different associations and private initiatives

A music school, library and a municipal program of culture – it goes without saying that Hennef has all of these. However, the city's cultural life also owes a huge amount to its many different associations and private initiatives – backed by appropriate logistical and financial support from the city. The city's many choirs and music associations play a vital role here. Their numerous performances throughout the year ensure that our events calendar is always packed. Concerts on the Rieger organ built in the Sankt Simon und Judas parish church in 2006 are always a highlight here. The Kur-Theater, a cinema since 1925 and now run by a dedicated association, has established itself as a venue for well-known cabaret artists in recent years. The venue regularly receives awards from the NRW film foundation for its film program. In addition to this, the „Hen-

nef Art Associations“ holds two exhibitions each year in the Meys factory, both of which attract art lovers from across the entire region.

as a steppingstone to a career in music. For all students, however, music has become a valuable accompaniment throughout their lives. And providing a child with musical training at the city's musical school will always be a special gift.

With over 60,000 visits per year, Hennef municipal library is the city's most-visited cultural venue. It is an educational institution for all citizens, providing access to all forms of media and offering information for work, school and leisure. The library has a history stretching back over 60 years. Users can access more than 34,000 media units. In addition to books, the library has over fifty subscriptions to magazines and newspapers as well as audio books, audio plays on CD for children, CDs, CD ROMs, DVDs, games and, of course, Blu-rays and console games.



Kur-Theater Hennef



Library in the Meys Fabrik

The city's music school has trained many hundreds of students since it was founded over 65 years ago. Some have even used their training here

The Hennef Stadtfest (city festival) has been held on the third weekend in September since the 1980s. With its numerous rock and pop concerts, the event has earned its place in the region's music scene. The event attracts around 100,000 people, who enjoy strolling through the city soaking up the musical atmosphere!

An historical attraction: Castle and Stadt Blankenberg



Castle Blankenberg

Katharinenturm Stadt Blankenberg

The fortification on the unwooded, „blank“ mountain gave the castle lords control over entry points to the Sieg valley, and the Bergisches Land region as well as the Siebengebirge and Westerwald mountain ranges.

Situated on an outcrop of rock high over the River Sieg, the Medieval town of Stadt Blankenberg can be seen for miles. The Counts of Sayn found an excellent place to build their castle (1150-1180): The fortification on the unwooded, „blank“ mountain gave the castle lords control over entry points to the Sieg valley, and the Bergisches Land region as well as the Siebengebirge and Westerwald mountain ranges. Today, the main castle in this important Rhineland fortress and its adjoining buildings are managed by the city of Hennef.

The local history museum is located in the 13th Century Katharinenturm, one of the gate towers in the new town. The museum brings history to life. Among its fascinating exhibits are a scale model of Stadt Blankenberg, which includes a mock-up of the castle complex showing how it was inhabited in the past (opening times: April through October, Sundays from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m.) A small viniculture museum and a wine hiking trail provide insights into the history of winemaking.

Tours of the town are offered all year round and can be booked individually. For further information and to book a tour, contact the tourist information office at 02242 / 19 433. You'll also find out everything about the popular night-watchman tours, which are offered for adults and children. This is also a great event for groups, school classes and company outings and makes an ideal birthday gift. Make sure you also ask about the fascinating children's hiking trail.

LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

Stadt Blankenberg is an important part of Hennef's history and has an equally important role to play in its future. The imposing town wall, historical buildings and hiking trails – all of this is a great responsibility but also an almost unmanageable financial burden for a city the size of Hennef. The city is therefore realising multiple initiatives for the funding program „Regionale 2025“ that aim to improve Stadt Blankenberg and its castle. At the same time, it is also developing an integrated action plan. The aim here is to strengthen Stadt Blankenberg's position as an attractive place to live while at the same time continuing to position it as a highlight for tourists in the region. Multiple initiatives are planned here: A culture and local heritage centre (Kultur- und Heimathaus) with a visitor centre and educational garden, a panorama trail around the town wall, and the restoration of the city wall.



Stadt Blankenberg

The Natursteig trail, hiking trails and cycle routes

Hennef is criss-crossed by a network of hiking trails that allow people to discover and enjoy Hennef and the surrounding region. In addition to the Natursteig Sieg trail, there is a cycle path along the Sieg and several circular hiking trails including the „Kulturlandweg“, „Marienweg“, „Holzweg“, „Burgweg“, „Dreitalerweg“ and the „Weinwanderweg“ in Stadt Blankenberg. Parts of the long-distance „Bergische Weg“ hiking trail also run through Hennef.

The Natursteig Sieg is a hiking trail that stretches over approximately 200 kilometres from Siegburg to Mudersbach. Three sections of the trail run fully or partly through Hennef:

- Section 1 from Siegburg to Hennef
(11.3 kilometres, 435 metres of elevation)
- Section 2 from Hennef to Stadt Blankenberg
(17.6 kilometres, 770 metres of elevation)
- Section 3 from Stadt Blankenberg to Merten
(12.6 kilometres and 488 metres of elevation)

Like the rest of the Natursteig trail, the sections that run through Hennef offer a great mix of challenging walking and cultural attractions. The trail avoids wide lanes, gravel paths or asphalt roads. Instead, it often follows small trails and mountain ranges, enabling walkers to experience nature at its best and enjoy fantastic views into the Sieg valley. The route meanders past historical and cultural landscapes and monuments including Allner castle, the pilgrimage church „Zur schmerzhaften Mutter“ in Hennef-Bodingen as well as the castle and town of Stadt Blankenberg. The route also heads down from Bodingen castle through the historical cultural landscape of Oberauel, Haus Attenbach and Hennef-Stein before rising up again to Stadt Blankenberg.

You can find an overview of all hiking trails and a host of other information at the Hennef tourist information office in the historical town hall (phone: 02242 / 19433, e-mail: tourismus@hennef.de).



Naturregion
Sieg

The Natursteig Sieg is a hiking trail that stretches over approximately 200 kilometres from Siegburg to Mudersbach. Three sections of the trail run fully or partly through Hennef.



Pilgrimage Church Bödingen

A city that people are happy and proud to call home. Hennef looking to the future



Marketplace Hennef

The city centre has become more defined, villages have been modernised, large residential areas and business parks have been built and hiking trails expanded.

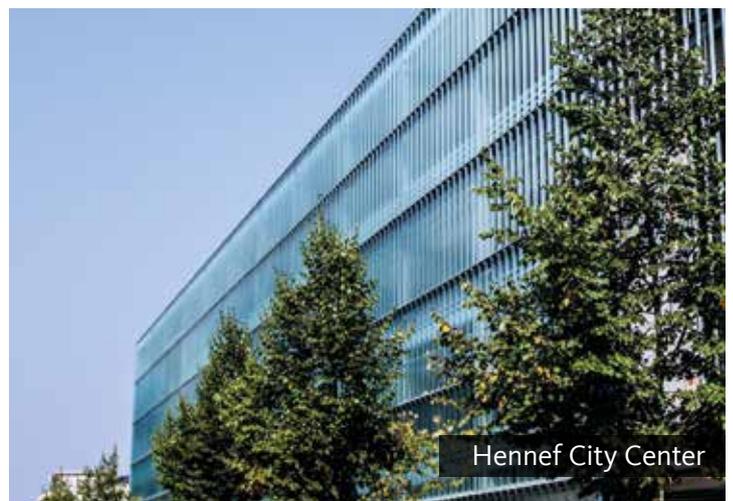
We've already done a lot and there's still much more to do... this brochure shows you where we are today. But we cannot afford to stay still. Hennef is continuously evolving. There's always a lot to do in a vibrant city that bridges the gap between a metropolitan region and the Bergisches Land, between the city and the countryside, between tradition and progress, between Medieval walls and WLAN. Hennef has changed a lot and grown continually, especially in the past ten to twenty years. The city centre has become more defined, villages have been modernised, large residential areas and business parks have been built and hiking trails expanded. This interaction between radically different and even opposing areas will continue. One thing is clear, however, people will always be at the heart of everything we do. Hennef is a great place to live and we want it to stay that way and get even better:

Hennef:

A beautiful city that people are happy and proud to call home.
 An open city where strangers become friends.
 A digital city with deep roots.
 A homely city that never stops moving.
 A city that offers space to work.
 A dynamic city with sport at its heart.
 A musical city with culture in its blood.
 A city where there is space for children to play.
 A city with more green than grey.
 Our city.
 Hennef.



Discounter in Hennef-Uckerath



Hennef City Center



Cycling and walking trail along the Sieg

Bei Hennef

von D.H. Lawrence

The little river twittering in the twilight,
The wan, wondering look of the pale sky,
This is almost bliss.
And everything shut up and gone to sleep,
All the troubles and anxieties and pain
Gone under the twilight.
Only the twilight now, and the soft ,Sh!' of the river
That will last for ever.
And at last I know my love for you is here;
I can see it all, it is whole like the twilight,
It is large, so large, I could not see it before,
Because of the little lights and flickers and interruptions,
Troubles, anxieties and pains.
You are the call and I am the answer,
You are the wish, and I the fulfilment,
You are the night, and I the day.
What else? it is perfect enough.
It is perfectly complete,
You and I, What more-?
Strange, how we suffer in spite of this!

D.H. Lawrence

David Herbert Lawrence, * 1885 in Eastwood, Nottinghamshire, † 1930 in Vence, Frankreich, English writer. He visited in Mai 1912 his cousin Hannah Krenkow in Waldbröl and he was inspired of the romantic Sieg near Hennef to write this Poem. The Poem actually bears the German title „Bei Hennef“.

Facts and figures

Did you know...

Hennef.de in plain language
www.hennef.de/l5

More Websites
www.hennef.de
www.hennef.de/eGov
www.hennef.de/stadtbibliothek
www.musik-in-hennef.de
www.tourismus-hennef.de
www.feuerwehr-hennef.de
interkult.stadt-hennef.de
seniorenportal.stadt-hennef.de
www.ssv-hennef.de

Social Media
www.facebook.com/hennef.meine.stadt
twitter.com/stadthennef
twitter.com/KlausPipke

„Frankfurter Straße“ the city centre

... 15.4 percent of Hennef's surface area is a designated nature reserve and 61.6 percent is a conservation area?

... 9,000 inhabitants of Hennef are **under the age of 18**?

... are three Telephone **area codes** for Hennef: 02242 for Hennef, 02248 for Uckerath and Stadt Blankenberg and 02244 for Blankenbach, Westerhausen, Kurscheid, Wiersberg and Kurenbach?

... the population of Hennef was 30,000 in 1987 and has risen to around 50,000 today?

... the city administration is **the largest employer in the city** with around 17 employees? Not all employees work in the town hall. Many also work in the city works depot, the wastewater plant, and as caretakers and school secretaries in nurseries and schools.

... the world's first automatic weighing machine was invented in Hennef? It was invented by Carl Reuther and Eduard Reisert in 1883. The „**Chronos weighing machine**“ ushered in the age of automatic weighing machines, which still play a vital role in industry and trade today.

... the founder of **youth hostels**, Richard Schirrmann, came up with his idea on 26 August 1909, in the village school of what is today Hennef-Bröl? He sought refuge there with a group of students to escape a storm and realised it would be an ideal place to spend the night.

... the **fossil bed** in Hennef-Rott is one of the most important in the world? Finds from here can be seen in many German and international museums. The area was a primeval sea 25 million years ago. The sediment, in particular oil shale, was mined until well into the 19th Century. During this time, 900 different fossilised animals and plant species were found, including dragonfly eggs on a bay leaf, the skeleton of a pika, a rhino, an artiodactyl, a crocodile and a frog. You can find out more about this and see real fossils in a display case in the town hall.

... there is a memorial in the town hall to the **Jewish community** in Hennef, which, like so many others, fell victim to National Socialism? The foundation walls of the synagogue can be seen in the Geistingen district. There is a model of the synagogue and the Torah shrine in the town hall, and the names of all victims are listed on a board.



