



# CRAWLEY TOWN TWINNING ASSOCIATION

Issue 75

## CTTA NEWSLETTER - DECEMBER EDITION

December 2016

Dear members and friends,

Welcome to the December issue of the CTTA Newsletter.

It is with great sadness to report that Alderman Jim Smith MBE who served the town for many years passed away on 9th November, aged 89.

Jim was Mayor of Crawley 4 times, a Borough Councillor for 39 years and County Councillor for 12 years. He was a chairman of our Crawley Town Twinning Association from 1973 to 1998, magistrate on Crawley Bench from 1976 to 1997 and was a trustee of the Courage-Dyer Recreational Trust among many other important positions held during his very active lifetime. During most of this time he also worked as a Lecturer at Crawley College and then South East London Technical College teaching Mathematics, Engineering and Technical Drawing. Pages 2 and 3 in this Newsletter are dedicated to Crawley and Dorsten press releases reporting Jim's passing away and his impact on the town of Crawley, West Sussex and the friendship between the towns of Crawley and Dorsten. His death is not only a great loss for his wife Brenda and family but also for the whole town.

Jim leaves his wife Brenda, four children, seven grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren. Quoting the kind words of Mayor Raj Sharma at Jim's funeral service at St Margaret's Church, Ifield on 5th December "We salute you sir" Rest in peace.

Unfortunately other sad news I need to report is that our long serving member Stan Tofield had passed away on 2nd October 2016. Stan has been a famous musician in Crawley, Sussex and Dorsten who played tuba. Most people will remember Stan as a member of the Millennium Band and later in his band under the name of "Stanislauski Polka Band". He played for CTTA functions on many happy occasions. The last time he played at our function was at the meeting of the Dorsten Farmers at the Walled Garden, Tilgate Park in May last year. Stan also performed many times in Dorsten, where his music and the band were very popular and liked. We will all miss you Stan. Rest in peace.

On a happier note, the venue and date of the 2017 Annual Dinner has now been agreed by the committee. The Annual Dinner will be held on Saturday 18th February 2017 in Cowdray Arms, Balcombe Road, RH17 6QD. The cost of the dinner will be £24. See pages 9 and 10 for details of the invitation and menu choice. The CTTA's Annual General was held at the Town Hall on 9th November 2016. Following an annual meeting a new executive committee for 2016/17 were voted in and agreed at the meeting. Iain Millar who was our successful chairman for 9 years has resigned and became a vice-chairman and Brenda Smith became the new chair of CTTA. A big thank you Iain for your dedication, hard work and effort during the nine years. Congratulations also goes to Brenda and on behalf of CTTA and we wish her good luck and success as a chair of the CTTA in the future. We also welcome a new committee member Julian Charatan. For those people who do not know him, Julian visited Dorsten in August this year as part of the MG V, and had been filming and photographing the MG V event and the Mayor of Crawley-Raj Sharma.

Next year the Main Group Visit will be in Crawley, between 15/7 to 23/7/2017.

On behalf of the CTTA Executive Committee may I wish you all a Merry Christmas and Healthy and Prosperous 2017

Peter Klin  
PR officer and editor of the newsletter  
On behalf of CTTA



### Inside this issue:

	Page:
<b>Foreword by the editor</b> By Peter Klin	1
<b>Jim Smith MBE passed away - Local press (Crawley &amp; Horley Observer), Dorsten press and Freundeskreis Crawley articles</b>	2 to 3
<b>Basketball and Football Report</b> By Nicky Shaw	4 to 6
<b>Reflection of 9 years in the chair</b> By Iain Millar	7 to 8
<b>CTTA 2016 Annual Dinner Details</b>	9 to 10

# Alderman Jim Smith MBE passed away

## Crawley and Dorsten Local press releases



## Jim Smith mit 89 Jahren verstorben

### Einer der Väter der Städtepartnerschaft

**DORSTEN.** Mit 89 Jahren ist am Mittwoch Jim Smith verstorben, einer der Väter der Städtepartnerschaft zwischen Crawley und Dorsten, die 1973 besiegelt worden war. Im August war er noch in Dorsten zu Gast, um die Stadtplakette in Gold entgegenzunehmen, die ihm als Würdigung für sein jahrzehntelanges Engagement verliehen worden war.

„Jim Smith war ein liebens-

wertter Mensch und ein großer Europäer, für den die Einigung des Kontinents kein abstraktes Projekt war, sondern nur durch ein Miteinander der Menschen und der Gemeinden gelingen konnte“, sagte Bürgermeister Tobias Stockhoff gestern.

Und: „In einer Zeit, in der viele das vereinigte Europa infrage stellen, werden wir seine Stimme schmerzlich vermissen.“

#### Wir haben einen guten Freund verloren

Der Freundeskreis Crawley trauert um den ehemaligen Vorsitzenden der Town Twinning Association Jim Smith, der am 9. November im Alter von 89 Jahren verstorben ist. Als Gründungsmitglied der Städtepartnerschaft Crawley-Dorsten war ihm die Versöhnung der ehemaligen Kriegsgegner stets eine Herzensangelegenheit. Über Jahrzehnte hinweg engagierte er sich für private Begegnungen der Menschen beider Städte. Selbst im hohen Alter und trotz schwerer Erkrankung ließ er es sich nicht nehmen, an den gemeinsamen Veranstaltungen aktiv teilzunehmen.

In Anerkennung seiner Verdienste um die Völkerverständigung verlieh ihm die Stadt Dorsten im August dieses Jahres die Goldene Stadtplakette während seines letzten Aufenthaltes in Dorsten.

Unser tiefempfundenes Mitgefühl gilt seiner Frau Brenda und seiner Familie.

Wir werden sein Vermächtnis weiter mit Leben erfüllen.

Für den Freundeskreis Crawley

Marita Kipinski

Vorsitzende

Volker Roth

Stellvertretender Vorsitzender

### **Jim Smith, one of the Founding Fathers of the Town Twinning Partnership, dies at the age of 89**

One of the Founding Fathers of the Town Twinning Partnership between Crawley and Dorsten, which was officially signed in 1973, died on Wednesday aged 89. In August he was invited to Dorsten to receive the Gold Medal of the Town of Dorsten which was awarded to him in recognition of his commitment to Town Twinning over many decades.

The Mayor of Dorsten, Tobias Stockhoff, said yesterday, "Jim Smith was a well-loved man and a great European, for whom European Unity was not just an abstract project but one which could only be achieved through cooperation between individuals and communities" He continued, "At a time when many are calling European Unity into question, his voice will be sorely missed."

#### **"We have lost a good friend."**

The Freundeskreis Crawley is mourning the former Chairman of the Crawley Town Twinning Association, Jim Smith, who died on 9th November aged 89. As a founding member of the Crawley-Dorsten Town Twinning Partnership the reconciliation of former wartime enemies was always a matter close to his heart. Over many decades he was committed to the idea that people from both towns should meet each other on a personal level. Even at his great age and despite serious illness he was always determined to take an active part in joint events.

In August this year, during his last visit to Dorsten, he was awarded the Gold Medal of the Town of Dorsten in recognition of his contribution to understanding between peoples.

We extend our deepest sympathy to his wife Brenda and his family.

We will actively carry on his legacy.

On behalf of the Freundeskreis Crawley

Marita Kipinski  
Chair

Volker Roth  
Vice Chair

## Basketball Report

### Germany v England 27 – 30 May 2016

End of May saw the basketball girls travelling to Dorsten (Wulfen) for the return trip. 14 players plus Jeff & Nicky Shaw and the team's coach, Lawrence set off in their affectionately known mini bus, Rocky! Few had faith in Rocky however just like the film – there was no stopping Rocky! After making it to Ashford, Rocky exceed many expectations. Le Tunnel was quick and painless and soon the team were in Calais on their journey to Dorsten.

The Girls had a day trip to Cologne



Sunday 29 May it was down to business in hand and playing the tournament. Wulfen had invited 3 other teams to be involved and the girls played. Crawley split into 2 teams were dominant! The B team only losing out to the Crawley A team so Crawley A were crowned winners with Crawley B runners/up!



After the tournament Wulfen hosted a fabulous bbq for the teams and afterwards had a good sing song around the campfire.



By Nicky Shaw

## Football Report

### England v Germany May 2016

Crawley Girls Football Club hosted the Lembeck Girls Football team in May of this year. Lembeck travelled over from Dorsten on Friday 13 (perhaps an omen!) and were quickly bedded down at the Crawley Youth Centre. Crawley Town Twinning youth co-ordinator, Nicky Shaw, and CTTA Committee Member, Mike James hosted the team over the weekend. On Saturday 14 May both teams met at Oakwood Football pitch to play their arranged match. It was a close game with Lembeck being the eventual winners 2-1.

The good thing about this particular weekend was the Ladies FA Cup Final (at Wembley) Chelsea v

Arsenal for which the Crawley Club were able to get tickets. So a quick shower and change and they all headed up to Wembley along with 32,000 other fans to watch a great show case final.

Crawley & Lembeck Captains



Lembeck



Crawley

When the team arrived back at the Youth Centre they were generously hosted by Tilgate Bakery to a wonderful bbq along with parents and members of the CTTA.

On Sunday 16 May the Lembeck team headed up to London for the day to sightsee. When they arrived back to Crawley Youth Centre they had all were sporting Hard Rock Café (London) sweatshirts!

A great trip and the return the Crawley Girls are looking forward to.

A huge thanks to Tilgate Bakery for supporting the Lembeck girls' trip to Crawley.

By Nicky Shaw

## REFLECTIONS OF 9 YEARS IN THE CHAIR



Having held the post of chairman of the CTTA for nine years I was asked to reflect on the experience with an article in the newsletter, Wow – where do I start?

Perhaps a good place is with the question why did I join the CTTA?

I first travelled to Germany with the school at the age of 17. We stayed in youth hostels and made a walking tour of the Odenwald between the rivers Main and Neckar. It was my first trip abroad and a great experience but most importantly it showed me that the Germans were very much like ourselves. English, however, was not as widely spoken then as it is now so when I finished university I went to evening classes to learn German. This proved to have been a good move as in 1967 I got the opportunity to work in Aachen for a year which was a wonderful experience and when asked to spend a similar year in France I jumped at it.

By this time I had caught the travelling bug so it seemed appropriate to accept the offer of a job in International Marketing and meeting and communicating with people from other countries became a way of life.

As retirement approached the idea of giving all this up was not attractive and with Marilyn being a modern languages teacher, joining the CTTA seemed like a good idea. Our first visit to Dorsten was in 2004 and it was most enjoyable. Everyone was so friendly and the excursions so interesting – especially to the Neanderthal museum near Cologne.

So, in the strong belief that the more you put into something, the more you get out of it, I volunteered to join the committee and in 2007 accepted the position of chairman.

What would have been a daunting task for a relative newcomer was made easy by the existence of an experienced and hard working committee. Without this team I could not have done the job.

One of the advantages of being on the committee is that you get to attend the dual committee meeting. A weekend team bonding exercise where you get to know the members of the other committee so that any problems can be resolved among friends and any misunderstandings easily corrected. The meeting is followed by an afternoon of “silly games” and for my first DCM our German hosts based these on a Highland games complete with tossing the “caber” and a member of the Dorsten committee who just happened to be a professional piper. What a wonderful way to make a Scotsman feel at home!

In 2007 the committee had little contact or support from the Town Hall. Councillors “volunteered” to be involved but never attended any of the meetings.

At a joint meeting with other Town Twinning groups in Sussex we learnt that those groups with active support from the Town Hall were generally stronger, so I arranged to meet the then chief executive Michael Coughlin. He was very receptive and arranged for me to give a presentation to all the councillors and appointed his PA as liaison officer with the CTTA. He agreed to provide



parking permits for committee members for our evening meetings at the town hall and give general support in publicising the Association.

Recruiting new members has always been a challenge so we sent letters to the local schools and to the German language evening classes; put up display boards in the library; published articles in the local newspapers and printed leaflets to advertise the Association.

None of these activities were a resounding success and word of mouth is still the most effective way of bringing in new members.

One of our main tasks is to facilitate exchanges between clubs and youth groups in our two towns and many visits have been arranged from pop groups to choirs as well as many sporting fixtures. Young people in general don't like to be split up to stay with families and prefer to stay as a group sleeping in sports halls or youth hostels but you still have to convince their coach or group leader that it is worth the effort that has to be put in. Getting the interest of



the PA to the Chief Executive was therefore very fruitful, especially as she was

a qualified basketball referee and team coach. So for several years Nicky Shaw has arranged exchanges for girls' teams in both basketball and football which have been a great success.

Among other memorable events were our 40th Anniversary celebrations in 2013, the Dorsten Committee cycle run the Crawley in 2015, the visit of the Lembeck farmers, Crawley pop groups performing at the Dorstival and the Crawley Wheelers taking part in a road race in Dorsten.



The Main Group Visit is of course the main event of the year and from the hugs and kisses on arrival as we get off the coach to the farewell party when we just have fun this reminds us of what great friendships have been created.

So, why, in spite of the work involved, was my time in the chair so enjoyable? All of the above, of course, but really it was the friendship of our partners in Dorsten and fellow members here in Crawley.

The welcome we receive when we arrive, the interesting trips and just the way we can relax in the home of a friend in a similar but nevertheless slightly different culture and realize that people the world over are not so different after all.



Iain Millar  
CTTA Chairman 2007 - 2016



**CRAWLEY TOWN TWINNING ASSOCIATION  
ANNUAL DINNER**

Saturday 18th February 2017, at 7:00pm for 7:30pm

**Cowdray Arms**

London Road, Balcombe, RH17 6QD

**MENU**

**Main Course**

1/2 roast chicken, roast potatoes, pigs in blankets, Yorkshire puddings

Or

Roast Beef, Yorkshire puddings

Or

Grilled sweet chilli Salmon

Or

Beef and Ale pie

Or

Roasted beetroot and horseradish risotto, red onion, feta, peas and rocket (V)

(All served with a selection of seasonal vegetables)

**Desserts**

Apple & Blackberry crumble pie and custard

Or

Triple chocolate brownie, chocolate ice cream and chocolate sauce

Or

Millionaire's caramel cheesecake and toffee sauce

Or

Luxury dairy ice cream and sorbet - your choice of three scoops from the following delicious flavours: Clotted cream, chocolate, naturally vegan vanilla, lemon sorbet

(Latee or cappuccino coffee or tea will be served at the end of the meal)

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**Cost of the meal £ 24.00 per person**

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A raffle and quiz will be held during the course of the evening.

Members of Town Twinning, their families and friends are cordially invited to join in this festive evening.

Please indicate on the "tear off slip" (next page no. 10) your menu choices and return to Elaine Williams by 19th January 2017, together with a cheque for the whole amount.

**Return this page**

I wish to Book ..... Meals for Town Twinning Annual Dinner.

**Name:**      Main          Dessert  
                  Course

I enclose my cheque in the sum of £..... For.....meals, made payable to C.T.T.A.

NAME:      Mr / Mrs / Miss ..... Tel. No .....

Please return by **19th January 2017** to: Elaine Williams, 41 Horseshoe Close, Pound Hill,  
Crawley RH10 7YS  
Email: elainewilliams227@btinternet      Tel. 01293 885 526

**Please Note:** Elaine will be not available beyond 20th January 2017. Any queries regarding the Annual Dinner after this date should be addressed to our Secretary Mr Geoff May,  
Mobile : 07703351066, email: GMay584553@aol.com