



# CRAWLEY TOWN TWINNING



March 1999

NEWSLETTER 19

Hello again!

Firstly let us welcome as new members the most prestigious citizens of the town - Andy and Joyce Kane, our current Mayor and Mayoress, who joined in recent festivities with great gusto and obvious pleasure. Welcome aboard!

Other new members are Dr and Mrs Newton of Cophorne, Mr D.A.Reid of Furnace Green and Victor and Chantal Wood of Maidenbower. We do hope this influx of fresh blood will continue: we need to recruit many more new members, particularly those with new ideas, perhaps based on experience with other bodies similar to ours. Need I say we are looking for willing members to replace members of the committee who will not be standing for re-election at the next AGM on July 7th 1999.

Please consider standing - remember that committee members are not born to office. All you need is common sense and enough confidence to express your opinion in committee.

Several new links with Dorsten and area are being developed. On March 15th a group of 17 and 18 year-olds from a Wulfen school will be visiting us, some on work experience, others going to Thomas Bennett School. The Weald Choir has re-established a link with a Dorsten choir and will be celebrating the Millenium with a joint concert in January 2000. Crawley-Radio Club is exploring the possibilities of a radio link with Dorsten between 23.00 hours on 31.12.99 and the first minutes of 1.1.2000.

Do you have a special interest which may be shared with our German friends? Let us know if there is something you would like to follow up!

Latest news on the Great Balloon Race. The winning balloon, which had travelled about 600 miles to Brandenburg, in the former East Germany, had been sent off by Freda Hyams, the only German-born member of our committee. Jim Smith has now sent the finder, Herr Bode, a letter of congratulation and a commemorative paper-knife with the Crawley arms.

The Editor

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Who is she? I would say without fear of contradiction she is Dorsten's most famous character. She has recently celebrated her 95th birthday at the Convent of St Ursula which she entered in 1948, and has been made a freeman(?) of the town. She has a studio there where she works with artist's brush or pencil and many Dorsten homes display her work - studies of refugees, of peasants exhausted by their labours or miners returning from the pit.

Yet she was born Elisabeth, Countess von der Schulenberg, daughter of a Prussian general. Known then as 'Tisa' she spent her childhood in the Mecklenburg castle of Tressow, then became an art student in Berlin. In 1934 she came to England where she worked with Henry Moore depicting the arduous life of the miners. Then followed sculpture, journalism, social work, two marriages and subsequent divorces in Germany and a conversion to Catholicism.

She came at the end of the war to Recklinghausen, to meet contacts of her dearly loved brother, who had been executed by the Nazis. There Pastor Westhoff introduced her to the convent where her work included art-teaching, but as the order became more open, she travelled widely. In Ethiopia, Israel and Corsica she worked in support of the poor, the oppressed and those shunned by others, the lepers.

So the wheel has turned full circle - 'Tisa', as she still signs her work, has come back to an area once dependent on the work of those she calls her 'dark brethren' - the miners. When asked on her 95th birthday if she had a special wish, she answered : "Fewer unemployed in Dorsten".

This article was translated and adapted from a longer interview printed in the Ruhr Nachrichten, one of the excellent local papers in the Dorsten area.



## KNOW YOUR COMMITTEE - JACKY MAY

Geoff and I came to Crawley from Kent. My family moved to Hawkhurst when I was a few months old and we lived on my grandfather's hop-farm. I left school at sixteen and went straight to work on a local farm, packing fruit and vegetables, then into a supermarket. This was not a challenge - so I became a welder in a small engineering company in the village.

Whilst there a blind date was fixed through a friend whose boyfriend was Geoff's mate. Our first date was so romantic - Geoff took me to see "Jaws" at Tunbridge Wells cinema. Two years later we were married at my local church.

Our first house was in Staplehurst, but Geoff wanted something better than the factory jobs we both had there and we moved to Crawley in 1979, now both working for the same company in Smallfield.

Our first daughter, Sandy, was born in February '84 and from then on I was a full-time hausfrau, unpaid. I tried my hand at a lot of tasks, including running Tupperware parties, until Sarah arrived in 1988. By then Geoff was working in export for a Crawley company, and we had moved from Langley Green to Pound Hill. Since Sarah was born I've sold handcrafts at fairs all over the South East, been a Lollipop lady and a dinner lady, and presently work part-time at Tesco's.

We really got involved with the Twinning in 1993 when Geoff started evening classes in German. Seeing a CTTA jumble sale in town he walked in, was asked for 10p and said: "No - it's the Twinning I want, not the jumble." He was collared by Brenda, invited (told!) to come along to the AGM and came away a committee member - which he has been ever since. When he said: "How do you fancy going to Dorsten?" I said "Lovely!" Then he announced we would be staying in a stranger's house. "No way!" was my reaction. He could stay there - me and the kids could stay in a hotel. Anyway we did all travel. I had calmed down and it was the best possible trip. I remember vividly as the coach stopped in Dorsten this small woman came up to me with a beaming smile and said: "Hello, I'm Ulla Kusters". I was so relieved she spoke English and the following day when all the children met - our two and her five - it was an instant hit.

I really am glad Geoff talked me into going to Dorsten and I didn't let my English conservatism stop me otherwise over the years we'd have missed so much.



## MARJORIE GOEPEL

A citizen of Crawley since 1952, Marjorie dedicated herself to so many causes, including Town Twinning. She and her husband John hosted from the early eighties and were always willing to offer accommodation to people from Germany. They had good friends in Dorsten. However, Marjorie was always prepared to host anyone. She will be sadly missed.

Alice Neumann from Dorsten who stayed twice with the Goepels has written: "I am so sad about Marjorie's death -she was a great woman who did a lot for the Town Twinning."

In her very last letter dated January 9th, written the day before she had a massive stroke which led to her death on January 15th, talking about Dorsten, Marjorie wrote: "I hope the Town Twinning continues into the next century with the young generation".

May her wish be granted, and may she rest in Peace!

Marie- Odile Herve

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One of our members, David Rayner, will be running in the London Marathon on April 18th in aid of the Imperial Cancer Research Fund. David is also a member of Crawley Athletics Club. He would appreciate your sponsorship. Please phone 01293 410810 with your pledges.

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## HOW TO UNPACK A PORTMANTEAU

One of the most frequent criticisms of the German language is the apparent inordinate length of some of the words.

As an example:-

"Donaudampfschiffahrtsgesellschaftsgeneraldirektor!!!"

Probably the only one of its kind - but it illustrates the portmanteau principle - joining words together to make a new one. The last word gives the clue.

So - general direktor = managing director  
gesellschaft = company  
fahrt = journey  
dampfschiff = steamship  
Donau = Danube

String it all together, take a deep breath, pronounce without a pause and you will astound your friends with your erudition.

Want to try one on your own? Answer on the last page.

"Zwölfzylinderveeformigmotor" - and, as a bonus,

mit DoppelobenliegendeKnockenwellen....."

As I admitted previously, these are extreme examples - not much use if you want to find a garage (Tankstelle) or a grocer, although this last (Lebensmittelgeschäft) is also an example of three words linked together to define a specific item. Happens all the time in German and therefore to be expected, not marvelled at.

Ken Clement

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## TOWN TWINNING DIARY

The big event for the summer will be the group visit from Dorsten. Most of you will know that the CTTA acts as an "umbrella" organisation, encouraging special interest groups in each town to make contact and visit each other. But we also have a social function in that each year a group of CTTA members visits the twin town, turn and turn about, travelling by coach. Guests are hosted by CTTA members, who in turn can expect to be accommodated in a private home when they can make a trip. Not everybody can find room in their home for visitors, but this shouldn't deter you from putting your name down for a trip.

This year it's Dorsten's turn to come to us and they will arrive on the evening of Saturday 26th June. Highlights of the week will be as follows:

Sunday 27th June. Visit to Crawley Museum Society's Craft Day at Ifield Watermill.

Wednesday 30th June Coach trip to Romney, Hythe and Dymchurch railway, Dungeness Lighthouse and Rye

Friday 2nd July Coach trip to Hampton Court.

Saturday 3rd July Group visit to Crawley Prom in Tilgate Park.

If you can put someone up in your home, contact the Accommodation Secretary. You will then receive more details about your involvement in the week's activities. We shall be publicizing the visit in the local press.

### Social Events:

The next quiz Night is on Sunday 18th April 1999, at the Labour club at 7.30p.m

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CTTA Committee members.

|                                      |   |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| Acting Chairman                      | Peter Orriss  |
| Deputy Chairman<br>& Membership Sec. | Geoff May   |
| Secretary                            | Iris Orriss (01342 713389)  |
| Treasurer                            | Tom Leahy   |
| Minutes Sec.                         | Anne Todd   |
| Accommodation Sec.                   | Marie-Odile Herve   |
| Asst. PR Officer                     | Brenda Smith  |
| Chief Executive's Rep.               | Chris Hamper  |
| Other members                        | Cllr Quamarrudin<br>Cllr Brian Quinn<br>Cllr Hilda Craig<br>Cllr Jim Smith<br>Ken Clement<br>Judy Rayner<br>Peter Klin<br>Frieda Hyams<br>Jacky May |

The Newsletter was edited by Ken and Eunice Clement.  
Printed and produced by Peter and Martin Klin.

Any contributions to the Newsletter -  
ring Crawley 413026

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*And the answer is - a twelve cylinder V-form engine with double over-head camshaft. (so useful in the Supermarkt - Ed's wife!)*

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