



# CRAWLEY TOWN TWINNING ASSOCIATION

Issue 68

**CTTA NEWSLETTER - SEPTEMBER EDITION**

September 2014

Dear Members and Friends

Welcome to the September issue of the CTTA Newsletter.

This issue is on the whole dedicated to our successful Main Group Visit (MGV) to Dorsten between 16-24th August, and include various articles and contribution from CTTA visitors including couple of articles from the German press.

The CTTA committee is preparing for a Dual Committee Meeting (DCM) in Crawley between 3th. to 6th. October. The 2015 MGV to Crawley will be discussed in addition to other "Partnerschaft" matters relevant to both organisations.

Please note that our Annual General Meeting will be on Wednesday 15th. October 2015 in Town Hall at 8.00 pm. The current committee is looking forward to seeing as many of you as possible on the evening.

Following our AGM, the new committee will be looking for a suitable date and venue for our traditional Annual CTTA dinner. Any suggestions from members will be considered and are welcome

Peter Klin

PR officer and editor of the newsletter

On behalf of CTTA



**Goodbye Dorsten and Aufwiedersehen till next year in Crawley**



### Inside this issue:

	P
Foreword by the editor	1
By Peter Klin	
Crawley Visitors in Wuppertal	2 & 3
By Iain Millar	
Dorsten - A New Experience or An Old Friend	4
Di Sullivan	
Mayors Column Number 9	5
By Brenda Smith	
My Dorsten Visit	6
By Judy Rayner	
MGV - Articles from local German Press	7
Sent by Heinz Gremme	
AGM Invitation 15th October	8



## Crawley Visitors in Wuppertal

Thirty three members of the Crawley Town Twinning Association have just returned from a visit to our twin town of Dorsten in Germany which included a ride on the famous Schwebebahn railway in Wuppertal. Built in 1901 the railway winds along the river Wupper and above the streets in the town with the carriages suspended from an overhead monorail and proved to be a highlight of this year's visit to Germany.

The visitors also enjoyed a visit to a chocolate factory famed for its huge range of special chocolate treats such as chocolate beer bottles, TV controllers, shoes etc. The visit coincided with the annual beer festival in Dorsten and also included a visit to the beautifully restored medieval town of Hattingen.

The CTTA organize a visit to Dorsten every two years when members pay their own travel costs but accommodation is provided by their German hosts in their own homes. The following year visitors from Dorsten are hosted in Crawley when they are also taken to sites of interest in the area.

Cllr Brenda Smith, who is a long term member of the CTTA and current Mayor of Crawley, took the opportunity of this year's visit to meet the new Mayor of Dorsten, Tobias Stockhoff, who was only elected to office a few weeks ago.

Membership of the CTTA is open to all residents of Crawley and anyone interested should contact the membership secretary, Michael James, Tel. 01293 532699

### Photos:

1. Schwebebahn, Wuppertal
2. Crawley visitors waiting at the station
3. Chocolate beer bottle and TV controller
4. Chocolate shoes
5. Hattingen
6. Beer festival
7. Beer festival
8. Mayor Brenda Smith with Burgermeister Tobias Stockhoff (centre) and CTTA chairman Iain Millar and Dorsten chairperson Marita Kipinski





Cont. from page 2



## **DORSTEN - A NEW EXPERIENCE OR AN OLD FRIEND?**

For some of us, going to Dorsten is like wearing a comfortable pair of old shoes - slipping into familiar surroundings without having to worry too much about the problems of meeting new people or staying in an unfamiliar home. Like the shoes, staying with old friends is not only a pleasant holiday but a wonderful way of cementing and continuing the long relationships on which the partnership with Dorsten has been founded. However, we should not forget the thrill of our first experience of going to our twin town and there are always new experiences to be found.

Keith and I were delighted to be asked to participate in the church service held on Sunday in the Johanneskirche. At first the idea was that we would read the English text while Birgit and Hanna read the German. On discussion, we all decided that it would be much more interesting for the congregation, and much more challenging for us all, if we swapped roles and each read in the other language. What was potentially nerve wracking became a wonderful experience as so many people came up to us afterwards and said how much they had enjoyed our performance.

Another new experience for us was staying with new hosts. Not only were they new members but this was the first time they had hosted anyone. We thoroughly enjoyed staying with them in a different part of Dorsten and really appreciated the fact that they managed to take us to see and do different things.

In fact most of the visit consisted of places we had never been to. The German committee have excelled in finding new places for us to visit. Why have we never discovered Hattingen before? What a beautiful and interesting town that is! I am amazed and delighted that they can still find such places for us to visit and I am sorry that we do not seem to be able to find new members to come to Dorsten and enjoy them as we do.

In an email we received after our visit, our hosts confided to us that they had been particularly concerned about the fact that one of them spoke little English and had been very relieved to find that we could converse in German. While foreign languages are not easy for us and German is not top of the poll when it comes to learning a new language, even a few learned phrases can smooth the path to a continuing friendship.

Whether we are there for the first time or as longstanding visitors a little Gemutlichkeit goes a long way!

Di Sullivan  
August 2014

## **MGV 2014 – Dorsten Warning**

Yes, I am forgetful but this note is very serious.

I failed to take to take the name and address or telephone number with me. Having been dropped at a point agreed by my host and the friend who did not live in Dorsten.

I wandered for nearly an hour trying to find my way home. Desperate, I was about to call the police but a friendly member of the public come to my rescue, taking me to the door and refused to take any reward

By Henry Miller



## Mayors Column Number 9

Last week I went with other members of Crawley Town Twinning Association on a personal visit to our Twin Town of Dorsten in Germany. Every alternate year a group of 35 Crawley people go to our twin town and stay with host families. Jim and I have known our hosts for over 30 years, while for some it's their first visit and they don't know their hosts. We travelled by coach across Europe arriving in time for evening meals with our hosts.

A week long programme of visits to interesting places and days with our host families follows. Dorsten is a very traditional area and many festivals continue year on year, rural villages still hold the annual shooting festival, where young men shoot at a wooden eagle on a high post, the one who shoots the last piece of the bird down, is crowned King for the year, he chooses a Queen and they 'rule' at village events for a year. Marching bands, fun fairs, sausages and of course Beer complete these three day festivals, Jim and I and our hosts joined the locals at one of these events on Sunday.

Monday morning we were welcomed by the Deputy Burgermeisterin (Mayor) of Dorsten Frau. Briefs after which as a group with our hosts we visited the attractive Town of Borken where some visited the local museum, and church before enjoying lunch in one of the many cafe's. Back on the coach to Rhede where we visited a Praline factory, where 160 different chocolate's are crafted along with many amazing chocolate novelties such as beer bottles, high heeled shoes, cars, animals and much more. All this was imparted in a humorous talk by the factory owner, whilst we drank coffee and ate cake and chocolates, after shopping in the factory shop its back to our hosts home for a meal, beer and wine and loads of laughs about past memories and colleagues.

Wednesday a trip to the very old town of Hattingen with a guided tour of its old black and white buildings and 'Iron Men' statues. A quick lunch and we were off to the Henrichshutte Iron/ Steel works, closed in 1987 it is now a museum, mostly just as the last workers left it, guided tours in German or English find a mix of host and guests as each want to practice their 2nd languages. Home for another great meal and chat.

Thursday was the day that my hosts Granddaughter Hannah aged 6 was starting school. This is a big event and celebration in Germany, our Hannah's day began with a church service for all the children starting school together and their families and friends, then the children walk to school wearing their new back packs and carrying large decorated cones filled with sweets and small toys. At school everyone gathers in the Gym and the children are welcomed by the school head and older children with singing and rhymes, before going to their new classrooms for a couple of hours and then going home. A day of family lunch and tea parties follows with gifts and cards.

On Thursday evening the hosts and guests and other members of Dorsten Twinning Association meet in a pub for music by OUWE and more drinking and talking.

Friday dawned brighter and warmer and we set off again on our coach with Conrad driving, to Schloss Burg, a very old fortified castle built by Adolf II. A guide gives an interesting and amusing insight into the history of Adolf and his descendants and we learn that Anne of Cleves grew up there.

Lunch in a restaurant with spectacular views and then onto Wuppertal for a ride on the famous overhead suspension railway.. Very strange to travel hanging under the rail. But its quick and very cheap and moves thousands of people about on a daily basis. Saturday is traditionally a day of shopping for gifts and souvenirs in Dorsten, visiting friends and packing. Another Beer festival lasting 3 days is set in Dorsten Town centre, with stalls selling hundreds of beers, music playing and sausages cooking. It was very wet which rather spoiled the morning, but by the evening it was dry and hundreds of people flocked to the Town to enjoy the festival. The Twinning association hold a farewell party with music and great food and drinks on Saturday evening and then it's time to leave for the journey home, this is always a sad time, tears and hugs are very common although we hope to meet again in Crawley later this year for some and next summer for others.

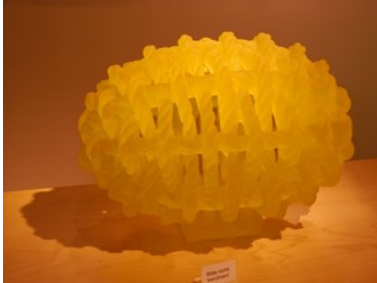
Our journey went well apart from a slow crawl to the ferry port at Calais caused by hundreds of immigrants looking at vehicles in the hope of being able to stow away for a lift to Britain, French Police patrol all the time and chase the mainly males away. It was thought provoking and upsetting to see humanity acting so desperately in this way. Something has to be done to stop this easy trade in human suffering who are so often preyed upon by unscrupulous traffickers as the recent events in Tilbury and Dartford show.

Dorsten has an elected Mayor/Chief Executive and I was very pleased to meet him unofficially on three occasions during the week. He is very young like our own Council Leader, a charismatic young man who speaks good English, it is hoped he will visit Crawley in October.

Crawley - Dorsten Town Twinning now in its 41st year, is a great way to meet new people both in Germany and Crawley, and a wonderful opportunity to live with a German family and learn about their way of life and enjoy the Country and its customs. Crawley Twinned with a German Town to ensure that our old enemy became our friend, and it has certainly achieved that.

## My Dorsten Visit

I have been going to Dorsten with the Town Twinning for at least 23 years. Each time I go I feel the genuine welcome and friendliness of, not only our Dorsten hosts, but our Crawley group too. Of course once I arrive in Marita's house I feel I am "back home". Although I had been to Wuppertal and Burg Castle before, many years ago, it was good to revisit them. I enjoyed the exhibitions on each floor and didn't realize I had got to the top of the castle until I peered out of the window and looked below. It was a long way down and my knee gave way before I got to the bottom. I really must remember how old I am. Which reminds me. Geoff, would you kindly be a little more discreet about putting ages on the information sheet for all to see!! I realize the hosts would like to know, but it is not necessary for others to know. I still feel 18 inside!!



Marita took Henry and me to a Glass Exhibition that a Wealthy old lady had been collecting over the years. There were some wonderful pieces which must have been very costly. I



was most taken with this piece and wondered how it was put together, acknowledging that the glass had to be molten to weave it in and out! Another visit that Marita and I made was to the Gasometer at Oberhausen where there was a wonderful art exhibition on large screens of all the great masters and replicas of some of the world's best sculptures. We also went to the top floor where we lay on beanbags to see the ever changing patterns of light and colour projected on the dome above. The guided tour of Hattingen



was a highlight for me as there were so many beautiful old houses dating back to the 1600's. The visit to the chocolate factory was "yummy" as we each tried some of the chocolates with our coffee & luscious cakes! We just couldn't resist buying some of the items on sale! The Church service was excellent. A lot of thought and work had gone into it to accommodate the Crawley visitors. I was amazed at how well Di and Keith were able to read the German translation of the conversation in the little play about Abraham obeying God's call to leave his home and travel to a new land. Didn't Birgit (the Vicar) and Hanna do well with their English? Bernd Rosenmeier's guitar orchestra with their rendering of our familiar hymns and choruses added to the warmth of our welcome.

By Judy Rainer





Selbst die Rathaus-Treppe genügte nicht, um alle aufs Bild zu bekommen: Die stellvertretende Bürgermeisterin Christel Briefs (M.) begrüßte am Montag in ihrer Eigenschaft als „Deputy-Mayor“ bei einem offiziellen Empfang die Besuchergruppe aus Crawley. Ganz rechts Marita Kipinski, neben ihr Crawleys Bürgermeisterin Brenda Smith.

RN-FOTO KRAUSE

19.8.14

## Welcome, Twin-Partner!

### Rathaus-Empfang für Besuchergruppe aus Crawley

**DORSTEN.** Same procedure as every year? Yes! Die gelebte Partnerschaft des Freundeskreises Crawley mit ihrem organisatorischen Gegenstück in der britischen Partnerstadt hat sich seit 1973 bestens bewährt und wird vor allem durch den guten persönlichen Kontakt samt Familienanschluss am Leben gehalten.

So konnten gestern Morgen beim offiziellen Empfang im Rathaussaal die stellvertretende Bürgermeisterin Christel Briefs, Freundeskreis-Vorsitzende Marita Kipinski und Chairman Iain Millar eine Be-

suchergruppe aus Crawley und deren Gastgeber begrüßen. Unter den Gästen ist auch Brenda Smith, die in diesem Jahr erneut in Crawley als Bürgermeisterin gewählt worden war. Nach einem ersten Treffen mit ihrem neuen Dorstener Amtskollegen Tobias Stockhoff hoffen die Freundeskreise nun, dass die Partnerschaft auch von städtischer Seite intensiviert werden kann.

Christel Briefs gab dazu schon gestern ihr Bestes. Selbst die schwierige Aufgabe, allen Partnerstädten die

richtigen Wappen zuzuordnen, meisterte sie letztlich souverän. Und in ihrer mit Humor gewürzten Ansprache machte sie den britischen Gästen das komplexe Programm schmackhaft – insbesondere den geplanten Besuch einer Rheder Pralinenmanufaktur.

Bevor die 33 Besucher am Sonntag die Heimreise antreten, werden neben einem „Pub-Evening“ Abstecher zur Hattinger Henrichshütte, zur Wuppertaler Schwebbahn und zum Schloss Burg weitere Highlights sein. *kdk*

## Englischer Besuch im Benediktushof

### Gäste aus Crawley zeigten sich von der Arbeit der Einrichtung angetan

**MARIA VEEN.** Eine Gruppe aus Dorstens Partnerstadt Crawley (Südengland) hat kürzlich den Benediktushof besucht. Fabei stellte die Pressereferentin Marit Kornert die Einrichtung und deren Aktivitäten vor und führte die Gruppe durch das Gelände.

Privat mit dabei war auch die gerade gewählte Bürgermeisterin von Crawley, Brenda Smith, so die Pressemitteilung des Dorstener Freundeskreises Crawley. Die Besucher seien beeindruckt gewesen von der Größe und den vielfältigen Aktivitäten des Benediktushofes, insbesondere von den Ausbildungsmöglichkeiten für Jugendliche. Das Ziel, den jungen Menschen eine Ausbildung zu ermöglichen und sie für ein möglichst „normales“ Leben fit zu machen, habe große Anerkennung gefunden. Die vielfältigen Kontakte zwischen dem Benediktushof sowie den Menschen und Firmen in Maria Veen habe die Gäste überrascht. Man war sich nicht sicher, ob es vergleichbare

Institutionen in England gibt. Mit einigen Einkäufen im Werkstattladen und einem Besuch in der Gärtnerei endete der Besuch.

Alle zwei Jahre kommt ei-

ne Gruppe aus Dorstens Partnerstadt Crawley für eine Woche nach Dorsten. In der Zwischenzeit fährt eine Gruppe aus Dorsten nach Crawley. Alle Gäste werden

privat untergebracht. Der Partnerschaftsverein organisiert drei Besichtigungstage. Zwei der Gastgeberhepaare besuchten jetzt mit ihren Gästen den Benediktushof.



Die Gäste aus England, unter ihnen Crawleys Bürgermeisterin Brenda Smith (2.v.l.), besuchten auch den Werkstattladen.

Foto: pd



**CRAWLEY  
TOWN TWINNING  
ASSOCIATION**

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING on Wednesday 15th.October 2014 at the  
TOWN HALL, Room 'A' at 8p.m**

As a member of the C.T.T.A. you are cordially invited to attend and be involved with how the Association works with our Twin Town of Dorsten.

**NOMINATION FOR OFFICERS/COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

CHAIRMAN  
SECRETARY  
MINUTE SECRETARY  
MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY  
5 COMMITTEE MEMBERS

VICE-CHAIRMAN  
TREASURER  
PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICER  
ACCOMMODATION SECRETARY

NAME \_\_\_\_\_  
POSITION APPLIED \_\_\_\_\_  
PROPOSED BY \_\_\_\_\_  
SECONDED BY \_\_\_\_\_

I accept the nomination for the position of \_\_\_\_\_

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

*To be returned to the Honorary Secretary, Geoff May at the address below or handed in before the commencement of the Annual General Meeting.*

*Please reply to: 5 Sissinghurst Close, Worth, Crawley, RH10 7FX Tel. 01293 885 444*