

# CRAWLEY TOWN TWINNING ASSOCIATION

## CTTA NEWSLETTER - SEPTEMBER EDITION

Issue 89

September 2023

Dear Members and Friends,  
Welcome to the September 2023 edition of the CTTA Newsletter.  
Since the last June 2023 Newsletter issue I would like to report as follows:

**Main Group Visit (MGV):** Following the enforced break of over 3 years, the Main Group Visit to Dorsten finally happened between 31st.July to 5th.August 2023. The majority of the participants were pleasantly surprised when a 55 seater elegant coach arrived to pick us up Monday early morning with Matthias Kleinmann as our driver and Geoff May as our leader and organiser of this trip. Very well done to both of you.

After about a 10 hour journey via Dover and Dunkirk it was a joy to see our Dorsten friends awaiting us at the Rathaus. Both parties greeting each other after such a long period of absence.

Our Dorsten friends prepared a super interesting programme which started immediately with an initial welcome in the Town Hall from Dorsten's Burgermeister Tobias Stockhoff with some of his colleagues plus Marita Kipinski the chairperson and committee of the Dorsten twinning association. Apart from the individual programme on our two free days, the official programme included a very enjoyable river trip on the Rhine plus visiting the picturesque town of Linz am Rhein.

The second trip was to Oberhausen Gasometer with a very interesting exhibition titled "The Fragile Earth".

**The Dual Committee Meeting** was also held following an excellent evening BBQ at Georg's "pub" Dorsten. There was a rather long discussion on how to continue in the future with the aging committee members and lack of young people joining the associations- (both in Crawley and in Dorsten). Further discussions on this topic will be held by the CTTA committee prior to the next AGM with more details to follow. The MGV for our Dorsten friends coming to Crawley was agreed between 8th of July to 13th of July 2024.

On the last evening of 4th August the Crawley group were invited to an excellent 50th Anniversary Evening Celebration and dinner with St. Antonius Brass Band held at the new Treffpunkt. The surprise of the evening was the unexpected presentation by the Mayor Tobias Stockhoff to Marita Kipinski the Chairwoman of Dorsten twinning association, of the Golden Needle honour on behalf of Dorsten Town for her 30 years service with the Association including 25 years as the Chairwoman.

**Post MGV Garden Party:** This event was organised yet again by Jacky and Geoff May and held on Saturday 19th.August at 5pm. This time there was not the usual BBQ.It was decided that Jacky will prepare a curry and Anna would prepare a Hungarian goulash. Dishes were served with various vegetables, salad, potatoes, rice and many afters. Thank you all three-Jacky, Geoff and Anna for a successful get together.

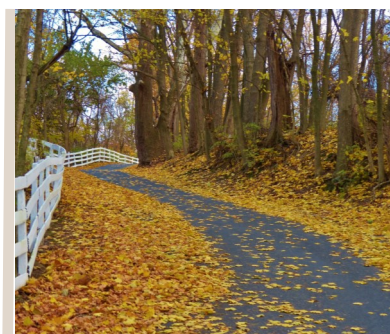
### Social Activities:

50th Anniversary evening at St. Andrews on Saturday 14.10.2023

50th Anniversary Dinner on 17.10.2023– details to follow

Peter Klin P.R. officer and Newsletter Editor

On Behalf of CTTA



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## Crawley Town Twinning Association



### MGV-Oberhausen Gasometer exhibition - Thursday 3 August 2023

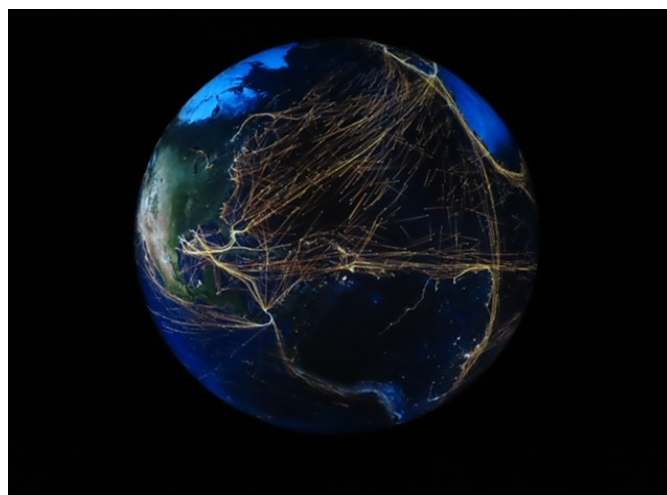
The exhibition at the Oberhausen gasometer entitled 'The Fragile Earth' was a startling insight to how our home planet is being used and misused by us all. Some wonderful pictures of our unique wildlife were contrasted with evidence of traffic congestion and pollution of our air and oceans. The final display of our planet being overwhelmed by aircraft movements all over the earth's surface was a surprisingly humbling experience. Surely we can all do better to safeguard the future of all living things.



The Jubilee Telephone box.



Olaf Thon and Hannah cutting the ribbon.







## Crawley Town Twinning Association



### My first trip to Dorsten

The trip to Dorsten was my first time visiting Dorsten and Germany in general. I didn't know any of the other travellers apart from my grandmother, but I was made very welcome. I had met Brigitte (our host) when she had visited Crawley, but I hadn't met Klaus before, but they really spoiled me.

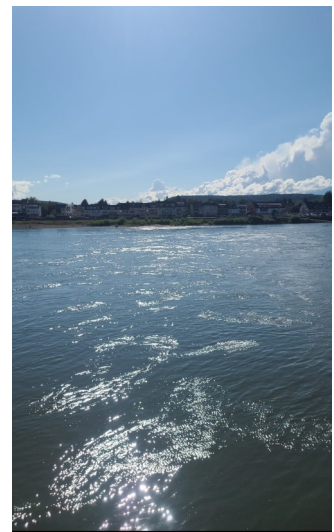
A highlight for me was trying new foods (my favourites were the curry wurst and the soups). The German hospitality was so nice and it made me feel comfortable. The trip on the Rhine was relaxing and visiting Linz was nice. Also visiting Oberhausen was interesting as it gave me a different outlook on life and the world - it was amazing. On the 2nd day we visited the roman village and it was so interesting because I love history.

Dorsten is a very beautiful town and I enjoyed having the chance to wander around and looking at the square, shops, statues and eating traditional curry wurst in a restaurant - plus the ginormous chocolate ice cream that i shared with my grandmother.

The anniversary party was a different experience for me as I had never sung Auld Lang Syne or listened to a woodwind and brass band or the interesting speeches (especially Geoff's stories). Finally seeing the telephone box be unveiled at hospital was quite exciting as I don't see them around Crawley especially in use.

I would like to thank the twinning association in Dorsten and Crawley for making the trip so memorable and I would hope to go again.

By Emma Jones







## Like a match on a dating app: 50 years of friendship with Crawley. (created on 21.07.2023 by Petra Berkenbusch DZ)

For full English translation please look at the Dorsten-Crawley Web page link: <https://dorsten-crawley.com/>



Stets gut gelaunt: der Freundeskreis Crawley, hier bei einer Veranstaltung im Bürgerpark.

FOTO KAHLE (A)

## Wie ein Treffer in einer Dating-App: 50 Jahre Freundschaft mit Crawley

DORSTEN. Die Freundschaft zwischen Dorsten und Crawley hält schon seit 50 Jahren. Ein guter Grund für eine große Jubiläums-Sause mit Gästen von hüten und drüben.

Von Petra Berkenbusch

Nach einer schwierigen und letztlich gescheiterten Beziehung zu Eisenhüttenstadt in der DDR machte sich die süd-englische Stadt Crawley vor etwas mehr als 50 Jahren auf die Suche nach einer westdeutschen Partnerstadt.

Dorsten hatte etwa zeitgleich beim Rat der Gemeinden Europas seine Suche nach einer britischen Partnerstadt bekundet. In modernen Dating-Zeiten würde man das wohl ein gelungenes „Match“ nennen: Dorsten und Crawley feiern in diesem Jahr nämlich „Goldhochzeit“.

Die 50-jährige Städtepartnerschaft ist durch Corona und den Brexit auf eine harte Probe gestellt worden. Umso mehr freuen sich die Mitglieder des Freundeskreises Crawley hüben und der Town Twinning Association drüben über das bevorstehende Jubiläum.

Die Vorsitzende Marita Kipinski umreißt die Pläne: „Am 31. Juli reist eine 25-köpfige Delegation aus der Partnerstadt an. Sie werden am Rathaus vom Bürgermeister in Empfang genommen. Anschließend gehen alle in ihre Privatunterkünfte bei Dorste-



Das Straßenschild verblasst, das Crawley-Wappen beschmiert. Was die äußeren Zeichen angeht, scheint die Partnerschaft in die Jahre gekommen zu sein.

FOTO BERKENBUSCH

ner Gastfamilien.“

Es handle sich überwiegend um Begegnungen „alter Hasen“, berichtet Kipinski, denn die Städtepartnerschaft finde kaum neue Fans. „Umso dankbarer sind wir dafür, dass sich nach einer Reise nach Crawley eine junge Familie aus Lembeck unserem Verein angeschlossen hat und beim bevorstehenden Gegenbesuch als Gastgeber fungiert.“ Ein gemeinsamer Ausflug aller Gastgeber und Gäste nach Bonn mit Schifffahrt nach Linz und ein Besuch im Gasometer

Oberhausen mit anschließendem Grillabend am Dorstener Wacholderhäuschen sollen die Beziehungen vertiefen. Auch individuelle Freizeit ist eingeplant.

### Telefonzelle erinnert

Am 4. August (Freitag) wird dann endlich ein Vorhaben vollendet, das schon seit Oktober 2020 öffentliche Aufmerksamkeit genießt: Um 11 Uhr wird am Elisabeth-Krankenhaus die sanierte englische Telefonzelle als offizielles Zei-

chen der Städtepartnerschaft zwischen Crawley und Dorsten eingeweiht.

Die Telefonzelle hatten die englischen Freunde einst zum Zehnjährigen der Städtepartnerschaft gestiftet. Viele Jahre stand sie in der Recklinghäuser Straße, nach einer gründlichen Renovierung durch die Dorstener Arbeit hat das rote Schätzchen längst am Krankenhaus einen neuen Platz gefunden. Dort steht es sozusagen als „Denkmal“, die Telefonierfunktion ist nicht mehr vorhanden.

### Jubiläumsfeier am 4. August

Dennoch laufen die Drähte zwischen Dorsten und Crawley regelmäßig heiß, denn es sind im Laufe eines halben Jahrhunderts viele private Freundschaften entstanden. Wenn die Delegation aus Crawley Anfang August in Dorsten weilt, wird es auch wieder eine gemeinsame Vorstandssitzung in Präsenz geben.

Am Vorabend der Heimreise findet am 4. August ab 18 Uhr im Treffpunkt Altstadt eine große Jubiläumsfeier statt.

„Wir wollen keine steifen Reden an diesem Abend“, sagt Marita Kipinski voller Vor-

freude. Langjährige und neue Freunde der Städtepartnerschaft sollen den Teilnehmern die Idee dieser speziellen Freundschaft in Form von Interviews näherbringen. Die Blaskapelle St. Antonius sorgt für musikalische Unterhaltung. Für humorvolle Beiträge ist der Freundeskreis bekannt: Man erinnere nur an den Auftritt von Marita Kipinski und Tobias Stockhoff mit einer eigenen Version von „Dinner for one“.

Am Samstag treten die Gäste dann die rund neunstündige Heimreise auf die britische Insel an. Von Crawley aus sind es übrigens nur 45 Minuten mit dem Zug nach London.

Der Freundeskreis hat sich auch der Pflege der englischen Sprache verschrieben. Jeden zweiten Mittwoch im Monat findet um 19 Uhr im Wacholderhäuschen an der Alleestraße eine zwanglose Unterhaltung in englischer Sprache statt, zu der jeder willkommen ist.

Dort findet in diesem Jahr am 3. November auch wieder eine „Guy Fawkes Night Party“ statt, beginnend mit einem Lagerfeuer auf dem Hof und traditionellen kulinarischen Zutaten.



## Crawley Town Twinning Association



### Town twinning with Crawley: Marita Kipinski was honoured in a special way

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Dorsten: The 50-year city partnership with Crawley from England was celebrated in style. Chairwoman Marita Kipinski received a special surprise.

The Dorsten-Crawley Friends Association had invited everyone to the Treffpunkt Altstadt on Friday evening (August 4) to mark the 50th anniversary.

The guests from Crawley were accompanied by their hosts, who had already had an exhausting but incredibly beautiful week. Also present were Mayor Tobias Stockhoff, a strong supporter of the city partnership, along with representatives from three political factions, and many members and friends of the city partnership.

#### No Stiff Event

For those who had expected a formal event with prepared speeches, they clearly underestimated the Crawley Friends Association and were pleasantly surprised. The event turned out to be a grand family gathering, where almost everyone knows each other and anyone can have a chat with anyone else.

Language barriers may have occasionally arisen, but they didn't matter much and did not dampen the cheerful atmosphere.

Marita Kipinski, a cornerstone of the association for over 30 years and its Chairwoman for 25 years, welcomed the guests. She immediately incurred a "penalty fine" for introducing the St. Antonius Brass Band as a "blaskapelle" (wind ensemble). This fine, amounting to 20 litres of beer as per tradition, was something Marita Kipinski wasn't aware of, but the old English adage holds true here: "So you learn something new every day."

After a prelude featuring images from 50 years of city partnership Download PowerPoint, lovingly curated by Peter Günther, the Chairwoman invited some members and supporters of the city partnership onto the stage for interviews.

Three English and three German interviewees readily shared information about their activities and motivation for supporting the city partnership. Geoff May, known for his wonderfully dry English humour, recounted anecdotes from 30 years of exchange visits. Many of those present may have found themselves reliving some of those moments.

#### Surprise of the Evening

Following this, it was time for dinner. However, Mechthild Rüller, the Deputy Chairwoman, stepped in and delivered the first surprise of the evening.

In heartfelt words, she honoured Marita Kipinski for her 25 years as Chairwoman of the Crawley Friends Association and presented her with a massive bouquet of flowers and a book that couldn't have been more fitting: "Queen of our Time – The Life of Elizabeth II." Marita Kipinski was visibly touched and delighted with this gift and the recognition it symbolized. But that wasn't all: Mayor Stockhoff took centre stage to announce that the Dorsten City Council had unanimously decided to honour Marita Kipinski with the Golden Needle of the city in recognition of her contributions to the city partnership with Crawley.

For those familiar with Marita Kipinski, it's clear she's rarely at a loss for words. However, this time, she was taken by surprise. Completely caught off guard, she needed a moment to collect herself. But she quickly managed to express her unbridled joy at this award, especially since the laudatory remarks emphasized that it wasn't just her personally, but the entire board, being honoured.

(created 09.08.2023 by Dorstener Zeitung)

Unofficial-private photos by Peter Klin on the next page





# Crawley Town Twinning Association







## Crawley Town Twinning Association



### Photos from post CTTA MGV Garden Party at 19.08.2023



# Crawley Town Twinning Association



## CTTA COMMITTEE MEMBERS FOR 2022/2023

Position	Name
<b>Executive Committee Members</b>	
Chairperson	Iain Millar
Vice Chairman	Position currently vacant
Secretary	Geoff May
Treasurer	Di Sullivan
Minute Secretary	Joan Newton
Public relations officer/Newsletter	Peter Klin
Accommodation Secretary	Jacky May
Membership Secretary	Michael James
Mayor's Secretary PA	Hayley Thorne
Social Secretary	Moir Blackman
<b>Committee members</b>	Brenda Smith
	Elaine Williams
	David Rayner
	Hilary Jones
	Sandy May
	Cllr Simon Piggott
	Cllr Julian Charatan





# CRAWLEY TOWN TWINNING ASSOCIATION



## What is Town Twinning?

Town twinning exists to promote friendship between people of different countries through personal and cultural links. Every year a group from Crawley visits Dorsten or a group from Dorsten comes here. We pay our own travel expenses but when in Germany we stay with a German family as non-paying guests and visits are arranged to places of interest. The following year we act as hosts to our German guests.

The link between our Towns has been in existence since 1973 and many strong friendships have been built up during this time.

Membership is open to Families, Individuals, Clubs and Societies.

You do not have to speak German but there is the opportunity to do so of course.

For more information please contact:

The membership secretary, Michal James, on 07990 972379 or 01293 532699

e-mail: [mike@mikedjames.co.uk](mailto:mike@mikedjames.co.uk)

## APPLICATION FORM FOR NEW MEMBERS

### How to join:

Fill out this application form and send it together with your subscription to:  
**Membership Secretary**

**Michael James, 16 Epsom Road, Furnace Green, Crawley, RH10 6LU**

**e-mail: [mike@mikedjames.co.uk](mailto:mike@mikedjames.co.uk)**

### Annual subscriptions

To subscribe you will need to make annual payments to:  
**Crawley Town Twinning Association (CTTA)**

**Metro Bank, account no. 44788063, sort code 23 -05 - 80**

**Please quote your name and its payment for membership fees.**

<b>Individual residents</b>	<b>£8.00</b>
<b>Individual non-residents</b>	<b>£10.00</b>
<b>Family residents</b>	<b>£12.00</b>
<b>Family non-residents</b>	<b>£15.00</b>

**Name.....**

**Address.....**

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**Telephone/mobile.....**

**e-mail.....**