

# CRAWLEY TOWN TWINNING ASSOCIATION

Issue 86

CTTA NEWSLETTER - WINTER EDITION

January 2022

Dear Members and Friends,

Welcome to the January 2022 issue of the CTTA Newsletter. Unfortunately the pandemic situation has not got much better in the last 12 months and even after two years since its start we don't anticipate that we can go back to our normal association activities much before the beginning of 2023.

In his annual review in this Newsletter, the current chairman Iain Millar has very well summarised the overall situation in 2021. I therefore don't want to repeat too much of what was already mentioned. Namely the very sad news of passing away of four of our past members of the association.

On a happier note Geoff and Jacky May had managed to "squeeze in" an excellent BBQ at end of August hosted again in their garden. The event even included lovely weather with a wonderful bonus of a happy cheer and smile in-between the gloomy rest of the 2021. Many thanks to you both.

May I wish you and your families a Happy and Healthy New Year.

Peter Klin,  
PR officer and Newsletter Editor  
On Behalf of CTTA



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## December 2021 REVIEW OF THE YEAR

As I write this note the end of the year is fast approaching and a second year has passed during which most events and holidays have been cancelled and the number of new cases of Covid-19 are still rising. Most of us have never experienced the like before and, for some, 2021 was not a year that we wish to remember. In particular, we had the sad loss of Raj, ex- Mayor of Crawley, a friend and a hard-working committee member of the CTTA. In addition to the many tributes to Raj in this country an obituary to him was published in the Dorstener Zeitung acknowledging his contribution to Town Twinning and the friendships between the peoples of our two towns. Our deepest sympathy goes to Bhavna and their children.

We also lost Tom Leahy though not due to Covid. Tom has been our treasurer for as long as I can remember, and we are indebted to him for all he has done for the Association. Our thoughts again go to Helena and their family.

Sadly on the 27th October our past member and committee member Henry Miller passed away. Henry despite his advanced years was a very lively and valuable member to our association. Henry resigned from the CTTA at the end of 2016. Our deepest sympathy goes to Henry's family. Just at the close of the year we received the sad news that our long standing and loyal member Solveig Potier passed away on 30th December. Many of you will remember Solveig as a very friendly and kind person, who together with her husband John attended many Association events, main group visits and DCM's. Our deepest sympathy goes to John and his family.

Our annual dinner, the Main Group visit to Dorsten (planned for August) and the Dual Committee Meeting (planned for October) were all cancelled due to the pandemic. Geoff and Jacky however kindly volunteered to organize a BBQ at the end of August as this could be held outdoors in their lovely garden. So, with all those attending having been double vaccinated, we were able to relax and enjoy each other's company in the lovely summer weather. Many thanks to Geoff and Jacky for their hospitality and hard work in making a most enjoyable evening.

### Ex-Bürgermeister von Crawley stirbt nach Corona-Infektion

Dorsten. Die Corona-Lage auf den britischen Inseln ist dramatisch. In Dorstens Partnerstadt Crawley ist jetzt einer der bekanntesten Einwohner in Zusammenhang mit einer Corona-Infektion verstorben.

Dorstens britische Partnerstadt Crawley trauert um ihren ehemaligen Bürgermeister. Raj Sharma ist am Dienstag (12. Januar) nach einer Corona-Infektion gestorben. Das hat die Stadtverwaltung von Crawley bestätigt. Raj Sharma wurde 68 Jahre alt. Der in Delhi (Indien) geborene Sharma war zweimal Bürgermeister von Crawley, 2016/2017 und 2019/2020. Er liehe seit 1992 in der Stadt. Seine Amtszeit verlief beinahe parallel zur ersten Amtszeit von Dorstens Bürgermeister Tobias Stockhoff. Sharma war Mitglied der Labour-Partei und galt als großer Freund der Städtepartnerschaft.

„Er hat die Freundschaft unserer Städte gefördert.“ Im Dorstener Rathaus wurde die Nachricht vom Tod des ehemaligen Bürgermeisters von Crawley mit Bestürzung aufgenommen. In seiner ersten Reaktion betonte Bürgermeister Tobias Stockhoff: „Er hat sich nicht nur mit ganzer Kraft für seine Stadt eingesetzt, sondern ebenso engagiert die Freundschaft unse-

rer Städte gefördert.“ Für Dorstens Bürgermeister war sein Amtskollege „ein Freund, ein Original, authentisch und dem Menschen zugewandt“. Im April 2020 hatte sich Raj Sharma auf Initiative der Stadt Dorsten an einer Corona-Aktion aller Partnerstädte beteiligt. „Show decency - keep distance“ (Zeig Anstand - Halt Abstand) stand auf dem Schild, das er in die Kamera hielt. Jetzt ist er selbst ein Opfer der Corona-Pandemie geworden. *diep*



Raj Sharma, Ex-Bürgermeister von Crawley, starb jetzt nach einer Corona-Infektion.

KOTO/REUTERS  
Anatige



## Crawley Town Twinning Association



### December 2021 REVIEW OF THE YEAR

(cont. from page 2)

No committee meetings were held during the year and any important business has had to be transacted by e-mail. We also had to cancel the AGM. One task was to seek a new treasurer and we are deeply indebted to Di Sullivan for kindly volunteering to take on the role. Brenda Smith, one of our longest serving members, twice Mayor of Crawley, long term Borough and County Councillor and Chairperson of the CTTA has also felt it was time to retire. Brenda will continue to serve on the committee but would like to give up the Chair, so once life returns to normal this is another position that we shall have to fill. In the meantime I, as vice Chairman, will take on these responsibilities until we can elect a replacement to lead the Association into the future.

That was the year that was but what will 2022 have in store for us? Everything is very uncertain at the moment, but we have our plans in the hope that social events and travel rules will be relaxed so please keep your vaccinations up to date, take care and stay safe and hopefully life will soon return to normal.

With best wishes to you all for a happy and healthy New Year.

Iain

### Stammtisch by Zoom



Our friends in Dorsten also had to cancel their planned events and in particular their monthly “Stammtisch” when they get together in Georg’s pub for a drink and conversation in English. This however was replaced with a virtual “Stammtisch” set up by Peter Guenther on Zoom and members from Crawley were invited to join in. This worked very well and enabled us to keep in touch despite the travel restrictions.

Iain



## Crawley Town Twinning Association



### Henry William Miller passed away

Henry William Miller 1933 - 27.10.21. He died at home, very suddenly. His partner, Susan Thorpe, was with him. He had met Susan whilst on one of his coach tours, they moved in together and lived at Mitchell Court, Massetts Road, Horley.

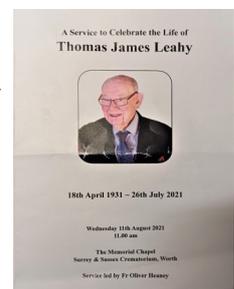
He had had a very full life and enjoyed family, travel and singing. During the address his association with Town Twinning was mentioned and how much he had enjoyed meeting fellow twinningers in Germany and here, in Crawley. His cremation was very well attended. It began with What a Wonderful World and ended with Wish Me Luck as you Wave Me Goodbye and we all sang, I vow to Thee My Country. Colour was important to Henry, he always wore colourful socks, and the Silver Birch Singers were asked to sing, Somewhere Over The Rainbow during the service. He was a valued member of the Singers and will be greatly missed.

26.11.2021 by Hillary Jones

### Thomas James Leahy passed away

Thomas James Leahy 18.4.1931-26.7.2021. Tom belonged to the long serving members of the Crawley Town Twinning Association and had been the association's treasurer for over 22 years. When the Dorsten MGV or DCM were visiting Crawley Tom and Helena were always hosting, especially but not exclusively the group's coach driver. As Iain Millar already mentioned " We are indebted to him for all he has done for the association" and I can not express our gratitude to Tom any better than this-you will be greatly missed.

Apart from his CTTA membership and being part of the executive committee in a position of a treasurer, Tom was also a member of St Edwards catholic church in Pound Hill and the church's treasurer. He was very active member of the congregation and often organized quiz evenings and coach trips for the church's social club thus bringing the much needed revenue for the church. Our thoughts and prayers go to Helena, daughters and family.



7.01.2022 by Peter Klin

# Crawley Town Twinning Association



**Jubilee - almost a miracle!** (created on 12/24/2021 by Marita Kipinski  
translated by Peter Klin)

DZ -

Dear Readers,

Please allow me to introduce myself: My name is Jubilee and I am an original English telephone booth. I saw the light of day in 1936. You may wonder why my father, Giles Gilbert Scott, named me Jubilee of all people. Well the answer is obvious. The Silver Jubilee of His Majesty King George V had led to exuberant joy throughout the Commonwealth only a year earlier, and I was now given the great honour of reminding people of this joyous event in many places throughout the kingdom by my presence alone. In all modesty I can say that my fame soon broke the borders of the United Kingdom and that my typically English appearance with the traditional Tudor crown on my head and the bright red colour also caused a sensation on the continent.

So it didn't surprise me at all that, on the occasion of the 10th anniversary of the town twinning between Dorsten and Crawley, the dear citizens of Crawley gave me, Jubilee, of all people, to their dear friends in distant Dorsten. This decision made me very proud of course (or "tickled pink" - as it is called in my mother tongue), but I don't want to hide the fact that I was a little afraid of this adventure. After all, I had never left my beloved island before and now I should be "abandoned" on the continent, in a country whose language I did not understand and whose people, as you always hear, have no sense of humour and are terribly conscientious.

So I was driven to Germany and solemnly inaugurated at my new place of honour at the entrance to the Dorsten pedestrian zone. Many people had come to greet me and - what a joy! - Most of them spoke English to me.

I immediately felt at home in beautiful Dorsten and it was to stay that way for many years. The brave citizens of Dorsten enjoyed my bright red and used my phone, which even worked in Germany. Unfortunately the tide turned at some point, I can't even say when. Dealing with me became rougher, even downright disrespectful, or should I say "loveless"? If you had looked at me almost tenderly before, you now began to scratch and destroy my windows and even the cables of the telephone were torn out. Ugly posters spoiled my back and then my beautiful wooden door was completely destroyed, so that the wind whistled through me and I was terribly cold.

Without a working phone, with a battered exterior and too old to fight - who should love me now?

I put all my hopes in a letter to His Honour, the Mayor of Dorsten, and told him about the torments I was exposed to every day. My patience was put to the test. I had to wait a long time for an answer, but in September 2015 my pleading was heard. I was finally able to move and move into my temporary home in the Dorsten building yard. Patience was again required there, because the dear people of the Crawley Circle of Friends first had to move heaven and earth to raise the money for my restoration. They finally made it, and it is thanks to them that I was transferred to the "Dorsten Works Department" clinic, where I was restored to a respectable condition using all the rules of German engineering.

It took a long time to find a new location for me. At my age, however, you learned to be patient and it was always worth it. Now I am standing in my entire regained splendour at the Dorsten hospital and enjoy the peace and security that assisted living gives us old people. Nobody bothered me anymore, everyone treats me respectfully and every now and then people even stop and look curiously inside me. After almost 90 years of life, of course, nothing is the same as it used to be, but I think I can be satisfied. Depending on the season, my insides even change, thanks to the creative ladies of the Crawley Circle of Friends.

Christmas time is my favourite. Garlands and a Santa Claus and wonderful Christmas cards from England decorate me and my brightly cleaned window panes and ensure the German cosiness that belongs to the Advent season.

It almost seems like a miracle to me that I can enjoy my old age so carefree. I am happy and extremely grateful and hope that I will be able to delight the Dorsten friends with my sight for many years to come. Your most humble servant



Jubilee  
The Telephone Box

## Crawley Town Twinning Association



### CTTA BBQ 2021

With all other events cancelled due to Covid-19 most of us were having withdrawal symptoms from the lack of social contact and the slight relaxation of the rules in August gave us the opportunity to hold our annual BBQ which as usual was held in Geoff and Jacky's back garden with the only requirement being that all be double vaccinated.



Over the years Geoff has built up his collection of garden furniture, some of it purchased in Dorsten, to the extent that it is the ideal venue for a BBQ and can cope with almost any kind of weather. Fortunately, this year the weather was very kind to us, so we were able to eat outside and only retreat to sit around the patio stove when it was quite late in the evening.

Once again Jacky prepared a delicious spread of salads and desserts while Master Chef Geoff was busy cooking a selection of burgers, sausages and chicken. It was lovely to chat once again with friends in a relaxing



atmosphere when we could put the world to rights and catch up with the news, not knowing how long it would be before we could do something similar again. Very many thanks once again to Geoff and Jacky for their hard work and hospitality.

Iain

# Crawley Town Twinning Association



## Photos from Guy Fawkes Night in Dorsten November 2021



## Crawley Town Twinning Association



### CTTA COMMITTEE MEMBERS FOR 2021

Position	Name
<b>Executive Committee Members</b>	
Chairperson	Iain Millar
Vice Chairman	
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
<b>Honorary Member</b>	Marion James
<b>Committee members</b>	
	Cllr Brenda Smith
	Cllr Carol Eade
	Elaine Williams
	David Rayner
	Marilyn Millar
	Hilary Jones
	Moira Blackman