



Crawley Town Twinning Association

Foreword by the editor

Dear Members and friends,

Welcome to our Summer 2008 edition of the CTTA newsletter.

As reported in our last issue in April, this year's Main Group Visit (MGV) will take place between 15th to 23rd August 2008. Geoff May, who has again kindly agreed to lead the group, reports that the numbers for the trip are now fully booked. Included in this group are 11 youths. I am sure that as in the previous MG visits to Dorsten, the group will have a wonderful time with a varied and interesting programme prepared by our Dorsten committee and friends.

Please note that this year we are going to hold our Annual General Meeting (AGM) in the autumn. The AGM will be held on Wednesday 15th October at the Town Hall.

The CTTA committee had a presentation to Crawley Borough Council in June. For more details about this event see inside this issue.

On behalf of the committee may I wish all our members

and friends a pleasant and sunny summer.

Peter Klin

Public Relation Officer
(CTTA)

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It is with deep sorrow and regret that we announce the death of one of our long time members Freda Hyams, 25.01.32 – 17.05.08

Elfriede (Freda) Marthe Kathe Hyams came to England when she was 23. She came here as a Nanny to a Family with young children and worked in Church Road, Worth.

When she arrived she could speak little English and learnt the language together with the children in her care. She met Phill soon after arriving and they fell in Love, but almost did not make it to marriage. She was an 'alien' staying here on a work permit and it was still very early after the war and so she could not stay permanently and was about to leave England. Phill popped the question and they got married on the 7th June 1957. They lived in Long Close very happily for many years and celebrated their Ruby wedding in 1997.

After, Phill died she was heart broken and suffered many bouts of ill health. As a diabetic, her health was never that good and she suffered mild strokes and many spells in Hospital. On one occasion, she spent three months with a broken ankle in Horsham hospital, but this did not stop her playing 'host' as she let her friends from Dorsten stay in her home, during the main group visit. After, she recovered we (John Potier and I) fitted a stair lift for her as it was the stairs that caused her broken ankle. It did take though a lot of persuasion and a fair while for her to agree to this. Not because she did not want to admit age was creeping up on her, oh no, the main reason for her reluctance was it would restrict the space on the stairs 'for people' to get upstairs, when they stayed with her. This was typical of Freda, always thinking of others.

She was thought of by many from Dorsten as their English Mum. A fluent German speaker they would say but with an 'English Brain.' Who, can remember during the visits from our Dorsten friends that as the week progressed she would speak to us in German and to them in English, which always caused a huge laugh, as she did not realise she was doing it, until we reminded her! Over many years she hosted those from other towns in Germany and the

Italian teachers/students during the language schools during the summer.

We all have our 'little faults' and Freda's main one was not keeping 'paperwork' and over the years she 'misaid' many important pieces including an airline ticket and even Phill's wage packet, one time! She did enjoy her social life, loved to Dance and entertain and play host to family and friends. She was happiest when the house was not empty. Bingo and playing cards were two of her main passions. At the time of her stroke she was at the Gala bingo club. She also loved her takeaway Chinese, and liked nothing more than combining this with a game of cards after the meal.

Town Twinning was how we (Geoff, Jacky, Sandy and Sarah) began our friendship with Freda and Phill when in 1994 we went for the first time with the group to Dorsten. An example of Freda's and Phill's kindness and generosity was on the journey home we realised whilst standing in the cue for food that we had no English money for a meal. Without, hesitation Freda gave us £10 (she did not know us, not really) so we could all get something to eat, which was a life saver with two hungry and tired children to keep happy. From then on they both became very close friends and like adopted parents to us and grand parents to Sandy and Sarah. Jacky, would often find Freda defending me and that she was like the daughter in law, in the wrong!

They became a close part of our entire Family.

Although, Freda could not let us know 'in words' how she felt during her last stay in Hospital, she was, we are sure grateful to everyone that visited her in the those last five weeks. We are sure it helped and comforted her. She is now reunited with Phill and they are together again as she had wished for many times since his departure in 1998. She will be sadly missed by so many people whose lives she touched.

The kind donations to the memory of Freda in aid of the St Catherines Hospice and the Stroke Association amounted to £271.20

Geoff, Jacky, Sandy and Sarah May



CRAWLEY TOWN TWINNING ASSOCIATION



Presentation to Crawley Borough Council

Thursday 19th June 2008

Meeting with the Town Council

On the 19th June 2008 the committee met with members of the Town Council with the aim of enlisting their support in publicising the Town Twinning Association and recruiting new members.

The Chairman, Iain Millar and Secretary, Geoff May, gave a Powerpoint presentation explaining the activities of the Town Twinning Association before going on to discuss the issues facing us today, namely the advancing age of the membership and the need to recruit more young families and to encourage young people in general to become involved.

Councillor Jim Smith completed the presentation by relating his experiences with the Association as President, past Chairman and Council representative over 35 years, with many most amusing anecdotes.

The meeting was most successful and we hope that future joint activities will follow.

Iain Millar

Musicians visit Dorsten - a short note from Stan Tofield

Dear Geoff and the CTTA,

Myself and another couple of musicians went over to the Wulfen Schutzenfest at the end of June. It was their 175th Anniversary Jubilee.

On the Saturday we went to the old mill in Deuten and met up with the Dorsten half of the Partnerstadtverein, who were on a combined bike ride and visit to the mill. The workings of the mill (refurbished) were explained at some length by the Curator/renovator/caretaker and we finished off with a big helping of typical luscious cakes.

All the best Stan Tofield

A NOTE FOR YOUR DIARY

Wine Tasting

CTTA will be hosting another German wine tasting evening on Saturday 11th October to be presented by Keith Sullivan. Further details will be announced in the next newsletter or a flyer to be issued during September; for now, make a note in your diary.

Keith

Annual General Meeting

Please note that this year AGM will be held on Wednesday 15th October 2008 at the Town Hall at 8 pm.

As in previous years the committee does hope that as many CTTA members will attend and also put themselves forward for election to the executive committee for the year 2008/2009.

Peter

Photographic Competition

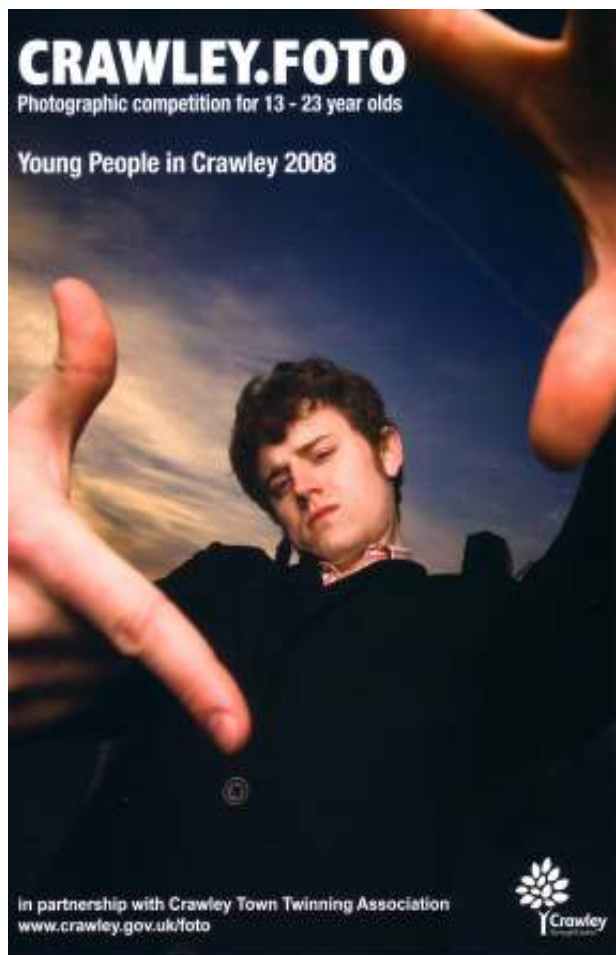
In our March newsletter I announced our closer links with the Borough Council and that one of the drivers for this was Dorsten's involvement with the neighbouring city of Essen being voted European City of Culture in 2010.

Essen has chosen Town Twinning as the theme for their celebration and has encouraged all towns in the area to devise projects involving their twin towns. Dorsten has proposed a youth photographic competition illustrating everyday events in the life of young people in their respective countries and to hold a joint presentation and exhibition as part of Essen 2010.

In order to participate in this the CTTA has joined forces with the Corporate Policy Unit in the Town Hall and the Arts group in the Hawth to organize the "Crawley.Foto" competition for young people in Crawley. The rules follow those drawn up by Dorsten for Essen 2010 so that the winning photos from Crawley can be sent on to Dorsten.

Photographs submitted will be displayed later in the summer in County Mall, the Hawth and hopefully also in K2.

Iain Millar



New Logo for the CTTA

In 2007 our then Chairman, Frank Baker, designed a new letterhead for the CTTA which is now used for all our official correspondence.

We followed this up in 2008 with a request to the committee to design a logo that could be used in other publications and displays. Several designs were submitted but once again Frank's computer artistry won the day with the submission shown here.

Frank has also made good use of his recent retirement to produce a CTTA Powerpoint video on his computer. This was shown at our meeting with the Town Council on the 19th June and will be available for other occasions.

Congratulations, Frank, and thank you for all your efforts.

Iain Millar

The Weald Choir's visit to Dorsten, Germany 19th – 22nd October 2007

Dorsten, near Essen in Germany is Crawley's official twin town, and the Weald Choir has been making regular visits since October 1987. Our first link was with the combined pupils', adults' and teachers' choir of the Wulfen Comprehensive School just to the north of the town of Dorsten. Four joint concerts took place in the period from October 1987 to June 1993. A change in the school's staffing led to considerable change which led to the breaking of our link. However, the desire to continue our musical link with Crawley's twin town was very strong, and in September 1999 a new link was forged with the Choir of the Dorsten school of Music. Since then the combined resources of the choirs have performed Mozart's Requiem, Elgar's "Great is the Lord", Mendelssohn's Hymn of Praise (Lobgesang) and Brahms' German Requiem. In June 2006 we were pleased to welcome our friends from Dorsten to join in our performance of the Brahms' Requiem in the Hawth, and as the work had not been performed by the combined choirs in



Dorsten, we were pleased to accept the invitation to go back to Dorsten to take part in the October 2007 performance in St. Agatha's Church in the Dorsten town centre.

All our previous visits to Dorsten had been made by coach, but increasing coach costs and the arrival of budget air fares made it sensible to consider using air transport. Thus it was that at 6.00 a.m. a gathering took place in the Arrivals area of Gatwick Airport's South Terminal of members of the Weald Choir. Everyone was on time! Departure procedures were efficiently completed with the result that we were all in our seats ready for the 8.00 a.m. departure to Cologne-Bonn Airport. EasyJet maintained their impressive punctuality record by arriving at Cologne at 10.15 a.m.(local time). On arrival at the airport we were met by Marita Kipinski, the Chairman of the Dorsten – Crawley Town Twinning Group, and a coach ready to take us direct to Dorsten. It must be mentioned that this part of the journey was at no expense to us, the supply and financing of the coach having been made by the Dorsten town authorities. During the journey from Cologne to Dorsten Marita explained the immediate

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arrangements in her impeccable English, and she also issued to choir members red shopping bags with the trading slogan **Gut**, which included much information about Dorsten including street maps. These bags had been supplied by the West Recklinghausen branch of the Sparkasse bank.

We reached Dorsten at about 13.15 and were taken to the Hotel Haus Berken where most of the party were staying. They were greeted with a warming sausage and soup meal which was much appreciated. Other members of the party were collected from here by their host families. Arrangements had been made for all those staying in the hotel to be collected by members of the Dorsten choir and to be taken to the various venues for rehearsals etc. Similar arrangements had also been made for everyone to be returned to their hotel after the various events.

After arrival in Dorsten the first item on the agenda was a welcoming reception in the School of Music at 5.30 p.m. . It was good to see friends from previous visits and to be able to reminisce about previous concerts. During this time members of the Dorsten choir were arriving, bringing with them a wide range of appetising foodstuffs which became the basis of a fabulous buffet reception. This very impressive reception was followed by a full rehearsal of the Brahms' German Requiem, the main purpose of our visit. At the end of the rehearsal the Weald members who were staying in the hotel were collected and returned to their hotel by the Dorsten Choir's very well organised transport system.

Saturday 20th October 2007 – Market Day in Dorsten. Having a free morning enabled many of the Weald members to get acquainted with the Dorsten centre and to take advantage of the weekly market. In the afternoon there was a tutti rehearsal in the church with the combined choir, orchestra and soloists. At the end of this rehearsal, everything had to be taken down to enable the first weekend mass to go ahead. Fortunately Eugen Kayser, the Conductor of the concert, was happy enough with the rehearsal and the blends of chorus, soloists and orchestra to enable an early finish which gave some of the choir members the opportunity to reacquaint themselves with the joys of some of the local ice cream parlours!

Sunday 21st October 2007 – for those who wished to attend, a walking tour of the old centre of Dorsten was arranged. The guide was provided by the Town Twinning group of Dorsten and the walk took about 1.5 hours. The walk, which was well attended by the fit members of the Weald party, started at the Lippeter and went down to the Wesel-Dattein Canal. Nearby on the East Wall there remains the oldest town house in Dorsten, having had the good fortune to escape aerial bombardment. Also visited was a sculpture behind the Ursuline Grammar School, the re-constituted Moat near the Protestant Johanne's Kirche and the Franziskanerkloster. Members in the party who

were staying in the hotel then returned for their three course lunch and others went off with their hosts/hostesses.

After lunch, everyone gathered in the St. Agatha Kirche Parish Room to warm up in readiness for the concert and then to be ready to assemble in a side chapel for the concert. The performance was scheduled to start at 6.00 p.m., and on entry, the choir could see there was a very full house, with hardly any seats left available. The concert was very successful with splendid soloists (Christine Alexander : Soprano; Joachim Gabriel Maass (Baritone) and orchestra (The Bergische Symphony Orchestra) and the three choirs involved, Dorsten Music School, Weald Choir and the Gelsenkirchen Music Club who blended well together. It was nice to hear Eugen compliment the choirs on how well each had been prepared for this concert.

After the concert all performers gathered together in the Parish Hall where a sumptuous meal had been provided for all participants. Before eating, Eugen Kayser and Marita Dopatka (the Dorsten choir's organiser) addressed those present (with Marita Kipinski translating into English). The conductor of the Gelsenkirchen choir also said a few words.

After the eating (and drinking) it was the turn of the Weald to express their thanks for the opportunity to take part in the concert, and also to thank the various local Dorsten organisations for their help in making our visit so successful. Thanks were made for the Dorsten Choir's organisation for arranging accommodation, transportation of choir members from the hotel to the town centre for the rehearsals and concert, and return after the various gatherings, and for arranging the guided visits within Dorsten itself. The Weald's contribution was concluded by the giving of a souvenir etched glass commemorative bowl to the Choir of the Dorsten Town Music School.

Monday 22nd October 2007 - the final morning in Dorsten was spent by most of the Weald members visiting the Westphalia Museum of Jewish Culture. The group then met together at the Dorsten School of Music to say their farewells before boarding the coach for the return journey to Cologne-Bonn Airport and then back to Gatwick (arrived at 9.00 p.m.)

Malcolm Ollis

For photos of this visit please refer to the next page number 8



Old Dorsten centre walk



Dorsten - the 'Story' fountain



St. Agatha's Church, Dorsten



Presentation bowl



Old friends meet again in Dorsten



Journey home - crossing the Rhine at Cologne

"Oh where, oh where can they be?"

Over recent months members of the Town Twinning Association and Crawley Council have been in discussions regarding the "revamping and promotion" of the Association. Whilst we proudly look back over some 35 years of friendship and fun with our Dorsten partners, we need to look to the future and the expectations of generations younger than that which many/most members of the Crawley group are in! New blood is needed in the Association or it will die out both metaphorically and literally. New members, with families, in the 30/40/50 year old bracket who are able to bring in new ideas and take over the Committee reins in the years ahead need to be recruited.

Quite correctly we can promote friendship and fun (not to mention food!) and the fact that no one has to have an ability to speak German to either join the group or benefit from visits to and from Dorsten, whilst equally saying it is an ideal opportunity for youngsters studying the German language to practise their skills or for adults to brush up on a language rarely used since school days.

But in an age where the norm is that most families already have holidays abroad, where youngsters regularly have sleep-overs in each others homes and 'adventure type holidays' with their schools, and where many schools have dropped German as their second language, how and to whom do we promote the benefits of living in a small German town for one week in the home of someone we may know nothing about - albeit with three one-day trips thrown in? Not to mention the fact that, in the following year, they might be asked to reciprocate this kindness!

It was on raising some of these points that Iain (Chairman) asked if I would write an article for July's Newsletter asking for the views of the members of the Association about these issues and asking for opinions as to how, and

to whom, we think the Association might be promoted and how and from where we believe new, younger members could be recruited.

We should therefore be very grateful if you could let Iain (email: i.millar@sky.com) know your thoughts and ideas - and the answer to the question:

"oh where, oh where can they be?"

and, if you are able, include in your correspondence the reason(s) why you were initially drawn to join the CTTA and what new and fresh ideas might help our recruitment drive and increase our numbers in and for the twenty first century.

Helen Kendall
Committee Member