



# CRAWLEY TOWN TWINNING



DECEMBER 98

NEWSLETTER 18

Dear friends,

This issue of the Newsletter finds a new hand on the tiller. Regrettably I find myself being the bearer of sad news, as you will see from a following column. I have volunteered to continue with the Newsletter so that we have a means of telling you all what we have been doing and what is proposed for the future.

I can't emphasize enough that the quality of any magazine is to a large extent dependent on contributors from outside the production department - and that goes for our humble effort!

So I would entreat you to have your own four or five pennyworth (two pennorth was before inflation) and bombard me with your letters! Brickbats are expected, but if you are in agreement with any views expressed we would like you to let us know that we have at least done something right!

So, to your pens! Who is going to be No.1 in CTTA letters column?

Yours sincerely,  
Ken Clement

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Sadly, we had to say goodbye, Auf wiedersehen und Tschus to Phill, a good friend to so many people and loyal supporter of the CTTA. He will be greatly missed by those who knew him well, both here and in Dorsten.

Phill, with his wife Frieda had been involved with the Twinning/Partnerschaft since the beginning - and Frieda will continue her close association, continuing to help on the committee, as they both had done. She also plans to host again, indeed recently did when the Dorsten committee were here in October, and will be closely involved when the folk from Dorsten visit next year (26/6 - 4/7 1999).

Phill always fondly remembered the very first Dorsten visit and the interpretations undertaken by his German-born wife Frieda, now well and truly Anglicized! They only visited Dorsten for the first time in 1994, and made friendships immediately with Dorsten and Crawley folk.

Phill enjoyed travelling, and especially to Dorsten. Their trip in May this year was sadly his last as he was unable to travel with the committee in September through ill health. During the May trip, their hosts took Frieda and Phill to visit their parents. The father, having been a prisoner-of-war was not at all keen on meeting any Englishmen. Through Phill's direct and friendly approach and explanations of the Allied troops' beliefs at that time, he was able to see the other side's point of view differently, and at the end of the evening they were both good friends.

A little-known fact is that Phill and Frieda between then made all the (unprinted) bunting on show for the 25th Anniversary celebrations on the 17th October. So cheers,  
Prost Phill -you may not have been there in person, but you were without doubt there in spirit, and will live on in all our memories.

Geoff May.



## WORK EXPERIENCE FOR DORSTEN STUDENTS

Marco Witting from Lembeck spent three wet weeks in July dressing up daily in dark suit, collar and tie to work in a Crawley solicitor's office. He says it would have been a nightmare to organize from Munster University but, as Frieda Hyams writes:

"While looking for a place his thoughts turned to the Town Twinning Association and, as always, a helping hand was stretched out between the two towns. The position was all he had hoped for, and he also sends heartfelt thanks to his host, David Rayner".

Marco was glad to find that after work, solicitors loosen their collars and ties and go down to the pub for a drink.

He got out and about in Sussex with his workmates and writes warmly of the countryside round Crawley as well as of the open welcome he received here.

Frieda and Phill Hyams hosted another student, Andreas Gartner, who spent two weeks with Thomson Simulation and a week with BAA. Frieda writes: "His thanks go to Peter Orriss as organiser in finding experience in electronics at Gatwick". Like Marco, Andreas had been apprehensive about meeting the English, but with Phill and Frieda he writes

that he felt as if he was on holiday. This and the work experience were so enjoyable he now says the only difference between the two nations lies in their languages; he fully intends to come back.



*Continuing our series of  
Committee thumbnail  
sketches...*

I started my life in Crawley when I came to the town as a

child-bride of seventeen years. Alan and I were expecting our first child and we moved into a brand-new house in Robin Close, Langley Green. It was paradise to us despite the clinker instead of pavements, no street-lights and the two caravans that served us as local shops. They were pioneer days and I wouldn't have missed them for the world.

Our life continued in Crawley and we eventually had three daughters and a son and a very happy life. We had by this time moved to a four-bedroomed house where I still reside today.

Alan and I met in the Labour League of Youth so we had always been political animals. As the children grew up Alan decided to stand for Crawley Borough Council, and went on to become not only a Borough Councillor but also served on the County Council. It was about this time that we became interested in Town Twinning. Alan became the Council representative on the Committee and I eventually became a committee member too. We have visited Dorsten

several times and also hosted, making many new friends in both Germany and England.

After 42 years of marriage, four children and twelve grand-children Alan, my husband sadly died. He was a wonderful husband and father and is greatly missed by his family and friends.

I then decided to stand for Council in Alan's place. I was successful and am now one of the Councillors for Ifield and also a Council representative for town-twinning. In May I went to Dorsten on my own for the first time: while it was difficult, friends in both Crawley and Dorsten were there to support me.

I have now entered a new period of my life. I have a new partner whose name is Ewan Craig. We have already embroiled him in the crazy goings-on of town-twinning, and he has been enticed onto the committee. We shall be visiting Dorsten together next year and by that time I shall be Mrs Ewan Craig.

Life has its sad and tragic times, but also its happy ones. I have been lucky to have had more happiness than sadness, but this is largely due to my wonderful family and friends and their continued support.

Hilda Pritchard

## 25TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS IN DORSTEN

The Dorsten Committee had invited past and present members of Town Twinning Committees to join them in their celebrations. Ken Clement and Marie-Odile Herve travelled early as Ken was booked to take Judy Rayner's place in giving a talk about Crawley to an evening class. (Judy is busy and active again now but was having to look after herself at that time.) Ken writes: "We set out on the 9th September to catch the 10.20 Seacat to Ostend....Due to a force 8 wind, however, we eventually found ourselves in Boulogne, some couple of hundred kilometres from where we wanted to be! We arrived in Dorsten some three hours late, having experienced torrential rain, Donner and Blitzen on the way.

When I arrived at the Petrinum, Dorsten's most prestigious school the next day, people were already drifting in, until there were about 40 - 50 in the audience. Quite a good response, I thought - then suddenly another 20 came in - an English language class who had been gathering elsewhere in the school! Needless to say I was somewhat nervous, especially as my host, Klaus Dietrich, had arranged for an article to appear in the local newspaper that morning.

Most of the audience had never been to Crawley, so I hope the slides I showed of Crawley

of yesteryear and Crawley today were helpful. I did explain that we did not all live in grand country mansions as seen in backdrops to English films, and the slides, kindly lent by George Redgrave, a CTTA member, illustrated the different types of housing in Crawley. I hope I gave a fair picture of the town - I ran overtime but no one left and some stayed to ask extra questions."

The formal celebrations began with a reception at the Rathaus on Saturday morning - quite a reunion with past Council and committee representatives on both sides.

We were presented with a 50 page illustrated booklet of our joint history which aroused many happy - and some hilarious- memories.

In the afternoon our respective Mayors and Chairmen addressed us and all paid tribute to Erika Dickhofer, who had sadly died shortly before this occasion that she must have wanted so much to share. Some of Dorsten's talented musicians played and sang, and, to our great surprise, a Mr Alan Charlton from the British Embassy gave an enthusiastic testimony to town-twinning - and revealed that he actually lives in Crawley.

We were about to leave the auditorium when a buzz of excitement drew us to the school-yard door. There outside stood

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a freshly painted and festively garlanded coaltruck full of Dorsten coal, presented by Dorsten to Crawley. It was a heart-stopping moment when members of the local male voice choir burst into their miners' song, "Gluck Auf!"

(the truck now stands in the Tilgate Park walled garden.)

A supper of roast sucking-pig and sauerkraut awaited us and then the band were there for an evening of dance and socializing.

On the following day we were driven by coach to Bonn to visit the new Museum of German History. This deals with the period from 1945 onwards, beginning with the clearing of rubble in the devastated towns at the end of the war and taking us on past the reunification of East and West Germany. Our day finished with a visit to a vintner's near Bonn. He had a very good line in wit as he introduced each wine to be sampled, and Marie-Odile noted them down:

With wine, women and song -you cannot go wrong.

When you're looking out for women and wine and it's too much for you - stop singing!

God give me life for a long time, work some of the time,  
sex from time to time -but give me wine all the time!

So the 25th anniversary celebrations came to a convivial end and we left our hosts the next day full of plans for our celebrations in Crawley the following month.



#### WULFEN BLASMUSIK - BRASS BAND FROM WULFEN

Did you see - and hear- a smartly turned out brass band in the town centre bandstand in May? That was the Wulfen band, neighbours of Dorsten. They were hosted by Clayton Jazz and spent a whirlwind weekend sightseeing and performing. They've sent us newspaper cuttings headlined "England war Super".

Look out for them when you visit Dorsten - they're a young band with plenty of energy - just what we need to carry on our tradition of putting like-minded people in touch with each other - a bit of Oompah and Oomph!



## RETIRING CHAIRMAN?

Well, no-one could call Jim Smith retiring - but now it's been made official. Jim is retiring as Chairman after 25 years! He announced it at the dance to celebrate our anniversary and we marked the occasion by sending off the rest of our helium filled balloons, standing outside the Town Hall while they drifted off towards the coast against a cobalt - coloured sky.

Jim was going out on a high note: the day had been spent in Queen's Square, battling against wind and rain to sell raffle tickets and entries for the balloon race - the winner was picked up in Brandenburg near Berlin! - while bands (arranged by Stan Tofield of Clayton Jazz) and the Weald Choir performed in the bandstand. We met again for the dance, and after Jim's announcement expressed our thanks for 25 years of energetic leadership.

Who will take his place? Peter Orriss is standing in for the time being, with Geoff May as his deputy, but neither feel they can take on the task. We have until next summer's AGM to find someone.

The town-twinning year finished with the joint committee meeting in October. We took our guests to Lewes - try its steep cobbled streets sluiced with gale-force winds, rain and slippery leaves for a really interesting day out! We gave the castle a miss. After the

joint committee meeting we had

lunch at Rowfant House and finally met up again to see the coal-truck established in Tilgate Park.

There will be a Xmas dinner on December 6th - then things go quiet until preparations for the group visit in May/June begin. Contact a committee member if you want to be in on it next year!



OVERLEAF IS THE LETTER FROM  
THE FINDER OF THE BALLOON  
FROM BRANDENBURG NEAR  
BERLIN, PRINTED AS RECEIVED.