



# CRAWLEY TOWN TWINNING



August 1999

NEWSLETTER 20

From the Chairman -

August 1999

Hello again with the first Newsletter of the new Committee year. For those of you who were unable to attend the AGM my first duty is to introduce the members to you:-

President - Jim Smith  
Chairman - Ken Clement 413026  
Vice-Chairman - Peter Orriss 01342 7713389  
Secretary - Geoff May 885444  
Treasurer - Tom Leahy  
Minutes - Jacky May  
Membership - Peter Klin  
Accommodation - Marie-Odile Herve  
CBC Representatives - Cllr Jim Smith and one to be advised  
Other members - Frank Baker, Elfrieda Hyams, Joyce Kane,  
Chantal Wood, Victor Wood.

As you will observe, we have had an enormous change in the composition of the Committee: particularly pleasing is that we have increased the number of female members. We hope that we will be able to employ the individual talents of all in the conduct of our business during the coming year.

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Know Your Committee - Chantal & Victor Wood

Yes - they both volunteered! So we interviewed them together and hope you can disentangle the result.

Q1 HOW DID YOUR INTEREST IN TOWN TWINNING BEGIN?

A We met in Munich and lived there and in Gilching, a suburb of Munich, for 9 years. There we found we were part of a minority culture of foreigners living in the town. We met regularly for walks and tea or coffee afterwards - the group was a total mixture of ages, which we liked. We also belonged to a German-organized international group which met for social or dinner outings. We were aware too that Gilching had a twin town in Italy - Cecina - in fact we lived in Cecina Strasse.

Q2 HOW DID YOU FIND OUT ABOUT CRAWLEY TTA?

A After 9 months back in England, eventually settling in Crawley, we saw something in the newspaper about the 25th anniversary of CTTA. We had tried, with no success, to start an international group, and felt this might give good social contacts. Chantal's fellow-employees in London are rather limited in outlook, and she also wanted to keep up her German. Victor

works at Haywards Heath Hospital as the IT manager. As he's nearer home, he's the one who gets home first and gets the dinner on.

Q3 WAS THERE ANYTHING IN YOUR EARLY LIVES TO ENCOURAGE AN INTERNATIONAL OUTLOOK?

A Chantal - I always wanted to get away from my hometown of Chateau du Loir. As a child I dreamed of being able to speak foreign languages and travel abroad. I would always rather

travel than buy clothes! (All this with delightful French accent and gestures.)

Victor - As far back as I can remember my parents took their holidays in a motor-caravan - once my Dad spent the whole year rebuilding it in preparation for the next trip - first in England, then in Holland, Germany, France, Portugal - all over Europe. Strangely enough, long before we met, I had visited Chantal's hometown, and later discovered one of my great-uncles was buried there.

Q4 AND DID YOU BOTH HAVE A GIFT FOR LANGUAGES?

A Victor - I did five years French and just didn't get on with it. Unlike Chantal I learn by listening and repetition. We speak a sort of Eurospeak together - a mixture of German and English.

Chantal - My schooling was very old-fashioned, beginning with writing on a slate. The French system believes you have to master your own language first and I have always learnt languages in the same way. Right up to the age of nineteen I was very shy and saw languages as a way of overcoming this. Working in Munich I was often juggling with four languages at once - German at work, French with my friends, English with Victor and Italian on a business course.

Q5 WHAT ARE YOUR OTHER INTERESTS?

A Chantal - When we're travelling we like to meet vintners and sample local wines, including English ones, some of which are very good. In Hungary, drinking Tokay, we discovered that the way to avoid being had up for drink driving is to mix it with paracetamol - then it's classed as a medicine!

Victor - I spend time on the Internet and am building a website with links to 400 vineyards. There's already a Crawley - Dorsten website.

Q6 WHAT DO YOU THINK CRAWLEY HAS TO OFFER AS A TWIN TOWN?



A We came here because of its good location - access to sea and airports, and to London. And of course its good employment opportunities. Those aspects would make it attractive, for instance, to Baltic towns, which are beginning to establish themselves industrially. We could communicate in German and English - and, of course, our weather is similar. We personally have sentimental links with Greece ... (the country where Chantal and Vic have spent holidays and where they hope to retire one day).

#### Another twinning link...

Last year we (members of St. Andrew's Church, Furnace Green) made a link with the Rev. Henning Braismaster and the congregation of the Johanneskirche in Dorsten. So this year it was nice to welcome him back in Crawley and he stayed with Rev. Martin Greig at St. Andrew's House. On Sunday 27th June he, the Gunther family and others from the committee came to St. Andrew's Church. Henning gave a greeting from his church, partly in English and also through a translator, and he shared in giving the communion with Martin. He also said that our church service was very similar to the Dorsten Church, and he enjoyed the service.

After this a picnic had been planned so that we could all get to know each other. As the weather was not too good we ate in the church lounge. After eating we had indoor games which went very well. One of the most humorous games was that of seeing the two ministers entangled in the game of twister, and a good afternoon was had by all. Since then a few people from St. Andrew's have expressed a desire to be involved with the town

winning next year. So it seems that a successful link has been formed with the Crawley and Dorsten churches.

Christine and Frank Baker

PS. We would both like to thank the committee for a very enjoyable week that was planned this year.

#### A request from Dorsten

Georg Bruggemann, a committee member, has asked Geoff May whether we could help him trace the family he stayed with on a school trip in 1975. The schools involved were the Gerhard Hauptmann Schule and Thomas Bennett, and the family were a pilot at Gatwick and his wife and two children, Cathy and Jeremy Allen. Geoff has tried the telephone book and Thomas Bennett records without success. We shall try the local papers - but meanwhile - any memories?



Work experience visits (translated from an article in the local Dorsten newspaper)

Gerd Kathstede (20) needed to complete his obligatory civil, as opposed to military, service and also wanted to polish up his English before studying law at university. So he combined the two, with the help of Dorsten TTA, by spending four weeks at Deerswood School.

Anja Kipinski (18) also came to Crawley for work experience and spent three weeks in the Public Relations Department at the Town Hall. (Many thanks to Brenda Smith for arranging this.) Anja was greatly surprised at the relaxed atmosphere in the office - everyone was on first name terms (the equivalent of using "du" in German) and she was allowed to use the Manager's computer.

In the evenings she went out with colleagues and said that bowling and karaoke bars were popular.

PS. Anja did tell us that she missed the typical evening entertainment for teenagers at home, where they all go out to a barn to play music and dance - less commercial than here.

There were several articles in the Dorsten newspapers about the group visit, all illustrated with photographs, and talking enthusiastically about the programme of visits, especially the trip to Hampton Court "on the trail of an English King" as they put it. How can we get our newspapers to take notice of what's happening (apart from crime and house-sales) on their doorstep?

Penfriend wanted!

A 13 year-old girl, Birte Brandel, seeks a penfriend of that age.  
Any offers to the Secretary please.



## E-Mail from Steinwede

Subj: Please send this newsletter to Ken Clement

Date: 8/8/99 20:54:24 GMT Daylight Time

From: Jsteinwede@web.de (Johannes Steinwede)

To: Gmay584553@aol.com

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Kostenlose E-Mail mit digitaler Unterschrift und Verschlüsselung bei:  
<http://freemail.web.de>

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Don't Forget To Bring Your Sandwiches!

Dorsten/Crawley 99

On Saturday, June 26th, 8.00 a.m., a group of half-wake more or less young Germans happened to meet at the notorious Central Bus Station in Dorsten. What would have moved forty sleepymen and women, boys and girls to get up so early? The same thing that also got me, one of two so-called Pat-O-Brien Students up and joining the group of the Dorsten & Crawley town twinning.

It was the day of the bus departure from Dorsten to their twin town Crawley, and the first time that really all the members of this year's exchange met. For my part, another pupil of the Gymnasium Petrinum school Dorsten and me had been chosen to join the group on their journey and to represent Dorsten in the United Kingdom.

Seven hours after our departure from Dorsten we arrived in Crawley, at four p.m. [attention to the time difference to the continent] and according to the fact we arrived an hour earlier than we had planned, nobody really waited for us at the Hawth. The luckiest of us had brought their mobile phone and could phone their hosts.

Anyway, we were surprised by a very warm welcome by the hosts who were all very friendly and always open for any funny story we could tell from our Journey.

The programme for our visit did not only include the official side of events, like the Mayor's reception, visits to Horsham and Hampton, an extended tour with the Romney, Hythe & Dymchurch railway, but also several nice parties at different hosts, talk and chat, lots of fun and last but not least many German-English friendships which will hopefully last as long as possible.

So time went by quickly, and the week found a glamorous climax in the really great Crawley Proms in the Park, who were also the last event of the last main group visit of Germans in Crawley for this millennium. May the partnership between Dorsten and Crawley last another thousand years.

Stays to thank all of the hosts for being so occupied about us, to all the people from Crawley and Dorsten who made this trip and town twinning possible, and my special thanks goes to David Rayner, who surely had no calm, but good time with us two Pat O' Brien students.

Roland Nebe

For many, perhaps most, of our German guests the Prom in Tilgate Park was the high spot of the week. We knew from the previous year that our guests were intrigued by the blend of musical appreciation and informality - and especially by the sight of British concert-goers letting it all hang out while waving Union Jacks and umbrellas in the final choruses.

But some of us had some qualms about it. How would the Germans, whose history had taught them the dangers of nationalism, react to the blatant imperialism of "Land of Hope and Glory" and "Rule Britannia"? Could we really sing "Wider still and wider shall thy bounds be set./ God who made thee mighty make thee mightier yet!" in front of our fellow-Europeans?

Well, they seemed to take it in the same spirit as most of us do - with a blend of jokiness (you can't really be serious when wearing a plastic Union Jack painted bowler hat) and sheer enjoyment of the pleasure of singing along to a wonderful tune. And anyone who still had misgivings could save their voice and their emotions for "Jerusalem", surely a fit anthem for any country.

One worry remains. Some of our friends noticed the cross of St. George hanging by the Union Jack. "We've only seen that painted on football hooligans' faces" they said. What a disgrace to us that represents. But the photograph printed here from the Westdeutsche Allgemeine Zeitung, a Dorsten local paper, should cheer us up.

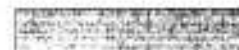


From MARITA KIPINSKI Joint chairperson of the Dorsten Committee

Last year we decided to spend a fortnight's holiday in Ireland. We had heard people talk about cycling there and, as we are really fond of cycling, we agreed to take the risk and plan a cycling tour. It was Manfred's task to plan the route (he is the geography teacher!) and I had to organize the rest (booking the flights, writing to the Irish Tourist Board for information etc.)

At the beginning of July we started the adventure - an adventure it really was!

We took our own bikes and arrived at Shannon Airport (via Dublin) in the early afternoon. It took about one hour to get the bikes ready but Manfred was not able to fix the broken gear-system of my bike. I was lucky that the low gears were OK - but that I only realized later. We were full of excitement and really looking forward to our trip especially as the



weather was pleasant and the sun was shining. Who had told us that Ireland was a wet country?

Believe it or not, the minute we got on our bikes it started to rain and did not stop for the rest of the day. So we decided to find a B&B in Shannon and spend the night there.

The next morning the weather was really kind and we cycled along the mouth of the River Fergus to Kildysert, enjoying the lovely countryside which made us forget it was uphill all the time. The B&B at Kildysert was special, being a sort of chalet plus an old-fashioned pub (very important for dehydrated cyclists!) The landlady was also special: she organized a lift to Ennis for us as it was raining cats and dogs the next morning.

We enjoyed the day in Ennis, a lovely old town with interesting ruins of an old Abbey. Saturday morning had come and with it more heavy rain and the certain knowledge that we had to leave the B&B

and cycle to our next destination, Tarbert, beyond the River Shannon.

WE were well equipped with raincoats and trousers - I have never been so soaked in all my life! Never mind - the Irish are lovely people; the landlady in Tarbert put all our clothes into the tumble-drier so that we could continue our tour the next morning. A young couple from Switzerland shared the breakfast table with us - they were cycling on a tandem! Who says only the Germans are crazy?

Sunday was one of those days we will never forget. The sun was shining, we cycled along the River

Shannon in rolling countryside, enjoying the lovely views and nice breeze. We arrived at Ballybunnion, a popular seaside resort. We did not like it as much as the quieter and smaller Ballyheige where we

found a lovely B&B for the next <sup>two</sup> nights which was overlooking the Atlantic.

The next stop was Tralee where we spent three nights. One day we went to Dingle by bus and enjoyed the beautiful scenery and dramatic views from the cliffs of the peninsula. We spent the evenings in the famous pub "Rose of Tralee" where they had live music every night. After three days we decided to head for Farranfore because we wanted to be near Kerry Airport, as the ten days in Ireland had definitely taught us: "Never trust the Irish weather." It was a lovely ride through beautiful countryside and Manfred did not mind having to mend the puncture in his rear tyre!

We spent the last three days of our memorable holiday in the Riverside Inn near Farranfore. James, the publican, was very nice and often translated what the Irish guests wanted to tell us.

I had, of course, known before that Irish English is different from the English I had learned at school but somehow I had not realized how different!

After two days in James's bar - it was pouring with rain - we used a break in the rain to rush to Kerry Airport where a small plane took us to Dublin.

Did we like Ireland? Yes, indeed we did. The landscape is beautiful, the people are lovely and the pubs are great. Will we go to Ireland again? Yes, we definitely will spend another holiday there, but we will take the car and leave the bikes in Dorsten where they are nice and dry.

We have always known that Ireland is a green island - now we know why!

To Brandenburg - From Brandenburg

Forty years ago, my wife and I met a 7 year-old boy and his parents in East Berlin. This year he and his own family made their first visit to England and stayed with us: he also asked if we could find somewhere for two married couples and a 9 year-old to stay. Minor personal panic! Elfrieda Hyams came to my aid with the offer to take all five! Elfrieda, you remember, was the person whose balloon travelled the furthest - all the way to Brandenburg near Berlin. And where did the visitors come from? Yes - Roskow in Brandenburg.

I accompanied the group to London where, at Ulrich's request, we went by water-bus to Greenwich to see the Cutty Sark. Had I forgotten, he said, that we had sent him the model kit of the vessel for a Christmas present - nearly 40 years ago!

KC.

**Newsletter edited by Ken and Eunice Clement .  
Printed and Produced by Peter and Martin Klin.**

**Any contributions to the Newsletter ring Crawley  
413026**

