



CRAWLEY TOWN TWINNING ASSOCIATION



The Story of Tom Peeling

It was in May 1982 that the Fencing Club of Crawley decided to fall upon their counterparts in Dorsten. We, that is Anne and I were at least prepared. The cellar was full of cheap wine and good beer. Schnapps there was in abundance. I collected the party from Duesseldorg Airport, five bachelors: Bob Morley, Trevor Jupp, Graham Guenigault, Jerry Stratton and lastly, Tom Peeling.

It was Saturday and my brother's birthday. We were all invited, so we drove directly from the airport to Schermbeck for a grill-party. It was beautiful weather and we sat out in the garden and commenced to enjoy ourselves with draught beer. At that time the modish drink was Appelschnapps, not particularly strong, but in conjunction with beer could prove dangerous. At around 10 pm we went into the house, the weather now being cooler and the drinking continued.

Apparently, our good friend Tom Peeling found the schnapps very appealing -so that upon his departure from the house to return to Holsterhausen his gait was such as to require the complete width of the street

to trammel his excursions!

Upon arrival at my home Graham forbid Tom entry into the house until he was at least sensible if not sober. So the pair of them commenced to walk around the neighbourhood. Unfortunately, Graham had also looked into the glass deeply, nay more than one and soon lost his companion. So a search party set to find a very well preserved Englishman, a complete stranger to the district, no German at his command and exact whereabouts unknown.

By this time it was well past midnight so I commenced my search at our local pub. Perhaps Tom had fancied a last small beer? No luck. On the way from the pub I met a ditch that ran parallel with the street. From the stinging-nettle overgrown and there issued curious noises. I barged through the undergrowth and there discovered a sleeping, snoring TOM PEELING! The others came quickly and we bore him home to bed. The rest of the week was also very eventful, but Tom drank no more Schnapps.

A year later in Summer 1983, I collected the same band from the airport. Immediately Tom

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Inside this issue:

| | |
|--------------------------------|---|
| <i>Chairman on the Beeb.</i> | 2 |
| <i>Greetings from Dorsten.</i> | 2 |
| <i>Millennium Parade.</i> | 2 |
| <i>Crawley News</i> | 3 |
| <i>Tuber Festival</i> | 3 |
| <i>Easter Breakfast</i> | 4 |
| <i>Hosts Required</i> | 4 |
| <i>Weekend in Paris</i> | 5 |
| <i>Quiz Night Results</i> | 5 |
| <i>BMW 1920 Visit</i> | 6 |

(Continued on page 2)

*The Story of Tom Peeling
(Continued from page 1)*

said to me he promised to behave much better this time. I promised him that the whole episode was over, forgotten and we were surprised he should even refer to it.

The next day was a Saturday and we had arranged a Grill-Party in our garden to which we had also invited other guests. We opened a barrel of excellent beer and after the first taste I suggested, as though it had just occurred to me, that we make a small excursion. This suggestion caused some consternation amongst our English friends but I managed to reassure them that we would return in a very short time. So a group of about 25 persons started out on the way to the local pub.

Upon a small bridge over the aforementioned ditch I stopped and to Tom's total astonishment I gave a little address upon the drinking capacity of human beings in general and one in particular to wit Tom Peeling. At the conclusion of the address I unwrapped a street sign upon which was printed Tom-Peeling-Ditch.

This sign had already given rise to remarkable speculations and stories due to the fact that the Dorsten Press knew nothing of the affair. Hans Fabian composed a poem about drinkers and snorers. At the following Altstadtfest complete strangers told me that they knew all about the case, they had also had the experience.

One year later Deputy Mayor Hans Fabian, Town Director Dr Zahn, a member of the Parlement as well as the complete Town-Twinning committee plus four friends from Crawley celebrated the second inauguration of the street sign.

Yes, the only absentee was Tom. He had moved away from Crawley to seek work elsewhere. This fact did not diminish the vigour with which the celebrants consumed Guinness and snacks well into the small hours.

With the passage of time the Holsterhauseners became accustomed to their signs and accepted it. However, one day in 1996 the residents of a newly erected housing development enquired of the local press as to the origin of this peculiar name Tom-Peeling-Ditch. This time I maintained a discreet silence.

Klaus Dietrich

Southern Counties Radio

On the 4th January, BBC Southern counties Radio asked for calls from persons with experience of Town Twinning. The Chairman rang in and was asked to make comments upon this experience. He advocated that more people should take the opportunity to stay in the families of our European neighbours on the grounds that they would learn more in one week than in any number of group holidays where they would have no contact at all with the local population.

It is hoped that anyone with a wish to know more about Town Twinning will contact Southern Counties Radio where their query will be channelled to C.T.T.A.

Greetings From Dorsten

Crawley's twin town, Dorsten, has sent millennium greetings and wished the people of Crawley good luck and happiness for the future. The message, written in both English and German, will be framed and displayed in the town hall.

Crawley Millennium Town Parade

Saturday June 24th

Be part of Crawley's Millennium year celebrations and take part in this special Millennium Parade.

If your group or organisation would like to be part of this special celebration then please give me a ring. The organisers are looking for as many Crawley based groups to take part as possible.

You can walk in the parade, carry a display or have a lorry based float. The Mayor will be judging the entries at 10am and the Parade will move off at 11 am.

Entry into the Parade is open to every section of the Crawley Community including businesses. This is a great opportunity to raise the profile of your group or business and to be part of our town's celebrations.

I may be able to help with transport, design of floats, materials and publicity. If your group is

(Continued on page 3)

Millennium Parade
(Continued from page 2)

entering the Parade as part of your Millennium Celebration then I may even be able to help with the cost of building the float or display.

For more information, please ring John Fisher – Millennium Celebrations Officer
(01293) 438 463 or mobile 07803 152 505
E-mail: jfisher@crawleymillennium.org.uk

Letter from the Chairman

Here is the text of a letter sent not by the Chairman, but his wife, Eunice to the Crawley News.

May I applaud the fact that your paper devotes a whole page to readers' letters. Surely all editors should regard the views expressed by their readers as a measure of the public's reaction to the contemporary situation in the local area. I particularly liked the letter from W. Smith of Furnace Green, drawing the attention to the whingers who assume that being born in these islands confers upon them a divine right to dictate to the rest of the world. This arrogance manifests itself in total condemnation of all things European. They forget that the UK has been a member of the European Parliament and other European organisation for the past 20 years.

However, let me demonstrate by a small example how two European countries, not a national level but by the efforts of ordinary people, have developed a better mutual understanding. A small group of people from Crawley's twin town Dorsten in Germany, went to the much smaller town of Dormans in France to tidy up a German military cemetery. After they had cleared away the weeds from around the graves and surroundings they looked over an adjacent hedge and were surprised to see a French military cemetery, also in a neglected site. As a gesture of reconciliation to their former enemy, they cleared the French cemetery as well. The consequence of this small act? The hedge is no more and Dorsten and Dormans are twinned in friendship.

May I appeal to those thinking readers of your newspaper who wish to find out a little more about Europeans – well, those who live in Dorsten anyway – to take the opportunity to visit this German town between May 27 and June 4.

This will be by luxury coach, which will also be used for several excursions during the week. The coach trip will cost a moderate amount after which there will be nothing else to pay. Yes, you will be accommodated in a friendly Dorsten family household with the proviso that you will reciprocate the hospitality at some future date. May I commend this experience to those of you who were born post war and your children. Approach the experience with an open mind and you will almost certainly return with a far greater understanding of our neighbours.

For further information contact Crawley 413026 or 885444.

Eunice Clement
Chairman
Crawley Town Twinning Association

International Christmas Tuba Spectacular

In November 1999 by a most mysterious means a message came through the jungle telegraph that there would be a "tuba extravaganza" somewhere in France – if you want to go, get your name on the list quick!

It was established that approximately 400 tuba players were going to meet on the 18th Dec 1999 in Lievin near Lens in France (about 90 Km south of Calais) to play Christmas carols. The following day there was to be a return match in Canterbury. It was said that the expenses would be covered (whatever that meant).

The UK party turned up at Dover in the P&O / Stena lounge for foot passengers. There were 23 of us from all over the country, quite a lot from "Oop North".

Having got used to carting the sousaphone around in a car, it came as a nasty shock to negotiate the loading ramps, corridors and gangplanks of a P&O / Stena ferry. We were met at Calais by a friendly woman, who asked us who the "musicians" were. We didn't want to admit to this immediately, but were soon ushered onto a coach and set off down the motorway (or whatever the French equivalent is called). 90Km later we rolled into Lievin and eventually found our accommodation for the night at a sports university equipped with all "mod cons" including a large hall big enough for 400 tuba players to play

(Continued on page 4)

*Tuba Festival
(Continued from page 3)*

simultaneously (or nearly). Also provided were a canteen and hostel accommodation with a choice of 1, 2 or 3 berth rooms. After finding our rooms and taking lunch, we joined the other 397 in the practice hall.

The sound of 400 tubas playing carols is rather unusual as most of the effect is felt rather than heard, and it could be described as an acquired taste. Tubas, for the purposes of this exercise, were defined as anything with an upward facing bell, but did allow sousaphones and even two helicons. So that is all the Saxhorns from Eb tenor horn (British Brass Band style) to BBb tubas.

After practice we made our way to the town square and repeated the performance in front of a crowd of probably 1000. The town center was heavily decorated and as night fell the lights were very impressive.

One peculiarity of the massed tuba sound is that although the volume at the low frequency is high enough to make all loose objects shake, you can still hear people talking, because their voices are pitched that much higher. Later we split up and went our ways, the Brits were treated to dinner, and some later went on to sample the café and night life of Lievin (not surfacing until the early hours).

After an early breakfast on Sunday we boarded the coach once more for Calais and picking up our cars at Dover (car-park £9) made our way to Canterbury. We practiced in the Westgate hall in Canterbury and then moved to the city center where we repeated the performance of the day before. I understand that ten French coaches crossed the channel to play in Canterbury.

The whole enterprise was promoted by the Cross Channel Arts Association and the Federation Regionale des Societes Musicales du Nord / Pas de Calais. It was sponsored very generously. The ferry, coach, food and accommodation in France was provided and all we had to find was the car parking and incidental food and drinks. Steve Wassell, head of brass at the St. Edmund's school Canterbury was the English musical director and Herve Brise, principle tuba at the Orchestre National de Lille was the French musical director. The whole event was superbly organized with pre-event sheet music posted to all the participants and little French

girls running around during the practices with spare parts on the day when some music had gone missing.

All in all a memorable weekend, we will have to go with a bigger UK contingent next time.

Hosts Needed!

Marie-Odile is looking for hosts for 28 Hungarian Folk dancers who are visiting Crawley for 1 week at the beginning of July. If you can offer a bed or two, please contact her via Geoff on 01293 885 444. You can also send an e-mail to ccta@catawba.co.uk including your telephone number. If you have not hosted before, please consider doing so.

EASTER BREAKFAST

This is a typical Bavarian Easter breakfast.

Yeast dough made with 875g flour
1 lemon untreated
2 oz. Sultanas

Prepare a yeast dough, (if you need the recipe, contact the editor), and add the grated rind of one lemon and the washed and well-drained sultanas. After the dough has risen, shape it into two loaves, place the loaves on a buttered and floured baking sheet and let them rise once more.

Brush the loaves with egg yolk. Using a sharp knife or razor blade, trace a deep diamond pattern into the tops and bake in a preheated 200°C, gas mark 6, oven for approx. 1 hour, until golden yellow. Let the loaves cool on a rack. Easter bread will stay fresh for a few days if wrapped in aluminium foil.

Traditionally, slices of Easter Bread are spread with butter and garnished with cooked ham and paper-thin slices of horseradish, (this is what the original German translation read but we suspect that white radish or mooli is what was meant). These are served with hard-boiled eggs, dyed or painted in the traditional manner, hidden by the Easter Bunny and subsequently found by the children. Easter Breakfast in Bavaria always includes an apple, in memory of Adam and Eve. A small separate basket containing a bit of everything is taken to Church to be blessed by the first person to get up.

Weekend in Paris

On the last weekend of February we took the evening Eurostar to Paris, arriving just before midnight.

As we wanted to take advantage of an early spring night, we took a quick walk around the area in which we had booked our hotel, Montmartre, which also happens to be the red light district. A very scantily dressed woman (leaving not much to the imagination) came out suddenly from a doorway and started to approach my husband, when she spotted me, she hastily retreated!

The following day, after a breakfast in bed, we decided to discover the Capital on foot. The first stop was the French equivalent of Harrods, "Galeries Lafayette". There we admired the interior of the domed roof. We highly recommend taking the escalator to the roof, passing various departments on the way to admire the view from the open roof where once an aircraft landed. Yes it really did land on the roof!

Afterwards, we walked and walked and walked, passing the Place de la Concorde, Musee d'Orsay which is a museum of technology and art



Arc de Triomphe

housed in an old railway station, the building itself is worth looking at.

We stopped for a very nice Basque-style meal in "Café

de Paris", rue d'Orsay".

Having charged up our batteries, we browsed amongst the "bouquinistes", the book stalls along the Seine and entered the "Ile de la Cite", which is the location of the Notre-Dame.

We carried on walking for what seemed to be a hike to Peking, going past an English pub called "The Frog and the Rosbeef". This area had a lot of shops including fascinating market stalls. Having spent the best part of 8 hours waking through Paris! We eventually arrived back at our hotel.

After a quick well-deserved shower, we booked a taxi to go to the Lido in Champs Elysees, where the queue to get in was enormous, luckily we had already booked by phone, so we got in very quickly and we were escorted to our table where immediately an aperitif was served. Our order for the 3 course meal was taken, and we were served a bottle of Champagne, all included in the price.

After the meal, we danced on the stage whilst waiting for the cabaret to start. The Cabaret was absolutely fantastic! The evening was completed with a coffee at Fouquet's which is very popular with the rich and famous.

Sunday morning, we tried to walk up to the top of Montmartre, perhaps mountaineering would have been a better term!



Ile de la Cite

Our legs were still tired from the previous day, therefore, we took a taxi instead and went to "Pont de l'Alma" to catch the "Bateau-Mouche" at midday with a meal (the whole weekend seems to be eating and walking!). The 4-course meal was of excellent quality and we had a bottle of wine each (the

croaking frog suffered a little bit of the strength of the sun, or was it the wine????)

In the late afternoon, before taking the train home, we had the opportunity of meeting up with an old friend who is living in Paris.

Croaking Frog



Quiz Night Results

Ten teams, five from each club took part. Scrublands won overall, yet the scores in total were Scrublands 247 and CTTA 216.

| | |
|----------------------|------|
| 1. Malchemy & us | 60.5 |
| 2. 4 m's | 56 |
| 3. The Consultants | 54.5 |
| 4. The Gaters | 53 |
| 5. Lager Louts | 52 |
| 6. Die Sterne | 45 |
| 7. Strugglers | 41 |
| 8. The Croaking Frog | 39 |
| 9. Fred & his Harem | 38 |
| 10. Fry/Ward | 24 |

Blasmusik Wulfen 1920 Visit

Blasmusik Wulfen 1920 will be over here in the summer (6th, 7th, 8th & 9th July 2000). Here is the provisional program.. They arrive on the Thursday evening to meet their hosts in the Hawth car park. They are sight-seeing on Friday and then in the evening we are all having a party at Tilgate (the hosts will be welcome). On Saturday they have a concert in Queens Square in the morning and then off to a sound check at Tilgate. In the evening they are taking part in the Proms together with the Millennium band, a military band and the Sussex Symphony Orchestra. On the Sunday there will be a Fruhschoppen at the George Hotel and later a concert in the County Mall. BMW 1920 will be leaving straight after this for Germany. So I think they will have an active weekend !! There are 46 in their party and only 2 non-players. The conductor of the BMW 1920 is Hedwig Gremme, who also plays the trombone (Is it a coincidence, one asks oneself, that both the Wulfen band and the Millennium bands have enthusiastic lady conductors).

| date | time | event | comment |
|---------------|----------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Th, July 6th | | trip Wulfen-Crawley | times yet to be decided |
| | | Start in Wulfen | |
| | | Short visit e.g. Dover cliffs | |
| | 10:00 PM | arrival in Crawley, Hawth theatre | |
| Fr, July 7th | | Concerts and visits | times yet to be decided |
| | | breakfast with the hosts | |
| | | visit to London ?? | |
| | 7:00PM | Party with CMCB & Clayton Jazz ?? | |
| Sa, July 8th | | PROM in the park | times yet to be decided |
| | | breakfast with the hosts | |
| | 10:00am | concert in Queens Square | until 12:00 noon |
| | 02:00PM | sound-check in the park (all day) | |
| | | Lunch in the park | |
| | 07:15PM | start of the concert | Time ?? |
| | | Blasmusik Wulfenb on stage! | |
| | 09:00PM | final together with Blasmusik W. | |
| | 10:30PM | hosts pick up guests at park | |
| Su, July 9th | | Visit and trip back | times yet to be decided |
| | | breakfast with the hosts | |
| | 09:30am | Concert at the George Hotel, Crawley | until 11:00am |
| | 11:30am | Concert in the mall in Crawley | until 1:00pm |
| | | start of trip back to Wulfen | |
| Mo, July 10th | | arrival in Wulfen | |

Published on behalf of The Crawley Town Twinning Association by Victor Wood.

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We also have a web site at www.catawba.co.uk/CTTA.

The secretary can be e-mailed at ctta@catawba.co.uk.