



CRAWLEY TOWN TWINNING ASSOCIATION



Chairman's Preface

Well, I hope you have all adjusted to what I assume must be a more relaxed style of life in Crawley. Mark you, I dare say our generous hosts in Dorsten have also relaxed since our departure. It has been my experience that they also live it up whilst we are there. For those of you for whom it was a first time experience I know you enjoyed it. I have been going for twenty-five years and I always come away having earned something new about Dorsten, it's inhabitants or at least learned a few modern German expressions. Language does not stand still. If you ask how long does it take to learn German, my answer would be that it is a continuous process.

One comment from Helga Spang, our hostess and leader of the excursion to Bayer, she observed that the gentlemen on our coach paid rapt attention to our guide Frau Schmitt-Dumont, but did they notice the chemical plant? As I recall, she had terrible trouble with that scarf!



The complete group of travellers at the Bayer training centre.

Dorsten 2001 - 750th Anniversary

Next year is Dorstens 750th anniversary and they are looking for interested groups, such as Morrismen, clubs, guides/scouts, football teams (aged 8—14), to visit Dorsten and celebrate with them. If your organisation is interested please contact the secretary as soon as possible.

In addition, we often get requests from schools and youth groups in Dorsten asking for links with Crawley. Ask your head teacher or youth leader about forming a link!

Adult groups need not feel left out either. Whatever type of club or group you belong to, get them involved!

Issue 23

Summer 2000

Inside this issue:

<i>Chairman's Preface</i>	1
<i>Dorsten 2000 visit</i>	2
<i>Our Queen Richards</i>	2
<i>Dorsten Comments</i>	2
<i>Körbs Folk Group 3 visits Crawley</i>	3
<i>A Feast of Music</i>	4
<i>Hungarian Whispers</i>	6
<i>Membership Survey</i>	8

Dorsten 2000 visit successful

The Crawley visit to Dorsten which took place recently was judged a great success by all who took part. Many new friendships were forged and indeed long standing ones renewed. Once again we were overwhelmed by the generosity of our host, for whom nothing appeared to be too much trouble. The program which was arranged for us was interesting and covered many local towns as well as the Bayer chemical works, which was actually more interesting than some had expected, and of course for the chocoholics amongst us the fountain of chocolate was not to be missed at the chocolate museum in Köln.

Crawley will be hosting Dorsten during 2001, and if you have never hosted, now is the time to start thinking about if you could do so. Remember, that stranger is a friend you haven't met.....

Cllr Owen Richards

As the new Borough Council delegate to the Crawley Town Twinning Association, I have been asked to introduce myself.

I was born in Crawley and spent most of my life here, apart from five years studying and working in Manchester. At 26, I suppose I'm relatively young for a councillor, and I have quite a bit to learn in a short time.

As someone who grew up in Crawley, I have for a long time been aware of our association with Dorsten. As a socialist and an internationalist I believe that links between nations should not be left to leaders, but that the ordinary people should meet and find out how much they have in common.

The world is getting smaller all of the time, especially with the advent of the computer age, and Europe is become more integrated all of the time (with or without the UK's participation). In this context, all cooperation between nations should be encouraged at any level. I am aware of the terrible wars which affected the lives of my grandparents and great-grandparents, and friendship between individuals of different nations is an important way to avoid future conflict. On a less serious note, it's always fun to visit new places and meet new people.

I have never been to Germany, although I have a friend from Hamm (35 miles east of Dorsten) whom I have visited in Switzerland. My German is basic - I can order beer and bockwurst, and I know my bitte's and danke's. Even so, I look forward to meeting our friends from Dorsten and perhaps going there on a visit.

I look forward to meeting those involved with the Association, and I hope to be involved for some time to come.

Some Comments on the Dorsten trip.

It's been a great week. Interesting excursions, good food and beer, but above all some really lovely people. My first visit to Germany but, I hope, not my last. - Anonymous

This has been our 6th town-twinning visit to Dorsten, and we both agree that it has been the best. The outings were really interesting and so enjoyable, and the Barbeque was hilarious. We are both nearly 80 years old, but we both felt like children when we went for the ride on the fire engine. Unfortunately, we didn't feel the same when we had to climb on and off the appliance! Philip and Hélène Ralph are always our hosts as Philip is our son (one of our 8 sons) and has been a member since 1979 when he lived in Crawley. Although he lives in Gelsenkirchen, we are able to travel in for the festivities and our sincere thanks go to then Dorsten committee. - Ian and Cecilia Ralph

This was the first time my hosts had taken part. They were both teachers and have two sons. They made me very welcome and invited me back in 2002. My knowledge of German language and culture has been widened. - Margot Wayre

Körös Folk Group visits Crawley

Between the 20th and 26th June, a group of folk dancers from Gyula in southern Hungary visited Crawley to perform during the millennium celebrations. Unfortunately, the weather prevented them from taking active participation in the procession, but they did perform at several local schools as well as in the Mall and in Tilgate Park. Feedback from the group was generally very positive, except for at one school where the pupils refused to participate.



During the visit, the Hungarians also had the opportunity to go sight-seeing in London and go to Brighton for some fish and chips. Their reaction on seeing the Royal Pavilion was quite dramatic. Obviously they did not know of its existence. Nearly all of the guests collected a few bags of pebbles from the beach to take home with them, and those stones with holes worn through were most sought after!

Dorsten Photos



A Feast of Music.

Early July 2000 will certainly be a time I will look back on with great delight. The Kőrös Folk Group was visiting Crawley, and we, that is, Chantal and I, were going to host 2 of them. It was only our second time hosting, and we were still a bit nervous about having strangers in our house, especially as there may be language difficulties. After all, we don't speak Hungarian, and we didn't know how well they spoke English or German.

When I arrived at The Hawth to collect them, there was a small problem. One of my guests had his partner of 10 years with him, but she was to be accommodated elsewhere. She, understandably, was not very happy about this. It turns out there had been a breakdown in communications somewhere and the fact they were a couple had not been passed on to Marie-Odile.

I tried to organize a change for my other male guest so he could swap places with the girl, but this was not possible, as the other host would not take male guests. We had only two beds organized, and accommodating a third looked very difficult, but I decided that if the roles were reversed, and Chantal and I were being accommodated separately, I would not like it. So I told the girl to come with us and we would sort it out when we got home. Our guests turned out to be Ferenc the violinist, Endre, also called Gronja, who was the contra-bass player and Hajnalka the singer. The decision to take Hajnalka turned out to be one of the best decisions of the week.

When we got home, all three were extremely tired, which after a 48 hour bus trip was understandable. We ate, then reorganized the sleeping arrangements and all went to bed, but not before we were given some wonderful gifts.

During the course of the week, all five of us became quite close; Hajnalka, Gronja and Ferenc felt more like our brothers and sister than strangers. They taught us a bit of Hungarian, we learnt some basic dance steps, and drank each other's wine. On one evening, we were told to sit and relax, whilst they cooked a goulash for us, made with ingredients they had brought with them from Hungary. They had brought Gyula salami with them, which they cooked, in our BBQ as well as paprika puree. I must admit it was lovely, and the remains are in our deep freeze for a special occasion some time.

Unfortunately, free time during the week was limited due to their schedule and my work, so we were not able to take them anywhere, but hopefully that may be possible on a future occasion. We did accompany them on the trip to Brighton, where they were very hungry, and wanted to eat as soon as they arrived. Fed and watered at a beach side chippy, they then wanted to collect pebbles from the beach, but only those where erosion had caused holes to be drilled through the stone.

They were also able to make a recording at The Hawth of some music using a mini disc that Ken Clement owns. After editing, we produced a CD which has been sent to them. A video of their dancing in Tilgate is also going to be sent to them.

When the end of the week came, it was a very sad parting, with lots of hugs and kisses. Somehow the house was suddenly empty, and it took a few days to get back to normal, but I still hear their songs and music floating in the air.

We have received a couple of emails and postcards since they went home, and have been invited to Gyula to visit. Hajnalka also has a home in Transylvania, so we hope to be able to visit her and Gronja there some time next year. So, now I must get back to my Hungarian course if I am going to be able to greet them in their language next year! - Victor Wood

More Dorsten Comments

This has been my 12th visit to Dorsten. My first was in June 1976 with a group of 18 school girls from Crawley. The highlight of this trip has been to meet OLE (51/2 years old) and WIBKE (3 years old) who are the children of the very first guest I had from Dorsten 20 years ago. Yes, VERA, a member of a sports group stayed with me in June 1980. It was a great joy to see her, a happy wife and mother at the home of her parents who have been my friends all these years.

Marie-Odile

More Dorsten Comments

This was our first visit to Germany, and what a lovely surprise we had. Dorsten and all the places we visited were very interesting and the people were very friendly. We were here during Fathers day and it was fascinating to see so many people on bikes and how the road system caters for them. Our hosts were most kind and we enjoyed their company very much. They did so much for us. - Marion and Michael James



I thought it was OK, but a bit boring because there was too many churches. The chocolate museum was wicked and very tasty and Cologne was good because I got a watch. It was very very hot on the coach though. I don't like leaving my host. It is a shame we have to go home. - Sarah May



I must say first of all how wonderfully well I has made welcome by all in Dorsten but for me especially by my host family. Nothing was too much and I told Ken I was "Lady Muck" for a week!

I stayed in Lembeck in the country. It reminded very much of the Eastern Counties of England with its crops, cows and not so many sheep. The Church opposite was very interesting more so because of the time of the year, 1st communion etc. Koeln on Friday was splendid and the ride of the little train adventurous -given the width of the

doors Der Dom of course impressive. I could go on and on with things I saw but not enough room on this paper. But I think the jolly and welcoming people of Lembeck and Dorsten impressed me most. PS : I have a very good recipe for Apfelwein Torte - Anonymous



As on many previous visits to Dorsten, we were overwhelmed by the welcome and hospitality of our German hosts. The Dorsten committee had put in a lot of thought and work to arrange another interesting programme suitable for all ages. Although the weather was somewhat inclement, our enjoyment was not spoilt. Our first visit was Sunday morning when we went to Johannes Kirsches to join our hosts in worship. Henning welcomed us in English and Martin spoke in German to the congregation. One of our members read a lesson in English and some of the hymns were part German part English. A question and answers conversation between Henning and Martin was translated by Maritta Kipinski. After the service we had the opportunity of chatting with the German parishioners over coffee and cakes in the Church hall (most of them spoke good English). Our admiration of the excellence of the teaching of English was confirmed when we spoke with two thirteen year old girls at the wonderful "Get together" on the Wednesday at Lembeck Youth Hostel. These two girls told us that they were students in an ordinary secondary school and were taught English by Frau Kipinski. They had five lessons a week and were able to have intelligent conversation with us. When we told them how impressed we were with their English they said "Frau Kipinski is the best!". It is a pity that our students are only able to have two sessions of German a week. Maybe we could learn something about the teaching of foreign languages from our German hosts! - Judy Rayner

Hungarian Whispers

(The rules of the game are the same as CHINESE WHISPERS but in a different language).

On 21st June, a Wednesday as I recall I had a small ten or so members of the KOROS Dance group in my house but I had to excuse myself at 8:30pm as I was due to play my part as a volunteer barman in my local Residents Club. This occurs once a month and I had not made arrangements to swap this duty. I said to my wife bring them over later for a drink as our guests which she did and they were favourably impressed. Little did I know how well until later in the week when I heard from another host that her two guest were going to a party in Furnace Green. Certain nervousness began to assail me. Vari

ous snippets of information from different sources convinced me that the majority of the Koros group were due to descend upon KEN's PUB on Saturday evening.

I was now in a high state of terror for want of better word. I could imagine the scenario of my CLUB and its members being inundated with a group of people, the majority of whom could not speak any English and for which invasion there had been no prior warning. The consequence of one of the Hungarians mentioning my name would have been the match to the powder keg. As I am a known associate of foreigners and a confirmed European it would have been alleged by the less charitable of the club members that I was trying to smuggle illegal immi

grants into the country!

So at 8 o'clock I had to hover around my club and direct any Koros members to my house. Eventually the tally was 18 Hungarian, including the 2 coach drivers who thoughtfully brought some Hungarian beer with them plus several English hosts.

Well, it all turned out very pleasant eventually, especially as the musicians were included in the party. I was able to supply a cello in lieu of the double bass and the music was fast and furious until after midnight when we decided to call "TIME".

The Hungarian Whisper assumed that I was the generous hard cord of the club who gave away beer! Wish I could find a pub like that

Ken Clement

Yet More Dorsten Comments!

Enormously impressed by the magnificence of Koeln Dom with its exquisite twin towers, a testament of the skill, patience, and determination and faith of all the generations of people who had contributed to its erection and adornment. Drinking Koelsch and eating German food on Brauehaus Frueh was a unique experience alive with beer & bustle in an organised frenzy, which reflected the jostling crowds in the street outside. - David Utting

As first time "twinners" we were impressed by how much you can learn about a country living in a Dorsten household. It is much more rewarding than being a tourist. Our host, Gerda Pawlassek, gave us a full history of Dorsten and seemed to know someone every time we went in the town. We were also very pleased to strengthen the link between Johanneskirche in Dorsten, their pastor Henning Briezemeister, and St Andrews Furnace Green. We look forward to developing that partnership further on future visits.- Derek and Sally Lawrence

Once again we have been over whelmed by the warmth, hospitality of our German hosts. Their generosity and kindness seem boundless and nothing is too much trouble in order to please us. The week's programme as always was extremely interesting and obviously a great deal of thought and hard work had gone into the planning of our excursions. A lovely happy holiday but now it is time to start the diet! - Sylvia Utting

Even More Comments!

This was my third visit to Dorsten. I went in 1993 with the Weald Choir and I stayed with the Wilmes family in Dorsten-Wulfen. The second time was in 1998, when my husband and I, the head of modern foreign languages at Thomas Bennett, school governors and several others went to Wulfen to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the "Gesamtschule". I was therefore not surprised by the excellence of the German hospitality because I have experienced this before.

Irene and Volker Roth on this last trip were super hosts, providing us with fantastic food, introducing us to their friends and taking us on other sightseeing trips apart from the group trips. Foodwise the highlight of the week was Thursday. We had a Canadian breakfast, German lunch and Greek evening meal! Needless to say we have both put on weight.

I thoroughly enjoyed the trip and the excursions because I am always pleased to learn more about the German culture and way of life. Irene and Volker managed to help us to organise a visit to Inge and Ulli Wilmes on Saturday and very kindly invited them for "Kaffee und Kuchen" before we spent the evening with the Wilmes family. This was done, in spite of the fact that Irene and Volker were going to a pre-arranged silver wedding party the same evening. Throughout the week I was given every opportunity to speak German and helped when I got it wrong.

A fantastic trip, which hopefully will further improve relations between the two towns. I hope we shall be able to live up to the high standard of hospitality we have been set.
Joan Newton

On our free day, Thursday, Volker said that if Joan and myself were interested he would take us on a visit around his coal mine, part of STEAG.AG (he is the mine manager) at Dorsten-Hervest. I jumped at this opportunity because of my passion for industrial archaeology. What he showed us was the sole remaining steam engine-driven winding gear in Germany. I was delighted. I had never seen one like this before - the nearest equivalent were the old steam engines used in the cotton mills of my native Lancashire. The engine was built in 1912 by Freidrich Wilhelm Hütte and develops 2,400hp. Certainly not at all the well-polished museum pieces you find in most industrial museums, this engine was painted utility green and black and covered in oil-soaked coal dust! Manned night and day the communication between ground and the coal face was by a bell sounded by an operator over 1000metres below ground. The correct position to stop the three-stage cage was marked in white bands on the 7.2metre diameter winding wheel which was carefully watched by the engine operator - he had to stop the wheel at exactly the correct white band.

Tearing me away from my

reveries, Volker then said "I've got something else to show you". He whisked us off some 60km away to see the modern coal-fired power station, the Heizkraftwerk, in the town of Herne, also part of the same company he works for (it was also where his eldest son, Karsten, worked as an electrical control engineer). When we arrived Volker asked, "Do you suffer from vertigo?". "Yes", I said. "Ok", said he, without any hesitation, "Lets go up"! (I am convinced there was some loss in translation here!). Nevertheless, up in the lift we went and we were shown, at each level, various aspects of the firing process necessary to generate huge quantities of steam for the turbines. We walked on futuristic, transparent, grid-like, catwalks high above the floor, reminiscent of James Bond films. Dizziness was beginning to take over. Back in the lift I was hoping we were to go down, but no! Up to 105metres, according to the indicator on the wall. Out we stepped, yes you've guessed, on to the roof. It must have taken me 10minutes at least to calm down. The view was fantastic, all around there were factories, more power stations and stone heaps from the mines all cultivated and surrounded by tall trees - no indication this was the main heavy industrial region of Germany. "If you wish we can go up there". Volker casually indicated a small door near to the top of the nearby chimney some

(Continued on page 8)

(Continued from page 7)

205metres higher. "No, no, please no!" I pleaded.

On reflection, this trip was, for me, the main highlight of our holiday. When we got back home to Crawley I couldn't wait to get my photos processed only to find that not one had been exposed!! In my excitement and preoccupation with vertigo, I had forgotten to load the film properly in the camera. We must go back again before the mine closes down in 18months time - though this time, only to see the steam engine, please Volker!

Barrie Newton

Membership Survey

The CTTA wants to know about its members. The committee is often asked how many people are members of the association, but we are unable to answer as we do not know how many people actually make up 1 membership. Its obvious that a single membership is one person, but how many are there in a family or group membership?

As the number of people in the association could effect the outcome of grant applications, please take a moment to complete this form and mail it to us. It is also possible to answer online if you prefer at <http://www.catawba.co.uk/CTTA>.

Many thanks



1. Your Membership Name:

2. Membership No:

3. Class of membership:

4. No of adult members (18 and over) :

5. No of children (below 18):

6. Approx. amount of members in group/organisation where applicable:

Please send to:

Peter Klin
Membership Secretary CTTA
4 Sissinghurst Close
Pound Hill
Crawley

(Continued from page 6)

On the eastern side of Dorsten the road leads towards Marl – the Marler Strasse. Take a short un-made up-road northwards (on foot or by car) and you will find yourself alongside a small airfield where gliders are launched from trucks. We watched them soaring up and away on Saturday afternoon, then followed the path further through the woods till it came out at the Hammer Bruecke across the canal. Further upstream, about half a mile away you can see two massive locks. There is a constant traffic there – barges coming down empty, ready to load at the coal docks further downstream and on Saturday a pleasure boat full of cheerful passengers celebrating the holiday. We decided to cross the canal and the little dock railway and to climb up the dyke that runs alongside the river Lippe. There were wild roses and orange blossom in the hedges, birds swooping how over the river and the inevitable sedate cyclists on set-up-and-beg bikes. Down below on the river there were parties of boys in rowing boats singing and we clambered down to sit by the water. Later we drove a little farther towards Marl and took a side road into the woods coming out where the spoil from the mines is being landscaped into hills very like the South Downs. Grasses & Clover, reeds and rushes are transforming the area we watched wild ducks and herons and listened to skylarks. From the top –about 300ft- the whole Landscape around Dorsten was spread out and a matter of thunder brought us back to the car. - Eunice



Thursday - On Thursday which was a free day Nikko, Ranata, Tom and myself went for a drive. We stopped and had a walk round Schernbeck castle. As we were walking round a family of ducks decided to join us and whenever we looked back we had a "tail". Unfortunately, we had not taken bread/cake with us and so I think they must have been disappointed. Tom was able to take a photo of a peacock, which kept putting on a display. On our return home Nikko disappeared into the kitchen to prepare lunch. As we had been round the gardens on our previous visits, we did not see the display of Rhododendrons which are really outstanding. - Helena Leathy

Saturday - Nikko and Renate had to attend a friend's wedding anniversary and so their daughter Angelica was kind enough to look after us in the evening. We went to the town centre for the festival but not much was happening and a storm was likely. So, we took off for the "Centrum" driving through very heavy rain but it stopped as we arrived at our destination. We were lucky! Centrum is a derelict iron and steel mill that has been, or is being, made into a museum and covers a considerable area. It has a restaurant and gathering rooms. A party was in progress in one of the rooms and it is different. The Gasometer is now used to train divers and for the athletically inclined you can walk up innumerable stairs to the top of the towers. We walked around the complex and found that many of the old furnaces etc are slowly filling up with water. There is a siding for trains with two vehicles, one of which had transported liquid steel that revolved rather like a cement mixer. The whole area is becoming overgrown with trees, as the whole area is very fertile. We adjourned to the restaurant and ate what we were told is a local speciality, curried sausages and chips! They had a non-alcoholic beverage that looked like Guinness as well as the usual drinks. Whilst we were eating, it grew dark and then the tall chimney, Gasometer and the towers were lit up by blue red and green floodlights and in the background were searchlights from some distant disco – very pretty. It started to rain and so we returned home to Dorsten after a very interesting and enjoyable evening. - Tom Leahy