

June 2003(Summer)

Issue 32



# CTTA Newsletter

*Summer greetings!*

Dear friends,

Welcome to our Summer edition of the CTTA newsletter. Although a separate letter has been sent out last month with respect of the forthcoming meeting just a reminder for all our members that there is an Annual General Meeting (AGM) held at the Town Hall (room B) on the 18th. June 2003 at 8.00 p.m. All are welcome, so if you can attend please do so. One of the most important events in this year's CTTA calendar is the bi-annual visit (02-10th August 2003). This year it is the turn for our Dorsten friends to visit Crawley. Furthermore this year main visit also coincides with the 30th Anniversary of the Town Twinning between Crawley and Dorsten. All our committee members were and are still busy in preparation of a varied and interesting programme for all the guests and hosts. We hope that this visit will be a successful and highly enjoyable event. We will report the outcome of the visit in our next edition of the newsletter (in Autumn). I would like to take the opportunity and on behalf of our CTTA committee to specially thank Jacky May for organising the accommodation and hosting arrangements for our Dorsten visitors. This has proved to be quite a challenge and "task", as this time the visit falls within the busy peak summer school holiday time.



May I also wish all our members and Crawley friends a pleasant and peaceful summer break.

**Peter Klin (PR Officer and newsletter editor)**

**Special points of interest:**

- **AGM 18/06/2003**  
20.00 at the Town Hall
- **Dorsten main group visit to Crawley**  
02/08– 10/08 and 30th Anniversary
- **Down Memory Lane**  
by Marie-Odile Herve
- **CTTA Tea Towel**  
available for purchase—details

**As usual we would welcome any contributions for the next edition of the newsletter. Please send these to:**

**Peter Klin**  
4 Sissinghurst  
Close, Crawley,  
RH10 7FX

Or by e-mail:

**peter@klin.**  
**freeserve.co.uk**

## *Down Memory Lane*

Yes, the name has a musical sound to me. I wonder why? I first heard it in 1974 when Schwester Paula first came to Crawley. Quite a character she was. Twice married, twice divorced, then eventually a nun in the Ursuline Order. She was an artist famous for her drawings, carvings and sculptures. A VIP in Dorsten where she has left her mark.



**Dorsten June 1976**

Later on that year, Schwester Michaelae came to Crawley also from Ursula Kloster- a teacher of English in the Realschule. Her hope was to bring her pupils to Crawley-about 30 girls. So she would need some host families and especially girls willing to be part of an exchange. Oh, yes, I did want to go to Germany-to Dorsten near Essen where my father and my brother had been as soldiers after the first and second world wars respectively.

I volunteered to organise this exchange with Schwester Michaelae and to look for possible hosts. You see, I did get involved very early on in the business of ACCOMMODATION!

I wanted to visit Germany. But what about the language? During the German occupation in France I could have learnt it. Oh! no, I did not want to learn the language of the enemy! Yet when the German officers and soldiers came to live next door to our farm, I remember my father saying, " We do not like the Germans as a nation because they are our enemies, but we should love them as individuals because they are our neighbours ".

Rather hard to swallow for an 11 year old who was so patriotic in those days. By and by however some of these soldiers became friends.

Little did I know that some 40 years later I would have some really close friends in Germany.

So back to the exchange. First I began to study German in earnest. Then I did succeed in finding 18 girls interested, not 30 that Michaelae had hoped for !!! These girls attended Holy Trinity School, St Wilfrid's, Ifield and Hazelwick. So my task was not easy but I was determined. I asked Sheila Robson who was teaching French and German at Holy Trinity if she would help. She and her husband Dennis were very pleased to join in. I was delighted.

So our little group of 3 adults and 18 youngsters travelled to Dorsten in the spring bank holiday week of 1976. It must have been the very first group of young people who ever visited Dorsten – After all the Twinning between Crawley and Dorsten was not quite three years old.

We had a fantastic time. The hospitality was wonderful. The excursions included a boat trip on the Rhine, a guided visit of the Bundeshaus in Bonn. Of course we had a reception by the Buergermeister, in the old Rathaus. I had to deliver a speech in German. – Michaelae had written it for me ! – I managed to read it in my best German, which was, and still is, very basic. The



**Dorsten June 1976**

## *Down Memory Lane—continued*

*Continued from page 2*

week was very successful. We did make some very good friends.

What about the return visit ? Schwester Michaela and Schwester Teresa brought 30 girls from Realschule. They came to Crawley in October that same year. WHERE on earth in Crawley can you find families interested in hostings? On the eve of their arrival I was still short of one host !!! Thank God, good old Queenie came to our rescue!

The visit of our Dorsten friends was also a success. Reception by the Mayor in Town Hall- visits to London, Brighton. A social with music and dancing. How lovely to see English and German girls having fun together. This was in 1976.

The following year I returned to Dorsten, my fare having been paid for by the Realschule in gratitude for organising the exchange. With no responsibilities, this was pure enjoyment.

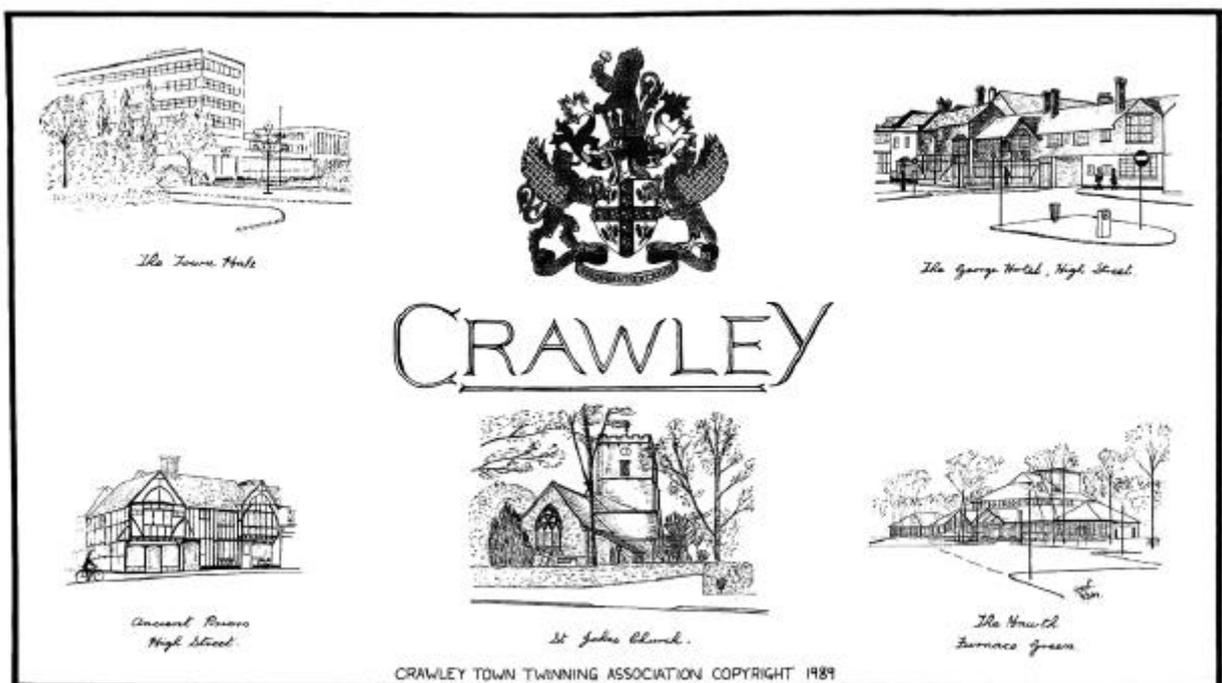
Now our two towns have been twins for 30 years. I have not enough fingers to count how many times I have visited Dorsten and, yes, I have also hosted a great many times.

Watch this space in our next Newsletter. I will tell you more about our friendship links with Dorsten.

Auf Wiedersehen!

**Marie-Odile Herve**

## *CTTA Tea Towel*



**This Tea Towel (850mm x 450mm / 31" x 17.5") can be purchased from Christine and Frank Baker at £3.50**