



CRAWLEY TOWN TWINNING ASSOCIATION

CTTA NEWSLETTER-CHRISTMAS 2004 EDITION

Issue 38

December 2004

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

Dear friends,

Another festive season is almost upon us and Christmas and New Year is coming soon. However before I start my usual annual summing up of this year's CTTA activities, I must report some very sad news:

It is with deep sorrow and regret that we announce the death of one of our long time members KEN CLEMENT, 16.04.28 - 09.11.04

Ken and his widow Eunice have supported Town Twinning since almost inception and hosted many families from Dorsten. Details about Ken's life have been compiled by Geoff and are printed on page 2.

This Year started by holding our CTTA annual dinner in February at the Hawth. The dinner was a great success. We are hoping that the next year's function again at Hawth, Furnace Green on Friday evening 4th. February 2005 will be equally successful. All CTTA members and friends are heartily invited and the committee are looking forward to seeing you all on this evening. For full details and choice of food see page 4.

As reported in our previous issue this year's main group visit to Dorsten (24.07 to 01.08) was a success, with lots of young people from Crawley and Dorsten participating in a varied programme of youth activities prepared by our Dorsten colleagues.

The Summer continued with a very good CTTA Barbecue organised by Frank and Christine and held in their garden.

From 1st October to 4th October, the Dual Committee meeting took place in Crawley at the Town Hall, and attended by the Mayor Cllr. Jim Smith. The meeting was followed by a good lunch at the nearby Happy Meeting restaurant and the now usual games held at the hall of St. Andrews. The day before on Saturday 2nd. October John Potier organised a guided tour of Guildford, followed by a visit of the Denbies Vineyard and some wine tasting. Although it was a cold day, the sun shone and the visit was liked by all.

We wish you all a Merry Christmas and Healthy and Prosperous 2005.

Peter Klin

PR officer and editor of the newsletter



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– February 4th. 2004

KEN CLEMENT, 16.04.1928 - 09.11.2004

Ken was one of the oldest serving members of the committee up until just after his retirement as Chairman having joined the association subsequent to his first visit to Dorsten in 1975. At the time his two eldest daughters were members of the (then) Hazelwick Music school and were members of the orchestra and girls choir which went to Dorsten on the first occasion Crawley had to demonstrate that England was not a land of musical philistines!

Ken was so impressed by the hospitality and overall goodwill extended to himself personally, and the group in general, that he decided to offer his help in furthering the objectives of Town Twinning (which, of course, is to effect a greater understanding between the peoples of our European neighbour countries).

He felt very strongly and advocated that all residents of Crawley should put their prejudices behind them and go to Dorsten and see for themselves how things and the people are so similar there.

Ken and Eunice lived in Berlin during the blockade for almost three years. Ken worked with one of the charter companies flying goods in and out of Berlin. This gave him a certain advantage in that he learnt to speak German fairly colloquially (if not grammatically correct is what he always said) and this he felt was just one of the many reasons he felt at home in our Twin Town.

Ken also felt no one should ever be put off going to Dorsten by their lack of the German language, he'd say 'just don't shout and poke your hapless victim when trying to explain your point'!

As, English is the primary foreign language for the Germans, you can be certain of being understood, especially by the younger people, if not by the 'dinosaurs' as he liked to say when referring to himself!

Amongst Ken's many talents, was his superb craftsmanship especially making marvellous stringed instruments; violins, violas and cellos.

He was responsible for much of the restoration work at the old Ifield Mill.

He made beautiful wooden rocking horses.

Probably, Ken's most public contribution to twinning was in 1992 when he took four instruments of his own manufacture to Dorsten. He had the great satisfaction of hearing them played in concert by students of the Dorsten Music school in front of 300 people.

He always believed very strongly that music was the ideal medium to encourage understanding between peoples.

Geoff May

Our Camera

In September, we were extremely surprised to receive a phone call from the Godalming Police asking us to contact them.

When we did they told us that we ought to take more care of our camera.

This had been lost at the Sorpesee in Germany, whilst we were on our biannual visit to Dorsten with the Crawley Town Twinning group.

When we got in touch with the Police they told us that a family had come in with a photo of our Morris Minor and asked the police if they could trace the owner, which they duly did!

They had given the Police permission to give us their phone number.

Upon phoning the Plokhaar family we learnt that the camera was still in Germany with Mrs Plokhaars parents and that they would send it to us once we had given them our address.

A few days later the camera and all the photographs from our unexposed film, which had been in the camera, arrived!

I telephoned them again and Mr Plokhaar told me that his five year old daughter, Lara, had found the camera at the Sorpesee whilst on a visit to her maternal grandparents in Hemer.

Mr Plokhaar feels that it is very important to teach children to have respect for other peoples property and that Lara had had great fun trying to track us down!

We were completely overwhelmed by their kindness and thoughtfulness and are hoping to meet them probably in November, when Mrs Plohaars parents come to visit them in Godalming. We look forward to seeing them and of course showing them the 'CAR' that was so instrumental in reuniting us with our 'CAMERA'

Joan & Barrie Newton

October 2004

The Queen and I by Marita Kipinski (not Sue Townsend)

About 4 weeks ago I got this invitation:

Einladung

Zu Ehren Ihrer Majestät Elizabeth II

Königin des Vereinigten Königreichs Großbritannien und Nordirland

und Seiner Königlichen Hoheit
Prinz Philip Herzog von Edinburgh

Der Präsident des Landtags Nordrhein-Westfalen
Ulrich Schmidt

lädt Sie
zu einer Festveranstaltung am Donnerstag, 4. November 2004,
12.00h, in den Plenarsaal,
Platz des Landtags 1, 40221 Düsseldorf
recht herzlich ein.

Anschließend findet ein Empfang in der Wandelhalle statt.

When I read this invitation I thought someone was pulling my leg. Why should I of all people be invited to see the Queen live! But somehow it occurred to me that the invitation might have something to do with Crawley and asked Manfred (not especially a Royalist) what I should do. His reaction: You go, of course you go, this is unique, and you'll be able to tell our grandchildren you've seen the Queen. So, my husband was no problem, but what about my headmistress, would she allow me a day off from school? So I took my precious invitation and showed it to her and believe it or not her reaction was the same as Manfred's, something like WOW, is she really coming?

So, these problems solved I was soon confronted with other impediments caused by the Deutsche Bahn which used to be an example of German punctuality (stress on used to be). We had to be at the Landtag at 10.45 at the latest, so how could I manage that without starting at midnight the day before. No chance according to the timetables and my experiences with German Rail. Take your own car and show everybody your registration number RE-CD 1973, but for those who know me; I get lost in my own front garden, also know that I would still try to find the way to Düsseldorf or I might have died of hunger by now.

Well, I was saved by Rainer Maschke, chairman of Oer-Erkenschwick - North Tyneside twinning association who offered me a lift after I had explained to him that it would be much more fun to go there together!

Being privileged people we were allowed to park the car in the multi storey of the Landtag and then went into the Holy Building, of course after being checked like at the airport.

We were there at about 10.15 (again, those who know me, I like being on time). We were kept happy with tea, coffee and the most delicious tiny little cakes you can imagine. I can assure you they were all excellent, I tried them all!

While we were waiting we could watch the people who tried to fix the red carpet for the Queen. Who would have thought that this could be such a big problem!?

At about 11.45h we were ushered into the Assembly Hall and entertained with some music played by the Bergisches Symphonieorchester conducted by a woman.

At 12.30h, THE QUEEN ARRIVED! With our programme had come instructions on what to do and so we all stood up in honour of the Queen. Great was the disappointment because all our bets concerning the colour of her clothes had failed. She was wearing a beautiful fur-trimmed beige coat and matching hat, neither pink nor light blue or light green.

After Pomp and Circumstances the Speaker of the Landtag (who had invited me!) spoke and then the Ministerpräsident Peer Steinbrück. He reminded me of a 12 year old schoolboy who had learned a poem by heart and wanted to get rid of it very quickly in case he might forget the words. He must have been very nervous.

Then- at last the Queen spoke to us.

When I was a child I thought that Queens were something very special. To be honest, I even thought they didn't have to spend a penny! Having gone through some kind of education and being matured a bit I now know that Queens are ordinary people and human beings, just like you and me. This was proved in Düsseldorf because when the Queen read her speech she missed one page, hesitated slightly, got back to the right page and went on reading. After her speech she left the Landtag and we listened to some music and then were invited to have something to eat in the lobby.

I now know what wining & dining means. We were offered a great variety of delicious finger food from the region all provided by a top chef from a very posh restaurant in Essen. So again we sampled everything and washed it down with red wine from the Ahr or for those who preferred white wine, from the Mosel. I met all the Northrhine-Westfalian celebrities I normally only see on TV or in the papers and really enjoyed the afternoon.

While we were all chatting happily the poor Queen had to listen to a speech about genetic engineering and after she had had a big German meal of Sauerbraten and Klöße auf Rotkohl . We all sympathised and understood when she nodded off for a short while.

I got back to Dorsten in the evening and I can assure you, it was a hectic evening as I have never had so many phone calls before.

The next morning was also very interesting. I had promised my pupils to tell them on Friday where I had been on Thursday. One Turkish girl said, You are so crazy about England, you must have seen the Queen in Düsseldorf. How absolutely right she was, they listened to me in awe and on Monday they said Good morning Queen Kipinski !

Friday evening offered another opportunity to tell the story about the Queen and I as we were celebrating our very first Guy Fawkes Night . We had a miniature bonfire (for safety reasons we weren't allowed a big one) and burnt a Guy which Helga and Werner had made. They had even added some sparklers so that the Guy really burnt nicely. Sparklers were the only fireworks we had but everybody was happy and liked the Glühwein and Parkin, a cake which is baked for Bonfire Night, so Judy told me, which I could only make because I had bought Black Treacle and Golden Syrup in Crawley. I don't think you can buy it here.

I also told people something about the historical background beginning with Henry VIII and all his trouble with the Pope etc. Everybody (about 50 people) agreed it had been a lovely evening and so we are looking forward to next year's Bonfire Night celebration.

CRAWLEY TOWN TWINNING ASSOCIATION
ANNUAL DINNER

Friday 4th February 2005 7.30pm for 7.45pm
At the Hawth Furnace Green.

The cost of the meal is £19.50 we will require a deposit of £5.00 per person
To be paid by 1st January 2005, Cheques made payable to C.T.T.A.
and sent to Frank Baker
The balanace by 12th January also to Frank.
at 36, Brantridge Road, Furnace Green, RH10 6HX.

There is a choice of menu which is listed below, please can you tick your preferences.

Starters

Smoked chicken, grapes & walnuts bound in mayonnaise
and served on a bed of lettuce.
Marinated salmon in a dill & onion dressing.

Main Course

Roast Pork with an apricot stuffing.*

Roast Beef with a horseradish & mushroom glaze
with a bacon, button onions & mushroom sauce. *

VEGETERIAN--- Quorn , leek & parsnip bake with a herb crust. *

(*All above served with a selection of seasonal vegetables & potatoes)

Desserts

Dark Chocolate & cointreau mousse served with butter shortbread
Lemon Meringue pie with fresh cream & grated chocolate.

NAME..... Choice of Menu

Starter _____
Main _____
Desert _____