

CTTA Newsletter

Crawley Town Twinning Association

Welcome to the Spring edition!

Just a few words to introduce our spring edition of the newsletter.

Hopefully this year 's long winter is now behind us and the Spring and a warmer days will be with us very soon.

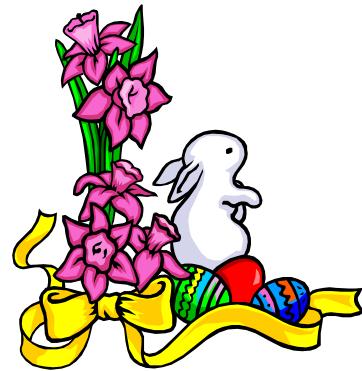
This year will be a busy year for all our committee members and friends as is it our Dorsten friends turn to visit Crawley in July. The committee is trying to finalise the programme during that week including a separate activity programme for the Dorsten and Crawley youth. Accommodation

is required as usual. For more details re the Main Group Visit (MGV) see page 4 of this Newsletter.

In September there is a Dual Committee meeting in Dorsten, where among other agenda we will reflect on the MGV and plan our next main group visit to Dorsten in 2006.

Finally we all would like to wish you all a pleasant and enjoyable Easter holiday.

Peter Klin on behalf of the CTTA committee



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March (Easter) 2005

Special points of interest:

- Main Group Visit to Crawley. Accommodation needed for our friends*

Please refer to page 4 for more details

CTTA Annual Dinner 2005

To all members and friends,

The Association held its Annual Dinner on Friday 4th February 2005 at the Hawth—Furnace Green. Thirty one people were seated and catered for in the restaurant. Similarly as last year the restaurant and it's staff done us proud. I hope that I can speak on behalf of all our members, the meal was delicious and really plentiful with choice of starters, main courses and dessert. For entertainment Christine Baker prepared a short quiz and the tombola raised a few valuable pounds for the CTTA. Thank you to all friends who contributed towards the tombola's prices and Frank for organising the event.

Peter

Jacky May describes the event as follows:

"We enjoyed our annual dinner at the Hawth again this year on the 4th February. We had the room to ourselves with the staff giving us their usual high level of service and attention. The food was plentiful and delicious.

The raffle was fairly equally split with at least a 'winner' on every table.

Christine was our quizmaster with a very unusual list of questions all relating to law with each of us 'learning something that night'!

If anyone has any other suggestions for the future dinner next year please get in touch."

Jacky

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Surprise, Surprise!

Well, you could have knocked me down with a feather, and it was worthy of the T.V. programme's title above when on the 14th January sitting in Jefferson's restaurant waiting for friends to arrive and help celebrate my fiftieth (there I've said it 50, and not 29 as I always say when asked my age, not that anyone has believed it for some time) however it was not the friends I was expecting.

So here goes, with the background to a wonderful weekend celebrating my 'Geburtstag' with friends. Jacky, told me we were to meet our friends Martyn and Elaine and would go by separate cars. This was most strange as we'd normally go together, but the ruse was they had to drop off 'the boys' at the babysitters, so OK it seemed feasible. We asked for a table for four and started looking through the menu, discussed our choices, when Jacky said they're here. I looked around and there stood Georg, Birgit and Carina from Dorsten. For a full minute or so I was speechless (which isn't often, now is it?) and eventually when I did speak it was all questions. They had come to Crawley to wish me a happy birthday and Georg said to save on the cost of a stamp and card.

They had flown from Cologne into Gatwick, then stayed with Freda and would be staying that night as well. Well, Jacky could not make up the spare room beforehand as I would have suspected something wouldn't I? Throughout the meal I kept saying I couldn't believe they were there, and asked questions all the time. They had booked this weekend just after our dual committee meeting last October and only later booked Carina's flight once the school agreed she could have time off school and also as a present for her 16th Birthday only four

days before mine. Some pleading and a written letter by Birgit convinced the school she should travel to her Twin Town to help celebrate my birthday.

Now to Saturday, I was told by Jacky to 'disappear' and so went with our 'guests' into Town. Now, Freda was going to Bingo and I thought this would be a completely new experience for our Dorsten friends, however only Georg took me up on this suggestion (Birgit and Carina preferring retail therapy) preferring the warmth of a bingo hall to the cold terraces at the Broadfield stadium. Immediately, both of us questioned Freda on how this 'all worked' and soon we were in the thick of things playing Bingo. Quite soon, Georg asked Freda if this was correct (he had a line) but by the time she said yes it was too late to call (shame as he missed a £10.00 prize).

Not to worry though as he did call later and this time won £10.00. Freda was also lucky winning £25.00; it was only me that had no luck with the bingo.

On Sunday, Jacky and I took Georg and Birgit (Carina preferring to stay at home with Sarah and her friends) to Wakehurst and we all enjoyed our bit of fresh air and exercise ahead of returning home for 'KAFFE und KUCHEN' my birthday cake.

We dropped Georg, Birgit and Carina back to Gatwick for their flight to Cologne. It takes the same time roughly to fly here as it does to drive from Dorsten to Cologne.

What a wonderful weekend I had with many presents and cards, including a signed card from all the Dorsten committee and a card/present from Bernd and Matilde.

What a lucky chappie I am. I was truly 'duped' by a large number of people some of whom used to be friends (only joking) who kept me for sure in the dark!

Geoff May

Our Camera Part 2

Continuation of the saga of our lost camera - after its return from Germany.

Following the return of our camera last September the Plokhaar family, who live in Godalming, invited us to their Christening at St. John the Baptist Church in Busbridge. They told us that Martina's parents and other relations and friends from Germany would be coming.

We arrived safely on Sunday 21st November for 9.30am and met the family, who were delighted that we had come in our Morris Minor. At the baptismal service Martina renewed her baptismal vows and all three children were baptised. We sat next to Martina's parents, Erika and Dieter Sommer.

Afterwards we all adjourned to the Busbridge Village Hall to celebrate. They had a typical "Katzentisch" for all the children. Typically there was lots of food and drink. We were introduced to Church friends and also to friends and family from Germany and made to feel like "honoured guests".

When these festivities were over we were told that we must come back to their home. Lara (their daughter who had found the camera near the Sorpesee) travelled in our Morris with us and also gave us directions. We spent the afternoon with

the family and friends from Germany and a close English friend. We spoke a mixture of English and German. We have had a Christmas card from them and hope we'll be able to get together during the Dorsten exchange week this year, if not before.

The bottom picture shows young Lara "at the wheel" of our Morris Minor. The picture on the right shows Lara with her own car!!

Joan and Barrie Newton.



Accommodation needed for our Main Group Visit German friends

Dear Members and friends,

This year is our 32nd year since the partnership between the towns of Dorsten and Crawley was signed by both town councils. From 9th July to 17th July this year our Dorsten friends will arrive by coach for their Main Group Visit (MGV) to Crawley. There will be 36 visitors including 9 youngsters. This group visit to Crawley occurs every other year, alternating with Crawley's visit to Dorsten. A varied programme is being prepared and our executive committee members are currently in full swing putting final touches to the groups trips to places of interest in Crawley, Sussex which will include a trip to the Seaside.

One of our long term objectives is to get as many young people interested in the twinning between our two towns. It is the youth's which will hopefully carry on the friendship between Dorsten and Crawley and the two countries in the future and continue the successful partnership association established 32 years ago.

As part of our MGV we are again (3rd year) busy organising a youth programme. The programme is aimed for 5 youth's from Dorsten and 5 youth's from Crawley to go away for a 3 or 4 day organised Youth Programme. Through a committee member we are again liaising via the Hazelwick Youth Centre. Unfortunately both the MGV and this Youth Programme- venture is a rather costly affair and we are at the moment, desperately trying to arrange some financial assistance/grant to boost our limited funds.

Lastly, I must mention that as 36 people from Dorsten are coming for the 8 days visit our very busy Accommodation Secretary Mrs Jacky May is looking for people with a spare bed or two to accommodate the visitors. If interested please contact Jacky on tel. 01293 885444 Those people who would be able to provide an accommodation and join the CTTA have priority to join our MGV to Dorsten next year.

Peter Klin

Publisher/Editor details

This newsletter was edited and published on behalf of the CTTA by Peter Klin. Contributions for our next edition of the newsletter are welcome from all.

If sending articles then I would be grateful if they would be word processed, in a standard format for easier editing and transferral into the newsletter.

E-mail: peter@klin.freeserve.co.uk