



# CRAWLEY TOWN TWINNING ASSOCIATION

Issue 76

**CTTA NEWSLETTER - MARCH EDITION**

March 2017

Dear members and friends,

Welcome to the Spring issue of the CTTA Newsletter. Since the last issue of the Newsletter in December the following town twinning activities have taken place:

The Annual Dinner was held in Cowdray Arms, Balcombe Road on Saturday 18th. February 2017. For short resume of the event and a few photos see inside the Newsletter.

Dorsten trainee teacher Lea Hinzmann visited Crawley and spend three weeks in Our Lady Queen of Heaven-Catholic primary school. Lea had a wonderful time in Crawley and shares her experiences in our Newsletter.

Between 14th March to 16th March Dorsten-Lembeck voluntary fire fighters visited Crawley. After two days of happy and exciting journey from Dorsten to Crawley they received a warm welcome on their evening's arrival in the Town Hall. See page 4 for more details.

The principal CTTA activity this year will be the Main Group Visit (MGV) to Crawley between 15th July to 23th July 2017. The CTTA committee are busy preparing and finalising the week's programme including finding a suitable accommodation for all visitors. Should you be able to offer an accommodation for that week please contact Jacky as soon as possible (Tel.01293 885 444).

## **Coach Travel to Dorsten 29/09/2017 to 2/10/2017**

CTTA executive committee will be travelling to Dorsten to attend the DCM (Dual Committee Meeting). It was decided to travel with a 50+ seater coach. The crossing will be via ferry. There are currently spare seats on offer.

This offer is for the coach travel only and members will have to make their own arrangements for accommodation and all other activities but seats are being offered at of £150 (maximum) per person. The cost may come down slightly pending final number of people travelling.

Anyone who would like a long weekend in Dorsten with their friends can you please phone or email the trip organiser – Geoff May. Tel. No. 01293 885 444, email address: GMay584553@aol.com

Peter Klin

PR officer and Newsletter Editor



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## New CTTA member-Angie Potter

Thanks for accepting me as a member of the CTTA. I enjoyed reading your newsletter. I have actually met Julian Charatan (who wrote one of the articles in your newsletter, re his trip to Dorsten) as he came to my last German conversation meetup in Redhill.

I attach an electronic copy of my letter and also of my flyer re my language Meetup group: "The Reigate, Redhill & Caterham Language Café", as you requested. It would be lovely if some of the CTTA members would like to come to some of our language meetups. And if any of your members would like to become co-organisers in our group and run the occasional language meetup in the Crawley area, they would be very welcome to do so.



Just to introduce myself a little: I have always loved languages, especially German. My brother and I were looked after by a German lady (Irmgard) as children, so I started learning some German from the age of 7, and Irmgard took me to Munich a couple of times as a teenager, to stay with her family. I did German at school and after leaving school I worked as an au pair for 6 months in a German family near Düsseldorf (then 6 months as an au pair in France). Then I studied German (and French) at University (in the UK, but I did my 'year abroad' in Austria, as an English assistant teacher in Salzburg).

I taught German (and French) to customs officials in London for 5 years as a full-time in-house language trainer. I later became a UK government lawyer and visited Germany, Austria and Switzerland on numerous occasions for exchange visits and conferences, as well as longer-term postings in The Hague and Paris (as I specialised in international mutual legal assistance). I recently took early retirement from my civil service career and became a self-employed language tutor and translator. I've been running my language conversation meetup group (the "Reigate, Redhill & Caterham Language Café") for just over a year now, and have met a lot of lovely people who live or work locally and who also love languages.

It would be great to meet some of your members at our meetups.

With best wishes,  
Angie Potter



### Reigate, Redhill & Caterham Language Café

Come and practise your French, Spanish, German, Italian or Portuguese conversation skills in a friendly, relaxed and supportive atmosphere and socialise at the same time over a coffee/drink or snack at our conversation meet-ups. We meet at various venues (cafés, pubs etc.) in Reigate, Redhill, Caterham, Epsom, Sutton, Crawley and surrounding areas. Other languages may follow. For further details, and to join us online, please see our website:

[www.meetup.com/Reigate-Language-Café](http://www.meetup.com/Reigate-Language-Café)

À bientôt! Bis bald! Ci vediamo presto! ¡Hasta pronto!

## New CTTA member-Michael Pickett

### Why Town Twinning Matters



In the summer of 1966, I was working in the gardens of a former monastery located in the hills that overlooked the Swabian village of Mariaberg in southwest Germany. Along with a dozen or so young volunteers from across Europe, we were repairing and creating paths for a children's playground. The monastery was now a home for mentally disabled boys and girls. It was good fun working together and we all enjoyed the warm evenings when we would walk down to the village bierstube and stagger back up a couple of hours later to get a decent night's sleep before being up early next morning to continue our labours in the garden. The work camp, organised by Service Civil International (SCI), lasted three weeks after which we all dispersed back to our respective countries. I went on to take part in other work camps both here in the UK and in France.

The fundamental ethos of SCI was to bring young people from across a divided Europe together in the spirit of reconciliation. In my case the experience left me imbued with a sense of shared values and a commitment to fostering good relations with citizens from other countries not just in Europe but across the world. Moreover, when I was elected to Crawley Borough Council last year, and presented with the opportunity of sitting on the Town Twinning Association Executive Committee, I immediately decided to join. It seems to me that SCI and the TCC share a common belief in that ordinary people living in different countries can transcend politics, religion, and indeed history, to form bonds of friendship and genuine goodwill through the town twinning movement.

I am now looking forward to visiting Dorsten as soon as possible and along with my fellow committee members to welcoming its citizens to Crawley.

Michael Pickett

8 February 2017.

## DORSTEN FIREFIGHTERS VISIT CRAWLEY

A group of Dorsten firefighters was given a warm welcome at the Civic Hall on Tuesday 14th March when they arrived in their 1958 vintage Mercedes fire engine nicknamed "Oma" (grandmother). The group who made the trip to raise money for the Youth Fire service in Dorsten included Burgermeister Tobias Stockhoff and town twinning members Marita Kipinski, Ulla Kusters and Dieter and Martha Zendel.

The firefighters were hosted by members of the Crawley Fire Service and the highlight of the trip was a visit to Gatwick Airport where they were given a demonstration of the latest million pound fire engines as well as an airside tour with a close inspection of a giant A380 Airbus. It is hoped to set up a return visit by Crawley firefighters to Dorsten and to set up a direct link between the two services.

As the elderly lady had a maximum speed of 50 mph and lacked the upholstered comfort and quiet engine of more modern forms of transport the journey took two days each way but all concerned had a great time and a fantastic adventure.

Iain Millar



## Partnerstadt hilft beim Studium—Twin Town helps with the study

7 years ago I have felt the spirit of the town twinning between Dorsten and Crawley for the first time. We came to Crawley with the orchestra (Schützenkapelle Rhade) to play some concerts in town and with the band of the Holy Trinity School.

Since then I was sure that I want to become a teacher for English as a second language. Especially Crawley influenced and impressed me with its outstanding vitality, warmth and hospitality.

That is why, 7 years later, I came to visit Crawley again. This time as an adult in a teacher training course, looking for a traineeship to finish my studies. Fortunately, Brenda Smith helped and supported me to find a school for a three-weeks-stay. She took great care of me and I can honestly say that she is a lovely person with a strong character.

My accommodation was sorted out as quickly as the school: my host family from 7 years ago agreed to have me back at their home; Joy and Graham Durrant welcomed me with open arms. It turned out that Our Lady Queen of Heaven Catholic Primary School is the place to be if you want to gain positive educational experiences. I have to confirm that I enjoyed staying with my caring host family and all the unique staff members of OLQOH. They are one of the most inspiring people I have ever met.

Town Twinning: This is something you can rely on and is worth to maintain. The motto of the 2006 football world championship in Germany said it all: Zu Gast bei Freunden (Having a home at a friend's house). This is exactly what you can experience in Crawley.

Thank you to everyone who was involved and made this experience possible for me."

Best wishes, Lea Hinzmann



**Lea at our CTTA committee meeting in Crawley Town Hall**



## CTTA Annual Dinner 2017

This year's Annual Dinner was held in Cowdrays Arms at Balcombe Road. Elaine Williams was again kind enough to organise this important event in our annual calendar.

27 people attended the evening dinner which was held at the pub-restaurant's separate dining section. Following the nice meal, drinks and "pudding" Geoff May Jacky organised the now traditional multi questions quiz followed by a successful raffle, prepared by Jacky.

After the Dinner people chatted and relaxed next to a good wine , beer or coffee, with majority of attendees leaving Cowdrays Arms well after 10pm.

On behalf of the CTTA committee and all members a special thank you for Elaine, Geoff and Jacky for making this event a special and enjoyable evening and well done.

By Peter Klin



# TOWN TWINNING MEMBERS APPLICATION FORM & INFORMATION

## WHAT IS TOWN TWINNING?

Town Twinning exists to promote friendship between people of different countries through personal and cultural links.

Every year a group from Crawley visits Dorsten or a group from Dorsten comes to Crawley. We pay our own travel expenses but when in Germany we stay with a German family as non paying guests and visits are arranged to places of interest in the neighbourhood. The following year we act as hosts to our German guests.



It is also normal to arrange a youth programme for teenagers so that they can enjoy their own activities and experience life in a different country and enjoy new experiences.

Exchanges can also be arranged between clubs and societies such as sports clubs, choirs or orchestras.

The Crawley – Dorsten link has been in existence for more than 30 years and many strong friendships have been built up during this time.

### **INTERESTED?**

Membership is open to Families, Individuals, Clubs and Societies.  
You do not have to speak German but there is the opportunity to do so if you wish.  
For more information please contact:-

The membership secretary  
Michael James  
Telephone: 01293 532699



The Hawth Crawley



Town Square Dorsten

## APPLICATION FORM FOR NEW MEMBERS

### **How to Join**

Fill out the application form below and send it together with your subscription to:

### **Membership Secretary,**

Michael James  
16 Epsom Road  
Furnace Green  
Crawley RH10  
Tel. 01293 532699

### **Annual subscriptions**

To subscribe you will need to make annual payments (by cheque)\*.

Individual residents	£8.00
Individual non-residents	£10.00
Family residents	£12.00
Family non residents	£15.00
Schools/other associations resident	£20.00
Schools/other associations non resident	£20.00

\*Please remember that cheques must be payable to the CTTA.

I enclose a cheque to the value of £.....  
Name.....  
Address .....  
.....  
.....  
Signature.....