

CRAWLEY TOWN TWINNING ASSOCIATION

Issue 88

CTTA NEWSLETTER - SPRING EDITION

June 2023

Dear Members and Friends,

Welcome to the late Spring 2023 edition of the CTTA Newsletter.

I am pleased to report that after almost over two and half of very quiet years for the CTTA due to the pandemic restrictions, the committee has now restarted the association's regular meetings and activities.

In December 2022 we held our first AGM since 14.01.2020. Following this, the newly elected and approved Committee held their regular meeting on 23rd February, 26th April with further meetings planned for 7th June and 5th July. These meetings were and are necessary in order to finalize all the preparation and details for this year **Main Group Visit (MGV)** to Dorsten between 31st July to 5th August 2023 (This MGV was originally planned for summer 2020 but cancelled twice). Other Association matters, social events etc. were and are also discussed/approved at these meetings so that the organisation can return and function as before March 2020.

The Dual Committee Meeting (shorter version) will be now held during the MGV in Dorsten.

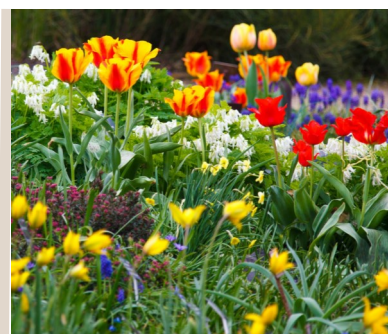
The Social Activities

Moira Blackman-our Social Secretary has been busy arranging a couple of member's "get together evenings" so far this year. The first one was a successful Curry Evening on 2nd March 2023 held in the Cinnamon Indian Restaurant in Tilgate Parade. The second event was a popular and very well attended Quiz Night with Fish and Chips on the 22nd April 2023 held in St Andrews. Thank you Moira for successfully arranging the above events and Elaine for organising a lovely Quiz.

Moira is now working on organising some more CTTA's social events for the rest of this year which will be advised to members as soon they are finalised and agreed-watch this space!

Following in the tradition, Geoff and Jacky May have again kindly proposed "a post MGV BBQ" in August. This event is for the participants of the Main Group Visit and the exact date and details will be announced after 5th July, once the MGV's travellers meeting is held in St Andrews.

Peter Klin,
PR officer and Newsletter Editor
On Behalf of CTTA



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Crawley Town Twinning Association



**CTTA's Curry Evening held
at Cinnamom Indian Restaurant-Tilgate Parade on 2nd. March. 2023**





Crawley Town Twinning Association



CTTA photo and an article from the past

Join the Club

A look at what's going on in and around the town's busy club scene. For your club to make the headlines simply call Features Editor Marilyn Wing on (01293) 562929.



COMMITTED TO TOWN TWINNING: The small committee which runs Crawley Town Twinning Association meets once a month in the Town Hall

MAKING friends with like-minded people is a part of joining most clubs. But friendship is the very reason Crawley's Town Twinning Association was launched 25 years ago. Its aim to foster friendship between the people of Crawley and those of Dorsten in Germany. And for the 70 plus members of the association international friendship is the key to its success. Once every two years a group of 35 club members visit Crawley's twin town to spend a week as guests of Dorsten families.

Association secretary Iris Orriss explained: "People make lifelong friendships through these visits." On alternate years a group from Dorsten comes to Crawley and stay as guests with members. There are also regular visits by the Mayor and civic officials from both towns and several Crawley groups organise their own exchange visits with their German counterparts. Two German students have just been found work experience with local companies with the help of the twinning club's members.

"The association is meant for the people of Crawley to enjoy. It would be nice to have some more people join us," said Iris, a member for five years. Crawley Mayor Andy Kane has just returned from a trip to Dorsten to celebrate the silver anniversary of the association. There are also plans to hold a day of entertainment in Queens Square on Saturday October 17 to mark the birthday. So if you would like to find out more about Town Twinning contact membership secretary Mr G May on 01293 885444.

SEPT 1998

An article and photo from Observer published on 23 September 1998



Crawley Town Twinning Association



CTTA Article from the past

The 750th anniversary of Dorsten

Dorsten – 750th Anniversary celebrations June 2001

Do you remember that wonderful spell of weather we had in May? Despite my 70 odd years, as soon as a heatwave comes I can't imagine anything but sunshine – and so it was that I set off to Dorsten (as a privileged hanger-on to the Chairman) in the lightest of gear with a couple of dresses packed- no raincoat, no anorak even! We were sharing the car with Jackie and Geoff (excellent travelling companions) and had a trouble-free trip, arriving at Marita's in Dorsten by 4pm, where the skies were a little cloudier and the wind fresh.



Usual alcohol-laden cake and rumbustious conversation at Marita's, then Ken and I departed for our hosts in Wulfen. We found the house by driving round in circles for half-an-hour or so (Wulfen is rather like Broadfield in that respect) and were treated to asparagus and strawberries for supper – no self-respecting German would offer anything else at that time of year!

Saturday morning was billed as a formal reception by the Mayor and a talk on citizenship. Dorsten has many twin towns, in Israel, Nicaragua, Poland, France, Germany, Northern Ireland and ourselves and they had all sent representatives. Some how our Town Council, which had received the official invitation, interpreted it as a trip for councillors only, but our excellent friends on the Dorsten committee, by threatening not to come unless we did, had managed to squeeze out invitations for us. In between the more serious items on the agenda a superb jazz trio played, and after a ceremony reaffirming Dorsten's commitment to its friendship with all the towns we went on to a buffet provided by a local catering college. (I won't tell you about the giant prawns – the smoked salmon – the champagne...)

That evening saw the opening of the Altstadt Fest – beer and wine drinking in the town square to the music of a pop band – ideally in warm evening sunshine. By the time we arrived the drizzle had started, but we were cheered by meeting Victor and

'Froggy' Wood (in her best dirndl) who had come over from Munich for the weekend so we huddled around the French stall with its champagne and red wine from the two twin towns.

On Saturday our chairman went off to a seminar on which he will report, while I did a little light shopping in the blustery rain. We had been asked to translate some prayers into English and in the evening found they were part of an ecumenical service at the beginning of a social in one of the local schools – every prayer translated into all the languages represented. Then a great surprise – the social took off with a performance of Appalachian clog-style dancing from the Crawley group Hi-Jinx. We felt so proud of them as they strutted and rattled their way through the catchy dance-tunes and were enthusiastically cheered. Then came a Polish orchestra and a French wind-band – and home in the rain.

By Sunday the winds were coming straight from Siberia. A tent had been put up in the Town Centre with publicity photos of visits to and from all the twin towns, and was flapping and threatening to take off. A kind friend wrapped me in half of her pashmina and we were rushed off to lunch. The final event was a splendid dinner in a local hotel where we met some of the Israeli and Polish deputations and then went on to a concert given by the Dorsten music-school and the Polish orchestra. Then out onto the terrace overlooking the canal where, wrapped in car-blankets and any available rain-gear, we watched the fireworks swooping up over the town and bringing the 750th anniversary celebrations to an end. To make sure we slept our hostess brought us all woolly socks and tracksuits and we had a few final glasses before falling into bed.



Needless to say, as we entered Dover harbour, the sky cleared, the sun came out and English summer weather (for once) welcomed us home.

E. Clement
Eunice Clement



Crawley Town Twinning Association



Getting to know your committee

Hi Everyone

I'd like to introduce myself.

I'm Sandy Green and the newest member of the CTTA Committee but have been involved in the Twinning for 29 years.

My first trip to Dorsten was in 1994 with my Dad, Mum and little sister. I still have fond memories of Dorsten like going to the local swimming pool, visiting a chocolate factory. I remember one trip to a beer factory when I opened a door to the outside and caused a slow but steady flow of beer down the steps we were walking up!

My children and Husband as a family over the years we have been on many trips and become very much involved in the Twinning. We have friends to stay with us on the MGv and private visits. We've enjoyed going on both the organised and private trips and just spending time all together. We would never have been to so many places that we have been without the Twinning. My kids have loved it.

We have made forever friends and some are like family, having come to my wedding and even taken on the role as godparents.

So That's me. Hi.



Crawley Town Twinning Association



CTTA COMMITTEE MEMBERS FOR 2022/2023

Position	Name
Executive Committee Members	
Chairperson	Iain Millar
Vice Chairman	Position currently vacant
Secretary	Geoff May
Treasurer	Di Sullivan
Minute Secretary	Joan Newton
Public relations officer/Newsletter	Peter Klin
Accommodation Secretary	Jacky May
Membership Secretary	Michael James
Mayor's Secretary PA	Hayley Thorne
Social Secretary	Moir Blackman
Committee members	Brenda Smith
	Elaine Williams
	David Rayner
	Hilary Jones
	Sandy May
	Cllr Simon Piggott
	Cllr Tahira Rana



CRAWLEY TOWN TWINNING ASSOCIATION



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 here. 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. The following year we act as hosts to our German guests. The link between our Towns has been in existence since 1973 and many strong friendships have been built up during this time.

Membership is open to Families, Individuals, Clubs and Societies.
You do not have to speak German but there is the opportunity to do so of course.

For more information please contact:
The membership secretary, Michal James, on 07990 972379 or 01293 532699
e-mail: mike@mikedjames.co.uk

APPLICATION FORM FOR NEW MEMBERS

How to join:
Fill out this application form and send it together with your subscription to:
Membership Secretary
Michael James, 16 Epsom Road, Furnace Green, Crawley, RH10 6LU
e-mail: mike@mikedjames.co.uk

Annual subscriptions
To subscribe you will need to make annual payments to:
Crawley Town Twinning Association (CTTA)
Metro Bank, account no. 44788063, sort code 23 -05 - 80
Please quote your name and its payment for membership fees.

Individual residents	£8.00
Individual non-residents	£10.00
Family residents	£12.00
Family non-residents	£15.00

Name.....
Address.....
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Telephone/mobile.....
e-mail.....