

# CTTA Newsletter

Crawley Town Twinning Association

## Welcome to the Easter edition!

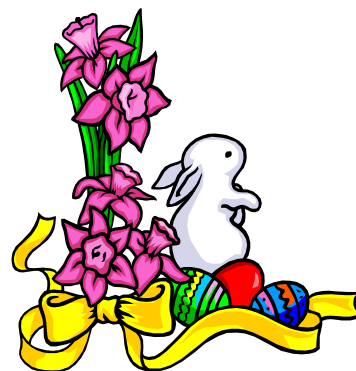
Dear members and friends,

Welcome to the Spring-Easter edition of the CTTA newsletter. We will have another busy year ahead, with committee members preparing a suitable programme and accommodation for the Dorsten Main Group Visit (MGV) to Crawley. The date of the visit will be between 23 June to 1 July 2007. Later in the year, between 21-24th September the Dual Committee meeting will be held this time in Dorsten and we are currently investigating the most convenient and economical way of transportation across the channel. (either by car, coach, plane or train). On page 2 there is a long Au-Revoir letter from Marie-Odile describing her return from England to her native France. Marie Odile was a very active and long serving member of CTTA and lived in Crawley since 1951. On behalf of all the members and friends,

we wish Marie Odile a happy and healthy retirement in France, and once more a big thank you for all her hard work for the CTTA and Crawley please keep in touch.

And on a different note - on behalf of the committee I would like to thank Iain Miller for successfully preparing and organizing a CTTA display boards in the foyer of the library in February. Further preparation for an imminent CTTA poster at County Mall are being prepared by Iain-as they say watch the space!

Peter Klin



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Easter 2007

### Special points of interest:

- Come and learn about German wine - see page 4 for details

## CTTA Annual Dinner 2007

The Association held its Annual Dinner on Friday 2nd February 2007. After a break of two years we held the dinner once again at Rowfant House. Thirty five people were present on this occasion. As in previous years the food, dessert and the company was excellent and I believe that all present had enjoyed themselves. For entertainment George Redgrave prepared a short 'German knowledge' biased quiz and the tombola raised valuable small funds for the CTTA. Thank you to all members and friends who contributed towards the tombola's prizes and George for organising the event.



**Annual Dinner - Jenny and Dave Withall quiz winners**

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## **MARIE-ODILE HAS LEFT ENGLAND**

**(but oh dear! It was no plain sailing!)**

On Monday 8 January 2007, Jean-Paul and Georges, my brothers-in-law, drove from Fougères to Dieppe, without problem. Very good so far. They boarded the ship 'Cote d'Albatie' bound for Newhaven. After about three hours on the water they were told the ship had to turn round and at a very reduced speed go back to Dieppe because one of the engines had broken down! So back to square one and a 2-hour drive to Calais, from where they were soon in Dover and driving on the left!

After about 20 minutes, near Folkestone, their van broke down. Perhaps it did not like being on the wrong side of the road! The gears had become blocked. They met some helpful people who free of charge kindly unblocked the gears. Carefully, Jean-Paul, minus gear four, drove on the motorways bound for Gatwick and Crawley, where they got lost! My instructions from the A23 south were of no use to them!

At long last, tired and weary they reached 13 Burwash Road. Gary, my neighbour's son, came to lend a hand (or rather two strong arms!) with Maureen his mother who has been a real angel to me in the last 3 weeks and without delay they began to load the mini-van! But oh dear, was it going to be big enough? Obviously I had forgotten about the blessings of travelling light.

Then a phone call told us that our crossing, which was due from Newhaven at 6:30pm, was cancelled. The next available would be at 3:00am next morning. Actually a blessing in disguise since this gave us time to breathe, to pause, to think and have a meal.

So at 1:00pm Jean-Paul, Georges and myself walked to the Hawth where we enjoyed a very good dinner at the Arts Café. The men drank their well-earned beers and joked about my wine from South Australia. How could a French woman drink non-French wine? They had forgotten that this woman is half British!

Refreshed and strengthened we walked back to Burwash Road. At 2:30pm Frank and John were called to help - they had been on standby since 9am! Great examples of patience!

So we resumed the task of loading the van – amazing how much we crammed in – probably due to the prayers of Christine who had come along to give us moral support. God knows I was in need of it, near collapse! Thank you, dear Christine, you were a real friend and so were Frank and John.

However, half my stuff would not fit in the van and was consequently going to have to remain in Crawley for the time being. So what about a removals company for the rest of Marie-Odile's too many possessions?

By then I was physically, mentally and emotionally unable to cope so John very kindly took over and

eventually found a company willing to deliver to Rennes via Newhaven-Dieppe.

Frank and Christine invited us to their home for a welcome cup of tea. Soon Georges – who by the way could speak English- and Frank were happily chatting about aeroplanes. Georges had been a pilot for many years.

Back to the bungalow for the last finishing touches then on to Jean & Ray Calcott who had kindly offered to host my two men for the night, that is the previous night which in fact they had spent travelling on sea and road! The beer and sandwiches were indeed welcomed.

Back at 13 Burwash Road for one LAST THING – the TELEPHONE. After an emotional call from a very dear friend I said to Jean-Paul 'I cannot do it – would you please unplug the phone?' It was now 10:30pm and the line was cut! A painful and symbolic gesture for me. Now we must leave – good-bye Friends, good-bye Crawley!

Having locked the bungalow and taken the keys to Maureen, next door, the three of us settled in the van ready to set out. BUT ... where is my passport? In one of the drawers of course! With great patience my two men unloaded some of the stuff from the van and soon reached the drawer that held the famous BRITISH PASSPORT! At long last we left Furnace Green and by now it was 11:00pm, Tuesday 9 January. At midnight we were in Newhaven Terminal where we had some sleep on the seats. At the check-in we were told that the crossing was further delayed until 4:00am. Back in the van we waited until well after 5:00am. Eventually we boarded the 'Seven Sisters'. We almost had the whole ship to ourselves – there were so few passengers. Later we understood why- some people had decided to remain in Newhaven a little longer. And so we waited and waited with no sign of leaving the Port. Proud Albion does not want Marie-Odile to leave her, it seems!

At 7:30am the loud-speakers told us we would sail at 13:30! WHAT? That's 1:30pm. No reason given, no apologies offered. I booked a cabin which, thank God, was free of charge.

A few hours sleep and a shower did me good. I rejoined my two wise men for a meal then back to bed. By this time, at LONG, LONG LAST we were moving and we finally reached Dieppe. We had spent 14 hours on board the 'Seven Sisters'

Glad to be on terra firma again at 6:45pm on Wednesday 10 January we set out in the direction of Caen and Fougères and eventually arrived at chez Jean-Paul. Both his wife and the wife of Georges had suffered some very anxious moments during all this time. So at last we were safe home after this eventful and unforgettable journey.

I must tell you that the Crew explained to us that the 'Seven Sisters' had serious problems with unloading at Newhaven. The enforced delay meant that we had to wait for the tide since there would not have been enough water in Dieppe harbour to land safely! Better safe than sorry.

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Next morning on Thursday 11 January we took to the road again – only 50km to Rennes. When we got to 122 Avenue du General Leclerc at 9:15am, one sister, two brothers and one brother-in-law were waiting for us. Many hands make light work. Soon everything found its way into my new home – a lovely sheltered flat within a Residential and Nursing Home, run by the Little Sisters of the Poor, called MA MAISON. I am very confident that it will soon become my home and I shall, please God, spend many happy years in Rennes where I was born nearly 78 years ago. The Sisters and Residents and of course my family have given me a very warm welcome.

Before I draw this long saga to a close I would like once again to express my heartfelt thanks to first my family and to all those loyal friends who gave their time, their gifts, their energy to help me in this difficult and emotional move from Crawley and England where I have lived 55 years and 4 months. My arrival in England on 5 September 1951 was in no way as picturesque as my leaving on 9-11 January 2007!

May God bless you all, dear Friends.

THANK YOU – MERCI – VIELEN DANK

Your grateful and faithful friend,

Marie-Odile

22 January 2007

## George Redgrave—biography

I have been on the committee now for just over a year. I decided to stand for election after the visit by the party from Dorsten in 2005. I hosted the driver Matthias and had a wonderful time with him and the others from Germany.

I have only been to Dorsten once, back in 1998, but several people remembered me from then.

Sadly other commitments prevented me from joining in the visit to Dorsten in 2006 but I hope to be involved once more with the visit from Dorsten this year.

I live in Furnace Green, alone now since my wife's death in 2003. I used to teach in various primary schools in Crawley, being offered early retirement from Bishop Bell School in Tilgate when it was amalgamated with Robert May School to form The Oaks Primary School in 1997. I later taught part-time at Maidenbower Middle School from 1999 to 2001. (People always ask, "What did you teach?" The standard answer from Primary teachers is, "Children!" as, of course we each cover nearly all aspects of the curriculum.)

In common with several other committee members, I attend St Andrew's church in Furnace Green.

I very much regret having opted to study Latin when I was at school rather than German and I am sorry to say that my knowledge of either of these languages verges on the minimal/non-existent.

I am keen on photography and have formed a link with a member of the Dorsten committee through the internet photo sharing site [www.flickr.com](http://www.flickr.com)

If you go on to that site - it's free to open an account - you can see quite a lot of photos of Dorsten in the Dorsten group and many of Crawley in the Crawley group. I would encourage anyone who has a digital camera and a broadband internet connection to give it a try - but it's very addictive! There are a lot of my photos there so I might have a visit from you, I go under the name 'GeorgieR' I look forward to seeing some of your photos and receiving comments from you on flickr.

George Redgrave

**If you think you know German wine, Drink again!  
A (wine) tour of Germany**

***Everyone knows German wine don't they! Or do they?  
It's all Liebfraumilch, Blue Nun and Black Tower isn't it? Or is  
it?***

***But it's all so sickly sweet and in any case I stopped drinking  
German wine at parties in the 70's!***

***Do you know your Rhein from your Mosel?  
Can you recognise a Riesling (or is it Reisling) wine?  
What's a Kabinett? a piece of furniture, everyone knows that?***

***This evening's about sharing my knowledge with you so you can  
learn, recognise and hopefully enjoy German wine so that the  
next time you walk down the supermarket aisle or wherever you  
shop, you'll be able to recognise what's "in store" from German  
wine.***

**Come and learn about German wine at St Andrews, Furnace  
Green, Crawley on Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> May 2007 at 19:00-21:00  
approx.**

**Cost – £8 per person (non wine drinkers e.g. drivers £5 per per-  
son). Cost will include light snack to assist wine tasting.**

**Name (Please print)..... Number of  
Guests.....**

**Total Number of wine drinkers..... (£8 per person)**

**Total number of non wine drinkers ..... (£5 per person)**

**Important – Can those wishing to attend advise me no later  
than 5<sup>th</sup> May allowing me 2 weeks to purchase provisions; pay-  
ment also necessary by this date.**

**Cheques to be made payable to the Crawley Town Twinning Associa-  
tion (CTTA) and sent to:-**

**6 Sissinghurst Close, Worth, Crawley, W.Sussex RH10 7FX**

**All enquiries to Keith Sullivan ([keith.j.sullivan@btinternet.com](mailto:keith.j.sullivan@btinternet.com)) or  
01293 886034**