



Crawley Town Twinning Association

Foreword by the editor

Dear Members and friends,

I do hope that you are having a wonderful Summer especially with more sun and warmer weather that we have experienced in the past few weeks .

This Year the bi-annual Main Group Visit took place here in Crawley, between the 23/06/2007 and 01/07/2007. Despite the earlier arrival date from the norm and somewhat inclement weather, the MGV was a big success. The committee members together with Crawley Youth Centre prepared a really varied and interesting programme for both the adults and youth. The farewell party took place in the Tilgate park's walled garden. The caterers prepared a quality buffet and despite heavy rain outside, a warm and friendly atmosphere prevailed all evening.

I would like to thank all those that helped make this visit and the farewell a success. Special thanks to all the CTTA committee members, Raj Sharma and his colleagues at the Crawley Youth Centre, CBC and anyone I have forgotten to mention.

More information about the MGV together with some photographs are shown on pages 3 to 5.

The CTTA's AGM was held in the Town Hall on Tuesday 24th July. I can report that main changes coming out of the AGM were, that Frank Baker stepped down as the chairman of CTTA and became

our vice chairman. The newly elected chairman is Iain Millar. Congratulations and best wishes to Iain in his new position. At the same time a big thank you to Frank and his wife Christine for all their hard work in representing the CTTA in the last few years. Full list of the up to date elected committee members are printed on page 6.

Peter Klin

Public relations officer (CTTA)

Inside This issue:

Know your committee members <i>(Resume from Keith Sullivan)</i>	Page 2
MGV photo gallery	Page 3
MGV - German local press articles	Page 4
From Barges to Bollywood <i>(By Marilyn Millar)</i>	Page 5
Committee Members-2007	Page 6

Resume from Keith Sullivan

As a newly elected committee member for the Town Twinning association, I was recently asked to write a brief resume about myself by way of introduction.

My name is Keith Sullivan and I'm in my early 50's. I have always had an interest in the Germanic speaking countries, I'm none to sure why. May be it can be attributed to the first overseas holiday I ever made. I was 12 and my parents had managed to cobble £45 together for the one week trip; for those that don't know, £45 was a lot of money in the 60's. I duly packed my suitcase and headed off on a school journey to Austria, to Innsbruck to be precise. The next day we were all up bright and early and headed off to the slopes via the ski and boot hire shop and that's where I heard my first piece of foreign language. I was in awe, what was that they were saying? I wish I could understand them! Skiing lessons were in German and/or broken English – "benz zee kneez", hey I liked this, whatever it was – I liked the skiing too.

I was fortunate enough to go several more times on the annual skiing school journey to the same area and the rest is history; I increasingly developed an interest for the language and its people.

When I was 18 I decided to attend German lessons which I've now done on and off for many years, obtaining a GCSE O Level and then subsequently an Institute of Linguists qualification in German, always for personal interest never for my profession. My profession by the way is telecommunications marketing manager with BT or rather Openreach, you know the white vans with the squiggly lines on the side, ah that bit of BT! Openreach, in case you're wondering, look after the local network – the bit from the exchange to your house, but don't ask me to fix your phone, I'm in marketing!

I don't profess to be fluent in German, but I can get by and I enjoy having a go and that conveniently brings me to my interest in Town Twinning. My wife, Di (Diana, please don't call her Diane, she's quite happy with Di though) and Matthew have been members of the CTTA for a good few

years and we recently visited Dorsten for the 5th time. We have always enjoyed our visits and have tried to embrace the occasion by mixing in wherever we can.

In my view a visit to Dorsten isn't a holiday, it's an experience; an opportunity to share experiences with our hosts and witness first hand how they live their lives, which isn't so very different to us in the UK, in fact I think we have more in common with the Germans than possibly any other nation I can think of.

Finally, just a little bit about my hobbies and pursuits; I like languages, now there's a surprise! I like travelling and have been to all continents and therefore many countries. I like most sports, my other love (in addition to Di that is) is Arsenal FC (& originally Millwall, I'm from SE London), I like wine/wine tasting and going to the gym (a neat combination), I'm a James Bond fan (the cars, the locations, the girls etc) and I think that's about it from me.

Oh one last thing, my hopes for the Association are to make it "a bit more German". I'd like us all to grow in our knowledge of the country and its people or should I say Das Deutsche Volk!

Beste Grusse

Keith Sullivan

Editor's Post Scriptum: Most of you will remember that Keith organised an excellent German wine tasting evening, combined with a quality presentation in May. Many thanks to Keith and his wife Di for providing members and friends with a really enjoyable evening. From comments received I am sure that another similar evening sometime in the future will be most welcome.

PK

Photos from the MGV - Crawley 2007



DORSTEN

Kontakt der Kulturen

Beim Besuch in der englischen Partnerstadt Crawley erlebte der Dorstener Freundeskreis die Gastfreundschaft der indischen Gemeinde. Besuch im größten Sikh-Tempel außerhalb Indiens

Dorsten, 14. Juli (Jahres-Sommerferien) tollt nun auch die sog. indische Erbin. Der Dorstener Freundeskreis erlebte bei seinem Besuch in der englischen Partnerstadt Crawley die Gastfreundschaft der indischen Gemeinde. Besuch im größten Sikh-Tempel außerhalb Indiens



Zeit zur Besinnung in Kouth Hall, London: indisches Mittel, besuchen die Dorstener den Sikh-Tempel. Foto: Götter

Ein „wunderschöner Ort“ hat er zu sehen, erzählt die Vorsitzende Maria Kipinski. Einweihungen im Jahr 2000 wurden durch die British Sikh Mission in London in den Tod 2005. „Viele Menschen in Crawley sind Prediger, die in London arbeiten. Sie haben Angst, aber auch die Einstellung, dass das Leben weitergehen muss“, erklärt sie.

Crawley selbst ist ein kleiner Ort mit 12000 Einwohnern. Seit 1944, 100.000 Einwohnern stehen acht Prozent aus Indien. „Ethische Konflikte“ – Götter ist nicht, sagt Crawley Bürgermeisterin Bille beim Empfang im Rathaus. Raj Sharma, der Leiter des Jugendzentrums, hatte einen Bollywood-Abend organisiert, um indische Tänze, Musik und

für die Frauen und indische Tänze. „Anfänge haben wir gesehen, nicht zu scham zu kochen“, sagt Raj Sharma. „Wir haben sehr freundliche Menschen getroffen, die uns mit

ihren Geschichten überliefert haben“, erzählt Maria Kipinski weiter. Auch die traditionellen Gewänder dürfen die Gäste in Indien. „Indische Kleidung“ – indische Kleidung haben wir gesehen, nicht zu scham zu kochen“, sagt Raj Sharma. „Wir haben sehr freundliche Menschen getroffen, die uns mit

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Programme stark verplant. „Das ist tatsächlich ein sehr interessantes Programm“, bestätigt Kipinski und Polosky. „Auf der Veranstaltung im September haben wir die Dorstener die Planung für ein englisches Gespräch im 2008. Götter

DORSTEN



Silberfest bekleidet nahmen auch die Gäste aus Dorsten am „Bollywood-Abend“ im Jugendzentrum Crawley teil. Die Frauen durften ihre indischen Gewänder zeigen bekleidet.

Themse wurde zum Ganges

Crawley-Reise stand in diesem Jahr schwerpunktmäßig im Zeichen Indiens

DORSTEN – „Das Wetter war nicht optimal, aber nicht so schlecht wie hier!“, Angehörige in der Heimat des „englischen Regen“ blieben 35 Dorstener eine Woche lang vom heimischen „Sommer-Klima“ verschont. Vom 22. Juni bis zum 1. Juli besuchte die Gruppe des Freundeskreises Crawley die britische Partnerstadt. Das wurde dort von den Gastgebern und der Stadtregierung ebenso herzlich wie nach allen Regeln des Zonenklimas empfangen. „Bürgermeisterin Sally Blake hat uns herzlich bewirte, sogar mit Champagner“, teil Brig-

id Polosky Lambert Erleben kann können, sich Teil Londoner aus England kündigt ein Beispiel zu nehmen. „Nicht nur wegen Spiel und Dank war die Crawley-Fahrt etwas ein Genuss. „Wir können dort noch wenig erfahren, aber dass uns die lebendigen Aufregung ausgeben“, im Vorsitzende Maria Kipinski immer noch von dem Tagesprogramm begeistert. Abgestreift übertrug diesmal bei spontaner nach Portsmouth, wo unter anderem Lord Mayor empfangen wurde. Schließliche beschichtig wurde. „Auch die Hotelkette zu einem ganz speziellen Trüdel-

markt in London hat die Teilnehmer beeindruckt. Ebenso das Daily Breakfast oder die Internats, das noch anderweitig stehen ließ – die Unterbringung eines 2006-lange konnte dort die Eltern pro Jahr schlappe 23.000 englische Pfund!

im Sikh-Tempel Besondere Schwerepunkt jedoch war in diesem Jahr der indische Akzent der Großbritanniens-Reise. Im Programm war der Besuch des größten Sikh-Tempels außerhalb Indiens enthalten, verbunden mit einem gemeinsamen Markt mit indischen Speisen und indischen Tee. „Später schloß sich die Dorstener selbst beim „Bollywood-Abend“ in Crawley, wie an anderen Orten, New Delhi und in dem Bundesland-Viertel. Engländer getragen werden. Die Stimmung war dabei so gut, dass sich auch die Deutschen zu Klängen indischer Musik auf die Tanzfläche wagten. „Ein wenig geräusch wurde die Lärme lediglich kurzzeitig durch die beiden verbotenen Autokolben-Altenstein: „Einen Tag zuvor waren wir noch in genau dieser Gegend London.“ +Silb

The article under the title “ **Contacts of Cultures**”, describes the MGV and how the Dorsten visitors enjoyed the friendship of the Indian community and visited the Biggest Sikh Temple outside India.

The article also talks about sharing some of the negative experiences during the 34 years of the town twinning. One of these experiences was a real fear after this year attempted London terrorist car attacks and also after the bombings of two years ago in 2005, when 56 people died. Many people from Crawley work in London and need to commute daily. They do fear, however they have an attitude, that the Life must go on, explains Marita Kipinsky.

Crawley is however a good example of the local and ethnic communities living together in one town. Crawley with their 100 000 population has eight percent of citizens from the Indian continent.

Raj Sharma the Leader of the Crawley Youth Centre organised a Bollywood evening, with Indian food and even Sari dresses to keep for the ladies.

One of the lasting impression had been the trip to the Sikh Temple in London.

At the forthcoming September’s Dual Committee Meeting, the planning will start for the 2008 reciprocal English MGV in Dorsten.

The article under the title “ **The Thames turns into Ganges**” explains how this year MGV to Crawley had a strong emphasis on the Indian culture. Despite the “ typical English summer” and heavy rain, the weather did not prevent the various trips and venues. It describes the initial Mayoress Sally Blake reception in Town Hall, Trip to Portsmouth, Bramber including the Lancing College big Cathedral and the £23 000 annual fees the parents need to pay for their offsprings to attend this college.

The main attraction of this year’s visit was the Indian Theme including a visit to the Sikh Temple in London. The biggest Sikh Temple outside India. The visitors were also served a meal with various Indian dishes and Indian tea. Later a “Bollywood Evening” was arranged in Crawley with traditional Indian dresses and music. The atmosphere was so good that even the German visitors joined in dancing.

Some German visitors went for a day trip to London , which was just 1 day prior to the failed London terrorist car attacks. Their prevailing good mood, was somewhat dampened for a short time.

From Barges to Bollywood

This year the programme had a definite "Indian flavour" to it.

On the Monday we went on a trip on the Grand Union Canal organised by Tom Leahy. After a leisurely cruise in a barge along the canal, from Little Venice to Camden Lock, we then met up with the coach again and headed west to the Southall Gurdwara, the largest Sikh Temple outside India. We were invited to visit the interior of the Temple and to spend a few moments in contemplation in the tranquil surroundings.

Afterwards, as is the custom, all visitors were offered a simple lunch of curry, fruit and tea. For most of us, both British and German, this was our first visit to a Sikh Temple and we found it a very interesting experience. Our journey home took us along the main shopping street in Southall and due to the slow moving rush hour traffic we were able to admire the exotic fruits and vegetables, materials and fashions on display.

On Wednesday evening we were the guests of the Crawley Youth Centre at a Bollywood

Evening. Most people entered into the spirit of the evening and wore Indian attire (kindly donated by the Friends of the Youth Centre). The Hangama dancers entertained us with an exhibition of Indian dancing and we were impressed by their skill and enthusiasm. Afterwards we enjoyed a tasty meal and the more adventurous joined the dancers on the floor to learn some of the moves. All agreed that it was a most enjoyable evening and our thanks go to Raj Sharma and his team for their wonderful hospitality.

Marilyn Millar



Newly elected Committee Members - July 2007

Below is the list of the newly elected executive committee members for 2007/2008

Position	Name
Honorary President	Cllr. Jim Smith
Chairman	Iain Millar
Vice Chairman	Frank Baker
Secretary	Geoff May
Treasurer	Tom Leahy
Minute Secretary	Joan Newton
Public relations officer	Peter Klin
Accommodation Secretary	Jacky May
Membership Secretary	Michael James
Chief Executive Secretary	C/O Town Hall
Committee Members:	Councillor Howard Bloom
	Councillor Adam Brown
	Councillor David Shreeves
	George Redgrave
	Helen Kendall
	Marion James
	John Potier
	Keith Sullivan