

CTTA Newsletter

Crawley Town Twinning Association

Welcome to the Easter edition!

Dear friends,

Welcome to the Easter edition of the CTTA newsletter. Similar to the previous two years, our CTTA Annual Dinner had been held at Rowfant on Saturday 2nd February 2008. About 33 people attended and the dinner was a success. For more details about this event please read Helen Kendall's article below.

This year the CTTA will be visiting Dorsten as part of the Main Group Visit (MGV). The MGV will take place between 15th - 23rd August 2008.

As usual priority is given to those who hosted guests from Dorsten the previous year and currently there are no free places available for the visit.

If, however there should be any cancellations, anybody interested in taking part, should please contact the Group Organiser Geoff May, tel. 01293 885444, and let him know so that you can be notified of any available places.

Dorsten's young people are regularly taking part in a joint mural painting in EU, especially in France and Germany. This year the Dorsten and Crawley committee have agreed on a joint mural painting in Crawley. The activity will be at the Crawley Youth Centre on the walls adjoining the five-a-Side pitch. The Dorsten group will come on August 4th 2008 and stay till August 8th. At this stage we are informed there will be 4 adults and 9 youths visiting Crawley. For an explanation of the meaning "Mural-Global" see Heinz Gremme article on page 4.

Accommodation will be required for the 5 days (4 nights), and I am certain that our accommodation secretary Jacky May will be contacting members very soon.

Peter Klin
Newsletter editor

CTTA Annual Dinner 2008

A cold, but bright night seemed appropriate for our Annual "not the Christmas, nor the New Year" Dinner which was held at Rowfant House on the 2nd February. A warm welcome greeted us on arrival, not just because of the sight and heat of a huge log fire, but from the staff who treated us as valued friends (rather than paying guests) throughout the evening.

With coats safely hung and having been directed to, and fortified by, a bar towards the back of the building (which some of us didn't even know existed - how could that have happened I ask myself?!) we were soon chatting to friends old and new. A group of thirty three people, made up of members of the Committee and Association and including Councillors Jim and

Brenda Smith, were then gently enticed to let go of some of their cash by purchasing raffle tickets. A total of around £56 was raised, with prizes being donated by committee members. After a sentence or two of welcome from the chairman, Iain Millar, the main purpose of the evening - eating - then commenced. A well presented meal was served to us consisting of a starter of either melon or soup, followed by the main meal of steak pie and chicken breast wrapped in bacon, with both roast and new potatoes together with fresh vegetables. Coffee and mints followed dessert which were fresh fruit salad and fruit crumble with custard or cream. Having completed our meal I think I felt like my

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grandfather who, when asked if he would like anything else used to say "no thank you, I've had an excellent sufficiency"!

During coffee the raffle was drawn and in addition, George Redgrave gave us the answers to a quiz which had been taking place throughout the course of the evening. Although there was a winner nobody was a loser as the prize of a box of chocolates was generously shared round.

Special thanks must go to all the staff at Rowfant for whom nothing was too much bother throughout the evening; and also to George for organizing this annual event - not to mention the raffle and the quiz. Same time, same place next year ... please George?

Helen Kendall, Committee member.



Pre Dinner thoughts by John and Solveig



Iain Miller (chairman) welcomes everybody at the Dinner



Tom, Helena and Anna



Pre- Dinner chat with Geoff



Nice to be together

March 2008

Crawley / Dorsten Councils Strengthen Links

The CTTA has been linked with Dorsten for 34+ years and during this time many strong and lasting friendships have been built up between residents of the two towns. Recently, however, the membership has remained fairly static and although a few new (and younger) members have joined the Association the average age has crept steadily upwards. For sustainability in the longer term we need to recruit new blood and have been trying to increase awareness of the Association within the town by getting some publicity in the local newspapers and in Crawley Live as well as mounting displays in the foyer of the library. We also wrote to the Mayor, Sally Blake, to try to have closer ties with the Council and seek their assistance with a project that Dorsten is running in association with the city of Essen which will be European City of Culture in 2010.

Coincidentally, a small delegation from the Town Council visited Dorsten in November 2007 and the two councils agreed that they would like to strengthen the council to council links and also to maintain closer contact with the Town Twinning Associations. Our approach to the council thus received a very positive response and we were invited to have a meeting with the chief executive, Michael Coughlin, who was brought up in Crawley and actually visited Dorsten with the CTTA when he was young.

The net result is that Arlette Rowe of the Corporate Policy Department has been

appointed as our link with the council and Carolyn Murphy of the Arts Group is leading the photographic project which will work with Dorsten for Essen 2010. The council have printed out a large number of our Town Twinning leaflets and will distribute them through various youth groups and community centres and will arrange a meeting with the councillors so that we can enlist their help to promote the Association.

We are very appreciative of the support given to us by Sally Blake, Michael Coughlin, Arlette and Carolyn and look forward to working with them in the future to strengthen our cultural links and friendly association with our twin town of Dorsten.

Iain Millar
Chairman

What is the meaning of “Mural-Global”?

Mural Global is a global project for which UNESCO has taken over the patronage and which is based on the co-operation of artists from various countries and civilisations in order to visualise the cultural diversity of our planet. Young artists try to live out a mini utopia with “Peace, Justice and the Conservation of Creation” as the central theme. The environment, water, earth and air are being further destroyed and the contribution as artists is to use public murals to stimulate discussions on questions which concern us all and engage in a dialogue with the people from all continents.



Nonetheless the projects have always intimately been linked with their immediate localities, winning the involvement of people living in houses on which murals are being painted, discussions with neighbours, local grassroots initiatives and schools are active and important factors in the project.

The artist that will be coming to Crawley has been given the opportunity to paint in 14 towns and 7 countries.

She has painted in Romania, Germany (Dorsten, Frankfurt/Oder, and Hamburg), France, Serbia, Poland, Slovakia and Zambia (Livingstone.) The artist Klaus King has started painting murals with groups of children and young people and has been awarded several prizes, among others the UNESCO PRIZE.



So far “our” artist Gisela Paul.

Two projects have already been done by Gisela Paul in Dormans and Rybnik, two of the other towns twinned with Dorsten. Mechthild Rüller, a member of the Dorsten committee helped with the project in Dormans.

Shortened version of an email
from Heinz Gremmes

MA MAISON
122 Avenue du General Leclerc
35700 RENNES
France
21 November 2007

My Dear Friends

I can hardly believe that Christmas is only 5 weeks away! A year ago I was busy writing cards and preparing for the big move! The last 10 months have slipped away. As you know I am happy at the Little Sisters of the Poor where we are 90 residents in all, including a bishop who has Parkinson's, 3 priests and 18 flat dwellers. I love my little home which is actually bigger than "the little house on the prairie" in Furnace Green – it gives me independence and provides solitude. However I enjoy having lunch in the main dining hall most days and joining in the various activities provided by the Sisters. Choirs come to sing for us and with us, young people from the junior section of the SVP and girl guides come to entertain the elderly, play games with them or simply talk and listen. Residents also help each other a lot in this house.

In September I spent 2 weeks holiday at the seaside near St Malo in another Ma Maison residence. The weather was beautiful – I enjoyed walking in the lovely park and to the beach – and we went on several trips. It was very interesting to meet people from other houses run by the LS of the Poor- from Dieppe, Le Havre, Caen, Lorient, Dinan – we were really spoilt by the Sisters.

Last week we celebrated the festival of the chestnuts. The dining room was beautifully decorated (I did help with that) and the delicious food especially chestnuts with butter-milk and cider(!) - served by the Sisters themselves as the lay staff had gone home early. We had music and singing during the meal.

Every month we celebrate the birthdays of the month. People don't die young here! Quite a few in their nineties, most in their eighties. I'm among the young ones

(79 next Feb!). If I follow the pattern it would seem that I have, God willing, many years ahead of me!

Fairly often I meet up with members of my family. That is very good of course – Christmas will be lovely with them.

This week we have a Christmas Bazaar on 3 afternoons in aid of the Little Sisters Homes in Africa. I am going to sell some of my recycled Christmas cards – a very modest item compared with the beautiful handmade toys, embroidered cloths of all sizes, candles, cakes and only 400 jars of jam (all donated) bags of walnuts mostly harvested by me from the tree in our garden.

We have a small prayer group meeting every 2 weeks in the little chapel. This oratory is beautifully simple – I love it too for private prayer. Daily Mass and Rosary are in the big chapel. Talking about prayer, please know that I remember you and your loved ones in the Lord's presence. Thank you for thinking of me also. I miss you often, I miss my little garden in Burwash Road. I miss the Hawth but I am happy and in good health – Thank God.

Thank you again for your kindness to me before I left England. I keep such happy memories of the various farewell parties especially the beautiful Mass and party at the Friary on January 6th.

I wish you all a very Blessed Christmas and a happy and healthy New Year. God be with you!

Your faithful and grateful friend

Marie-Odile