

Issue 49

November 2008



CRAWLEY TOWN TWINNING ASSOCIATION

CTTA Newsletter



Foreword by the editor

Dear Members and friends,

Welcome to the late autumn edition of CTTA Newsletter. Since our last summer issue of the newsletter I can report as follows:

This year's Main Group Visit (MGV) has taken place in Dorsten between 15th to 23rd August 2008 lead again by Geoff May. The trip of adults and 11 youths was a great success. An interesting and varied programme for all had been prepared. Once more many thanks for Geoff for leading the MGV and for our Dorsten colleagues for preparing and organising such a successful visit. We all know that lots of hard work and commitment goes into organising such an event. For more details and experiences about this visit please see a few articles and contributions inside this issue. The Crawley Committee have already started to think and prepare for the next year MGV when our German friends will visit Crawley between 4th—12th July 2009.

The Annual General Meeting (AGM) was held on Wednesday 15th October at the Town Hall. The new committee was elected, with one change. Please refer to page 8 for the up to date full committee list.

Keith and Di Sullivan again organised a German wine tasting evening which was held at St Andrews Church (Furnace Green) on Saturday 11th October 2008. Similarly as last year, this event was again very well organised and a really good time with wine and German snacks was liked by all. Thanks Keith and Di for preparing the evening—well done!

In the next few weeks I will be sending out a flyer informing members and friends of the forthcoming CTTA annual dinner, which will be held sometime in February 2009. Watch this space.

Peter Klin

Public Relation Officer (CTTA)

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This newsletter was published by Peter Klin on behalf of the CTTA.

Wuppertal's Unique Overhead Railway

The August 2008 visit to Dorsten was our third MGV to Germany and until then we had never visited the town of Wuppertal, famed for its unique "Schwebebahn" overhead railway. When I was a young lad interested in trains I was intrigued by this fascinating railway system which I had read about in books, so when our host this year asked if we would like to see it I jumped at the chance.

The valley of the Wupper (Wupper tal) is narrow and steep sided with the houses spread along a long length of this twisting river but confined within the valley itself. The main road crosses the river over many bridges so that there was little space left to build a railway. Engineers in the late 19th century therefore came up with the ambitious solution of building a supporting structure above the river and suspending the train from an overhead track.

The plan, put forward in 1887, was finally realised in 1901 when the first section opened for public use and some 100 years later the railway is carrying nearly 25 million passengers per year. Suspended from an overhead monorail, the two-carriage train swings as it corners and is like travelling in a giant cable car and as there are no level crossings or traffic congestion this is a very fast and efficient means of transport. For me though, it was just great fun and a wonderful experience.

Iain Millar



Wine Tasting and Presentation

Members and visitors of CTTA gathered 11th October to enjoy a German wine tasting, the second such evening hosted by Keith Sullivan.

Keith introduced the tasting and explained that the objective was to consider the variety of German wines. The tasting began with a short introductory video on German wines followed by a tasting of 6 German wines. The first, a sparkling wine from the Saale-Unstrut region, the second a white wine from Franken in its familiar Bocksbeutel or flagon shaped bottle, followed by a Riesling Classic wine from the Pfalz. We then tasted a Weissherbst or Rose wine from the Moselle and a red wine from Wurttemberg. Finally we tasted a sweet/desert wine – Beerenauslese from the Rheinhessen region – which was especially well received by many present.

During the interval Keith used the occasion to show a 20 minute DVD of the highlights of the Main Group Visit to Dorsten during the summer, including the fantastic visit to the Ice Bar.

The evening was made that much more interesting by the addition of a "guess the price" quiz with the prizes being a choice of wines that we had tasted. A special prize in the raffle was an umbrella decorated with scenes of Dorsten.

Keith asked that special thanks be extended to all those who assisted to make the evening run as smooth as it did and who also helped to make the evening such an enjoyable occasion. Special thanks should be extended to Gudrun Thelan who was the "insider" and who assisted with sourcing various items from Germany, notably the Dorsten umbrella, Wimpel or German flags, plus the small decorative German flags for the buffet that all helped to decorate the meeting venue and to make it that much more special. As an aside, St Andrews received a small donation of thanks from the CTTA towards their rebuilding fund.

Keith Sullivan

A Memory bite from Dorsten, August 2008

We spent our last free afternoon with Britta & her mum at a small local goat farm, where after a conducted tour round the goats residence and cheese processing rooms the owners provided us with the opportunity to sample the produce, mostly cheese, young, middle-aged or mature, smoked or not, washed down with coffee or goats milk. The final course was of a slice of yoghurt/cheesecake topped with a layer of strawberry jam. All of this was a gentle inducement to visit their small farm shop stocked with goat produce to buy. Which we did and willingly.



Another group (all German) were also visiting at the same time and some cross chatter occurred between us. One of the other group, a police recruitment officer informed us that he had visited a number of South England cities but wanted to clear up a pronunciation problem between his grandson and his (the grandson's) English teacher. The question was what is the correct way to say the name of the place in London through which the zero meridian passed? Was it 'Green-which' or 'Grennich'?

Isn't it great to be English when you can advise the World !! ☺

John Potier



News from Dorsten

Anja Kipinski weds Axel Gawantka

On the 12th July 2008 in Johanneskirche, Dorsten, the wedding took place between Anja Kipinski and Axel Gawantka. Our friend, Henning Briesemeister - Pastor of Johanneskirche, took the service and had some very nice things to say about her having known her since she was at school. Passages from the Bible were read by Marita and by Uta (Anja's sister). The happy couple spent their honeymoon in Lanzarote.

Anja, as most of you know, is the daughter of Marita, Chairman of the Dorsten Town Twinning Association, and has been coming to Crawley since she was eight years old. Our Association arranged for her to do some work experience both at Hazelwick school and at Crawley Town Hall and she was highly commended for her ability, attitude and personality by both. She also spent two terms at Reading University before going on to study at Dusseldorf and Tübingen Universities - six years in all (teacher training in Germany is much longer than in England). She now teaches English in a school in Essen and lives with her husband in Cologne. She hopes to find work a little nearer to Cologne as soon as she has finished her probation in January 2009.

The photo's show Anja and Axel with Marita and Manfred on the left and Axel's parents on the right. In the second photo' Sylvia and David Utting are on the left and Marjorie Merritt & Judy Rayner on the right - all friends from England and members, or former members, of CTTA.

We congratulate Anja and Axel and send them our warmest wishes for their future happiness. They will always be welcome in Crawley.

Judy Rayner



Anja's and Axel wedding picture no 1

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Anja's and Axel wedding picture no 2

German vs English humour

German vs English humour – But what’s funny about a goat on wheels?

It is often said that our two nations have considerable differences in humour, which is of course a major and unique factor behind our respective nations.

There was one such example that came to the fore during the recent Main Group Visit to Germany. Keith explained - “Di & I choose to join the German speaking tour of Shuttorf in the vain hope of improving our German. During the town walking tour we were taken to a very small house and the guide explained that the small house was typical of those lived in many years previously. The guide then moved towards the back of the house which bordered the street and then to a small door. She produced a key and proceeded to open the door explaining that this is where people of those days would have kept their livestock, notably goats, at which point a life size goat was wheeled out onto the pavement to demonstrate what it would be like”. At this point, Keith added, “Di went into rapturous laughter finding the demonstration of the goat on wheels hilarious” as if anyone wouldn’t have been able to visualise what a goat looks like.

At that point, one of the German hosts asked what was so funny and Di explained about visualising what a goat looks like. The response from one of our German friends was to point out that this was quite normal and an excellent example of a goat – I think you now have to be British to see the funny side of this – and please, no offence meant to our German friends of course.

As is often the case, what seems funny at the time might not seem funny now, but Di still chuckles at the thought of the question from one of the German hosts, what’s funny about a goat on wheels, it’s quite normal!

Keith Sullivan

Crawley Coach Quiz

- Q. In the Dorsten Rathaus there were how many plaques
A. 18
- Q. On the wall, where was the Crawley plaque
A. Bottom left, 2nd row
- Q. In the newspaper how many people visit from Crawley
A. 94
- Q. What was the name of the brewery in Essen
A. Jacob Stauder
- Q. What was the first room called
A. Sud haus
- Q. In former times, how much beer a day did they drink
A. 3-10 Litres
- Q. The brewery is how many generations old
A. 6
- Q. What was the name of our guides friend that sat on the door with a bucket of beer
A. Ernst
- Q. How many people work at the brewery
A. 125
- Q. What is yeast no good for according to our guide
A. His hair
- Q. We saw 2 casks on the floor what colours were they
A. 2 yellow/2 black hoops
- Q. Beside the map. 'Die Braurei' how many candles were there
A. 5 white/2 green
- Q. What was the tractor colour in the film
A. Red & blue
- Q. In the film where did the beer go in the USA
A. Manhattan
- Q. In which year was the purity law brought in
A. 1516
- Q. At the Muhlenhof museum our guide had a blue shirt but what colour cravat
A. Red
- Q. What must you pay money (not barter for)
A. Salt (White gold)
- Q. Where did the farmer and his wife sleep
A. In a box it was warmer
- Q. The school operated from when
A. 1823 TO 1954
- Q. How many desks were in the school
A. 25 including the teachers
- Q. The Millers lived in their house from 1619 to
A. 1923
- Q. Where did the farmer and his wife sleep
A. In a box it was warmer
- Q. The school operated from when
A. 1823 TO 1954
- Q. How many desks were in the school
A. 25 including the teachers
- Q. The Millers lived in their house from 1619 to
A. 1923
- Q. How many steps to the top of the church
A. 219
- Q. Who kissed the lady with the two goats
A. George Redgrave
- Q. How many rats (councillors) does the Rathaus have
A. 38
- Q. On the boat tour the boat had how many solar panels
A. 8
- Q. What was the name of the boat
A. Vechtsonne
- Q. At Bad Bentheim how many beds do they have
A. 400
- Q. What was the temperature in the pool
A. 31 degrees C
- Q. What does the Nordhorn car number plate start with
A. NOH
- Q. The fountain had three stag heads, how many were working
A. 2
- Q. What was the centre famous for curing
A. Knees, Hip and Shoulders
- Q. Bad Bentheim Burg (castle) is how old
A. 1000 years
- Q. How wide did Volker say the castle wall was
A. 7 metres
- Q. In the Ice hall the first sculpture was what
A. 6 bottles of smirnoff
- Q. How many tonnes of ice did it take to build
A. 320 Tonnes
- Q. Name the drinks we could have
A. Crazy yeti, Mary on ice, Ice bar, Polarlight, Nordkap, and the non alcohol, Eskimo and Ice Igloo
- Q. To the right of the bar was what
A. Motorbike with a red stiletto inside an ice block
- Q. How do you say please and thank you in German
A. Bitte, Danke
- Q. What is Ulla's dog called
A. Peanut
- Q. What is the name of the shopping centre in Oberhausen
A. Centro
- Q. How many people live in Dorsten
A. 80000

Prepared by Geoff May

Anecdotes of the group collected on the coach by Geoff May

Stephen Williams, age 10

Our Trip on Thursday was one of the best days of the week because we travelled to a freezing ice bar. When we were at the ice bar we watched a movie about how long it took to build. The cool thing was that it took 80 days to build and it was at - 6 deg. C

Jill Hathaway

Getting on the coach at 6 am to go to Dorsten I only knew a handful of people to say hello to. Now on the return coach, I've got a week of shared memories with them all and a card in my bag from a woman I'd never met before saying 'Thank you for the nice week. I really enjoyed it. We had so much fun. I laughed so much. It was wonderful.' She's thanking me! and I don't think I've never ever been so lazy. All the organising was brilliant and its a million thanks from me all round.

Mel Panter from the youth programme

Our Trip to Germany

When I first got on the coach to go to Germany I was very nervous, but when I got there and met the family I was a lot more confident. The highlights of the week: Wednesday, this was a highlight because I went to school with one of the girls I was staying with. After, school we went abseiling up in the trees. Later, we had a few people come round and we were talking and listening to music in their party room. Thursday, This day because at 1800 we had a surprise. We went to a destination not knowing what to expect when we got there. We had to put on huge jackets and these really hot gloves and the place we went into was called ICE BAR. It was huge ice blocks everywhere and all the walls and tables and drinks glasses were made from ice. Some of the block sculptures had stuff inside them, i.e. motorbike, vodka bottles, energy drinks, etc., It was - 6 degrees inside and you could not stay there any longer than an hour.

George Redgrave

Singing and music in the streets of Munster - a photo opportunity! I reached into my pocket - empty. I looked in my bag - no camera! Aaargh! Over 400 photos taken in Germany - lost! I ran back to the bookshop we'd just been and looked round. Upstairs - no camera, my German host asked at each cash desk. At one the girl went straight to a cupboard. My spirits rose; and fell when she turned and shook her head. Glumly, I made my way back to where we were meeting the coach. I took a photo of me looking sad - I could still use my phone! My dreams were of lost camera. Next morning Peter my host knocked on my door, 'We're going to Munster,' he said. He'd phoned the shop and they had the camera! Yippee.

Below are two group photographs from a visit to Jacob Stauder Brewery



***Newly elected Committee Members - October
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	Nicky Shaw
Committee Members:	Councillor Howard Bloom
	Councillor David Shreeves
	George Redgrave
	Helen Kendall
	Marion James
	John Potier
	Keith Sullivan
	Raj Sharma