



CTTA Newsletter

Crawley Town Twinning Association



Issue 35

April 2004

Happy Easter!

Dear Friends,

Welcome to the Spring Edition of the Newsletter.

After successfully celebrating the 30th. anniversary of the Crawley and Dorsten's Town Twinning last year. This year one of the important events in our calendar is the Crawley Main Group visit to Dorsten. The trip will take place between 24th July to 1st August 2004.

Geoff May again kindly "volunteered" to be this year's Visit Organiser. I am sure by now all members received the details of the trip. The invitation to join this year's main visit are of course for all members, however the emphasis again are on young people to join as well. This is to encourage more young people to be interested in the twinning between the two towns and equally to build on the

success of last year's adventure for the young German and English Youth at Hind-leap Warren.

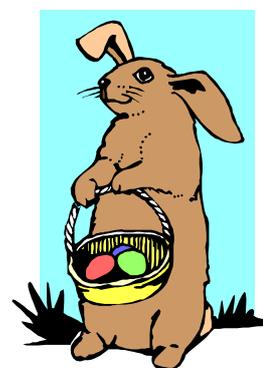
On a sad note I would like to inform all members and friends that Hans Fabian passed away at end of February 2004. Hans was a long serving member of the Dorsten Council, Dorsten's Town Twinning committee and also served as a deputy Burgermeister of Dorsten. Our deepest sympathy goes to his wife, family and friends. Cllr Jim Smith -honorary president represented the Town Hall and CTTA at the funeral in Dorsten. For more details please see page 4.

Peter Klin

PR Officer and editor of the newsletter

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Published on behalf of the CTTA by Peter Klin,

4 Sissinghurst Close,
Pound Hill,
Crawley,
West Sussex,
RH10 7FX

Email: peter@klin.freemove.co.uk

Recollections of a Visit to Dorsten

This visit was for the dual committee meeting to be held in Dorsten over the week-end of 26-29 September 2003 and was the first I had attended as a committee member.

DAY 1 - Friday

We left the house at 6:00am in the semi-dark and dragged the suitcase across the road to join Frank, Christine and Marion in the waiting mini-coach with Mick James at the wheel. Having boarded, we settled down to the round-Crawley trip to pick up the other passengers namely Tom & Helen, Ken, Geoff and finally Peter Klin.

Thus we set off for the Channel Tunnel terminal just as the sun was rising, promising a fine day - at least on this side of the Channel.

We made good time to the Shuttle terminal covering the 76 miles in about an hour and a quarter by which time one's bum was beginning to feel a bit numb as the upholstery in the mini-coach was on the thin side!

The journey through the tunnel was quick and smooth and we emerged 35 minutes later in bright sunlight. So far so good.

Setting our sights on Dorsten we drove out of the terminal and half an hour later realised that we were quite close to Boulogne! Time to switch on the navigational aid!

After the necessary correction to our course we were well away and without further mishap we arrived in Dorsten, at about 16:30, in time for tea with Marita and others.

Solveig & I were to be hosted by Irene & Volker Roth at their home in Augustastrasse – an extended house painted red to match their surname!

DAY 2 - Saturday

Today the group was treated to a coach trip to the ancient city of Osnabruck stopping at a large furniture showroom on the outskirts for breakfast. In addition to a good feeling inside we each left with a small gift of marzipan and Jaegermeister. Thanks to the firm "Porta" and Ulla's brother. The afternoon was spent enjoying a guided tour around the fine old city of Osnabruck after which we were treated again to coffee and cake at the restaurant "Riva". Again thanks to Ulla and her relatives.

Our evening was spent with our hosts, enjoying a tasty meal at restaurant Humbert in Wulfen. Many thanks to Volker and Irene for their generosity.

DAY 3 - Sunday

Today is the day of the dual committee meeting but on arrival at the venue we heard that Peter Orris has suffered a heart attack and was hospitalised. This was obviously disturbing news but the meeting went ahead with the full agenda being covered.

A tasty lunch was generously provided after which a local male choir in fine voice entertained us.

The afternoon continued with competitive games including 9-pin bowling. After a lot of fun and some complicated scoring the Crawley group came out on top thus taking possession of the small trophy!

By 6 pm the jollifications came to an end and after clearing up the premises we returned to Augustastrasse with our hosts to be joined by 3 other committee members, Ken, Klaus and Anna and spent a few hours in jovial conversation before retiring to bed.

DAY 4 - Monday

The day for our return journey to England. This got off to a bad start as it was raining hard as we departed from Dorsten and the windows of the mini-coach were soon steamed up! Without Mick and his navigational device we were down to reading directional instructions from a route print-out which was just fine until the name Berlin started appearing on the road signs!

Asking for directions at a fuel station we set on our way again. As we pressed on it became apparent that we could well miss our scheduled Tunnel crossing at 5:30 pm. And so it turned out, and we arrived about an hour late and any hope of shopping at City Europe evaporated.

Once aboard the shuttle we knew that home was only about 2 hours away and we all felt the effects of the long drive from Dorsten. How little we knew that fuel was running short and that we would run out on the M25 entailing a 2 hour wait for the emergency service to show up with some extra fuel!

Fortunately Peter Orris recovered within the week and with Iris was driven home by Mick James.

By John Potier

CTTA Annual Dinner 2004

We had a lovely annual dinner on the 6th February at the Hawth.

There was a large number of people and everyone enjoyed the evening and the meal. The food was hot and served expertly by the staff.

We had a quiz from Marie-Odile which was very interesting and challenging all about sweets!

The raffle resulted in a very even split of prizes around the different tables, so most people won a prize.

It was a good evening and well supported and allowed us to meet old friends we had not seen for a while and welcome new ones to the C.T.T.A.

Where shall we go next time??

By Jacky May

Welcome to New Committee Member

John Potier and his wife Solveig have been members of the Crawley town twinning association since 1998. Since joining, John and Solveig have visited Dorsten three times and have enjoyed hosting German guests on two occasions.

John & Solveig were married in Norway in 1961, moving into Furnace Green at the end of the snowbound winter of 1963 and shortly before the birth of their elder daughter, Sonja. In the following year their second daughter, Hazel, was born.

Back in the '60s work was plentiful in Crawley for a product design engineer but over the decades the number of manufacturing companies has declined. His last employer (Stone Platt at his time of joining in 1981) went through many rough patches, being sold off several times over a period of time. Eventually, the company was bought by an American organisation with Works in Burton-on-Trent in Staffordshire and from 1999 John was relocated there, lodging for the working week at a local hotel. When he left in March last, he had qualified as their longest stay resident and had clocked up over 20 years with a Stone company!

Since April 2003, however, John has slipped into retirement and now has time for other activities. Having experienced some of the benefits of town twinning John felt that volunteering to fill a vacancy on the committee would allow him to repay some of the efforts made by others on the committee.

By John and Solveig Potier

Hans Fabian Passed Away

It is with deep regret that we must announce the death of Hans Fabian.

Hans passed away on the 27th. February 2004 aged 76.

Hans was a founder member of the town twinning between Crawley and Dorsten. In fact he was among the first delegation to visit Crawley “ to test the water”.

He has returned many times since to stay with many Crawley people, both officially and unofficially. His great gift was his magnificent voice which delighted many Crawley people.

As deputy Burgermeister he promoted our two town’s friendship to the full. Dorsten has many friendship towns but Crawley was the only one to send a representative to the funeral service.

Hans wife and family and indeed all the people at the service were extremely pleased to that Crawley did so

Hans will be greatly missed but Town Twinning will continue to grow in memory of all our many colleagues that we have now lost

By Cllr Jim Smith