



Foreword by the editor

Dear Members and friends,

The summer is now almost over and I trust that you have all had a nice, pleasant and relaxing summer.

From the responses I had so far, and although personally unable to take a part in this year main group visit to Dorsten (24.07 to 01.08), the trip was another successful one. Personal experiences and 'events' from the trip by some participants and the local press reports from Dorsten are published in the next pages of this newsletter. Many thanks to Geoff for successfully leading the main group and a big thank you to our Dorsten colleagues and friends for hosting and organising an interesting and varied programme and the youth activities.

During the trip Freda Hyams had to spend a few days in Dorsten Hospital. However at the end of the week, I am glad to report she was well enough to return to Crawley with the coach. Freda very much appreciates the kind assistance and help she received from the Dorsten and Crawley committee members and Dorsten hospital doctors and nurses and sending a big 'Dankesehr' via this Newsletter.

After the group's return on Saturday 21st. August, Frank and Christine Baker kindly organised the CTTA Barbecue held in their garden, where funds were raised for the town twinning.

This Year's Dual Committee meeting is taking place in Crawley. The Dorsten committee arrive on 1st. October and stay until Monday 4th October. The main dual committee meeting and Mayor's welcome will be held on Sunday 3rd. October.

Peter Klin

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First-timers' impression of the visit to Dorsten

As relatively new members of CTTA we were really looking forward to our first visit to Dorsten. The only nasty shock was learning of the 5.00 am departure time from Crawley!

From the moment we arrived we received a really warm welcome from all involved, especially from our host family. We have many happy memories of sitting on their patio, chatting over a glass of wine and enjoying the glorious sunshine and the peace and quiet of their garden and the woodland beyond. It was a wonderful opportunity for us to brush up our German!

If the friendliness and warmth of the Dorsten people came as no real surprise, Dorsten and the surrounding area certainly did. Based on Geography lessons in school (many more years ago than I care to admit!) the word *Ruhrgebiet* conjured up a mental image of coal mines, slag heaps and heavy industry. The mines, however, are now mostly closed and the slag heaps are grass or tree covered hills. Dorsten sits on the northern edge of this region and on the southern edge of the more rural Münsterland and so the area is much more green and wooded than we had imagined. The town of Dorsten dates back to the XIII century and although largely destroyed during WW2, the centre has been rebuilt respecting, as far as possible, the old style of architecture.

We certainly packed a lot into our week there. The "official" programme was very varied and well organised, including visits to caves with stalagmites and stalactites, a castle, a boat trip on the Sorpesee and a very interesting visit to the Neanderthal Museum – home of the original Neanderthal Man. This was followed by an evening in Düsseldorf, strolling along the Rhine, "people watching" on the Kö and sampling the local *Altbier*.

Equally enjoyable were the excursions with our host family and friends – Dorsten, Schloss Lembeck, Munster, the timbered houses in Westerholt, climbing the Tetrahedrer for an impressive panoramic view of the whole area and afterwards visiting the less romantic sounding, but nonetheless interesting Gasometer in Oberhausen! This housed the actual Breitling Orbiter and an exhibition on the history of balloon travel.

The time passed very quickly and the Farewell

Party on Saturday night was a wonderful end to the visit, with music, dancing and a delicious spread of food and drink provided by our hosts and hostesses. It also brought the final surprise of the week. The last thing Iain, a "Scot in exile", expected to find there was a German playing the bagpipes so expertly – we just had to get up to dance the Gay Gordons!

For us, the visit to Dorsten has been a very positive experience. We had the opportunity to meet many nice people from Crawley and also experienced so much kindness and friendship in Dorsten. We are looking forward to being able to reciprocate when the Dorsten Group visits Crawley next year. Many thanks to the organisers on both sides for all their hard work.

Marilyn and Iain Millar

Everything's Fine !!

The day started really well with everyone at the pick up point on time (I'd had my doubts) and the coach arrived on schedule so we loaded the luggage and everyone got on board for this year's main group visit to Dorsten.

The journey was going very well and we were approaching the Kennedy tunnel in Antwerp when Alan (our driver) mentioned the signs advising width restrictions at the tunnel of 2 metres. We needed to find the diversion sign – too late! All of a sudden the Belgian police waved us to the left and a traffic cop started writing in his little black book. He explained we should not have been there as repair works to the tunnel meant we could not go through and we had to pay a fine of €50.

Out came my wallet and we paid the fine, asking for directions on how to get around Antwerp and towards Dorsten. We took the ring road in the opposite direction which involved a toll of €15 and out came my wallet again. I thought this was a good start but little did I know what was to follow.

We arrived safely and earlier than expected at the Bus station. Everyone was collected by the hosts and all was well.

On the Monday, was the trip to the Dechenhole caves. As we reached our destination a sign was spotted showing a low bridge ahead, 2.8 metres and we are 3.425 metres so wisely Alan and the coach stayed behind. We walked down to the caves and on the way down spotted a parking place.

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Helga, our guide for the day after the tour went to get Alan and the coach. On the way down the turning was missed so Alan stopped the coach, looked behind and seeing nothing started to reverse back up the hill. Little, did he know a small Matiz was sitting on his bumper literally frantically tooting? Well, a fifty seater coach is no match for a tiny car and she (the driver and the car) start to also travel back up the hill. Fortunately, no one was hurt in the incident, but within Germany it is drummed into people to call the Police should an accident occur, even when there is no real damage.

Eventually, the Police arrive and with them came 'the fine' this time the option of a court visit and possible fine of € 350 or the option of an on-the-spot fine of € 35. Well, you can guess what happened next so out again came my wallet.

The remainder of the day went well and during the evening our host Georg and I went next door to his parents. The ruse was to tie a large red tomato on one of the plants his Father was growing. He'd never grown tomatoes before and had said they seemed to be taking their time in turning red. Well, after the laughter had subsided and a beer or so later, Georg's Brother and his daughter visited. Georg introduced me and mentioned his brother was a Policeman. So I reached for my wallet saying does he need money. Of course, he didn't need money, how could he the coach wasn't there!

Alan, did repay me the € 100 so it all ended well and of course the other good news was we came home with all our passengers although it was touch and go there for a while. We even managed to gain a passenger as we brought Carina our host's daughter back to Crawley to stay with us for a week.

Geoff May

Group Photo: Outside The Neandertaler Museum



1.



Die Gäste aus der Englischen Partnerstadt Crawley besuchten unter anderem auch das Neandertal und die Düsseldorfer Innenstadt.

Gäste aus Crawley an der längsten Theke der Welt

Partneraustausch wieder ein besonderes Erlebnis

Dorsten. Nach einer ereignisreichen Woche sind die 35 Gäste aus der Partnerstadt Crawley am Sonntag wieder abgereist.

Während des Besuches in der Lippestadt wurden neue Kontakte geknüpft und alte gefestigt. Wie Frank Baker, Vorsitzender der englischen Seite, beim Empfang beim Bürgermeister am Mittwoch sagte: „Diese Austauschpartnerschaft ist jedesmal wie ein großes Familientreffen, bei dem man Familienmitglieder trifft und neue in die Familie aufgenommen werden.“

Das Programm war gut organisiert mit Ausflügen Dechenhöhle und Sorpesee, Schloss Anholt und Rees. Highlight war allerdings der Besuch im Neandertal und der anschließende

Bummel durch die Altstadt von Düsseldorf. Die englischen Gäste waren beeindruckt von der „längsten Theke der Welt“.

Am Samstagabend wurde dann der Abschied gefeiert. Die Vielfalt des selbstgemachten Buffets fand besonders bei den englischen Gästen großen Anklang. Musik und Tanz rundeten den Abend ab, besonders die Solodarbietung von Reiner Gremme, der auf dem Tenorhorn bekannte englische und amerikanische Volksweisen spielte.

Die Überraschung des Abends war die Einlage des Dudelsackspielers Andreas Joebges und spätestens bei "Scotland the brave" waren alle auf der Tanzfläche, um beim schottischen Tanz mitzumachen. Danach gab es Diskomusik für Jung und Alt.

Großer Wert wurde bei diesem

Austausch auf das Jugendprogramm gelegt, an dem 13 englische und deutsche Jugendliche zwischen 16 bis 18 Jahren teilnahmen. Sprachschwierigkeiten waren schnell überwunden und Freundschaften wurden angebahnt. Einige der deutschen Jugendlichen haben sich schon für den Austausch, der dann im nächsten Jahr nach Crawley geht, angemeldet.

Es gab eine Fahrradtour, die für die englischen Jugendlichen eine Herausforderung darstellte, da sie in Crawley nur wenig Gelegenheit zum Fahrradfahren haben. Die Kanutour von Dorsten nach Krudenburg fand besonders viel Anklang. Ansonsten war es schon Abenteuer genug, drei Tage in Lembeck in der Schule Beck zu wohnen und sich selbst zu versorgen.

Translation (continued from page 4):

Guests from Crawley at the World's longest Bar Once again the twin city exchange was a special experience Dorsten. The 35 guests from the twin city Crawley left on Sunday after a busy week.

During their visit in the Lippe town new contacts were made and old ones strengthened. As Frank Baker, chairman of the English group, put it at the Mayor's reception on Monday: "This exchange partnership is like a family reunion each time. You meet members of the family and new members are included."

The program was well organised and included trips to Dechenhoehe and Sorpesee, Castle Anholt and Rees. But the definite highlight was a visit in the Neander Valley which was followed by a stroll through Duesseldorf's old town. The English guests were impressed by the "World's longest bar".

Saturday evening it was time to say good-bye. The English guests approved especially of the variety of the home-made buffet. The evening was rounded off by music and dance. Rainer Gremme performed a tenor horn solo playing well-known English and American folk songs.

The surprise of the evening was Andreas Joebges playing the bagpipes. During "Scotland the Brave" everybody was on the dance floor joining in the Scottish dances. This was followed by disco music for young and old.

During the exchange special emphasis was put on the youth programme for the 13 English and German youngsters between the age of 16 and 18. Language problems were overcome easily and friends were made quickly. Some of the German youths already applied to take part in next year's exchange, which will then take place in Crawley.

Part of the youth programme was a bike tour. This was a challenge for the teens from Crawley who only have little occasion to practise cycling. The canoe trip from Dorsten to Krudenburg was a favourite. And for most it was enough adventure to stay at the Beck school on their own.

2.



Die Gäste aus Crawley, die in der vergangenen Woche die Stadt Dorsten besuchten, wurden am Samstag mit einer Feier im Pfarrheim St. Antonius verabschiedet. Am Sonntag ging es mit dem Bus zurück nach England, doch der guten Kontakte und vielen Freundschaften wegen sind bereits weitere Besuche zwischen den Bürgern der beiden Partnerstädte vereinbart worden. Foto: Privat

Translation:

The guests from Crawley, who last week visited the city of Dorsten, were given a good bye celebration at the vicarage St. Antonius. They went back to England by bus on Sunday. Because of the good contacts and many friendships already new visits are planned between the citizens of the two twin towns.

3.

Beer and tea werden schwer vermisst

Deutsch-englischer Jugendaustausch in der alten Schule Beck

Lembeck • Ein farbenfrohes Bild des Trubels bietet der Grillplatz hinter der Schule Beck. Gerötete Gesichter, bunte Klamotten und ein aufgeregtes Hin und Her sind auf den ersten Blick wahrzunehmen. Erst der ehrenamtlich arbeitende Diplom-Sozialpädagoge und Betreuer Matthias Kleimann gebietet mit seiner vergleichsweise lauten Stimme Einhalt: „Lasst das Grillfleisch nicht kalt werden!“

Die 13 deutschen und englischen Jugendlichen lassen es sich schmecken. Sie übernachten im Rahmen des Austauschprogramms des Dorstener Freundeskreises Crawley von Montag bis Mittwoch mit einigen Betreuern in der Schule Beck in Lembeck, um sich tagsüber mit Picknicken, Besichtigungen und anderen Aktivitäten in Dorsten und Umgebung bei Laune zu halten.

ein Engländer auf die Frage, ob sie sich denn wohl fühlten zwischen den ganzen Deutschen. Matthias Kleimann stimmt zu: „Das Zusammensein war von Anfang an kein Problem. Im Gegenteil, es entstanden sofort gemischte Gruppen und erste Flirts gab es auch schon.“

Dass englische und deutsche Jugendliche deshalb gleich sind, wäre allerdings ein Trugschluss. Communi-

ty würde in England zum Beispiel nicht so groß geschrieben, erklärt einer der Engländer. So etwas wie ein gemeinsames „Barbecue“ gäbe es dort relativ selten. Schützenfeste sind ebenfalls etwas Neues für die englischen Besucher, sie feiern statt dessen den sogenannten „guyfowks“.

Kleine Unterschiede

Auch kleine Unterschiede im Verhalten bemerkt man“, erklärt Matthias Kleimann. „Die Direktheit der deutschen Jugendlichen war zum Beispiel anfangs ungewohnt für die Engländer.“

Zwar vermisst so manch einer den „traditional english tea“, die enorme Auswahl an Biersorten oder einfach nur seine „family“, jedoch ist die Stimmung ausgelassen und niemand scheint frühzeitig abreisen zu wollen.

Im Moment ist daran allerdings auch noch nicht zu denken.

Ab Donnerstag gehts zurück in die Gastfamilien, bei denen die englischen Besucher schon vor dem Jugendprogramm einige Tage verbracht hatten. Angereist waren sie vergangenen Samstag, zusammen mit 28 Erwachsenen aus der englischen Partnerstadt Crawley.

Letzter Tag für die englischen Besucher ist der 1. August, danach heißt es Abschied nehmen bis zum nächsten Jahr. • say

3. Lokalseite

Translation:

Beer and tea are heavily missed

German-English youth exchange in the old Beck school

Lembeck. The barbecue place behind the Beck school shows a colourful picture. First one can see reddened faces, colourful clothes and a lot of commotion. Only the comparatively loud voice of the voluntary social worker Matthias Kleimann brings some order into the chaos: "Don't let the meat go cold!"

The 13 German and English youths enjoy the food. They are staying with some adults at the Beck school in Lembeck from Monday to Wednesday during an exchange programme organised by the Dorsten Friends of Crawley. They are entertained with picnicks, visits and other activities



Dreizehn Jugendliche aus Dorsten und Crawley übernachteten mit Betreuern während der vergangenen drei Tage in der Schule Beck. Foto: Arcq

in and around Dorsten. "Very welcome" is one English youths answer to the question how he feels between all these Germans. Matthias Kleimann agrees: "Spending time together was not a problem at all. On the contrary, groups were formed quickly and there were already first flirts." To assume that English and German youths are alike would be wrong, though. For example, "community" doesn't play such an important role, as one English teenager explained. Activities like a communal barbecue or local fairs are relatively rare, but "Guy Fawkes" is celebrated instead.

Little Differences

"There are also little behavioural differences," explains Matthias Kleimann. "For example the English teenagers found the directness of the German youths unusual to deal with at first." Though some miss the "traditional English tea", the enormous variety of beer or just his "family", the mood is cheery and nobody seems to want to leave before the time.

On Thursday the youths will be back with their guest families, were they stayed before the start of the exchange programme. They arrived last Saturday together with 28 adults from the English twin city Crawley. 1 August will be the last day for the English visitors, when they have to say good-bye until next year.

Caption:

Thirteen youths and their carers from Dorsten and Crawley stayed overnight at the Beck school during the last three days.