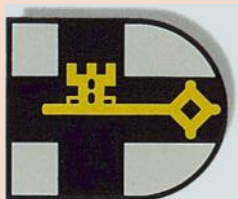


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CRAWLEY TOWN TWINNING ASSOCIATION

CTTA Newsletter



Foreword by the editor

Dear Members and friends,

I trust that all of you have enjoyed the nice and hot summer days, which were promptly followed by a typical autumn colder and rainy days. This issue of the CTTA Newsletter autumn content is entirely dedicated to the MGV visit and the 40th Anniversary Celebration of the signing agreement between Crawley and Dorsten Towns.

I can report that this year's Main Group Visit (MGV) in Crawley took place between 20th to 28th July 2013. The visit, as most people will agree was a great success, with a few interesting trips and program for the week, which is well described in several articles published inside this Newsletter.

The visits covered a trip to the seaside (Brighton), a long awaited trip and hugely popular visit to Windsor Castle and visit to the Weald and Downland Open Air Museum. On the free days lots of our guests and their hosts visited London for the usual sightseeing and shopping.

The next year MGV visit to Dorsten will be discussed at the October Dual Committee Meeting (17th-20th October) in Dorsten.

The Annual General Meeting (AGM) will be held on 30th October 2013, in the Town Hall, Room "A" at 8p.m. The CTTA executive committee looks forward to seeing you all on the evening. A formal invitation will be send out later on, at the end of this month.

Peter Klin

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

Stick or twist

Let's face it, it's never easy having guests in your home especially when they are guests you've never met before; Will they eat what we eat? Will they like our home? Is it tidy enough? 'Shall we redecorate the whole house (No)'.

These were questions facing Keith, Di and their son Matthew when, despite having hosted many different visitors before and over quite a few years, they were asked to accommodate new guests during the recent main group visit from Dorsten. They hosted Birgit and Huseyin Krenz-Kaynak who were first time visitors to Crawley.

This article is about sharing the experience of hosting new guests vs. sticking with those you know already and perhaps have hosted many times before.

'Di and I had a degree of trepidation when we were asked to host new guests', said Keith when Peter Klin recently caught up with Keith for a chat. The relative comfort of hosting those you've hosted before would be gone. Well, what was it like? In a word, great. At the start of the week, I asked Birgit and Huseyin was their anything they would like to see and they had three wishes,

to have fish and chips - the Monday visit to Brighton sorted that one, but we had fish and chips later in the week too

to have a cream tea and
to visit a garden or two

Our guests were eager to see everything we've shown previous visitors before - so no problem there. For instance, the Worth Way (part of it), Wakehurst Place, Chichester City and it's cathedral, Standen National Trust property and garden and even a real steam train close (very close) to the East Grinstead Sainsbury's car park - 'I've never seen a real steam train before', said Birgit' - that was courtesy of the Bluebell Railway's recent extension to East Grinstead. Even a home made strawberry cream tea were all enthusiastically received. Di and I (& Matthew) got a great uplift from hosting new faces.

It proved to us that there is merit in establishing new relationships through the town twinning association and not to be fearful of 'tweaking' long established links with existing friends by meeting new people.

On a personal note, Di and I even had a chance to practice our German on new guests who were suitably complimentary - perhaps they were just being polite.

All in all, we now have even more friends in Dorsten than we had before and a refreshed view of our town twinning association with Dorsten.

Attached are a couple of photos reflecting some of the things we enjoyed during the visit.

Keith & Di Sullivan



A Trip to the Seaside

The advantages of town twinning are not just the opportunity of experiencing life in another country but also of visiting interesting places nearer to home that you never knew existed.

This was the case on the Monday excursion when our German visitors were taken to the beautiful village of Rottingdean and of course the obligatory visit to the seaside. Mike and Marion catered for both the energetic and the not so energetic by offering the choice of the undercliff walk to Brighton Marina or going there on the coach.

The weather was glorious and the sea breeze most welcome to make the heat bearable. With the magnificent white cliffs towering above us and a calm sea lapping the shore we were really experiencing Sussex at its best.

When it comes to finding good food, Howard and Sue know how to do their homework and our guests thoroughly enjoyed their fish and chips which recharged their batteries before we continued our walk into Brighton itself.

The attraction of the lanes proved irresistible for some and Britta came back laden with the spoils of her shopping expedition while others sought outdoor cafés for much needed refreshment. Whoever would have thought we would seek out shade from the sun in England!



Iain Millar

We were in Crawley for the very first time.....

We were in Crawley for the first time. As my husband is a Turkish citizen, it was a lot of work to get a visa, and it was really annoying work up to the moment in Calais when an English customs officer was polite, but urged a man who does not speak English to give an English answer. Nevertheless we were very excited: what will our hosts be like? Will we find anything to talk about, anything to laugh about? How will we get along with English? How will we like Crawley? What will the weather be like? Will we like the trips that have been prepared? It was a wonderful and totally surprising journey! We were overwhelmed by the friendliness of our hosts and of the hospitality of the town twinning association! It was amazing what a wonderful program such a small group of people had prepared. Hüseyin and me we love landscape, gardens, parks, just being outside. The program was wonderful for us. Do you people from Crawley really know how beautiful it is in and around Crawley? Sometimes foreign guests help to see one's own places: the very first evening, we had a walk together with our hosts and we took a way (Worth Way) Keith and Di did not know before. Very nice! There were some things I urgently wanted to do: to eat fish and chips, to have tea with scones and to drink lager. I did all of them, quite some times! Great!

Before coming to Crawley I could not really imagine what it means to stay in a family. It was a wonderful experience, funny, exciting, familiar, though we have never seen Keith, Di and Matthew before, amazing. It made me happy having had some very serious and deep talks about life.

There were two things which I am thinking about a lot. First I found it amazing to see such a lot of volunteers helping in the National Trust Parks, running charity shops, working in church and in nearly every place. I cannot remember having met that many volunteers in Germany. And all of them seemed to be so proud about what they were doing! For me this is really amazing. I would like to get more into this, because I think that we can learn a lot from you.

One of our free days we went to Chichester. We loved the Cathedral and the nice little town. Around the Cathedral there is an extensive garden. During lunch time the garden was full of people, young and older, coming from school, from business or wherever. And they were all sitting in this wonderful garden, on banks or on the lawn having a nice place for a rest. It does not cost anything for people to come there. Seeing this I thought: what a wonderful present the church gives to people - a beautiful place to rest for body and soul. We should do this more!

There is no more room to tell about all the things that were wonderful. Thank you all very much!! You are wonderful hosts! I hope we will be able to make you as full of wonderful experiences as we still are.

An article written by Birgit Krenz-Kaynak



A Royal Outing

With the birth of a royal baby the previous day an outing to a royal castle took on a greater significance than usual. The pub “The Duchess of Cambridge” was decked out in bunting and notices of congratulations and even the nearby red phone box had a picture of Kate with a pram in the background.

We planned the visit to Windsor Castle itself for the afternoon to allow the morning crowds to disperse but arrived in the town in time for people to watch the changing of the guard. Huge bearskin hats with surprisingly young looking soldiers underneath. Yes, it is not only the policemen who seem to be getting very young. The only consolation is that those of us classed as senior citizens save a pound or two on the ticket price to the castle.



Windsor is a tourist destination par excellence and is very well and tastefully organized.



The coach park is huge and centrally located within easy walking distance of all the sites. It is next to a park for picnics and there are pubs, restaurants and cafés galore. Eton with its famous school is just across the river and several of us who ventured there were very happy to find cafés and shops strategically located to shelter in when the heavens opened with torrential rain to remind us that that a heatwave involves more than just blue skies and sunshine – if only it had also dropped some much needed rain on my garden back home in Crawley.

Our guests from Dorsten were over awed by the castle plus the unexpected delights of St George’s chapel and Queen Mary’s dolls house as well as being saturated with information from our multilingual audio guides. This was my first visit since the fire and the sparkling freshness of the renovated rooms was most impressive. Even the M25 was relatively benign enabling us to arrive back in Crawley on time. Tired, but fulfilled by a most enjoyable day.

Iain Millar

Weald and Downland Open Air Museum July 25th 2013-08-25

We set off punctually for the museum on Thursday, arriving around 10.45 am after a slightly hair-raising journey down a very narrow road near Singleton. On the way I gave an introductory talk about the Museum in German and English and then was able to hand out leaflets giving a picture and very brief description of each building in German. Unfortunately there was no similar leaflet in English but I did have booklets, which showed pictures of some of the houses and could be perused during the journey. The latest guide was available to purchase in the Museum for £3.95.

On arrival and payment of the entry charges everyone was free to wander round the site using the site plans, which had been distributed on the coach and showed the number of each building and its location. Many people chose to start with a coffee bought from the on site café.



The museum has rescued fifty historic vernacular buildings from Sussex, Kent, Surrey and Hampshire and re-erected them on their 50 acre site. One of the buildings is "The Upper Hall" from Crawley. (Photo 1) Another is "Bayleaf Farmstead", an early fifteenth century "Wealden House" from Chiddingstone in Kent, where Irene, Volker, Barrie and I sat down for a meal in the Open Hall. (Photo 2)

We were very fortunate with the warm and sunny weather, which was ideal for a lunch time picnic. However if you hadn't brought food there was a restaurant and even a medieval café.



At 1.20 pm the majority of the group assembled at "The Gridshell" a building on two levels incorporating not only a workshop (Photo 3) but also a collection of tools and artefacts. The group were so interested in this that we stayed there for forty five minutes instead of the usual twenty minutes.

As a result we didn't have much time afterwards to continue looking round the site and several people said that they would have liked to stay longer.



We arrived back at the Youth Centre only ten minutes late in spite of being caught in early rush hour traffic in Chichester.

An article By Joan Newton

Saturday in the town centre to celebrate the 40th year of Town Twinning.

A full event programme running from 11am to 4pm had been organised by the CTTA sub-committee.



It opened with the two Deputy Mayors from Crawley and Dorsten being 'drummed-in' by a member of the Youth Centre. Chris Oxlade was Master of Ceremonies and introduced both mayors who each spoke and said how pleased and proud they were to be there and how good it was that the relationship between the two towns had lasted for 40 years and was still very active (photo 1).



The programme then began with beautiful Bollywood dancing performed first of all by young children and two other members of the Youth Centre (photos 2 and 3). Shortly after this we were treated to the remarkable solo singing of Heather Illidge, who had recently won the 'Crawley's got talent' competition (photo 4). She was followed by the trio from Dorsten 'OUWE' playing some of Jethro Tull's music on flute, guitar and drums (photo 5). The older generation were represented by the choir 'Silver Surfers' led by John Cree who gave a selection of well-known favourites.



Then we were entertained by the well-known Crawley group Hi Jinx, a group of clog dancers whose dances came from the Appalachian Mountains (photo 6). Afterwards younger dancers performed some very active 'street dancing', followed by the 'Sama Karate' group who demonstrated not only Karate techniques but also Kick Boxing (photo 7).



Unfortunately the heavens then opened and there was a very heavy downpour but luckily the 'Barber Shop' group managed to all fit in the bandstand and were able to continue their performance. Finally we had the accomplished Irish Dancers (photo8). By then the rain had stopped so they could dance in the band-stand itself and in the square in front of it.



Chris Oxlade as MC had introduced each act and regularly reminded the audience that this was a celebration of 40 years partnership between Crawley and Dorsten. Throughout these performances people had been able to continue with their shopping in the square's shops which were decorated with German and Crawley's flags. In the square were also examples of 1973 classic cars and those made in 2013 courtesy of Vines.

If people were thirsty they could drink German and/or English beer and if they were hungry indulge in German and/or English sausages from the 'Bavarian Sausage' stand followed by very English strawberries and cream. All-in-all it was a wonderful celebration.

Joan Newton



40th Anniversary and MGV farewell evening celebration on 27th July 2013

The celebrations and the varied programme during the day were well described in Joan Newton's article on the previous page. To follow on our long and established Twinning tradition, the end of the MGV visit ended with a wonderful farewell evening in the Civic Hall, which was combined with a 40th Celebration of the twinning between the towns of Crawley and Dorsten. (The actual date of the signing of the agreement between the two towns was on 17th October 1973).

The CTTA sub-committee led by Brenda Smith together with Nicky Shaw and also staff from the Town Hall organised, prepared and decorated the Civic Hall. The Hall's tables were each smartly decorated with small German and British flags, together with balloons, bunting and banners which created the desired "wow" effect.

150 people attended the evening celebrations. Among those present were of course the Dorsten MGV visitors past and present, CTTA hosts, Mr Heinz Denninger - Deputy Mayor of Dorsten, Mr Ludwig Küppers - Dorsten Town Hall, Vanessa Cumper - Deputy Mayor and other people who were involved with twinning in the past, all of whom I cannot mention in this short article.



The evening meal was in the form of an excellent BBQ, which was freshly cooked by a caterer who's BBQ kit was located outside of the Civic Hall's car park. Even the rain did not spoil the occasion! The bar served both German beer and red and white wine. For dessert, a cake was served on an impressive Union Jack decorated paper stand. The music for the evening was kindly provided by Stan Tofield and his "Stanislausky Polka Band" and also later in the evening augmented with a few lovely melodies by the Dorsten group "Ouwe".



Klaus Dietrich from Dorsten also celebrated his 66th birthday and the our Dorsten guests sang for him a well-known older German song-hit "Mit Sechshundsechzig Jahren" followed by singing a "Happy Birthday" as well.

The evening was concluded by speeches from both twinning associations. Chairpersons Iain Millar and Marita Kipinski and deputy mayors of both towns spoke. The Dorsten guests were presented with a lovely cake with 40th Anniversary between Dorsten and Crawley decorations. The evening finished in a good atmosphere around 10pm.



Once more a big thank you especially to Brenda Smith and the CTTA sub-committee, Nicky Shaw and all the Town Hall staff and all people who were involved in the preparation of such a wonderful and memorable day and evening farewell.

By Peter Klin