



# CRAWLEY TOWN TWINNING ASSOCIATION

## CTTA NEWSLETTER - AUTUMN EDITION

Issue 74

September 2016

Dear members and friends,

Welcome to the September 2016 issue of the CTTA Newsletter. Since the last Spring Newsletter I can report some happy news and also sad news.

It is with great sadness to report that In April this year our dear old friend and long serving member of the Dorsten twinning association Dr Manfred Kipinski had passed away. Please see page .. For a short obituary written by our chairman Iain Millar.

From 20th. to 28th. August Geoff May has led over 35 CTTA members and friends for a Main Group Visit (MGV) to Dorsten. The visit started very early on Saturday morning 20th August. The assembly point was at St Andrew's Church car park. The Sussex Coach arrived at 5 a.m. with our now familiar and excellent coach driver Conrad. The coach journey route was via Dover and ferry to Dunkerque and then continuing via France, Belgium, Holland and Germany. We arrived in Dorsten after almost 12 hours journey.

The whole visit was very well organised by our Dorsten colleagues with interesting and varied programme during the whole week. Apart from the first 2 days with some rain, the rest of the visit's weather was a brilliant sunshine and temperatures of + 30 Degrees C.

The highlight of the visit was Saturday's Farewell party when Burgemeister Tobias Stockhoff presented Alderman Jim Smith MBE with Dorsten Town Gold Medal. The Medal was awarded to Jim by the Town of Dorsten for his very long service, excellent work in leading, promoting the friendship and twinning between the two towns of Dorsten and Crawley. (See photo of the Medal on page 3).

I am sure that all of the CTTA members and friends are all very proud of Jim's life achievements over 43 years of the twinning of Dorsten with Crawley and Jim's fantastic dedication and enthusiasm over the years.

Congratulations once more Jim and well done—you deserved it.

From 30th. September to 3rd.October 2016 the Dual Committee Meeting (DCM) will be held in Crawley, where among other topics the MGV to Crawley for the next year will be discussed and dates of visit agreed.

The Annual General Meeting (AGM) will be held on Wednesday 9th. November. For further details please see the Invitation and members form on page 12 of this Newsletter.

An Invitation for an evening of music in St. Andrew's Church on Saturday 1st. October is on page 11.

The CTTA Committee look forward to see as many members and friends at both of these events.

Peter Klin  
PR officer and editor of the newsletter  
On behalf of CTTA



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## **Julian and Dan's experience of Crawley Twinning Association Main Group Visit to Dorsten – August 2016**

This was my son and I's first experience of visiting Germany with the Crawley Town Twinning Association (CTTA), but not our first experience of Germany. In fact I have a long association with the country - having visited it many, many times when a child and young man. My mother lived and worked in Germany for the majority of her adult life and I would come on regular visits.

So it is, perhaps, a little surprising that I hadn't 'discovered' the twinning association's visits before. I was, of course, aware that Crawley had been twinned with Dorsten in Germany since forever (well... since 1973, actually...) but I hadn't, I have to admit, understood what twinning entailed. I had always assumed, as do I suppose many, that the visits were only for 'officials' of the council. I really hadn't been aware that they were mainly about 'friendship building'. It isn't a mistake I shall repeat!

A warm welcome and an invitation to friendship was what we were greeted with from the outset of our visit - which started early on a dark August morning in a chilly church car park in Furnace Green - by both our hosts and those we travelled with.

It was lovely to be met by an enthusiastic crowd of 'well wishers' on our arrival in Dorsten, twelve hours later, their enthusiasm undiminished by the fact that we were something like an hour late. Judging by the all the hugging going on and the broadness of smiles on all the faces both parties had been looking forward to this moment for some time - many behaving as though seeing long lost (and well liked) relatives for the first time in years...

The warmth and friendship extended to us, the newest members of this fraternal group. Ulla and Michael, our hosts, were there with bright and delighted smiles to meet us and take us back to their capacious and beautifully kept home.

For the next several days we were treated to our German hosts' fervent wish to enjoy our company and 'take proper care' of us.

It was delightful to be taken to places old and historic, as in the case of our visits to Paderborn and Utrecht, and to enjoy the various 'events' put on for the benefit of the visiting group - including a special church service in both German and English (followed, of course, by coffee and cakes!), a barbecue and both a greeting and departure get together hosted by the mayor of Dorsten, Tobias.

While thanking both the English and the German committees for their excellent organisation of this trip, I should also extend a special 'thank you' to both our own hosts and the two ladies, Hanna and Mechtild, who took it upon themselves to invite us on a trip to Munster. Likewise to Heinz who was kind enough to organise a 'day out' to a local farm and to the 'Schutzen fest' taking place in Reken, Heinz's home town. Both were, in their different ways, exciting and enjoyable and provided many great filming and photographic opportunities (in my role as 'semi official' videographer / photographer to the mayor...)

The question arises, 'would I do it again'? The answer is a most definite yes. Not only because it gives me a chance to practice my very under-used German (something of a bone of contention - since our hosts very much appreciate it when we try to speak German but who also very much wish to practice their English...) Nor because Germany is a very interesting country with many cultural interconnections with our own and some great and fascinating things to see and do... But because we wouldn't be 'just visiting', my son and I would be re-connecting with what we now would consider 'our friends'.



# Photos from the Main Group Visit to Dorsten—2016



Dorsten Town Golden Medal awarded to Jim Smith MBE







David Rayner's comments:  
**This is wonderful Glider flight over Dorsten**  
**Many thanks to Georg who paid for it, and Dieter and Martha**  
**Who arranged it and hosted me! :)**



David Rayner says:  
**My lovely hosts ! :)**

## **Obituary - Dr Manfred Kipinski**

It is always sad to report the death of a friend but it is even more so when it is someone who has been known to so many of our group for so many years.

Dr Manfred Kipinski, husband of Marita, chair of the Dorsten committee, died on the 16<sup>th</sup> April 2016.

Manfred, Marita and their daughters, Uta and Anja, first visited Crawley as a family in 1991. They stayed with Judy Rayner and the families subsequently became very close spending many holidays together. Judy and family even spent one Christmas with them in Dorsten and visited Cologne cathedral at this magical time of year.

A keen cyclist, Manfred, accompanied by Marita, had many cycling holidays and even made a cycle tour of Ireland. In recent years Manfred has been unable to travel due to ill health but still enjoyed cycling as well as appreciating his beer and fine wines.

Although retired from teaching geography and German he had a strong interest in history and as well as continuing his study of English. He also took an active part in an amateur theatre group where he was known for his sharp wit and dry sense of humour. He will be sadly missed.

by Iain Millar



## Dorsten's Red Telephone Box

Dorsten's Jubilee Telephone Kiosk was presented to the people of Dorsten by the people of Crawley in **May 1983**, to mark the **10th anniversary of the town twinning**. It was installed in Dorsten's main pedestrian shopping area, a symbol of the friendship between nations.



The picture shows Mayor Hans Lampen and Chief Executive Dr. Karl-Christian Zahn making the first telephone call to their opposite numbers in Crawley, Jim Smith and Ken Newell.



In more recent years, when a call box is no longer seen as a lifeline, the kiosk became a victim of vandalism ~ until the only way you could phone from it was by using a mobile.

Photo: Berthold Fehmer

www.Dorstener Zeitung.de



# A Cry for Help

Years of pleading by the Friends of Crawley fell on deaf ears, until *Jubilee*, the telephone box, now turning eighty, sent a personal letter to the mayor of Dorsten.



Mayor Tobias Stockhoff was moved to find a safe location where the elderly “lady” might live out her retirement in dignity. Jürgen Bernhardt, director of St. Anna’s care home, enthusiastically offered her sheltered accommodation.



Images C Philip Ralph PR-NetCom,de





## Resplendent Again

Newly installed at the entrance to St. Anna's care home in Dorsten, Jubilee now stands resplendent alongside its companion pillar box.

Both have been lovingly restored by the home's technical staff.



Assisted by the Mayor, Tobias Stockhoff, Jürgen Bernhardt, the home's director, and Crawley-born Philip Ralph, Marita Kipinski, Chair of the Friends of Crawley, cuts the riband at the ceremonial reopening on Sunday on 12th June 2016, to mark the 90th birthday of H.M. The Queen.

This event coincided with the  
**80th anniversary year of the first Jubilee kiosk**  
and the  
**90th anniversary year of the UK's  
very first red telephone box.**



## 30.08.2016 **Bürgermeister aus Crawley besucht seinen deutschen Kollegen**

Am vergangenen Donnerstag besuchte Raj Sharma, begleitet von seiner Frau Bhavna und seiner Schwester Rakesh, Bürgermeister Manuel Deitert im Rekener Rathaus. Der in Indien geborene und in England aufgewachsene Raj Sharma ist in diesem Jahr als repräsentativer Bürgermeister und gleichzeitig Vorsitzender des Crawleyer Stadtrats gewählt. Er und seine Frau sind zur Zeit bei der Familie Gremme in Maria Veen zu Gast. Seit über 20 Jahren engagieren sich Heinz und Hedwig Gremme im Freundeskreis Crawley in Dorsten. Der Verein hat sich zum Ziel gesetzt, die menschlichen und kulturellen Beziehungen zwischen Engländern und Deutschen, speziell in Crawley und Dorsten, zu vertiefen und damit einen Beitrag zur deutsch-englischen Verständigung und darüber hinaus zur Einigung Europas zu leisten. Crawley ist die Dorstener Partnerstadt.

Bereits vor zwei Jahren war die Familie Sharma bei den Gremmes zu Besuch, denn im jährlichen Wechsel besuchen sich die Crawleyer und die Dorstener für eine Woche. Da neben einigen gemeinsamen Terminen, wo in der großen Gruppe Sehenswürdigkeiten in der Region erkundet werden, auch Zeit vorgesehen ist, in der die Familie etwas mit den Gästen unternimmt, suchte Heinz Gremme den Kontakt zum Rathaus. Bürgermeister Manuel Deitert freute sich sehr über den Termin mit seinem englischen Kollegen. Beide Bürgermeister stellten Ihren Wirkungsort vor und sprachen über Gemeinsamkeiten und Unterschiede im jeweiligen System. (aj)

### **Bürgermeister Manuel Deitert bedankt sich bei seinem englischen Kollegen für den Besuch**



Short summary of the German article in English:

### **The Crawley Mayor visits his German colleague**

Raj Sharma accompanied by wife Bhavna and his sister Rakesh visited Buergermeister Manuel Deiter in Reken Town Hall. They were hosted by the family Gremme in Maria Veen. Heinz and Hedwig Gremme are active members of the Freundeskreis Crawley in Dorsten over 20 years. The Association aim is to widen the human and cultural link between Germany and England and especially between towns of Dorsten and Crawley. The family Sharma visited the family Gremme two years ago. The Dorsten association prepared varied programme of sightseeing the region for the MGV.

Buergemeister Manuel Deitert enjoyed the meeting with his British colleague. Both Mayors discussed their work and talked about their job's similarities and also differences in both systems.

## POST MAIN GROUP VISIT BBQ

Our “traditional” Barbecue, which normally follows the CTTA Main Group Visit to Dorsten, was held on Saturday 10th of September. The venue was prepared and held in Jacky and Geoff May’s house in Pound Hill. On behalf of all those present (around 30 people) I must say that the preparation, food choice and the whole organisation were superb. The weather which was lovely during the whole of last month, was slightly disappointing on the day, however Jacky’s and Geoff’s big canopy and the new gazebo saved the evening or at least the first couple of hours. The rain did actually stop after around 7pm and the “party” carried on to around 10:30 pm, at least for those who stayed that long.

On behalf of the CTTA committee I would like to thank once more to Jacky and Geoff for their big effort, commitment and hard work to make the Barbecue such a wonderful evening. Well done.

A few photos from the BBQ are shown below:



By Peter Klin



**1st October 6:30 - 9:00 pm**

**big**

*Free Glass of  
German Wine and  
Nibbles in  
the Interval*

***Crawley Town Twinning and  
St Andrews Church***

***Invite you to an evening of music***

**St Andrews  
School Choir**

**big band  
dorsten**

*Admission  
Free*





**CRAWLEY  
TOWN TWINNING  
ASSOCIATION**

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING on Wednesday 9th.November 2016 at the  
TOWN HALL, Room 'A' at 8p.m**

As a member of the C.T.T.A. you are cordially invited to attend and be involved with how the Association works with our Twin Town of Dorsten.

**NOMINATION FOR OFFICERS/COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

CHAIRMAN  
SECRETARY  
MINUTE SECRETARY  
MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY  
5 COMMITTEE MEMBERS

VICE-CHAIRMAN  
TREASURER  
PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICER  
ACCOMMODATION SECRETARY

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

POSITION APPLIED \_\_\_\_\_

PROPOSED BY \_\_\_\_\_

SECONDED BY \_\_\_\_\_

I accept the nomination for the position of \_\_\_\_\_

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

*To be returned to the Honorary Secretary, Geoff May at the address below or handed in before the commencement of the Annual General Meeting.*

*Please reply to: 5 Sissinghurst Close, Worth, Crawley, RH10 7FX Tel. 01293 885 444*



## CRAWLEY TOWN TWINNING ASSOCIATION-GENERAL AND MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

### WHAT IS TOWN TWINNING?

Town Twinning exists to promote friendship between people of different countries through personal and cultural links.

Every year a group from Crawley visits Dorsten or a group from Dorsten comes to Crawley. We pay our own travel expenses but when in Germany we stay with a German family as non paying guests and visits are arranged to places of interest in the neighbourhood. The following year we act as hosts to our German guests.

It is also normal to arrange a youth programme for teenagers so that they can enjoy their own activities and experience life in a different country and enjoy new experiences.

Exchanges can also be arranged between clubs and societies such as sports clubs, choirs and orchestras.

The Crawley – Dorsten link has been in existence for more than 43 years and many strong friendships have been built up during this time.

### INTERESTED?

Membership is open to Families, Individuals, Clubs and Societies.  
You do not have to speak German but there is the opportunity to do so if you wish.

For more information please contact:-

The membership secretary  
Michael James  
Telephone: 01293 532699

### How to Join

Fill out the application form below and send it together with your  
Subscription to:

Membership Secretary,  
Michael James  
16 Epsom Road  
Furnace Green  
Crawley RH10  
Tel. 01293 532699

### The annual subscriptions

To subscribe you will need to make annual payments (by cheque)\*.

Individual residents	£ 8.00
Individual non-residents	£10.00
Family residents	£12.00
Family non residents	£15.00
Schools/other associations resident	£20.00
Schools/other associations non resident	£20.00

\*Please remember that cheques must be payable to the CTTA.

I enclose a cheque to the value of £.....  
Name.....  
Address .....  
.....  
Signature.....