



CRAWLEY TOWN TWINNING ASSOCIATION

Issue 67

CTTA NEWSLETTER-JUNE EDITION

June 2014

Dear Members and Friends

Welcome to the June issue of the CTTA Newsletter.

Following our successful Annual Dinner on 8th March at the Holiday Inn in Worth, we have now swiftly moved on through spring and into summer and holiday time is rapidly approaching.

Our Dorsten colleagues including our group leader Geoff May are all busy putting the final touches in preparation for the Crawley's Main Group Visit to Dorsten in August (16th-24th). The interesting programme and activities have now all been agreed and finalised. All we now need for the visit is a nice and warm summer weather .

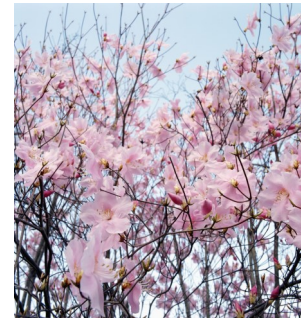
Following the MGV in August in Dorsten, the Dual Committee Meeting (DCM) will take a place in Crawley between 3th to 6th October 2014. Among other town twinning topics the MGV 2015 (Dorsten visit to Crawley) including the dates of visit will be discussed and agreed.

On Friday 9th May, Joan and Barrie Newton organised a Beetle Drive quiz night at the Town Hall.

On behalf of the CTTA may I congratulate a long standing CTTA member and councillor Brenda Smith on becoming the Mayor of Crawley for 2014/15. Well done Brenda and we all wish you the very best and success in your new role in the forthcoming year.

Further congratulations also go to another CTTA executive committee member Raj Sharma who was elected as a Labour Councillor for Southgate

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



Inside this issue:	
	Page:
Foreword by the editor	1
Beetle Drive at the Town Hall	2
New Mayor for Crawley	2&3
CTTA Annual Dinner 8th March 2014	4& 5
In Memory of Erika Gebauer	6

Beetle Drive at the Town Hall, 9th May 2014.

On May 9th we had a Beetle Drive at the Town Hall. Barrie and I arrived around 6.30pm and began to organise the tables and chairs. In spite of Geoff's heart attack on May 2nd, Jacky May and her elder daughter Sandy arrived shortly after us and brought all the food and soft drinks for refreshments, which they set up together. There was a wonderful assortment of cheeses, cheese straws, crisps, sausage and vegetarian rolls, nuts with mini chocolate flapjacks and chocolate as desert as well as orange juice, lemonade and cola. Once it was all laid out they returned home to look after Geoff.

Gradually twelve people arrived and began to enjoy some of the refreshments before starting on the number quiz and then the beetle drive. We waited till 7.45pm to begin and then played 6 games which took us to 8.30pm. Then we had a 15 minute interval before playing the final 6 games. It was surprising how intense the games became especially if you had Peter Klin and his daughter Jenny on the same table. We finished playing around 9.25pm.

Tom Leahy had the highest score and won a bottle of wine. Marion James was a close second. David Hathaway had the highest score of 17 out of 22 for the number quiz and received 2 Penguin biscuits and 2 Kit Kats as winner. All the other participants had to content themselves with one each of those – high stakes indeed!

Everyone helped to clear away and put back the furniture into its normal position. Barrie and I left just before 10pm having ensured that the lights were switched off. Many thanks to Jacky and Sandy for the food and soft drinks which were appreciated by all.

Joan Newton.

New Mayor for Crawley 2014 - 15

The new Mayor of Crawley is Councillor Brenda Smith.

Councillor Smith was elected at the Annual Council meeting on Friday June 13. This is her second term as Mayor of Crawley, following her previous year in office in 1990/91.

Brenda Smith was elected to represent the Ifield ward in 1978 and retained that seat until 1984 when she stood down to spend time with her young family. She was elected to the Langley Green ward in 1988 and has been successful in every election since.

Mrs Smith was born in 1945 in Kingston-upon-Thames. She moved to Gossops Green in 1958 with her parents brother and sister, when she joined Sarah Robinson Secondary School in Ifield, she had a great passion for athletics and sport and revelled in the wonderful facilities at the then new school. (Since replaced by the modern Ifield Community College) leaving school in 1960, she trained as a GPO telephonist, and spent her working life in various occupations including local banks and Solicitors. In 1988 she made a major career change and retrained as a Road Safety officer working for WSCC in Crawley. Brenda retired in 2006.

(cont. on page 3)

Cont. from page 2

Brenda is married to Jim, an Honorary Alderman and Honorary Freeman of the Borough of Crawley as well as a four-time Mayor of Crawley and Langley Green councillor for 22 years, he was also a Councillor in Ifield, and Gossops Green completing 39 years before he retired in 2010. They have 4 adult children 7 grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren

The Mayor's charity for 2014/15 will be The Alzheimer's Society Crawley services.

Brenda's interests include... Crawley's Dementia Alliance and Crawley Town Twinning Association, she regularly visits Dorsten and hosts visitors from there. Her home, garden and family. She also enjoys holiday travel to many parts of the world and has visited, India, Australia, Egypt, USA, Canada Alaska and Europe,

She said: " I feel very honoured and privileged to be elected to the position of Mayor of Crawley again. I have spent my whole adult life living and working in Crawley and am proud of all that our Town and Community has achieved. Crawley never stands still and is always changing and re-inventing itself to keep abreast of the Global and National changes that our diverse community bring to us. I am looking forward to meeting and understanding the people of our Town in all its sectors. My chosen Charity reflects my commitment to raise the profile of dementia, increase services and remove the stigma associated with this disease and mental health.



CTTA Annual Dinner 8th March 2014

Following an extensive discussion for a suitable place to hold the 2014 CTTA Annual dinner, the committee decided that this year dinner was going to be held somewhere different to the "usual" previous year's chosen locations.

Elaine Williams kindly volunteered to assist in organising the venue and finalising the details associated with such an important evening in the CTTA calendar. Following a search of the local restaurants, pubs and hotels it was recommended and agreed that the Annual Dinner will be held at Holiday Inn in Worth, Crawley.

The Dinner with different Starters, Main Courses and Desserts offered on the initial menu, proved to be an excellent choice. The Dinner was served in a separate room within the hotel's complex, and the hotel staff serving us were very attentive, polite and efficient.

As on previous occasions George Redgrave again prepared an excellent quiz on a "German/Dorsten" theme, and all attendees enjoyed it very much. Jacky May organised a raffle with many good prizes to be won.

Nicky Shaw assisted with the beautiful English-German table decorations and also helped with the smooth running of the Dinner.

Many thanks for Elaine for organising this year's very successful Annual Dinner and also an additional thank you for George, Jacky and Nicky.

Some photographs from the Dinner are shown below (pages 3 and 4)

By Peter Klin



CTTA Annual Dinner 8th March 2014



In Memory of Erika Gebauer

In March I received an e-mail from Alfred Gebauer informing me sad news of the death of his wife Erika and that the funeral would be on the 2nd April in Dorsten.

As Christine and I had stayed with the Gebauer's in the past and they with us we had built a friendship with them. Erika had that quiet caring personality and often would help Christine in her own quiet way. So through this friendship I felt that I would like to say farewell to her.

I flew to Cologne and hired a car for three days and stayed in a hotel in Dorsten. I travelled on the 1st April as the funeral was on the 2nd as to give me more time though the hotel was within close proximity to the cemetery.

The day of the funeral was bathed in sunshine approximately twenty three degrees and as I arrived early I was able to sit and spend sometime in the sunshine and peace. The funeral actually was the burial of her ashes preceded by a ceremony of remembrance which included a quiet time and some poetry, we then processed to the grave for the burial.

Erika died on the last day of their holiday at the end of February Alfred put there cases on the bus and went to get Erika and found her dead which was a shock as they had a good holiday.

After the funeral I arranged to see some other friends in Dorsten as I had arranged to travel back the next day.



By Frank Baker