

# KIDDERMINSTER-HUSUM TWINNING ASSOCIATION



## *Newsletter*

*Volume 20, No.1 - Spring 2017*



### *From the Committee.*

*The Newsletter exist to report on Association activities and to reflect it's members interests and concern; please keep your news and other articles coming!*

### *Please Note.*

*The Annual General Meeting of the Association will take place at 7:30pm on Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> March at the Severn Valley Railway, Valley Suite and will be followed by musical entertainment and light refreshments.*

### *In our memories.*

*Richard Gillam and Geoff Worthington, both members of Charles Talbot's nineteen sixties youth exchange groups to Husum, recently passed away. They will be sadly missed at home and in Husum.*

### *Well done Charles!*



Thanks to an application originally made in the Spring of 2013 our Vice - President and sole Life Member Charles Talbot was awarded a richly deserved and long overdue MBE In the 2017 New Year's Honours for services to the Community

## What a triumph!

The civic visit from Husum to Kidderminster in October was an outstanding success! Planned originally as a celebration of the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Twinning Charter between our two towns, the creation of the new Kidderminster Town Council meant a new Charter was needed.

Months of co-operative planning between the new Council and the Twinning Association resulted in a hugely enjoyable programme of public and social events.

We even managed to get a little publicity in the "local" press!!

Our three guests were Senator Horst Bauer, with Rainer Maass – well known as ex-Buergermeister and Twinning stalwart – and his wife Eva.

A welcome party at the newly refurbished Pines got the weekend off to a fine start, old and new friends keeping quite a late hour despite the busy Saturday ahead!



The Corn Exchange had also been refurbished and provided a sumptuous setting for the colourful official ceremony of signing the new Charter.

Never have the committee scrubbed up so well.

The Scout and Guide band assembling outside provided a little competition at times for the short speeches before leading an impressive parade out onto Husum bridge with the large crowd masking the unfinished repainting.

After a rededication, unveiling of a new plaque and national anthems, all paraded back to the Corn Exchange for a very welcome buffet lunch.



No rest for the wicked, so promptly off to the Youth House for a Crocus planting ceremony on a grass bank overlooking the ring road.

Ablly assisted by some of the groups who have planted in the past - with particular thanks also to Spike of St Georges Park - this was quickly achieved..

The Youth House Open Day provided refreshments, a super guided tour and respite from the weather.





Mayor Mary Rayner had not only organised a beautifully decorated room at the Brasserie for the official reception meal that evening but baked a wonderfully alcoholic cake, suitably decorated by Val Mayfield. St Mary's Church was so packed on Sunday morning for an ecumenical service that hymn books and service sheets had to be passed round and shared – ensuring a friendly atmosphere. Coffee & cake afterwards was as welcome as the chance for a quiet(ish) afternoon before all meeting up again for a very relaxed evening at the Cavalier, who coped splendidly with the demand for twice as many meals as expected and two trainee barmen from Husum.



Guests and committee members had a final challenge later that evening of planning an annual visit between the towns, either civic or Twinning Association/Verein, with usual group visits continuing as normal. July 2017 will see the first such Association visit to Husum.

Hope to see many of you there!

**Hilary Boyle**

## On the Horizon in 2017

### March

17<sup>th</sup> - 20<sup>th</sup> Visit of German Language Class to the Husum Krokusfest.

29<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting of the Association at the Severn Valley Railway, Valley Suite followed by musical entertainment and light refreshments.

### May

3<sup>rd</sup> - 7<sup>th</sup> Storm Quilters visit to Kidderminster.

23<sup>rd</sup> Management Committee meeting at 7:30pm in the King Charles Room at Kidderminster Town Hall.

### July

23<sup>rd</sup> - 30<sup>th</sup> Twinning Association visit to Husum

### October

27<sup>th</sup> - 30<sup>th</sup> Visit of a number of Husum Civic representatives to Kidderminster.  
Possible Churches representatives visit to Husum

## Retirement of Friedrich Mörs, Vicar of the Marienkirche.



Theodor Storm famously described his home town, Husum, as "The grey town by the Sea". but on Sunday, 11<sup>th</sup>. September Husum was very far from grey. The sun shone brilliantly. The seaside town was sparkling with life and colour when my wife, Kim, and I were there to share in the Farewell Service of our dear friend and colleague, Friedrich Mörs, Vicar of the Marienkirche (St Mary's Church) since 1998.

How often, over the years, Friedrich and I have planned exchange visits between Kidderminster and Husum and rejoiced to see growing trust and friendship between the two communities. How often he and I have lingered over a beer in the evening putting the world to rights. And how often I have sat in the sun in the Mörs' "strandkorb" (Beach basket) with a good book looking forward to a call to lunch from Üte, Friedrich's wife, .....and maybe another wonderful German sausage!!

Friedrich has not been well and his retirement has come a little early. The church was packed with well wishers and the service was conducted by the Probst. Pastor Jesseu-Thiesen and by Andreas Raabe who some readers will remember well.

Afterwards tributes were paid to Friedrich as a beloved pastor. His commitment to pastoral ministry, the care he always took with every "occasional office" and his fine preaching were acknowledged and celebrated. Best of all, though, was the warm tribute paid by the Fire Chief who presented Friedrich with a magnificent helmet which made him look like a Stars Wars Storm Trooper.

A lovely, lovely day.

### **Owain Bell**

#### Officers of the Kidderminster - Husum Twinning Association.

Chairman: Terry Garbett

Vice-President: Charles Talbot

Secretary: Hilary Boyle

Treasurer: Christine Dutton

Membership: Jerry Mayfield

Website: [www.kidderminster-husum-twinning.co.uk](http://www.kidderminster-husum-twinning.co.uk)

#### Newsletter

The Newsletter is edited and compiled by Hilary Boyle and Jerry Mayfield.

Any contributions for the next issue will be most welcome.

Please e-mail copy and photos (jpeg format) to "Contact Us" on the website.