



From the Editor

I hope it's not too late to wish all our readers a very happy 2008. In twinning terms, we have a number of good things lined up for this year, and we wish success on all the efforts of everyone involved. Once again, many thanks to those who have contributed in any way to this edition of the Newsletter - we are especially grateful to Peter Bang, the leader of the "Stjerne Gruppe" of Husum Scouts; if you have any comments or criticisms, or would like to see your efforts in print, please get in touch. My current details are shown on the back page, but I may be changing address soon, so watch this space!

Ray Harrowing

Wyre Forest Jamboree Scout Camp 2007 - The First Five Days

Friday 27th July - Setting up

After much planning a party of leaders and helpers from the 8th Kidderminster Scout Group (KD8) arrived at Rhydd Covert with numerous trailer loads of equipment to begin erecting tents on behalf of the German, Danish and Polish Scouts and of course themselves on three separate but close parts of the Campsite. Ever mindful of the atrocious weather of the previous month a decision had been taken to provide additional wet weather cover for all groups in case of rain when they arrived over the next few days. Work progressed steadily and by early evening seven large frame tents and numerous smaller tents had been erected and a large working kitchen created. Leaving one leader on the site to look after the vast quantity of equipment overnight everyone then went home for a well-earned night's rest.

Saturday 28th July - Arrival of the Danish, German and Polish Scouts

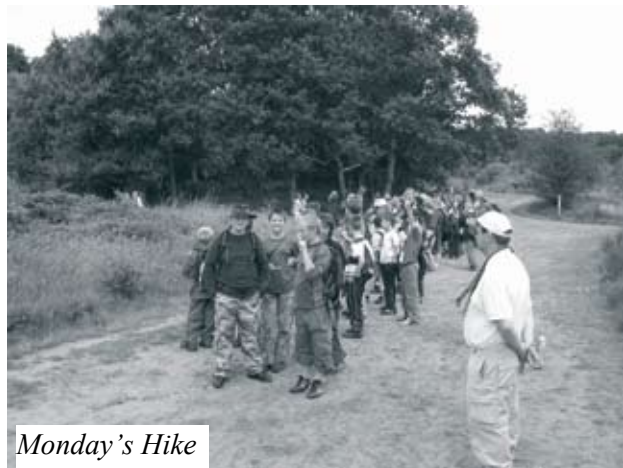
A rendezvous had been arranged at the Hopwood Park services on the M42 with Val and Jerry Mayfield, and in due course a large double-decker coach full of German and Danish scouts and leaders (50 in all) arrived, a little late, at the drop off point on the West Midland Safari Park next to the Rhydd Covert Campsite just as the Safari Park opened for business. The coach was emptied of passengers and equipment and dispatched to its previously-arranged parking spot on the Safari Park. Everyone was then treated to a hearty full English breakfast courtesy of the Rhydd Covert Management team. After breakfast they spent much of the day putting up lots more tents, creating two more camp kitchens and making the first of many shopping trips to Tesco's supermarket in Kidderminster and waiting for their friends the Polish Scouts to arrive.

Lunchtime came and went with no sign of the Polish Scouts who had not arrived at the Victoria Coach

Station in London where they were due to meet up with Nena Morris and Jo Hanslow from KD8 and change coaches for the final leg of their journey to Kidderminster. Time passed by and they eventually arrived at Victoria Coach station at 6 pm (their driver had got lost in Germany while navigating his way around Frankfurt). In the mean time the German and Danish Scouts were provided with a hot meal once again courtesy of the Rhydd Covert Management team after which preparations commenced for a short "Welcome to Rhydd Covert" meeting (scheduled for 8:00pm) which was to be attended amongst others by the Mayor and Mayoress of Kidderminster, Councillor and Mrs Mike Shellie, Councillor Fran Oborski (the new honorary Polish consul)



Charles Talbot of the Kidderminster-Husum Twinning Association and representatives of the Scout movement from the surrounding area. Everyone began to congregate at the new Activity Centre building and just as the meeting was about to start the Polish Scouts arrived. Within seconds everyone had left the building to empty the coach as the driver was on the limit of his working hours. A vast amount of equipment was moved from the coach to the Polish Scouts' campsite by a lot of people in a very short time. A little late the "Welcome to Rhydd Covert" meeting then took place and a specially made cake was cut by representatives of the four Scout groups to commemorate the evening.



Monday's Hike

Sunday 29th July - The start of the unofficial programme and the arrival of KD8 Scouts

After a well earned rest and breakfast the Danish, German and Polish Scouts started previously-arranged activities for the day. The Danish and German Scouts and their leaders left Rhydd Covert to



Games in the Valley

visit Alton Towers theme park in Staffordshire and the Polish Scouts (after celebrating Mass with a Polish-speaking priest, kindly arranged by Councillor Fran Oborski) carried on setting up their campsite while awaiting the arrival of the Scouts from KD8. They arrived just before lunch after which both groups then hiked to Habberley Valley for Scout Wide Games followed by another hike to KD8 Headquarters for a well-earned Fish and Chip supper and then finally hiked back exhausted to Rhydd Covert.

Monday 30th July – a joint day long hike

After breakfast all Scouts and leaders hiked to Bewdley where they spent most of the day walking the River Severn footpaths before returning to Rhydd Covert – again exhausted - for an evening meal followed by a joint Danish, English, German and Polish campfire.

Tuesday 31st July – More unofficial activities and the arrival of KD8 Cub Scouts

After breakfast the Polish and KD8 Scouts left on a day trip to Drayton Manor Park while the Danish and German Scouts hiked in to Kidderminster to sample the shopping in the town – for some peculiar reason Poundland seemed to fascinate them! Following a Fish and Chip lunch they then arrived at Kidderminster Town Hall where they embarked on an enjoyable conducted tour courtesy of Charles Talbot. Following a hike back to Rhydd Covert they met up with the Cub Scouts from KD8, who, after arriving around lunchtime, had spent the much of the afternoon on the rides in the Safari Park before returning for a meal and a camp fire. Tuesday evening saw Kidderminster District Beaver Scouts joining the "camp" as they arrived at Holy Trinity School for a sleepover.

The Second Five Days – the Official Programme

Wednesday 1st August

Wednesday was the day that members of the Scouting movement across the world linked together to re-dedicate themselves by renewing their Promise. From 8.00am Rhydd Covert was video-linked, courtesy of the DRP Group from Hartlebury, to Brownsea Island, the site of Lord Baden-Powell's first



It's a Knockout

camp 100 years before. Beaver Scouts, Cub Scouts and Scouts then followed their own individual programmes for the rest of the day. Beaver Scouts put together a play during the day and performed it that evening. Cub Scouts set out for Leicester, where they visited the National Space Museum, while the Scouts began a three-day rotation of activities including climbing, pioneering, canoeing, hiking, etc. On Wednesday evening small parties of Scouts from Husum, Demark, Poland and Brazil were hosted for their evening meal by each of the Wyre Forest Scout groups.

Thursday 2nd August

“It’s a Knockout” was the main feature of Thursday. Scouts took part in the morning and Cub Scouts in the afternoon. The biggest cheer of this event was for the adult leader team who got in a hopeless muddle on the inflatable challenges, knocking each other over!! In the early evening all of the Scouts travelled to Dudley for a barge trip into the caverns at the Black Country Museum.

Friday 3rd August

Friday was an early start with over 30 coaches departing the Safari Park at 6.00 am to take everyone on a day trip to the World Scout Jamboree at Hylands Park in Essex. The size of the camp and the huge range of nationalities represented was mind boggling!! Fields full of tents gave some idea of the



It's hard work looking after Cub Scouts!

40,000 resident attendees at the Jamboree, with about the same number of day visitors. Swapping badges and other memorabilia was a favourite activity amongst the young people. One KD8 Cub Scout even traded his whole uniform shirt for a Columbian Scout shirt!!!

We all returned to camp in Kidderminster at 10.00pm, worn out, but to be greeted with a late meal.

Saturday 4th August

Beaver Scouts came back to camp for Saturday to join the Cub Scouts in a “Mad Hatters Tea Party”. This involved lots of varied activities based on games, skills and constructing things. Meanwhile the Scouts continued with their rotation of physical activities from Wednesday.

Saturday evening saw the closing ceremony of the camp. The winners of a “talent competition” run earlier in the week performed – what a lot of very talented young people we have! Just before dark the flags of the nations present were lowered and the camp closed ... except for one final event!! Once darkness had fallen the Scouts from Poland demonstrated their skills with a spectacular fire display. This included fire-juggling, fire-breathing and flame-throwing! What a magnificent way to end the camp.

Sunday 5th August

Breaking camp is always a sad time as friends old and new begin to depart. We all prayed for dry weather as we began to take down the canvas. The scouts from Husum and Denmark managed to pack everything away in rapid fashion in time to leave at 11.00 am. Our Polish visitors left just after lunch to make their coach connection in London. KD8 leaders managed to pack away dry tents and finally left the camp site at 4.00 pm, with many happy memories of this the first truly International Scout Camp at Rhydd Covert, plus the invitation to make visits to camps in Denmark, Poland, Brazil as well as the Husum district site at Tydal that we already know well.

Kelvin Morris, Stuart Hanslow and Jerry Mayfield. Photographs by Colin Hill, Stuart Hanslow and Jerry Mayfield.

(More photos of the Camp are reproduced on the back page - Ed.)

Wyre Forest International Centenary Jamboree Camp 2007 – a View from Husum

“Stjerne Gruppe”, the combined Boy Scout and Girl Guide group belonging to the Danish minority in Husum, took part in the camp after being invited by the 8th Kidderminster St. John’s Scout Group. We had heard a lot about the heavy rain in England in



Silence in Court - at the Town Hall

July, so we were very lucky, when, after a long bus ride from Husum across the Channel we saw the sun

shining over Kidderminster. Except from a few showers, we had a sunny camp. We were also very pleased, when we, after the long trip, were served



breakfast and later dinner by the camp staff, so we had plenty of time for setting up our camp.

Before the camp officially opened, we had our own programme. We spent Sunday at Alton Towers and on Tuesday we walked to Kid-

derminster to do some shopping and visit the Town Hall. On Monday evening the Scouts from 8th Kidderminster, Husum, Wrocław in Poland and Alminde-Viuf in Denmark had a joint campfire. We all enjoyed being together again as the year before we had all been at an International Camp at Tydal (between Husum and Flensburg).

On Wednesday 1st of August was the "Sunrise Ceremony". All the Scouts, Cub Scouts and Beavers at the camp met and confirmed their Scout Promise. There was also television contact to Brownsea Island, where Baden Powell had had the first Scout Camp 100 years ago. We shall never forget that morning.

Another highlight was the visit to the 21st World Scout Jamboree at Hylands Park in Essex. We were shown around by our troop leader from Husum, Neele Fahse, who was a member of the staff at the camp.

We all had a wonderful camp at Rhydd Covert with imaginative activities, traditional scouting activities – but most of all the fellowship with a lot of good Scouting friends. We are very thankful, that it was possible for all the four groups from Kidderminster, Husum, Poland and Denmark to meet again at this International Camp. We want to thank all the leaders and committee members, who have worked hard to make this camp possible. It was the best way to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Scout Movement.

Peter Bang

Display boards

Visitors to the Association's stand at the annual Kidderminster Carnival will have seen the displays of

pictures and other information that we use to publicise the various aspects of twinning, and I have set up similar displays when I'm asked to speak to WI's and other groups about twinning. For these purposes we've used display boards that we've borrowed, but the Committee has now agreed that we should purchase our own set of boards. These are now available, and will be there for use by anyone who wants to set up a display of this kind.

The boards will be lodged with me for the time being, and Jean Talbot and I also have selections of suitable material that can be used on the boards. This material includes: posters of Husum; pictures of landmarks in and around Husum; photos of people who have taken part in events and visits (e.g. Carnival and Crocus Queens, visits by Charter Trustees and past Mayors); photos of the historic events such as the first visit of Borough Councillors to Husum and of their counterparts to Kidderminster, the opening of the Husum Bridge in 2005 and so on.

Ray Harrowing

Cornish Delight

Our opposite numbers in Husum, the *Verein für Partnerschaften*, recently organised an event at the *Rathaus*, at which a German lady (married to an Englishman and a resident of Cornwall for 35 years) presented a series of slides depicting the county. The show was very well received, and, to the astonishment of the Husum twinningers, attracted an audience of more than 200! As the event went so well, the *Verein* are considering repeating the formula. If you have slides of Worcestershire, and would like to present them in Husum, do let us know!

Prizes for Budding Linguists

Pupils aged between 10 and 13 at King Charles I Secondary School were given the chance to win an I-Pod Shuffle in a bid to raise awareness of the importance of foreign languages in schools, and of Kidderminster's link to Europe through the twinning with Husum. The competition, run jointly by local translation specialists MTT (UK) Ltd and the Kidderminster-Husum Twinning Association proved to be a hit among pupils, receiving over a hundred entries. Pupils were set the task of designing pictures for a calendar, reflecting the following themes: Christmas Around the World, The Wonders of Europe, and the Kidderminster-Husum Twinning. The calendars, which were produced by MTT, were sent out to customers around the world and Twinning Association members, and were sold by the school's Modern Foreign Languages Department.

The top twelve entries all received "goodie bags" consisting of prizes generously donated by the Association and MTT, including lots of goodies collected

by twinning from visits to Husum. As an extra incentive, 1st place winner Sophie Yapp received an I-Pod Shuffle, and 2nd and 3rd prize winners Dominic Davis and Dani Bond received book tokens. The competition was launched at the school at the end of September to tie in with the European Day of Languages on the 26th. Staff at the school provided a continental breakfast for pupils and the MD of MTT, Mrs Sue Clark, gave a short talk on the importance of EDL as well as inviting students to take part in the competition.

"It is always a pleasure to see students taking an interest in learning languages. Businesses need to do more to promote the importance of these skills both in schools and in later life." says Sue.

MTT were delighted with all the entries, and it was a hard task to narrow it down to just 12 winners. All of the entries are currently on display on MTT's website:
www.midlandtechnical.co.uk/nldcalendar.html

MTT would like to thank the Twinning Association for all their help with the calendar competition and hope that they can work together more often in a bid to increase local awareness of the important roles multiculturalism and foreign language knowledge play in society.

Sue Clarke

Annual General Meeting

We do urge you to attend the Annual General Meeting if at all possible. It will include, of course, reports from the Officers on the past year, and the election of Officers and Committee, but the atmosphere is always light-hearted and friendly, and we try to include something to interest everyone. Last year we had a very interesting talk by the Head of the Regional, European and International Section of Birmingham City Council, of which you will have read in the July Newsletter; this year we hope to have a guest speaker, and of course there will be sumptuous refreshments! Those who are members of the Association, or who represent a group affiliated to it, will find enclosed with this Newsletter the papers for the AGM. We hope that you will be able to attend; others who may be interested in the Association's activities will also be welcome. Members will also find a subscription renewal request enclosed.

Charles Talbot (Secretary)

Brahms and Husum – a Noted Combination

On Friday 16th November I flew to Hamburg for a visit that would encompass three rehearsals and two

performances in three days, of works by Brahms – who was born in Heide, 35 km. from Husum. Travelling by car, plane, bus, *S-Bahn* and train, I reached Itzehoe in time to join Husum's *Theodor Storms Chor* and the *Itzehoer Konzertchor*, together with the *Witold-Lutoslawski-Philharmonie* Orchestra from Breslau in Poland, in rehearsing *Schicksalslied* (Song of Destiny) and *Ein deutsches Requiem* (German Requiem) under the IKC's Director of Music Eckhardt Heppner, before travelling on to Husum by coach, arriving at about 11.30 p.m. Next day we returned to Itzehoe for the final rehearsal, and the performance to a packed audience in the town's fine modern 500-seat *Konzerttheater*.

On Sunday we again rehearsed and performed, this time in Husum's *St. Marienkirche*, under the baton of Jens Weigelt, the TSC's conductor. This concert, again given to a full house, commenced at 5.00 p.m., after which both choirs adjourned to the Thomas Hotel for a party – friendly, relaxed, convivial, the perfect ending to a hectic and action-packed weekend.

Having decided to return home on Tuesday (the flight was cheaper!), I resisted the urge to sleep all day on Monday, and took the opportunity to meet up with Axel Fischer and *Bürgermeister* Rainer Maaß at the *Rathaus*, have lunch with tourism boss Frau Jutta Albert, and do some Christmas shopping. The next day, Georg Weßler, my host, kindly drove me to Hamburg airport, travelling via Neumünster, where we visited the *Vicelinkirche*, which was designed by C.F. Hansen, the architect of the *St. Marienkirche* in Husum.

It was good to be singing again with old friends in the *Theodor Storms Chor*, and to talk with them about their recent experiences of singing in Budapest and Vienna. Also to make contact with others involved in the very lively twinning scene in Husum. Now I'm looking forward to joining in the Kidderminster Choral Society's visit to the town in May!

Ray Harrowing

Quilters again!

Our newest group, the Wyre Forest Quilters, will be holding their annual Patchwork and Quilting Exhibition on Friday 14th March 11.30 a.m. - 4.30 p.m. and Saturday 15th March 10.00 a.m. - 4.30 p.m. at Trinity Methodist Church Hall, Churchfields, Kidderminster. Admission is free, programmes £2.00. There will be a raffle, patchwork traders and a sales table, together with refreshments.

The Quilters hope that members of the Twinning Association will be able to attend, they are sure visitors will be thrilled by the work which will be on show.

The group are also in touch with patchwork enthusiasts in Husum, and are delighted that they will soon be able to welcome visitors from Husum. We wish them well with the arrangements for this new initiative.

(See the back page for a Kidderminster quilt - in colour! - Ed.)

A Night at the Races

Once again our Social Committee have produced a winning formula! At the Race Night on the 16th November – declared by all to have been a great night out – the net proceeds towards Association funds were a very impressive £445.30. We are indeed grateful to Ken and Pat, Terry, and Val and Jerry for all their hard work, and we congratulate them on such a successful event.

Musical Meeting

Since 1st September a number of schools in Kidderminster and Stourport have been working on a choral project, called “ChOral History” – no, that’s not a typing error; it combines the two words “choral” and “oral”! Working with poets and musicians, the children are creating a modern version of the “radio ballads” that Ewan MacColl excelled in 50 years ago. The project also commemorates the work of Ralph Vaughan Williams (who died in 1957) in collecting English folksongs that were dying out even then.



The themes of the *Vaughan Williams (and friend)* children’s “modern folk songs” are all local – the railway, carpets, the canal, family life and rural life – and are set at the end of the 19th century. Geoff Weaver, the conductor of Kidderminster Choral Society and of the Wyre Forest Young Voices, is taking part in the project, and it will include public performances of the ballads and other music at Kidderminster Town Hall on the 7th and 8th March. Wyre Forest Young Voices will be taking part in the concerts, together with the well-known “Carnival Band”. A CD of the new songs has already been recorded, and will soon be available to purchase. You can find out more about the project at the Kidderminster Choral Society website (“News Headlines” page): www.kidderminsterchoralsociety.co.uk.

What has this to do with twinning? Well, we thought it would be good to invite some of the Music teachers from Husum to visit us and go to these concerts. We also had the idea that they might like to attend the AGM of the Association, and to visit some of the schools involved in the project. We are delighted that two of the teachers have been able to accept our invitation, and that they will be taking part in a programme of visits to the Town Hall, schools, choral rehearsals and so on. We shall look forward to meeting them at the AGM or at other times during their visit.

Ray Harrowing

Our first Twinning Christmas Concert

We do hope that those who were able to be at Baxter Church on the 1st December enjoyed the first Christmas Concert organised by the Association – in particular by Pam Cunningham, conductor of the Kidderminster Valentines.

We were entertained by a variety of performers: the Valentines, Baxter College Choir, St. John’s CE Primary School Choir, Stuart Orme (a tenor who is a member of the Wyre Forest Young Voices), and the Wolverley Piano Quartet (Richard Lane – violin, Katherine Price – viola, Rod Summers – cello and David Morgan – piano), and the evening was compered by Peter Tomlinson. Peter first came to the attention of ITV viewers as a member of the *Tiswas* team, but has now achieved the distinction of having been appointed the High Sheriff of the West Midlands in September 2007, and he ably held the programme together, often providing enlightening details about the forthcoming items.

The programme ranged from a hilarious performance of “The Twelve Days of Christmas” to the final movement of Mozart’s Piano Quartet in G minor, and included a number of carols that were sung by choirs and audience – accompanied on the organ by David Morgan. We were particularly pleased to welcome such a large number of people – many of whom were there to support the young people in the school choirs.

During the interval refreshments were served to audience and participants, and our thanks go to the team who dealt with this important part of the evening so efficiently. Our thanks also to our friends at Baxter Church, who kindly made the premises available and gave us valuable advice on the day.

After deducting expenses, the net proceeds from the evening were £483.43, of which half is being donated to KEMP Hospice.

Baxter College Back on Board

Baxter College, under its previous name of Harry Cheshire High School, was the first school in Kidderminster to make arrangements for the exchange of students with a Husum school – a process that started under the leadership of Pauline Geddie. The annual exchanges continued until the School became Baxter College, when Pauline left for pastures new.

We are delighted to learn that Baxter College is now in discussions with the *Realschule Nord* – the original partner school – to start the process again. Karin Urbach, who was Pauline's contact previously, is still there and keen to take up the new challenge. We do hope that the new link gets off the ground, and that we shall soon see the first of the exchange visits.

Husum Calendar

We thought that it might be useful to include a calendar of the events that will take place in or near Husum during the coming year, for any intending visitors.

March 13 – AGM of the Husumer Verein für Partnerschaften (Twinning Association)

March 15-16 – Krokusblütenfest (Crocus Festival)

March 23 – Oster-Motorradtreffen (Motorbike rally and Easter service in the Market Place)

April 9-13 – Festival folkBALTIKA

April 25 – October 4 – Landesgartenschau (Schleswig-Holstein Gardens Exhibition)

May 17 – Geranienmarkt (Geranium Market)

May 17 – July 31 – Nordfriesische Lammtage (North Friesland Lamb Days)

May 18 – International Museums Day

June 15 – September 7 – Sommerkonzerte (Programme of concerts in St. Marienkirche)

July 2-6 – JazzBaltica

July 12 – Kulturnacht (an evening of cultural events at many venues in or near the town)

July 12 – August 31 – Schleswig-Holstein Music Festival

July 16-20 – Hafentage (Harbour Days)

July 26-27 – Töpfermarkt (Pottery Market)

September 9-13 – HUSUMwind (International Wind Energy Exhibition at the Messehalle)

November 24 – December 28 Weihnachtsmarkt (Christmas Market)

Lapel Badges

Did you know that we have a "Twinning Badge"? The badge has recently been reissued in response to a number of requests. The design includes the initials "H" and "K", and the two town badges.

Why not buy one for your hosts next time you visit Husum? Or perhaps as a small gift on some other occasion? The badges are priced at £2.50 (to help meet costs). Please contact Jean Talbot (01299 832797) if you would like one or more of the badges – or you can obtain them at the AGM in March.

On the Horizon

A brief outline of events and visits that will be taking place over the next few months:

1 March - Kidderminster "Oldies" Dinner.

5 March - Association Annual General Meeting.

7-8 March – "ChOral History" concerts at Kidderminster Town Hall.

14-15 March – Wyre Forest Quilters' exhibition at Trinity Methodist Church Hall, Kidderminster.

15–16 March – visit of Kidderminster's Carnival Queen to the *Krokusblütenfest*.

28 May – 1 June – Kidderminster Choral Society visit to the *Theodor Storms Chor*.

31 May – Joint concert of Kidderminster Choral Society and the *Theodor Storms Chor*.

20–23 June – Visit of Kidderminster Gardeners to Husum.

21 June – Kidderminster Carnival (probable visit of Husum's *Krokusblütenkönigin*).

3-10 July – visit of Husum cricketers to Kidderminster Victoria Cricket Club.

25 September - 2 October - King Charles students' visit to Theodor Storm Schule.

16-21 October – Visit of Husum "Oldies" to Kidderminster.

26 March - 2 April 2009 - Theodor Storm Schule students' visit to King Charles School.

We shall be reporting on these events in future issues of "Twin Town News". Meanwhile, please watch for further details.

New Members

We are delighted to welcome the Wyre Forest Quilters as a new group affiliated to the Association, and we look forward to meeting their representatives at the AGM. We also welcome Mr. and Mrs B. Cairns as members of the Association.

Mrs Gloria Shellie

We were saddened to hear of the death, after a long period of illness, of Mrs Gloria Shellie, Mayoress of Kidderminster and thus wife of our President, Councillor Mike Shellie. Mrs Shellie had visited Husum in May last year, and we know that she enjoyed her stay there and the welcome that she and her husband received. We would like to express our deepest sympathy to Councillor Shellie and their family.



At the World Jamboree



Mad Hatters at the ready



Flaming fiesta



Beavers and Cubs in their finery



The Stjerne Gruppe



The Stjerne Gruppe campsite



A Kidderminster quilt

Kidderminster-Husum Twinning Association



Officers

Chairman - Dr. R. Summers; Secretary - Charles Talbot; Cultural Secretary - Ray Harrowing; Treasurer - Christine Dutton; Membership - Phil Austin

Website: kidderminster-husum-twinning.co.uk

Newsletter

The Twin Towns Newsletter is edited and published by Ray Harrowing. Any contributions for the next Newsletter will be welcome. Please post or email copy and photos (.jpeg format) to:

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