



Twin Town News



KIDDERMINSTER CHORAL SOCIETY

Continuing contact

Members of the Society made a third visit to Husum at the end of April - the latest in a succession of contacts with its opposite number, the Theodor Storm Choir. The four-day visit included three rehearsals, a church service, a joint concert, a visit to the historic village of Friedrichstadt and two parties - not to mention time for sightseeing, shopping and informal visits and get-togethers.

The Concert, held in St Mary's Church and accompanied by the Hamburg Camerata, consisted of Haydn's "Nelson Mass" conducted by Geoffrey Weaver, Kidderminster's Musical Director and Puccini's "Messa di Gloria" conducted by Jens Weigelt, conductor of the German Choir and organist of the church. Four excellent young soloists completed the line-up and the performance was well received by a capacity audience.

The service, on Sunday morning, included five musical contributions by the joint choirs and Bible readings by a singer from each choir. The Kidderminster singers were particularly appreciative of the fact that Probst Manfred Kamper preached his sermon in English!

Travel (coach to Heathrow, flight to Hamburg and coach to Husum) was uneventful despite bomb scares in various parts of the country around that time. On the return journey, a slight stir was caused by the pilot announcing - as he looked straight at the sign saying "Hamburg" - that we would shortly be departing from Berlin!

Ray Harrowing

WYRE FOREST ARTS FORUM

The forum goes international

Easter Monday saw the opening of a three week exhibition of paintings and other works of art and craft from the members of the Wyre Forest Arts Forum in the Town Hall in Husum.

About 30 people contributed to the show, which travelled by van via the Harwich - Esbjerg ferry route with artists Peter Harper and Colin Simmonds as the exhibition team. Peter and Colin were made very welcome by the Chairman of the Twinning Association, Frau Barbara Heller and other Husumers, and they took part in the opening ceremony before returning home. The exhibition was very well received by visitors, who appreciated the representational style of many of the works on show - artists in Germany today tend to concentrate on more abstract or impressionist styles.

The exhibition returned to Britain three weeks later and the Forum is now planning further ventures into continental Europe, with possible visits to the twin towns associated with Bewdley and Stourport-on-Severn. Ray Harrowing

CHARTER SIGNING ANNIVERSARY VISIT

10th - 5th APRIL 1997

In response to the invitation received from the Town Council of Husum, a delegation comprising the Mayor and Mayoress, Councillor and Mrs Peter Carter, the Town Clerk and Mrs Talbot, Mr and Mrs Norman Broome, Mr and Mrs Terry Denslow and Mr Andy Allen (Kidderminster Shuttle) visited Husum to celebrate the event. Andy Allen was the guest of the Husum weekly newspaper "Palette".

Thursday 10th - the party flew to Hamburg and were transported to Hinrichsens Hotel, Husum in the Town car and the Husum Fire Brigade Minibus! The group took a brisk walk to see the famous Crocus blooms in the Park, in weather considerably colder than that in which they had left home that morning. In the evening the Bürgermeister, Herr Cornelius Kohl accompanied by Frau Barbara Heller, the Chairman of the Kidderminster Kuratorium, entertained the party to a meal at Nino's Restaurant opposite the Hotel.

Friday 11th - The first engagement of the day was a visit to the Haus der Jugend where the party was welcomed by Thomas Jarstorff, the

Deputy Youth Leader. He conducted a tour of the building and a most interesting discussion was held on Youth Work in Husum. They were very pleased to have been awarded a prize of 5000DM for an environmental project. The party then visited the Theodor Storm Museum and were shown a video.

Lunch was taken in the Ratskeller and was followed by a visit to the Rathaus where the Bürgermeister gave a talk on Husum and its present problems. The group was also able to look at the exhibition by the Wyre Forest Arts Forum which was displayed in the building.

In the evening the group was entertained to dinner in the Ratskeller by the Magistrat, the Senior Councillors representing each party on the Town Council.

Saturday 12th - The morning was free and after lunch there was a visit to the Ship Museum followed by an informal meeting with the Kidderminster Kuratorium in the Tine Cafe. There were useful discussions on many aspects of the twinning and especially on how families and individuals could be involved. The representative of the Volkshochschule, Herr Stumbiz, suggested that people taking part in English classes there may be glad to assist. In the evening the Kuratorium hosted a dinner at "Anna's" which ended with a merry sing-song!

Sunday 13th - An excursion was arranged by coach to Schleswig and Friedrichstadt but unfortunately the coach failed to appear. However, Frau Heller and the Town Clerk were able to take the party in their cars. A tour of the Provincial Museum at Schloss Gottorp was followed by a visit to the Cathedral to see the magnificent wooden Altar carved by Bruggeman. The next stop was the Museum at Haitabu, site of the Viking city from which the Vikings sailed to found York.

The convoy then made its way by a scenic route with a photo stop in a village where the first rather bedraggled storks had just arrived on their summer nests. The weather being far from summer-like, the party shivered its way to Friedrichstadt - unfortunately it was too cold to enjoy exploring this pretty town, and was glad to retreat to the warmth and welcome of the restaurant for dinner.

Monday 14th - The first appointment was at the Herman Tast School, the oldest Grammar School in Husum. The party was shown an exciting environmental project called "Rolling Stone" which is an energy saving programme devised and run since 1992 by the pupils in year 10. The town of Husum pays for school funding and gave 9000DM back to the school after the first year of the project to invest in further projects. Now the school receives 75% of any savings made: this year they have received 15,000DM back from the Town.

Next on the schedule was a visit to Realschule Husum Nord, twinned with Harry Cheshire High School. Herr Helfried Demandewicz, the Head Master, welcomed the party who were then entertained by a class singing English songs accompanied on the guitar by Herr Pfeiffer. A discussion on the activities of the two schools was led by Herr Demandewicz over a sandwich lunch.

The afternoon was free for shopping/resting.

A special meeting of the town council was held in the evening at the Rathaus to mark the 20th Anniversary of the signing of the Town Twinning Charter. Speeches were made by the Bürgermeister- Herr Kohl, the Mayor- Councilor Carter, Mr Norman Broome and Frau Heller. Civic gifts were exchanged - a mounted photograph of the window in the King Charles Room was presented by the Mayor who received an engraved brass tray. Musical interludes were provided by the Collegium Musicum Orchestra under the direction of Herr Thomas Wiese. The Bürgervorsteher, Dr Grunski, closed the proceedings and invited all those present to a reception in the foyer at which the Youth Brass Band of Rödemis provided the music.

Tuesday 15th - the party departed for Hamburg Airport during the morning.

C E Talbot

FOLEY PARK METHODIST YOUTH GROUP

Two members of the group visited Husum at the end of May with leaders Richard and Heidi Hague.

The district youth worker, Herr Lars Wulff arranged a full programme for us. We met with church youth groups and church youth workers and had the privilege of speaking at the church district youth council, which was mutually encouraging. We had an hour's audience with Herr Kamper the Probst (Archdeacon) in the Husum/Bredstedt district and we thanked him for his generous giving of time, resources and staff in making our visit beneficial and successful.

From these various meetings we feel that this visit has paved the way forward in developing the twinning of church youth work between the two towns/areas by mutual encouragement and desire for initiating new relationships over the next years. There is already an embryonic interest amongst some church youth leaders in the Kidderminster / Wyre Forest area and we feel the potential for a larger involvement on both sides could grow.

Richard Hague

YOUTH HOUSE, KIDDERMINSTER

The Youth House played host to a visiting Youth Group from the **Haus der Jugend, Husum**, from Tuesday 22 July to Friday 26 July. This fairly short visit was part of an overall trip to England which included a stay in London and visits to other places of interest.

The group was led by Thomas Jastorff, the Deputy youth leader in Husum who linked up with Dave Williams the District Youth Worker in Wyre Forest. The group spent most of their time exploring the Wyre Forest area and Kidderminster in particular. They stayed at the County Youth Sailing Centre at Upton Warren, Wychbold where they were able to sample the water activities.

Arrangements in England were made by Jacqueline Boulter, our European volunteer, who extended her stay in Kidderminster in order to be involved in this twinning visit.

KEMP HOSPICE**A Hospice for Husum?**

The Kirchenkreis Husum-Bredstedt is the Lutheran Church organisation which covers the Husum area. It is very active in various areas of social work and one of the projects which is being considered is the establishment of a hospice in the town. Frau Marketta Wessler, who was one of the hosts for the Kidderminster Choral Society visit, will be working on the project and her contacts with Kidderminster had already prompted the thought of finding out more about KEMP Hospice. This was taken further in conversation over the weekend with Mrs Libby Harris, one of the Choral Society singers, who is the chief fundraiser with KEMP Hospice. It is likely that Frau Wessler will be coming to Kidderminster in 1988 with Probst Manfred Kamper, head of the Kirchenkreis, to study KEMP and other local hospices.

Ray Harrowing

PUPPET THEATRE**That's the way to do it!**

One of the highlights in Husum's calendar of activities is the "Pole Puppenspälerstag", a two week festival of puppet theatre, street theatre, masks and marionettes, which is based on one of Theodor Storm's novels and which takes over the town in September. The festival attracts wide interest with performers coming from Scandinavia, Russia, Eastern Europe, Britain and many other places.

Two of Britain's foremost exponents of the puppeteer's craft, Glyn and Mary Edwards, live in Far Forest. Their work is known throughout Europe and beyond - Glyn has recently returned from a trip to Dubai with his Punch and Judy show! They are now in touch with the organisers of the Husum festival and talking about taking part in the 1998 Pole Puppenspälerstag.

Ray Harrowing

WYRE FOREST CAMERA CLUB**Snap!**

The first steps have been taken to set up links between photographic societies in Husum and the Kidderminster area.

Wyre Forest Camera Club are keen to make contact and this message has been taken to Herr Gerhard Paul who is a leading light in two clubs in Husum as well as in photographic circles in Germany. He also has links with the Volkshochschule (Evening Institute) in Husum where he used to teach and which is available as a base for exhibitions, social events and so on. Husum itself, and the islands, seascapes and landscapes of the surrounding area, offer many superb subjects for the photographer and we hope that this contact will develop to provide opportunities for our local cameramen, as well as introducing Husum photographers to the delights of Worcestershire.

Ray Harrowing

FOOTBALL**New sporting link**

As reported in the Kidderminster Shuttle, footballers are to represent the town of Kidderminster in the first match in more than 40 years of town twinning.

The exchange was due to take place in September but has had to be postponed until next April when twenty players from The Red Man United pub's team are planning to travel to Husum to play the town team Husum SV. The players will be staying in the Army barracks! It is hoped a return leg will be played later in the year.

CRICKET**Yes....Cricket in Husum!!!**

Germany is not known as a cricketing nation but Husum's proximity to the Danish border ensures an influence on its sporting life.

Andy Allen, the Shuttle reporter who accompanied the Civic and Twinning delegation to Husum in April to celebrate the Charter Anniversary, used his investigative skills to the full in tracking down this little known aspect of sporting life in the town.

The Husum Cricket Club was founded in 1967 by Henry Buhl, a sportsman with a passion for cricket. The club's ground is at the Mikkelberg Centre in Hattstedt, just to the North of Husum. There are practice nets, a clubhouse and self contained accommodation for visiting teams. The Club has over 100 members, plays in the Danish first division and is sponsored by the Danish government.

The youth coach, Karl-Heinz Blumenau, is looking forward to making a link with the Kidderminster Cricket Club and talks are under way with the Secretary, Ray Wall to see what can be arranged.

The Mikkelberg Centre was the inspiration of Henry Buhl and also has exhibition and gallery space in beautifully converted mill buildings.

TENNIS

Anyone for tennis?...

The Husum/Rödemis Tennis Club has expressed an interest in exchanging with the Kidderminster Tennis Club. Barbara Heller, whom many of you know as the Chairman of the Kidderminster Kuratorium, is a keen tennis player and is now in contact with Ray Shuck to discuss possibilities.

EXPERIMENT IN INTERNATIONAL LIVING

Jacqueline Boulter flew into Birmingham airport on 19 January 1997 to join the staff of the Wyre Forest District Youth Service, based in Kidderminster, for 6 months. The programme provides opportunities to sample life and work in another country and to improve language skills.

During the time Jacqueline has been with us she has made an invaluable contribution to many aspects of our work. She has assisted with the Senior Youth Club and the Gymnastic Club and has carried out administration and reception duties on a daily basis. Providing additional language coaching in German to a student from a Wyre Forest High School has resulted in that student herself making arrangements to go to Germany for 6 months as part of the E I L programme.

We are most grateful to Jacqueline's host family, Mr and Mrs Hill who made her so welcome.

We have agreed to have another volunteer next January and are trying to persuade the E I L to allow us to 'exchange' volunteers with Husum - so if anyone is interested please get in touch with the Youth House, Kidderminster. Terry Denslow

HELFRIED DEMANDEWICZ

It was with deep regret that we received news of the sudden death of Helfried Demandewicz, Head of the Realschule Nord in Husum, on Thursday, 5th June 1997.

On Monday, 9 June I was informed by Husum Town Hall that the funeral would take place on Wednesday 11 June in Husum/Schwesing Church. With the authority of the Mayor and Deputy Mayor I flew to Hamburg on Tuesday June 10 to represent Kidderminster, the Twinning Association and the Harry Cheshire High School at the funeral. I was met and taken to Husum where I stayed privately.

The following day I attended the funeral with the Bürgermeister, Herr Kohl, at Schwesing Church. I had arranged for wreaths to be sent from the Kidderminster/Husum Twinning Association and Harry Cheshire High School.

The next day, I visited Realschule Nord and held a long discussion with the Acting Headmaster, Herr Bonse, to reassure him of our commitment to the exchange. I also met Herr Pfeiffer, Frau Doose and Frau Clausen, the teachers concerned with the exchange, and arranged for them to continue their personal contacts with Harry Cheshire High School.

During the next four days I contacted and/or visited the Husum Cricket Club, the Puppeteers, Herr Cohrs of CJ Schmidt, The Husum Männer Chor, the Husum Shanty Chor, the Palette newspaper, Frau Barbara Heller of the Kidderminster Kuratorium, and the Allotment Holders Society. C E Talbot

Other News

At the Management Committee Meeting held on Wednesday 25 June it was reported that the Kidderminster Chess Club and the Husum Chess Clubs were making moves to meet.

On Friday 27 June Mr Talbot received a Fax from the Husum Town Hall asking whether a local Ballet /Dance group would be interested in exchanging - he is already responding to a request from the Performing Arts Course at Kidderminster College to make a dance tour of Schleswig Holstein.

On Saturday 28 June the TSV Husum Swimming Club arrived to spend a week with the Kidderminster Swimming Club. Report in the next issue.

Those who know Gotfried Gervink will be pleased to hear that after a long period of illness he returned to work at the Town Hall on 1 July.

Membership

IF ANY INDIVIDUAL OR ORGANISATION HAS NOT PAID THIS YEAR'S SUBSCRIPTION WOULD THEY PLEASE DO SO AS SOON AS POSSIBLE TO THE TREASURER.