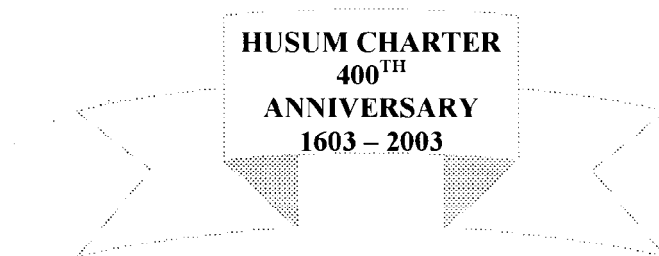

Twin Town News

Volume 6: Issue 1

June 2003



This year Husum celebrates the 400th Anniversary of its Town Charter

***'FROM HUSUM CASTLE TO THE KING CHARLES ROOM
- my town, the 400th Anniversary of its Charter : 1603 to 2003'***

an illustrated talk by
Dr Ulf von Hielmcrone MdL
Member of Parliament for Husum

7.30pm Monday 7th July 2003
in the King Charles Room, Kidderminster Town Hall

*Arranged by Kidderminster Civic Society as part of its 10th Anniversary year programme,
jointly with the Kidderminster/Husum Twinning Association.*

Mayoral Visit to Husum, for the 400th Anniversary of the Town's Charter.

Husumers celebrated their 400th Anniversary in grand style on Saturday 3rd May. The vast new Messchalle on Husum's outskirts was decked out for a fine ceremony-to which an official party from Kidderminster had been specially invited, namely the Mayor and Mayoress, Councillor and Mrs Ken Stokes, the Town Clerk, Charles and Jean Talbot, and myself and my wife Sandra. The ceremony was opened by no less than the Prime Minister of Schleswig-Holstein, Mrs Heidi Simonis and the main address was given by Dr. von Hielmcrone, MP for Husum in the regional Parliament. A most eloquent and scholarly man, he spoke on the history and development of Husum, and of the proud spirit of its inhabitants over the centuries. His address lasted a full forty-five minutes, and held the audience in rapt attention throughout. The same evening, and again to mark the occasion, our party had the honour of being dined in the Schloss-the first such

event in 200 years. This was followed by a candle lit tour of the Castle, conducted by Dr. von Hielmcrone- once again displaying his great sense of history.

Our visit spanned a week. Town twinning having a high profile there, we made contact with many prominent figures, including the new Mayor Frau Encke, leading members of both the SDP and CDU Parties, and Georg Wessler (Chairman) and other members of the newly constituted Partnerschaft Verein (Twinning Committee). Sandra and I also visited the Golf Club to discuss the proposed Kidderminster/Husum Golf Day, which now has a framework and possible date for May 2004.

In a very busy schedule we were treated to two outstanding trips the first by Lore (a small gauge railway) to the Hallig island of Oland, with its 27 inhabitants, shop, post office, inn (where we lunched), and school for the island's seven pupils.

The resident teacher showed us around. The island was fortunate in our view to have a teacher of such evident quality.

The railway crosses the mudflats which flood at high tide, timing thus being of the essence. On the return leg the sea was lapping up to the rails immediately beneath our feet. Driving this train is clearly a fine art. Timing is also crucial for the many hikers who brave the track over the causeway-apparently none were lost on the day of our visit.

Our trip was as guests of the young Dykemaster and his wife, the Mordhorsts. We are delighted that they are joining our twinning activities.

The second was by car with Messrs Bauer and Schumacher to Schleswig to the Viking settlement at Haitabu. There are two Viking ships in a superb new museum along with many artefacts. This is well worth a visit for anyone on a Husum trip. (To my chagrin, being part Norwegian, I heard that Haitabu had been the centre of the Viking trade routes. My beliefs that such a metropolis could only be in Norway have taken a knock. We Nordics do not accept responsibility for the rape and pillage stuff, more the trade and industry.)

Our return journey took us to the stork capital of Bergenhusen-this small village has carefully nurtured the stork population, most of it in residence on this occasion-and then on to the beautiful Dutch-style town, Friedrichstadt.

Sandra and I were particularly touched at the invitation to see Mr Bauer's new house in construction, then to Mr. Schumacher's modern bungalow for a little refreshment and to meet his wife. NB. The term bungalow does little justice to the German equivalent which is in general on a larger and more lavish scale than in our country.

No report is complete without mention of the food. Our meals in the many restaurants and bars were outstanding. The fresh plaice was delicious, and constituted the bulk of Sandra and my diet. The Talbots specialising in herring and shrimps and the Stokes's, salmon or steak. We all enjoyed the fresh asparagus and an occasional Pharisaeer!-all at reasonable prices.

The Mayor and his wife had beer spilt over them by an embarrassed waitress necessitating their return to base for a change of clothing, while your chairman spilt his red wine on a different occasion over Mrs. Mordhorst's cream trouser suit. These activities need critical scrutiny.

More friendships were made and more friendships increased. Casual acquaintances become with time close friends.

I would like to thank the Mayor and Mayoress, Cllr. and Mrs Stokes for leading us on this important occasion. In particular we all owe a debt of gratitude to Charles and Jean Talbot for their tireless work and enthusiasm in the twinning process. They are pivotal in all arrangements, and their efforts are hugely appreciated.

Rod Summers, Chairman

New Twinning Association for Husum

Last October saw the foundation of a new Association in Husum for Twinning partnerships. As well as being formally twinned with Kidderminster, Husum also has links with Gentoft in Denmark, Schoenlanke in Poland and Heiligenstadt formerly in the DDR. The Chairman of this new Verein is Georg Wessler, whom many will know through the Theodor Storms choir and church links; the Vice Chairman is Karin Urbach who teaches at Realschule Husum Nord and has visited Kidderminster many times with the Harry Cheshire School exchange; the Treasurer is Heinrich Linkogel also a member of the Storms choir; Annegret von Hielmcrone who owns the Delff Bookshop in Husum (husband Ulf is a former Mayor of Husum and currently Member of the Schleswig Holstein Parliament in Kiel), Herr Evers a retired teacher from the Hermann Tast Grammar School, Frau Chromik the Head of the Theodor Storm Grammar School and Herr Stumbitz from the Volkshochschule make up their Committee. Five of them will be visiting Kidderminster at the end of this month, some for the first time. They will follow a programme of visits arranged by the Association. You are invited to meet and welcome them at a Garden Party (weather permitting!) with buffet and drinks hosted by our Chairman and his wife on Tuesday 1st July 2003 from 7.00pm at Knight House, Wolverley. Please return the enclosed reply slip if you would like to attend.

Kidderminster Husum Twinning Association

To join as a new member or to renew your subscription, please send to the Membership Secretary, Phil Austin, 12 Mayfield Close, Kidderminster DY11 5NG

Individual/Family/Couple £ 5.00

Corporate: club, society, organisation £25.00

The Kidderminster Choral Society visit to Husum, 28th May to 1st June 2003.

Bob Powell writes: The Society accepted the kind invitation of the Theodor Storms Chor to visit them during the celebration of Husum's 400th Anniversary. This was the fourth official visit by KCS to Husum, and their first for four years, having had to cancel the planned visit in 2001 because of the foot and mouth disease epidemic in the UK.

The Society was represented by a party of 39, who travelled to Husum by various routes. The largest group, 21, flew from Birmingham to Hamburg, whilst others made their arrangements to arrive by 28th May.

The principle event during the visit was the concert in The St. Marienkirche on Saturday 31st May, when the joint choirs sang Mozart's Solemn Vespers conducted by Geoff Weaver, and the Harmonie Messe by Haydn, conducted by Jens Weigelt.

Besides the concert there was a full programme of social events laid on by the Husumers for their guests including visits to The Schiffarts Museum, the Multimar Wattforum at Toenning, and Roter Haubarg. There was a 'grill party' at one of the TCS member's homes and a farewell party at the Thomas Hotel. One of the Kidderminster members had knitted a monkey, which was raffled. 230 Euros was raised, which was donated to a Husum school for disabled children.

This visit once again demonstrates the magic of twinning and the fun that people will have when they share a common interest, such as music.

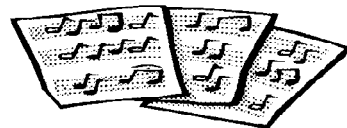
KCS now look forward to hosting the Theodor Storms Chor, when they next visit Kidderminster in 2005.

Ray Harrowing writes of the same visit:

This visit – the seventh contact between the Choral Society and the Theodor Storms Chor over the past 13 years – was perhaps one of the most memorable, chiefly for the wonderful weather that (as we said) we took with us from England! A total of 41 people (including 27 singers) made the trip from Kidderminster, a number of us starting at 3.30 a.m. to catch the flight from Birmingham and arriving in Husum at about 11.30 a.m. Others travelled by ferry from and to various destinations, and we think that everyone has now arrived home (although we're not too sure).

Over four days, we rehearsed together four times and presented a joint concert. However, we were also able to fit in a huge barbecue (150 people), a visit to the Schiffarhts Museum, another to the Wattforum at Tönning, a lot of shopping and outings here, there and everywhere. Our hosts were, as ever, most welcoming and generous, and the farewell party on Saturday evening had everyone promising to get together again as soon as possible. The first-timers among our group couldn't understand why they had not made the trip before.

On returning home, two of our group were able to get an interview on Radio Hereford and Worcester during which we not only enthused about the trip but were also able to put in a word about North Friesland and its potential for holiday visits; we hope that a contribution to our expenses will be coming from the Husum Tourist Office!



OTHER NEWS

❖ *KIDDERMINSTER GIFT TO ST. MARIENKIRCHE*

The project to donate a window to St. Marienkirche as part of the refurbishment of the church is on track again; we shall be providing two panes of engraved glass, one showing the statue of Richard Baxter and the other a dedication, the remainder of the window being in plain glass. An appeal will be launched very soon to pay for the costs of engraving and installing the whole window.

❖ *A TWINNING AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CHURCHES*

The Churches' agreement between St. Mary's and Trinity Methodist in Kidderminster and St. Marienkirche in Husum is slowly being formulated and is still subject to agreement by the church in Husum.

❖ *CHURCHES' VISIT TO KIDDERMINSTER*

After a number of attempts to find suitable dates, this visit has been arranged for the end of August, and it is hoped that about ten people from a number of churches in Husum will make the visit. We hope to be able both to show new visitors some of the delights of North Worcestershire and to have some discussions about the ways in which the churches in our two towns can work together more closely in the future. We see this visit as one part of a programme that will hopefully involve families, individuals and congregations in visiting and learning more about our similarities as well as our differences.

❖ *CONTACTS BETWEEN SCHOOLS, ETC.*

Herr Weßler and Herr Evers visited Holy Trinity School when they were here in March, and a possible link with the Hermann-Tast-Schule is being explored. When the Husum Verein are here at the end of this month Frau Chromik, from the Theodor-Storm-Schule, will be visiting Wolverley High School to

explore a similar link, and Herr Stumbitz, Principal of the Volkshochschule, will be exploring a further link, this time with Kidderminster College.

❖ **SCOUTS**

The KD 8 Scout Group will be visiting the Danish Scouts in Husum from 29th July to 7th August for the first time. They will all camp together at a special camp site at Tydal some way from Husum and will make visits to Denmark and to Husum. Their leaders are Mr & Mrs Jerry Mayfield who were members of the Kidderminster Youth Group to Husum in 1964! This is the first time that the Danish Community in Husum has taken part in a Twinning Event.

❖ **VALENTINES**

The Valentines Choir will make their second visit to Husum over the August Bank Holiday weekend and will be joined by the Kidderminster Male Choir who will be on their first visit.

❖ **KIDDERMINSTER MALE CHOIR**

The Kidderminster Male Choir will give concerts in Husum and the neighbouring town of Bredstedt.

❖ **WEST MERCIA POLICE BAND**

The Band will be visiting Husum for the Music Festival from 19th to 22nd September giving concerts in the St Marienkirche and at the Harbourside. This is their second visit to which they are greatly looking forward.

MORE CELEBRATIONS IN HUSUM-23rd May to 2nd June – an unofficial private visit

Following the formal opening of the festivities at the beginning of May, the main Celebrations were held in the town centre over the weekend 23 –25May.

The Harbourside was filled with stalls and the Market held a huge tent which covered TINE and had a stage with more stalls outside. One of the attractions was a large assembly of Beauty Queens from all over Germany representing many tourist attractions including the Husum Crocus Queen, the two Cabbage Queens from neighbouring Ditmarschen, an Asparagus Queen, a Lamb Queen and a Potato Queen. Naturally, bands played, sausages were consumed and beer flowed; and it rained!!

In the evening there was a stunning laser show at the Harbour and more music.

On Sunday, the weather began to improve and by 3 pm the sun had come out for the great Procession which went all round the town and comprised over 100 entries ranging from the Shooting Guilds and the Ringreiter Guilds (Mounted Lancers) to folk groups, horse drawn floats ancient tractors and vintage cars carrying the Beauty Queens-a fabulous display, a kilometre long, which took an hour to pass!

The remainder of the week comprised a visit to the State Parliament in Kiel to see their new Debating Chamber and to the Hallig Groede which has five houses, a church in one of the houses, a school with two children, a Post office but no shop or pub! It is the smallest commune in Germany. The weather was brilliant.

Saturday saw the first 'Night of Culture' in Husum. The Kidderminster Choral Society had arrived during the week and gave an excellent concert of Mozart and Haydn works in the Marienkirche with the Theodor Storms Chor. After the Concert, twelve attractions including the five Husum Museums were open until midnight and all had special events. The Castle was candle lit and Dr von Hielmcrone gave a guided tour of the interior. The Town Hall held a Jazz concert for all comers from Midnight to 2am!! No trouble, just several thousand people enjoying themselves.

On Sunday morning a visit was paid to the Husum Cricket Club to watch a match between Husum and Alborg in Denmark which Husum won by 6 wickets. Incidentally, the man in charge of the scoreboard came from Wolverhampton and had lived in the area for 30 years, accent not lost! All too soon it was homeward bound—Tscheuss!! until August.....

Charles and Jean Talbot

If you have any other news of visits, formal or informal- please let us know- all reports welcome: email or snail mail to Jean Talbot, Barratts Court, Rectory Lane, Rock, Kidderminster DY14 9RR: 01299 832797 or to charles@talbotkidder.demon.co.uk

Chairman /Dr R Summers Secretary /Charles Talbot Cultural Secretary /Ray Harrowing
Treasurer / Mike Dutton Membership /Phil Austin