

Twin Town News

Volume 5 Issue 1

MARCH 2001

EVENTS PAST - 2000

- * **january: retirement of propst kamper**- visit by churches representatives
- * **february/march: school exchange / drama project**- between harry cheshire community high school and husum realschule nord
- * **may: husumer fest social evening**-at kidderminster cricket club with music by members and friends
- * **june: fire brigade 125 celebrations**-visit by hereford and worcester fire service representative
- * **july: collegium musicum visit**-to wyre forest symphony orchestra
- * **july: youth house exchange**
- * **august: church youth exchange**
- * **september: west mercia police band**-visit to international band competition in husum
- * **october: visit by young voices**
- * **november: books about husum presented to kidderminster library**-by Frau von Hielmerone of bookshop Delff
- * **december: civic visit to Husum**-by Cllr Nigel and Mrs Jenny Knowles -Mayor and Mayoress of Kidderminster
- * **and countless personal contacts and private visits between friends!**

Silver celebration of Twinning Charter

On October 20th 1997 the twinning Charter between Kidderminster and Husum was signed in Kidderminster by the Mayor, Councillor Norman Broome and Bürgervorsteher Herr Ilner.

The Association will be arranging several events this year to celebrate our anniversary – so please come along with family and friends to take us forward to the next 25 years!

Trips to Husum

Ken Garbett will take groups of up to eight people to Husum in his minibus – the cost will be £75 maximum per person. For dates, prices and other information please telephone him on 01562 754168. If you have not visited Husum before we can help with accommodation, advice and contacts.

Husum celebrates

In 2003 Husum will celebrate the 400th anniversary of the granting of its Charter. This will be marked by a season of celebrations throughout the year so if your organisation is twinned or is thinking of twinning, start planning now!!! The Husum calendar will be packed with special events and it is likely that Kidderminster will feature in the planning so watch this space for further news.

EVENTS TO COME -2001

march: visit of Husum Mayor and councillors

march/april: annual school exchange

march 27th: annual general meeting / cheese and wine evening/talk by Hendrik Bebbber on 'cultural heritage of the new federal states'

may: visit to husum by kidderminster churches group

may: visit to husum by kidderminster choral society

june 22nd: musical social evening- at Kidderminster Cricket Club

july: youth house exchange

october 20th: the 25th anniversary of signing the twinning charter in kidderminster- celebration

event to be planned

- please let us know of other invitations exchanges and events
- brief reports and news items are always welcome for the newsletter as are
- suggestions for new exchanges, requests for information, enquiries about any aspect of twinning, suggestions for the programme.....

Civic Visit – to Husum

In December 2000 Cllr Nigel Knowles and Mrs Jenny Knowles the Mayor and Mayoress of Kidderminster made their first visit to Husum with Charles Talbot, Town Clerk and Jean Talbot. As usual the programme was non-stop. The Mayor writes:

After the flight from Birmingham to Hamburg we were taken by minibus to Husum. We checked in at Hotel Hinrichsen, then enjoyed an excellent pizza just across the street at Nico's with Annegret von Hielmcrone - an extremely nice welcome to Husum in the early evening but the night was young! We next went harbour-side to visit the Husum Shanty Chor's practice evening and sample the special Advent doughnuts!

The next morning there was a civic reception and welcome by Frau Bürgermeisterin Belker and Burgervorsteher Peter Empen with the local press and our first view of Husum in daylight. Then after a walk round the weekly market I purchased three of Theodor Storm's works from Annegret's wonderful bookshop and couldn't help but notice that 'Harry Potter' is everywhere. After lunch we visited the waste management company to hear that despite recycling being a key element, a waste to energy plant is being planned. The civic party was entertained to dinner by Frau Belker at a restaurant on the dykes.

The following day visits were made first to the County Office of North Friesland in Husum, then to the Husum Hospital and in the afternoon to the Theodor Schaffer complex, a truly excellent centre for retraining and rehabilitation of young people with serious illness and disability. The evening was spent at a Christmas concert.

On Saturday morning a guided walk of the town was followed by lunch in the old brewery restaurant and cheering Husum's football team to a successful 3/nil win. Dinner was privately hosted.

Sunday was wet and windy but we really enjoyed a day with hosts who took us for a long drive out to the dykes and the shore of the North Sea. We liked the old Catholic church near to the sea but noticed the sombre wooden memorial with the names of those who had fallen at the Somme. The Pottery was crowded with people like us, all looking for a suitable bargain. The owner was aware of Husum's link with Kidderminster and he intends to visit us 'one of the days'.

On Monday we were taken by Dr Ulf von Hielmcrone, Husum's Member of Parliament, to Kiel to visit the Schleswig Holstein Parliament. A party of visiting schoolchildren were being encouraged by their teachers to engage in debate in the Parliament's Chamber. We had a conducted tour of the building then lunched at the Kiel Yacht Club - most impressive. In the evening Ulf and Annegret gave their Kidderminster guests a wonderful supper at home.

Before leaving for Hamburg airport on the last morning we visited Realschule Nord Husum, [twinned with Harry Cheshire Community High School] and the adjacent Husum Sports Club and enjoyed the hospitality of the Headmaster and his staff.

After this most enjoyable Civic visit to Husum I am now more able to appreciate the strong links between our two towns. May I recommend the literary works of Theodor Storm. His stories portray the essence of Husum and its people better than any guide book.

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Civic Visit – from Husum

In March 2001 it was the turn of Kidderminster to host a 10 person civic delegation from Husum. For the Bürgermeisterin Frau Ursula Belker and several of the Councillors it was their first visit here. It was a pleasure to welcome back some more familiar faces including Bürgervorsteher Herr Peter Empen.

The party was welcomed at a Civic Reception in the King Charles Room and received gifts of a painting from The Mayor and Charter Trustees and a piece of cut glass from Cllr John Gordon, Chairman of Wyre Forest District Council.

Visits were made to Woodward Grosvenor and Sealine International. Cllr Peter Carter, Chairman of Worcestershire County Council, received them at County Hall and presented them with a rug woven by Brintons with the County crest. They were received at the Guildhall by the Mayor of Worcester and after lunching there toured Worcester Porcelain factory.

They took a trip on the Severn Valley Railway, had a town walk through Kidderminster, heard a presentation by the Chief Planning Officer about the Town Centre redevelopment plan, met Canon Owain Bell at St Mary's Church and were privately hosted by Councillors on Saturday evening when Frau Belker and Herr Empen accompanied The Mayor and Mayoress to the Stourport Mayor's Ball.

Our guests were permitted the odd hour or two of free time but in the nature of these visits, the aim is to fit in as much as possible in the short time available!

OTHER VISITS

SCHOOL EXCHANGE

The Harry Cheshire High School Theatre Company went on tour to Husum and Roskilde, in Denmark from Tuesday April 25th–Wednesday May 3rd 2000. Our tour, which also included students on our usual exchange and 3 students completing work experience, really did mark THE HIGH POINT of our connections and visits to Husum since the inauguration of our school exchange with Realschule Husum Nord in 1995.

We attended a reception at the Rathaus on Thursday and were interviewed by the local press in school on the Friday morning after Emma Lashford, our drama teacher, had run a very successful workshop involving all our students and many Realschule students. On Friday evening the Theatre Group performed at the Speicher to school staff, parents and invited guests. They then continued their tour to Roskilde and rejoined the rest of us on Tuesday May 2nd for our return journey. In their absence the rest of us had a wonderful time... spending a day out in Hamburg on Saturday, sightseeing in and around Husum and attending lessons at school on Tuesday. Three students also completed 2 days Work Experience, one at Frau v Hielmerone's bookshop, another at C J Schmidt's department store and a third at the Tourist Information Office. This year we have just said Goodbye to our 11 Husum guests accompanied by their

teachers, Karin Urbach and Stephen Kinder, who came to stay in Kidderminster from Thursday March 15th until Thursday March 22nd. We spent 2 days out in Stratford and London, the Husum group were welcomed to Kidderminster by Charles Talbot on a tour of the Town Hall on Monday and also spent time in lessons and visiting the Royal Worcester Porcelain Works.

Pauline Tabberer

**CHURCH YOUTH GROUP
ENJOY A WEEK IN
KIDDERMINSTER
August 2000**

A group of young people – five girls and five boys – with their two leaders lived for a week with host families in Kidderminster in August before going on to spend a few days in Wales. The youngsters, from Christuskirche (Christ Church), were on their second visit to England, most of them having been in Broadstairs, Kent, two years ago, but none had been to Kidderminster before. Miriam Lehmann, daughter of Pastor Kurt Lehmann, had made a preliminary visit in the previous September, and she, her father and Ray Harrowing did the detailed planning for the trip. During their stay, the group visited the Wyre Forest, Bewdley, Stratford-on-Avon, Birmingham and Worcester,

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besides spending a day shopping in the town and being shown around Kidderminster Town Hall by Charles Talbot. This made a great impression on them as well as on their leaders Charles only needs the furled umbrella held aloft to place himself in the front rank of tour guides! A trip to St Mary's including the bell ringing room in the tower, also coincided with a wedding and the youngsters were very glad of the opportunity to see the wedding party arriving.

On all their trips the German visitors were accompanied by young people from Kidderminster, some of whom later visited Husum in October 2000 with the Wyre Forest Young Voices choir. On the final evening of their stay, the Husumers were guests at a party in the King Charles Room at the Town Hall, when the entertainment included a demonstration by Mary Ross Baulk of the Butterfly Puppet Theatre. She invited volunteers to operate some of her many fascinating glove puppets and we quickly recognised at least three young Husumers who could in due course be taking their place in the groups that make Husum's Polepuppenspälerstage such a well-known event. The group left Kidderminster to enjoy four days in the Welsh countryside near Rhayader, before returning to Husum via Harwich and the ferry to Hamburg.

Ray Harrowing

FORTHCOMING VISITS

CHURCHES' VISIT TO HUSUM –

May 3rd to 7th, 2001

A group of thirteen people representing the churches of Kidderminster, led by Canon Owain Bell, will travel to Husum on Thursday May 3rd for a busy round of visits, services and other activities, returning on Monday May 7th.

The party will travel with the Kidderminster Choral Society group, via Stansted and Lübeck airports, and will join the choral group for an official reception at the Husum Rathaus and for a concert at the St. Marienkirche.

Other visits will include representation at a number of church services on the Sunday morning, when the greetings of the various churches in Kidderminster will be conveyed to their Husum counterparts.

The group will also have an opportunity to see the extensive social and educational activities of the German churches, and will take a boat trip to one of the offshore islands that make the Husum area a beautiful and unique destination for visitors from Britain and from many other places.

The group will include members of five churches - St. Mary's, St. Barnabas, St. John the Baptist and Holy Trinity Trimpley Anglican churches, and Trinity Methodist Church - but they will go with the support and good wishes of all the churches of the town. *Ray Harrowing*

KIDDERMINSTER CHORAL SOCIETY –

May 3rd to 7th 2001+

The Theodor Storms Chor in Husum will host 25 singers and 13 other guests from the Choral Society over the May Bank Holiday weekend - the choir's fourth visit to Husum in 11 years.

Members of the two choirs will make a number of trips and enjoy social evenings together, and the singers will rehearse for a joint concert on the Sunday evening, when the music will include Rossini's "Stabat Mater", Handel's "Zadok the Priest" and Haydn's "Te Deum". Also joining in the concert will be a choir from Itzehoe. Arrangements for the visit have been in the hands of Mrs Pauline Powell, the Secretary of the Choral Society, and Herr Heinrich Linkogel, the TSC Chairman. *Ray Harrowing*

School and Youth Exchanges

Due to the foot and mouth problems, the Schleswig Holstein government has cancelled all school visits until further notice.

Pauline Tabberer, Head of Modern Languages at the School writes: 'Very sadly last Wednesday we learnt that due to the fears of the spread of Foot and Mouth Disease, we will have to cancel our return visit, scheduled for April 20th-27th. As usual, the visit of our Husum guests had forged many new friendships and we were all very much looking forward to our return visit. Staff and

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students were, therefore, all deeply upset by this news.

However...with the advances of modern technology, we are hoping to hold an 'on-line' sports event during the summer term further broadening the links between the different departments in our two schools'.

Subscriptions for 2001-2002 will be due at the AGM and are as follows:

Individual £ 3.00

Family/couple £ 5.00

Corporate: club, society, organisation £25.00

**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**

Chairman /Norman Broome

Secretary /Charles Talbot

Cultural Secretary /Ray Harrowing

Membership /Phil Austin

Any contributions for the next newsletter will be welcome.

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