



Twin Town News

THEODOR STORM



The Dykemaster

On Saturday 15 March the Twinning Association is hosting a unique literary event. The famous German author Theodor Storm was born and spent most of his life in Husum. 'Der Schimmelreiter' was his last and most famous work written in 1888 and set on the dykes just North of Husum. It tells the story of a doomed dykemaster who tries to protect his community from destruction by the sea.

The first modern English translation by Denis Jackson has recently been published by Angel Books. Mr Jackson, a retired engineer from the Isle of Wight, has spent over four years researching eighteenth century dyke building techniques, nineteenth century German language and travelling to the area in order to achieve accuracy in his translation.

The Twinning Association is delighted that both Mr Jackson and his publisher have accepted an invitation to visit Kidderminster, linked with Husum for over forty years and formally twinned since 1976. They will present a series of slides showing the landscape and background to the novel. They will be joined by Athol McDonald of the Nonentities in readings from the work.

The event will be held in the Theatre at Harry Cheshire High School, Habberley Road at 7.30pm.

Charter Anniversary

April 14 is the twentieth anniversary of the signing of the Twinning Charter in Husum. We celebrated the signing in Kidderminster last October by inviting the Husum Bürgervorsteher and Bürgermeister with representatives of the Kuratorium (twinning association) to Kidderminster for a weekend. A carpet depicting the crests of both towns was designed and donated by Brintons Ltd as the Civic gift for this occasion. The guests stayed at the Cedars Hotel and were entertained by the Charter Trustees and the Twinning Association.

The town of Husum has invited the Mayor and the Town Clerk of Kidderminster and Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Twinning Association with their wives to Husum to celebrate the Husum Charter signing. This visit will take place in April.

For the first time, a reporter from the Kidderminster Shuttle will be accompanying the delegation. He will have the opportunity to meet fellow journalists on the Husum newspapers.

British Week In Husum

To coincide with the Anniversary, the town of Husum is organising a British week. Shops will have British goods on display and other events are being planned.

Annual General Meeting

The Association's AGM will take place at 7.30pm on Monday 17 March 1997 in the Council Chamber, Kidderminster Town Hall. A warm welcome is extended to anyone interested in town twinning.

KIDDERMINSTER CHORAL SOCIETY

On 24 April, 42 singers and partners will travel by coach and air to Husum for four days. During the weekend they will sing at morning service in the Marienkirche and perform at a concert with the Theodor Storm Choir on the same evening. This will be the Choral Society's third visit to Husum.

WYRE FOREST ARTS FORUM

From 31 March to 20 April the work of over 40 Wyre Forest artists will form an exhibition in the Husum Town Hall. It is hoped this will be the first of four such events - the others to be held in the towns of Vellmar and Fort Mahon Plage, twinned with Bewdley and in Villeneuve le Roi, twinned with Stourport. In 2000 an exhibition of work from artists in those four towns is planned for Kidderminster.

HARRY CHESHIRE HIGH SCHOOL

In the short time since the school has been twinned with the Realschule Nord, travel across the North Sea has become a regular part of the curriculum.

Last November a small group of pupils came from the Realschule Nord to visit Harry Cheshire High School and do some Geography Field Work.

In April a group of A level Geographers from Harry Cheshire are making the journey to Husum with the Head of the Geography Department to carry out a fieldwork project there. They will be in Husum at the same time as the Civic party for the Charter signing celebrations and the Wyre Forest Arts Forum exhibition.

Following the success of four students who went on work experience last year, Nicola Hartell will be enjoying a two weeks placement at C J Schmidt, the major Department store in Husum.. We are very grateful to the firm for providing this opportunity.

YOUTH HOUSE, KIDDERMINSTER

The Youth House in Bromsgrove Street is used for a variety of social and sporting activities. It is aimed at young people from 14 to 25 who can participate in the Youth Clubs, sports groups or make use of the free support and information service. It is also involved in Town Twinning - arrangements have been made for a group of 20 young people from the Haus der Jugend in Husum to stay at Upton Warren Sailing Centre in July this year.

Other Twinning Groups could also meet at the Youth House to plan events, could use the sportshall or the lounges for sporting and social

activities for visitors from Husum, or hire the minibus for trips around the area.

If you have any questions or would like to use the Youth House for your group please call 01562 752711.

FOLEY PARK METHODIST YOUTH GROUP

In May an advance party comprising Richard and Heidy Hague and two others are going to Husum. Their aim is to plan a visit by a larger group of young adults (14+) in 1998. The group meets on Sundays to have a time of worship together. They will be arranging events to raise some initial funding towards the visit and seek secondary funding from any interested bodies who wish to see church youth work develop between Kidderminster and Husum. If you can help, contact Emma Stickley 01562 752732 or Martin Wall 01562 755355.

EXPERIMENT IN INTERNATIONAL LIVING

The organisation EIL and the European Commission have launched a new Voluntary Service Scheme - this year the first group of volunteers from Germany, France, Holland and Spain have come to Britain and other countries on the continent.

Jacqueline Boulter from Oyten in North Germany has been in Kidderminster since January and will be working at the Youth House in Bromsgrove Street until July. She would be happy to assist with preparations for visits to and from Husum or help with letters and translations etc. If her skills in German and English would be of use to you or your group, please contact her on 01562 752711.

FOOTBALL LEAGUE

Terry Garbett, the Secretary of the Sunday Football League, is in contact with the Manager of the Husum football teams. He has received an invitation from them for a team to play in a 'friendly' game under FIFA rules. He is planning to take the Red Man United youth team to Husum in September.

GRANTS COMMITTEE

At the last meeting of the Management Committee it was agreed that a sub committee be formed for the purpose of considering applications for grants towards the cost of twinning activities. Organisations seeking aid should write to the Secretary, Charles E Talbot, at Barratts Court, Rectory Lane, Rock, Kidderminster DY14 9RR.

PLEASE SEND REPORTS AND ITEMS FOR THE NEXT NEWS LETTER TO JEAN TALBOT AT THE ABOVE ADDRESS BY MONDAY 19 MAY.