



## From the Editor

*The Committee – in their somewhat questionable wisdom – have asked me to carry on editing the Newsletter for the time being, and have also agreed that we try to publish it at about three-monthly intervals. We hope, by this means, to keep the Newsletter down to a reasonable length and also to report on visits and events before they disappear too far into the past!*

*To meet these aims, I'm asking for your co-operation, as members of the Association. If you've got a report to include, on a visit or something else of interest, do please let me have it as soon as possible after the event. If you've got any articles, photos, cartoons, short "fillers" and so on that you would like to see included, again, let me have them as soon as possible.*

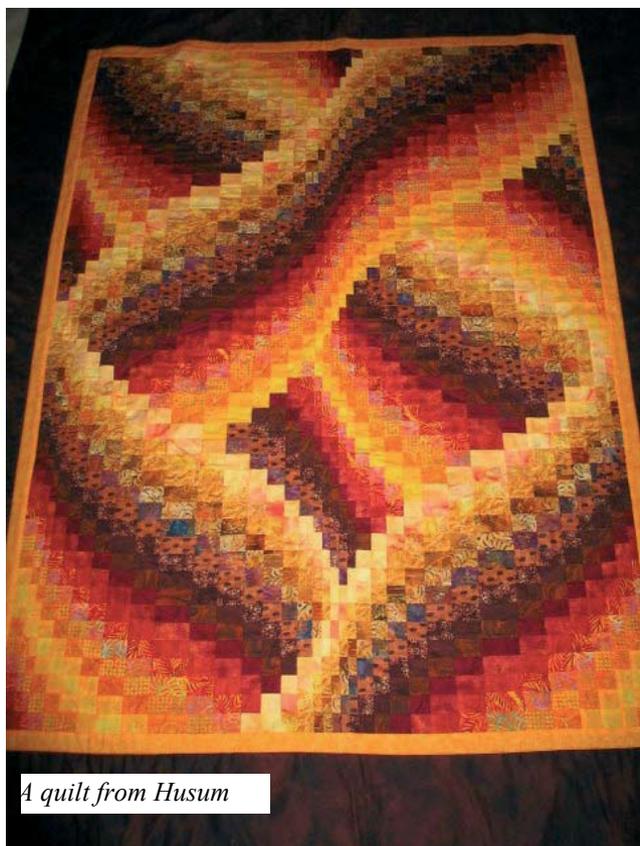
*So much has been happening recently that, once again, this issue has reached quite large proportions; I am hoping that the next one, scheduled for February or March, will be rather shorter! Once again, my grateful thanks to those who have contributed in any way to this issue.*

*You can find my contact details on the back page, and I look forward to hearing from you.*

**Ray Harrowing**

## Wyre Forest Quilters

An unexpected bonus from becoming an honorary oldie was being approached by Karin Petersen during our May visit to Husum to see a display of her patchwork quilting. She knew of my retirement plan to join the local Kidderminster group next year - and possibly find another avenue for more twinning trips! However, her stunning work and enthusiasm was such that more immediate action was clearly called for. Thus Ray and I found ourselves in Trinity church hall one Tuesday evening in August talking to the Wyre Forest Quilters.



A quilt from Husum

It was a most interesting evening. We were warmly welcomed by about 30 of the 60 strong group, who continued their "sit & sew" session whilst listening attentively to Ray's very accomplished talk about twinning in general, and about activities between Husum and Kidderminster in particular. His display stand of twinning material also featured a super collection of photographs of the Husum quilters' work.

The group's outlook is obviously very adventurous –they not only hold their own regular exhibitions but also visit the major exhibitions at the NEC and Malvern, sew for charities – notably Acorns Hospice, have quilt making "retreats", and other contacts include making a quilt for Russia. They were eager to hear about travel and hosting, asking many questions. Despite the difficulties of there being only a small organised group in Husum, there seemed equal enthusiasm among the Kidderminster quilters to explore the possibilities for a future link.

We look forward to further discussions with the Wyre Forest Quilters and shall be reporting back to the Association in due course.

**Hilary Boyle**

## The Newsletter

Ten years ago I started to produce Twin Town News, a newsletter for the Twinning Association. The first issue came out in March 1997, just before the twentieth anniversary of the signing of the Twinning Charter in Husum on 24 April in 1977. It also featured the announcement of the first modern English translation of *Der Schimmelreiter*, Theodor Storm's famous novella, as *The Dykemaster*. The translator Denis Jackson and the publisher came to Kidderminster and presented a series of slides showing the landscape and background to the novel with readings by Athol McDonald. For some years we have given a copy of this book to the Mayor as President of the Association. Other news items included a British Week in Husum, visits by the Choral Society, Wyre Forest Arts Forum, Harry Cheshire High School, Youth House, Foley Park Methodist Youth Group and Jacqueline Boulter who was the first volunteer to stay in Kidderminster under the Experiment in International Living scheme.

In March 2004 after I appealed for help with the newsletter, Linda Fowler offered her professional expertise and took on layout and printing. Now, Ray Harrowing is taking over as editor and I'm sure he will bring a fresh approach and publish more frequent issues to keep members up to date with Association news. Over the past decade numerous anniversaries, visits and other events have been reported. Thank you to all contributors; please keep the reports coming in to Ray.

**Jean Talbot**

## Cricketers' Return

Plans for the return visit to Kidderminster of Husum Cricket Club in 2008 are taking shape.

Led by their coach Jorg Kruger, Husum are planning to bring a party of 12 young Danish/German cricketers (u13/u14) for six days arriving in Kidderminster on Monday 30 June and leaving on Sunday 6 July. They will be combining forces with their sister club in Denmark - Herning - who KVCC also played when they toured Germany and Denmark in May earlier this year. Four adults will also come with the boys.

As well as playing Kidderminster juniors we plan to arrange some other games for them with other local junior sides and arrange for them to see some First Class Cricket as well. The popular 20-20 matches should be in full swing when they visit and we hope they will see one of these games.

A subcommittee of the KVCC junior section involving William Franklin, Mike Field, Pete Harler and the German-speaking Jackie Pittaway has been

formed to plan the visit and raise funds to provide our guests with hospitality. The boys are keen to take the chance to improve their English as well as play cricket and so we are hoping to accommodate our visitors with families during their stay.

The Kidderminster boys are looking forward to having the opportunity of reversing the heavy defeat they suffered in the inaugural match between Husum and Kidderminster in Husum this year, and local station Hereford and Worcester Radio have expressed an interest in covering the visit.

**William Franklin**

## A new face at Theodor- Storm-Schule

We reported in the last Newsletter the retirement of Frau Therese Chromik from the post of Director of



*Frau Sybille Karschin*

the Theodor Storm Schule in Husum – which has recently formed a partnership with Kidderminster's King Charles I High School. We have now had some information about her successor, Frau Sybille Karschin, who was Head of the Upper School at

the *Gymnasium* (High School) in Brunsbüttel, near the mouth of the River Elbe. She has spent most of her teaching career in the town, apart from six years at the German School in Geneva.

Frau Karschin - a native of Pforzheim, near Stuttgart - has three sons, and her husband teaches at the *Gymnasium* in Marne, near Brunsbüttel. Her subjects are Maths and Chemistry, and she is also a keen flautist. For the time being, she will be lodging in Husum, and hopes in the near future to bring her family to the town. She told the *Husumer Nachrichten* that, as so many people have said before, she will leave Brunsbüttel with mixed feelings; she and the family have spent many happy years there, and they will be sad to leave, but she is looking forward to the new challenge.

## How others do it!

We saw, on a website dedicated to Town Twinning, this piece written by Nicholas Goodwin, the Chairman of the Exeter/Yaroslavl Twinning Association

(Nick runs a company that has a number of contacts with the Yaroslavl region and more widely in Russia). We thought the idea was very exciting, and one that might be well worth copying – after all, imitation is the sincerest form of flattery!

*“Let me relay what happened to me in our twin city of Yaroslavl, Russia in May this year, as an example of what just one small incident had achieved. By the way, this is also on our website at [www.eyta.org.uk](http://www.eyta.org.uk).*

*One of the pleasures of visiting our twin city is awarding prizes to the winners of the Yaroslavl Regional school's English essay competition, and seeing at first hand the positive effect our sponsorship has for the local schoolchildren. This year's subject was "a letter to the Queen and a letter to Vladimir Putin", in which the children freely expressed their aspirations, dreams and concerns about their lives and the things that affected them.*

*Afterwards the competition's organiser explained to all present at the ceremony that all the children understood that it was only an exercise and that they were not really writing to the Queen, but that despite this, the letters expressed their genuine feelings. The look on the children's faces made it plain that they had wished all along that this was not the case. I couldn't resist the opportunity, so announced that we would send them to the Queen for them. For a few seconds you could have heard a pin drop. Needless to say, their eyes lit up, and it took me at least five minutes to get the organiser to finally grasp the fact that this was possible!*

*The essays were duly sent, and we received a reply within a week requesting that we convey to the children how pleased the Queen was to see their well-written and interesting works. A copy of the letter has been given to each child and one to their school for display on their notice board. Also in her letter the Queen said that she was interested to hear about the twinning link between Exeter and Yaroslavl and about our organisation's valuable efforts to promote contacts between the citizens and businesses of Exeter and Yaroslavl.*

*This goes to show that with a little faith, and a postage stamp, you can do things others think impossible.*

*Shortly afterwards the Russian press ran the story and the standing of our group in Russia jumped one-hundredfold. The Yaroslavl City*

*Authorities have even quoted this "incident" to the EC as a shining example of the high level of trust and cooperation between our two communities. Given at the time the delicate state of relations between Russia and the UK, I think you will agree that this "incident" is proof that twinning, or whatever name you wish to give it, still has a very important place in this global world we live in. It has the ability to influence directly the way people from different countries and cultures view each other, often in counterbalance to the perceptions created by an individual country's media.”*

## **Midland Technical Translations (UK) Ltd raises awareness of Kidderminster–Husum Twinning across the Globe**

MTT (UK) Ltd launched a special competition with King Charles I High School on 5<sup>th</sup> October 2007, which aims to spread awareness of Kidderminster and Husum across the globe.

Sue Clark, MD of the translation company based in Coventry Street, Kidderminster, launched the competition in conjunction with Nicola Vincent, a language teacher at the school, at a special breakfast held to highlight European Day of Languages. Some 85 year 7 and 8 students sampled the delights of various cheeses and cold meats, pastries and drinks and received stickers promoting a wide range of different languages.

Students were invited to submit pictures to be used on a promotional calendar for 2008, which MTT will be sending to all of their customers world-wide. Artwork could be submitted in three categories, including a special class to highlight links between the two towns. Prizes of an ipod Shuffle and book tokens were on offer, together with a goody bag for all 12 successful entrants whose pictures make it onto the final version of the calendar. Older students were informed of the competition through a series of talks by MTT about using languages in the business world.

We shall be sending every member of the Association a copy of the calendar that has been produced as a result of the competition; if you would like further copies of this unique item, please contact me at MTT (UK) Ltd on 01562 748778.

**Sue Clark**

## **Website**

We have made some minor changes to the site, and updated various parts, particularly the Calendar; we've included most of the major events of the Hu-

sum year, and we shall also include the Kidderminster Carnival and other significant Kidderminster events.

I referred in the last Newsletter to the Guest Book; we have had no messages for many months, and this does not show the site in a very good light. We have therefore decided to remove the Guest Book. However, a new service – the “News Headlines” page – will shortly be added, so that readers can keep up to date while they are waiting for the next Newsletter!

We are also investigating the possibility of obtaining statistics about the number of “hits” on the site, and whilst we shall not put a “hit counter” on the site itself, we shall report in the Newsletter or on the “News Headlines” the extent to which the site is used.

If you have any comments, criticisms, suggestions about the website, do please contact me.

**Ray Harrowing**

([www.kidderminster-husum-twinning.co.uk](http://www.kidderminster-husum-twinning.co.uk))

## **EXCHANGE BETWEEN THE THEODOR-STORM-SCHULE, HUSUM AND KING CHARLES I SCHOOL, KIDDERMINSTER (March/October 2007)**

By Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> October, our exchange with the Theodor Storm Schule in Husum had been over 18 months in the planning. Stefan Buchenau, Christiane Schulz and their party of 20 pupils had completed the first part of the exchange in March. So it was, in the darkness and mists of an early October morning, that we found ourselves on the way to Husum by way of Manchester and Hamburg airports. Arriving at the Theodor-Storm-Schule in the late afternoon, we were greeted by the head teacher, Frau Karschin, reunited with our exchange partners and whisked off to become part of a German household for seven days.

On Friday morning, we had a taste of life in a German school. Having survived the early 07:50 start, we were invited into lessons with our respective exchange partners. Herr Siems, the Latin teacher, changed his lesson plan on the spur of the moment to accommodate the large contingent of English pupils in his classroom. He conducted the lesson in faultless English and taught us all about the influence of Latin and other languages upon English. Pupil participation was invited and we were all very impressed at the German pupils’ ability to understand such a complex subject taught in a language other than their own.

Later on that morning, we met a Town Guide, who took us on a tour of the Husum sights and explained

about the importance of dykes for the landscape. The cobbles proved to be a challenge for Charlie Combes, who very kindly pushed Chris Llewellyn’s wheelchair around the streets. Chris had suffered a broken ankle owing to a rugby injury shortly before our departure. We ate lunch (curry or rice pudding) in the Bis(s)trothek (the school canteen), and, in the



afternoon, the Sports teachers Herr Belau and Herr Keilholz had very kindly prepared a wonderful volleyball session for the German and English exchange students. After an enthusiastic warm-up, Year 11 German students took over the lesson and taught us all how to perfect our skills. By late afternoon, all were exhausted, but still had enough voice to sing, “Who let the dogs out?” during the lesson plenary. The evening saw us all together again in a Greek restaurant, where German and English partners helped each other to choose their evening meal and plans for the weekend were made.

The weekend was spent in the host families, although many of the English and German partners seemed to meet up at some time. Some decided to go sightseeing and visited Flensburg, Lübeck, or even Denmark. Other activities included interacting with science in a nearby museum, a trip to the Hansa theme park, all-important shopping and sampling spaghetti ice cream. The German and English teachers visited Schleswig with its beautiful brick-built cathedral and intricately carved altar-piece as well as the magnificent Landesmuseum which houses, amongst many treasures, a boat similar to that found at Sutton Hoo, paintings by Emil Nolde, bronzes by Ernst Barlach and a newly-opened Baroque garden.

On Monday morning, after two lessons in school, the English group discovered more about the nature of life on a Hallig at the Nissen-Haus. After this, we walked to the Town Hall, where Herr Maaß, the Mayor, welcomed us to Husum. To our surprise and delight, Charles and Jean Talbot were also able to meet us, as they happened to be in Husum at the same



*With Herr Maaß at the Rathaus*

time as we were. The kind words, refreshments and the presence of the press made us feel like royalty. In the afternoon, together with the German exchange partners, we visited the Multimar Wattforum in Tönning, where we were allowed to touch star fish, admired sea horses and tested the comfort of that stalwart of seaside Germany, the Strandkorb. Why don't we have them?

For the whole of the trip we had been intrigued by the phenomenon of the Hallig. What are the mysterious Halligen, those strange islands that litter the seascape of North Friesland but which, in reality, belong to neither sea nor land? In search of an answer to this question, we sailed on Tuesday morning from Nord-



*Home from the Hallig*

strand to Hallig Hooge, where we talked both to the pastor in charge of the Kirchwarft and to the owner of the Königspesel, where Friedrich VI of Denmark was famously benighted in 1825 during his reconnaissance of the damage caused by a particularly severe storm tide. The perplexing Halligen were not keen to reveal their secret at either low or high tide on this occasion and their existence will haunt us until we are able to return. This was a unique experience of a way of life so different from our own in its total dependence upon the natural environment.

We spent our final day in Hamburg together with our German exchange partners. As was the case for the whole of the trip, the weather was glorious and lived up to the "Goldener Oktober" ideal. Following a peaceful boat trip through the canals of the Alster, a real oasis of calm in the heart of one of Germany's largest cities, we made a beeline for the Mönckebergstraße, where we used the last of our Euros to buy



*A bicycle made for two*

souvenirs and gifts for family at home.

The week sped by, packed as it was with so many experiences not only of the sightseeing variety, but, more importantly, of new-found friendship and a sharing of the similarities and differences which constitute day to day German family and school life. We treasure the time that we spent in Husum, would like to thank Stefan Buchenau and Christiane Schulz, who planned such a wonderful itinerary for us, Charlie and Ann Combes, who accompanied us, and the Twinning Association for your warm support and interest in our venture. The next exchange is already in the planning (October, 2008/March 2009), so watch this space!

Photographs of our visit to Husum, and the TSS visit to Kidderminster, can be found on the Homepage of the Theodor Storm Schule: <http://www.tss-husum.lernnetz.de>. Experiences of the exchange have been shared on our joint blog: <http://blogscene.co.uk/exchange>

**Sarah Shaw**

## **Individual Members – Come and join us!**

The Committee recently decided that we should endeavour to make the twinning process a reality for those members who are not part of an affiliated group, and thus do not take part in group visits and other activities. Over the years, many groups of Kidderminster people have enjoyed exchanges with groups from Husum. A variety of groups, of different

ages and interests, continue to do so. However, many people who do not belong to a group have not had this opportunity. We are keen to assist such “unattached” people – individuals, couples or families – to enjoy a visit too.

As a first step to setting this project under way, we have written to all members of the Association, and have invited them, if they are at all interested, to contact us. We can offer advice about travel options, events occurring through the year, hotel accommodation or any other information that’s needed. A similar situation exists in Husum, where they have already had several volunteers to help in whatever way is required. Some visitors from Kidderminster might wish to stay with these hosts; others might prefer hotel accommodation but would appreciate being greeted on arrival, advised on activities, or even being taken out and about. We can put anyone who is interested in touch with a host or helper in Husum, as required.

Of course, we also need to set up a similar register of hosts and helpers here in Kidderminster, to look after “unattached” guests from Husum, and if members are able to offer any help in any way with this – or are just interested to find out more – please get in touch.

**Hilary Boyle**

## On the Move

Our last edition referred to the sterling work done by our Social Sub-Committee. We now have to report that two of its members are about to leave us for sunnier climes; Keith and Liz Weston have decided to up sticks and move out to Sydney, Australia, where their sons and daughter are located. All their arrangements are complete, and they will be leaving



L to R: The Mayor, Rod Summers (Chairman), Liz, Keith and Charles Talbot (Secretary)

in November.

We do wish them well in their new life; they have contributed enormously both to the success of the Twinning Association and, previously, what was then

the Kidderminster Swimming Club. They were involved in the Club’s long association with the Swimming Club in Husum, and their hard work in this as in so many other aspects of their life in Kidderminster is very greatly appreciated.

No doubt they will find similar niches in their new surroundings; we do hope that they will keep in touch. The Committee showed their appreciation of Keith’s and Liz’s long and valuable service by making a small presentation to them at the recent meeting.

Although she’s in the throes of selling up and so on, Liz has kindly put together the following few words about their experience of twinning:

*Our first introduction to Husum came after our children joined the Swimming Club, which had strong links with the TSV Husum – they had been involved in exchanges since 1983, and this continued until 1997.*

*We visited Husum for the first time in 1995, when we joined four other adults and 30 young people, ranging in age from 11 to 22 years. The hospitality we received was wonderful – we were welcomed into their homes and it was an experience that we shall never forget.*

*After leaving what was by then the Wyre Forest Swimming Club we joined the Twinning Association, both to keep up our links with the town and to help others to enjoy the same experience.*

*We have hosted Husumers on many occasions, children and adults alike. In 1998 Dieter and Renata Braack were visiting the UK and made a surprise visit to us – which was wonderful; they stayed for a week – very tiring, but very enjoyable! Our last visitors, in 2006, were members of the “Oldies” group – a great visit.*

*We have made two private visits to Husum, staying with Claus Dieter Müller and Karin Werth (from the Shanty Chor) and Dieter and Renata Braack (from the Swimming Club). On both occasions we were again made very welcome, and we shall always have happy memories of Husum.*

**Liz Weston**

## Focus on Youth

As forecast in the last Newsletter, we held our first “get-together” in July for young people who are associated with twinning. Canon Owain Bell, a member of the Association, arranged for us to use St. Mary’s Chantry, and we were able to put on a display of photographs and information, show the new DVD, and serve refreshments – our thanks to St. Mary’s Church for making this possible.

In the event, we had about ten young people there, two of whom had visited Husum in March this year;

the others were students at King Charles 1 High School who had hosted students from the Theodor-Sturm-Schule and were anticipating their return visit to Husum in October. All were very enthusiastic about setting up some form of youth group to concentrate on the twinning, and we have started to build up a useful contact list.

In view of the fairly small number who attended, we agreed that we should repeat this preliminary meeting, in the hope that more could be persuaded to come on a date in November. Arrangements are therefore being made, and early indications are that a larger number will be there. Foremost among these will, of course, be the King Charles students, who have now returned from Germany and who will want to bring the twinning message to others. We shall report further in due course.

**Pauline Geddie**

### **On the Road with Kencan Co**

We have referred in previous Newsletters to the



contribution that Ken and Pat Garbett make to the activities of the Association, in organising social events such as the Race Night, and in providing refreshments for meetings. We have not mentioned th



their other role – that of making us mobile! Ken and Pat operate a chauffeured minibus service, Kencan

Co, with a luxury eight-seater Ford Tourneo, which is often called upon by families and small groups needing transport to airports – sometimes as far distant as Heathrow, Gatwick or Stansted.

The vehicle also makes an annual appearance in the Kidderminster Carnival, suitably dressed in the yellow and blue colours that appear on the Kidderminster badge, on the Association's publicity material – and on the flags of Husum and Nordfriesland!

If you would like to make use of the minibus, do contact Ken or Pat through the website ([www.kidderminster-husum-twinning.co.uk](http://www.kidderminster-husum-twinning.co.uk)) or telephone 01562 754168.

### **Christmas Twinning Concert**

**A reminder that the Association will present its first Christmas Concert on Saturday, 1st December, at 7.30 p.m., at Baxter Church, in Kidderminster's Bull Ring. Our conductor, Pam Cunningham, has booked a number of groups and individuals associated with Twinning, but the emphasis will be on the Carols for Choir and Audience. Half the proceeds of the event will go to KEMP Hospice.**

**Please support this new venture, and bring your friends! A flier is enclosed with this Newsletter, and we would be very glad if you could display it somewhere prominent.**

### **On the Horizon**

Here are a few of the events and visits that will be taking place this year and into 2008. We shall be reporting on them in future issues of Twin Town News; meanwhile, please watch for further details:

16th November - Race Night, Valley Suite, Severn Valley Railway Station, Kidderminster

1st December - Christmas Concert by Twinners for Twinners (and others) - Baxter Church, Kidderminster.

March - Krokusfest, Husum

27th May - 1st June - Kidderminster Choral Society visit to Husum

31st May - Joint Concert of Theodor Storms Chor and Kidderminster Choral Society, St. Marienkirche, Husum.

15th-16th June - Visit of Gardeners to Husum

28th June - Kidderminster Carnival

October - Visit of "Oldies" to Husum.

### **Young Visitors**

We have had requests over the last few months from several young Husumers (aged between 14 and 19) who are keen to spend some time in Kidderminster, either for two or three weeks' holiday during the

Summer or for a longer period during which they could attend a school here. They all speak very good English! If you are interested in this possibility, please contact Charles Talbot (01299 832797)

### **Dr Ulf-Dietrich von Hielmcrone receives the Medal of Merit (Bundesverdienst Medaille)**

At the beginning of September, Dr von Hielmcrone was invested with the Medal of Merit



*Dr. Ulf-Dietrich von Hielmcrone*

by the Minister-President of the Land Schleswig-Holstein. He is a former member of the Kiel Parliament for Husum-Eiderstedt and a former Mayor of Husum. He is now the Chairman of the prestigious Ludwig Nissen Foundation which owns the North Sea Museum in the Nissenhaus and is Chairman of the Friends of the Husum Castle.

Ulf has visited Kidderminster many times and as Burgervorsteher was present for the celebrations in 1995 for the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the first link with Husum. Jean and I were delighted and honoured to be present to witness the investiture in Kiel.

The same weekend saw the end of an era for the Delff Bookshop in the Krämerstrasse. The owner, Annegret von Hielmcrone, who took over the busi-



*Ulf and Annegret, with Charles Talbot*

ness from her late father many years ago, decided to retire and has sold the business to a well-known and respected firm named Wieland. She was inundated by flowers and tributes from her many customers and well-wishers.

Now she can apply time and energy to her other interests which include the Husum Twinning Association. We wish her every happiness in her retirement from business!

**Charles Talbot**

### **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](http://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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