



## From the Editor

*Whilst the Committee had agreed that we should aim at four editions of the Newsletter per year, I was not very confident of having very much material to fill the November edition. How wrong I was! There is so much twinning activity throughout the year that it's more a question of what we must leave out, or cut down, than of finding material to fill the eight pages. Many thanks to all those who have once again provided the raw material for another action-packed edition; keep it coming!*

**Ray Harrowing**

## From the Committee

The Association's Committee met in August, and among the items discussed were:

- The Race Night;
- The Christmas Concert – see separate item;
- Safeguarding of Children and Young People;
- The visit of the *Krokusblütenkönigin* in September – see separate report;
- The visit of Husum "Oldies" in October – see separate report;
- Recent visits to Husum by Kidderminster Choral Society, golfers and Kidderminster Horticultural Society, and from Husum by quilters;
- The cancellation of the visit to Kidderminster by Danish and Husum cricketers;
- The publicity and information exhibition in Kidderminster Library – see separate report.

The next meeting of the Committee will be held on November 19.

## What do Teenage Girls do during the Summer Holiday? Do you know how to say "Seaweed" in German? Read on ...



Bethany

A new Anglo-Deutsch friendship has been forged between two young teenagers brave enough to fly "solo" between Hamburg and Birmingham. Lisa Jensen, 14, of Nordstrand, a "half-island" near Husum, flew over to stay with Bethany

Hill, 13, of Kidderminster in July. Lisa attended King Charles 1 School with Bethany for the last week of the Summer term. She found our French accents rather amusing as we do not roll our "R's", and noted that it is the pupils who have to move classrooms in England, whereas it is the teachers who move in Germany, but otherwise I think we established that teenage girls are teenage girls, wherever they come from: interested in clothes, boys and trying to stay up as late as possible.



Lisa

I was looking forward to speaking German, but Lisa's English was so good that I hardly ever needed to!

In the two weeks that she was in England, Lisa managed to sing at a wedding, attend school, church and choir practice, ride on the Severn Valley Railway, get both drenched and sunburnt in Bewdley, climb a few hills, and have her picture taken with the Queen (who was visiting Madame Tussaud's at the same time as us!). She also sampled roast beef and Yorkshire pudding, fish and chips, and made her own scones for a traditional English cream tea, but refused point-blank to try porridge: such is its reputation abroad! She was a delight to host - polite, easy-going and willing to "do as the Romans do" at all times.

Then it was Bethany's turn to sample the delights of Nordstrand: life on a farm at harvest-time, dykes, giant ice-creams, Danish palaces, German cuisine, the German language and Phase 10 - a card game, which has now become a favourite back in England. She had a wonderful time, was well looked after,



wasn't always sure what she had eaten ("but it was delicious"), learned how to make *Marmorkuchen* and learned some useful vocabulary like, *Heu* and *Algen* (which probably don't feature in the National Curriculum for a few years yet), as well as the necessary *Orangensaft*, *Apfelsaft*, etc.

Letting children go is part of letting them grow, and though both Lisa's Mum and I found it difficult, as parents, to allow our daughters to fly unaccompanied, I know the experience has done wonders for my daughter's self-confidence. Care shown by Customs staff at Birmingham airport was commendable and I am sure that this is just the first of many visits to come.



Email makes sustaining contact quick and easy (especially when you are already at the computer "doing homework"), and is a more far-reaching bridge than either the Husum Bridge or the Kidderminster Brücke!

#### Carol Hill

(Note: The pencil-like structure in the pictures is a Danish sentry-box! - Ed.)

### A Twinning Christmas

In November the Association will present its second Christmas Concert, and we hope that as many members as possible will join us. We can now give some more details – we are also enclosing a leaflet for all members, which we shall be very glad if you will display somewhere so that we can attract as big an audience as possible.

**Date:** Friday 28<sup>th</sup> November, at 7.30 p.m.

**Venue:** Baxter Church, Bullring, Kidderminster (parking in Weaver's Wharf is free at this time in the evening).

**Tickets:** £6.00, available from Judy Morris (tel. 01562 751753).

**Taking part:** Kidderminster Valentines, Baxter College Choir, Offmore Primary School Choir, the Wolverley String Quartet, Morfudd Sinclair (piano), soprano and baritone soloists, etc., and also, of course, carols for choir and audience. Conductor: Pam Cunningham. We are delighted that Dr. Richard Taylor, MP, has consented to compère the concert.

**Proceeds:** A proportion of the proceeds will be donated to KEMP Hospice.

**Please come along and lend your support to this venture, in which we aim to bring various groups and individuals linked with the Association together to celebrate the festive season.**

### A new Carnival for the Crocus Queen

As readers will know, the *Krokusblütenkönigin* (Crocus Queen) was unable to be present at the Kidderminster Carnival this year, but, at the invitation of the Stourport Carnival Committee, she came in September instead, to take part in their Carnival procession.

Marion Köhler and her boyfriend Oke, with Georg Weßler (Chairman of the *Husumer Verein für Partnerschaften*), arrived on Friday September 5, to be hosted by members of our Committee. Saturday dawned wet and blustery, but, nothing daunted, the group set off for Stourport, where the River Severn proved to have flooded the meadows where the Carnival should have taken place. The procession went ahead, Marion joining the Carnival Queen and her attendants, and Kidderminster's Carnival Queen (Rosie Bennett-Bentley) in a vintage bus, and she was able to meet the various dignitaries and the



Rosie and Marion, with Stourport's Princess and Rosebud

Committee. But the event was much abbreviated; the "land" carnival, without many of the attractions, took place on the car parks, although all who attended nevertheless had a good time – most had had the foresight to come well-armed with wet-weather

clothes and umbrellas. Sunday's traditional water carnival was cancelled, as the river was by this time a raging torrent.

Late in the afternoon Marion, Oke and Georg were taken off to an art exhibition in Crossway Green, near Hartlebury, and in the evening they were the guests of the Association Committee at a meal at the Natural Break restaurant in Kidderminster. Sunday brought more rain, but by lunchtime it was dry, and the sun was making an occasional appearance, and it was with high hopes that the usual barbecue went ahead at John and Margaret Pearsall's home in Wolverley. John had provided gazebos that covered most of his lawn, and he and Margaret proceeded to serve a meal of sumptuous proportions, enjoyed by about 25 members of the two committees together with our visitors.

Monday's fine weather was greeted with some relief by Claire and her guests, and she whisked them off to London to make a whirlwind tour of all the sights, including Westminster Abbey, the Tower of London, Trafalgar Square, the Houses of Parliament, Downing Street, Tate Britain and – last but not least – Buckingham Palace, where they saw the Changing of the Guard. Well done, Claire! Georg, meanwhile, had a somewhat quieter day, meeting up with various contacts and visiting Bridgnorth, where he photographed St. Mary Magdalene Church, which was designed by Thomas Telford and is very similar in some respects to *St. Marienkirche* in Husum.

The small group left Kidderminster on Tuesday, somewhat relieved that they had survived one of the more extreme weekends, weather-wise, that Britain had to offer this year!

## Have Voice, will Travel!

On a calm October Friday morning I set off from Kidderminster for what was to be anything but a calm weekend in Husum, another odyssey which would take me to three rehearsals and two concerts in the space of three days. Having taken part in a similar weekend in 2007, I knew what to expect, but this time it was more challenging as I had never sung the music (Mendelssohn's Psalm 42, and Honegger's "King David") with a choir before, nor had I met the German text of these two demanding and very contrasting works.

Once again we – the Theodor Storms Chor, the Itzehoe Konzertchor and the Hamburger Camerata – rehearsed into the late evening on Friday in *St. Marienkirche* in Husum. I had arrived, by air and train, half an hour before the session began so it was with some relief that I eventually got to bed. Saturday dawned cloudless and sunny, and I took the

opportunity of shopping and strolling around the many stalls that were there for *Krabben* (the Shrimp Festival), before lunching *al fresco* by the harbour. Then to rendezvous with the coach that was to take us nearly 60 miles to Itzehoe, where we rehearsed with the Konzertchor in the late afternoon and gave the first of the two concerts in the evening. Apart from the three soloists, "King David" required the services of a Narrator, a part that went to a famous German actor and speaker, Christian Quadflieg, whose telling of the story held the audience spellbound. After the concert some of the ladies of the choir were delighted to obtain his autograph! We arrived back in Husum not long before midnight.

Sunday was again a beautiful day, but I decided that a quiet morning was in order, before repeating the rehearsal/concert sequence in Husum. Whereas the Itzehoe concert had been somewhat poorly attended, in Husum *St. Marienkirche* was almost full, and the



Jens Weigelt conducting the orchestra and choirs

choirs, the orchestra, Christian Quadflieg and the soloists received prolonged applause at the end. The directors of the two choirs, Eckhard Heppner and Jens Weigelt, each conducted in their home venue, and both led very fine performances.

After the concert the Theodor Storms Chor gathered at the Thomas Hotel for the usual party, at which a very tasty soup (main ingredients: pumpkin and *Krabben*) was consumed and some congratulatory



speeches were made. Once again, a late night, but the end of a very satisfactory and exciting weekend. Home on Monday, then, by way of Hamburg and Birmingham Airports – just in time to welcome the party of Husumers who arrived on the following Thursday!

My thanks are due, as ever, to the Theodor Storms Chor for their welcome and for allowing me to take part in their concerts, and particularly to Georg Weßler for his generous hospitality.

### Ray Harrowing

## Together Again

Shortly after last year's very successful visit to Husum to celebrate the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the signing of the Twinning Charter between the two towns rumours began to circulate that Eva and Rainer Maaß, Husum's *Bürgermeister*, were "threatening" to bring a large group of Husumers old and new to Kidderminster in October 2008. Early in February the threat became a reality with the announcement that a group of over 30 Husumers, one third of whom had never visited Kidderminster before, planned to visit us between 16<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> October with the majority of them wishing to stay with host families. Planning of the programme and the search for hosts started soon after and by mid-June a draft programme, including a possible visit to Sealine International Ltd, and a substantial list of possible hosts, existed.

On Saturday July 5<sup>th</sup> all known future hosts were invited to meet at Pam Morris's home for a barbecue, which unfortunately, owing to the dreadful weather, ended up being held inside; at this get-together details of the proposed programme for the long weekend were unveiled. Further fine tuning of the programme



Planners in action

and work on the list of prospective hosts continued throughout August and early September, culminating in a second hosts' meeting on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> September, this time at Kidderminster Town Hall.

Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> October duly arrived and at 8:30 a.m. Joachim (Dicker) Zielke, who had already travelled to Kidderminster, accompanied by Val and Jerry Mayfield, left Kidderminster en route to Manchester Airport to meet the incoming Air Berlin flight from Hamburg, which was carrying 13 "Newcomers" and 17 "Oldies". They accompanied them back to Kidderminster where they met up with their hosts at 2:45 pm. The afternoon passed rapidly, and at 7:00 p.m. hosts, Husumers and invited guests, including Cllr. Howard Martin, Kidderminster's Deputy Mayor, well supported by the Charter Trustees, gathered in the King Charles Room at Kidderminster Town Hall prior to touring the building under the stewardship of Charles Talbot. Following the tours everyone then returned to



Rainer replies

the King Charles room where the Husumers were welcomed to Kidderminster by Cllr Martin. After responses by Rainer Maaß on behalf of the Husumers and Charles Talbot and Rod Summers on behalf of the Twinning Association everyone then made their way to the Corn Exchange where they enjoyed a substantial buffet supper arranged by Pat and Ken Garbett.

10:00 a.m. on the morning of Friday 17<sup>th</sup> saw everyone gathering at the Weaver's Loft in Church Street, where they toured the exhibits on show and were introduced to the history of cloth and carpet weaving in Kidderminster by Melvyn Thompson and Roger Matthews. Everyone then adjourned to Kidderminster Library, accompanied by Kidderminster's Town Crier, for the official opening at 12:00 noon by Rainer Maaß of the Exhibition of Twinning Photographs and Memorabilia which had been arranged by Hilary Boyle.

Following a free afternoon, Friday evening brought Husumers and hosts together at the Old Talbot at Hartlebury for a hot buffet meal followed by several fun-filled games of skittles arranged by Pam Morris and "controlled" by Hilary Boyle. During the evening a special cake made by Val Mayfield to symbolise 53 years of friendship between the two towns was jointly cut by Charles Talbot and Rainer Maaß and distributed to all present. Sometime later the evening concluded with Hilary Boyle presenting

prizes to the winners of the games and also wooden spoons to those with the lowest scores.

On Saturday morning 31 Husumers and 12 hosts travelled to Warwick Castle. The weather was kind and everyone was able to enjoy the magnificent castle and its grounds - with two lady Husumers even meeting Henry VIII and surviving the experience. Anyone who ventured into nearby Warwick town was even able to sample the "delights" of the Autumn Mop Fair before rejoining the coach and returning to



*By royal appointment?*

Kidderminster after a memorable day out.

Following a "free day" on Sunday, when hosts and guests ventured far and wide around the Midlands - Blenheim Castle, Ludlow and Birmingham were just three if the destinations - two visits were planned for

Monday morning. Ray Harrowing had arranged for the head teacher of Husum's Theodor-Storm-Schule, Frau Sibylle Karschin, with her husband Jürgen, and Harald Breuer, the school's Head of Music, to visit King Charles I School and strengthen the links that are already in place. They were made very welcome by Tim Gulliver, the Head Teacher, and his staff, and greatly enjoyed the experience. At the same time the remainder of the Husumers, accompanied by many of their hosts, enjoyed a fascinating tour of Sealine courtesy of managing director Steve Coultate and his staff. Everyone was amazed that the company which is based so far from the sea produces such magnificent vessels.

On Monday evening Kidderminster's Mayor, Cllr Marcus Hart, and Mayor-ess Miss Abby Rose, all the Husumers and their hosts, and friends gathered in the Orangery Suite at the Granary Hotel for the final event of



*Klaus and Georg at Blenheim Palace*

the long weekend, a "Farewell" dinner which was enjoyed by all.

All too soon 7:00 a.m. on Tuesday morning arrived and it was time for the Husumers to board their coach for the return journey to Manchester Airport. Unfortunately their Air Berlin flight to Hamburg was delayed with take-off being at 2:40 p.m. instead of 12:00 noon and a further delay in landing at Hamburg Airport meant that they returned to Husum tired but happy 12 hours after they left Kidderminster.

**Jerry Mayfield**

*(See pages 7 and 8 for more photographs - Photography by Colin Hill, Val and Jerry Mayfield and Ken Garbett)*

## October Library Exhibition

Little did I realise, when suggesting a library exhibition about Twinning to Jean, either that this had been done before (albeit on a smaller scale) or that I would end up co-ordinating this one! Fortunately, the response from groups - past and present - to dig in their archives and mount displays was outstanding, and the library staff couldn't have been more helpful. A magnificently varied, vibrant and colourful exhibition of 20 cases resulted, timed to coincide with the October visit of Oldies and Newcomers - well done everyone!

Ray produced an attractive & accessible explanation of Twinning, as well as a Churches display - complete with *Marienkirche* model! Colin Hill came up trumps with wonderful Krokusfest and Carnival photos; he and Rod provided some super general photos of Husum too - remind me why I live in Kidderminster? - to appeal to future twidders. Victoria Cricket Club, Wyre Forest Quilters, KD8 Scouts, golfers and gardeners' groups created excellent displays of current sporting and interest exchanges. Choral Society, Male Voice Choir, Valentines, Wyre Forest Symphony Orchestra and the old Royal British Legion Youth (now WSFA) Band kept up the musical input with very attractive material. The current King Charles I School link was celebrated as well as past Harry Cheshire (school and band) and College Dance Group exchanges. Despite now living in Oz, even Liz and Keith Weston helped, putting me in touch with Denise Cutler for mementos of past Kidderminster Swimming Club triumphs. Football and an arts exhibition completed an "odds and sods" case. The first display was, of course, a brief history of Twinning (cribbed from Charles!) illustrated with fabulous old photos, next to an entire case dedicated to the youth groups.

The Town Crier, resplendent in red uniform, summoned all and sundry to the official opening by

Rainer Maaß - hotfoot from the Weavers Loft visit with the large group of Husumers. Some members of the public responded and joined guests, hosts and



Rainer, Charles and the Town Crier ready for action

representatives of exhibiting groups for the flag-waving guard of honour up the library stairs to the ribbon-cutting ceremony. Everyone took the opportunity to see the whole exhibition – naturally with the greatest interest shown by the Oldies in how they looked in the 60's & 70's photos! –

and we look forward to future developments and more participation in Twinning in Kidderminster.

**Hilary Boyle**

## Worcestershire Forum of Twinning Associations

I attended the October meeting of the Forum in Bewdley, and was among representatives from five Associations.

One of the matters that always concerns the Forum is how to publicise twinning, how to get people interested, and how to dispel some of the myths that persist, such as “Twinning is trips abroad for Councillors on the rates”! The Forum is trying to get the same kind of recognition for twinning within Worcestershire as is given to it by counties such as Devon and Cornwall. Devon, for instance, encourages and helps to arrange new twinning contacts for its towns and villages, and Cornwall gives bursaries to young people undertaking a twinning visit for a project, etc. We have not succeeded yet in getting this kind of interest from the County, and have therefore looked at other ways of getting the message across, such as having a joint county twinning stand at the Three Counties Show or at events within the larger towns and the city of Worcester where people from other towns are likely to be present. Discussions are still ongoing!

Items of interest from those present included the celebration by Droitwich of their 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary, Worcester's hosting of a choir from Worcester, Massachusetts, and their success in the Inter-Towns Quiz, and Bewdley's concentrated period of involvement with both their twin towns (Vellmar and Fort-Mahon-Plage) and their American “friendship” town of

Clarksville, Indiana. The last-named visit was apparently very dramatic, as it came just after the visit of Hurricane Ike – the third most costly hurricane in America's history - and the group had the uncommon experience (for visitors to the States) of somewhat primitive living conditions, whilst all the able-bodied people of the area were engaged in clearing up rather than entertaining guests.

The Forum's next meeting will be in Bromsgrove in March, and the following one will be its first ever visit to Kidderminster.

**Ray Harrowing**

## New Directions

A visit either to or from Husum often provides an opportunity to discuss new twinning projects, and the September visit of the *Krokusblütenkönigin* (Crocus Queen), accompanied by Georg Weßler, Chairman of the *Husumer Verein für Partnerschaften*, and Georg's visit in October with the “Oldies”, were just such occasions. On the October visit, others also had an opportunity to make suggestions, and here are some of the projects that we shall be following up over the coming months:

- A link between a local Women's Institute and Husum's equivalent, the *Landfrauen*;
- A link between chess clubs (a similar link existed for a time in the 1970s);
- A visit to Husum by jazz musicians from Kidderminster College;
- A possible joint churches' pilgrimage to the holy island of Iona in Scotland;
- A visit by “wine tasters” to Husum's *Hafentge*;
- An exchange of table tennis teams.

We shall report again in due course on the progress of these various ideas.

## Wind powers Husum

Husum's charm really is that of a small town that combines history and modernity. No other place demonstrates this as clearly as the harbour area. Wind turbines and fishing boats make up a picturesque ensemble. Ships are no longer built here, but wind turbines are built in their place: the former wharf area on the south side of the harbour is one of the locations of the wind turbine manufacturer *REpower Systems AG*.

Wind energy is the business sector that Husum is backing in a big way. Besides *REpower*, *Vestas Deutschland* (one of the leading German manufacturers) is also represented. The “Training Centre for Renewable Energies” (*BZEE*) educates service tech-

nicians for the wind energy sector and in the House of Future Energies renewable energy forms much of the programme.



Outside the Messehalle

Every year Husum's exhibition centre, the *Messehalle*, hosts a prestigious fair called "HUSUMwind", and this has gained an international reputation. In addition to this, Husum companies specialising in renewable energy are represented at exhibitions throughout the world.

The industry is now the biggest employer in Husum, having taken over from shipbuilding; the future for Husum really is renewable!

**Postscript**

Yet more Space for Wind!

1998 saw the completion of the extensive facilities at the *Messehalle*, to the north-east of the town, and this has become the centre for many shows, trade fairs and other events. But over recent years the HUSUMwind exhibition, in particular, has out-



... and inside

grown the hall, and temporary marquees have been erected to take the overflow. Now plans for a big new extension, to be completed in time for HUSUMwind 2010, can go ahead; Peter Harry Carstensen, Prime Minister of Schleswig-Hol-

stein, only a few days ago handed over to *Bürgermeister* Rainer Maaß a decision of the State Parliament to grant over €12m towards a total cost of €16.1m, leaving the town to contribute about €3.72m. The extensions will enlarge the *Messehalle* by about 25%, to a total of 40,000 sq.m., but the facilities manager, Hanno Fecker, said that 95% of the whole area is already booked for 2010!

The enlarged *Messehalle* will provide flexible spaces for shows, concerts, seminars and conferences, with extensive restaurant and other facilities.

**Husum Calendar**

Once again we are including a calendar of the events that will take place in or near Husum during the coming year, for any intending visitors.

- November 24 – December 28 Weihnachtsmarkt (Christmas Market)*
- March 21-22 - Krokusblütenfest (Crocus Festival)*
- September 7-11 - Husum Wind Energy Exhibition*
- October 17-18 - Krabbentage (Shrimp Festival)*



Honoured guests



Rainer cuts the ribbon





Visitors to Sealine International



The Friendship Cake



Hilary - Mistress of Ceremonies



Winners and Losers

## 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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