



From the Editor

We are publishing this issue of the Newsletter at the beginning of October rather than in November so that we can include the announcement of the showing of two German films at Kidderminster Library during the month. Depending on what we need to announce early in the New Year, the next edition may also appear early.

I wonder, what do you get out of Twinning – and what do you put into it? If you have any thoughts on what the Association could be doing, or about the part that you play in the process, we would be pleased to hear from you – you may even see your contribution in print! Do put pen to paper, and let me have the result.
Ray Harrowing

A Gardening tour of Kidderminster

Packing only a few summer clothes, a group of twelve left a baking hot Husum for the fifth exchange with Kidderminster Horticultural Society – happily, despite the unexpected cold and wet conditions for mid-July, their warm welcome meant all involved once again had a wonderful time. Nine old friends and three complete newcomers, in borrowed Wellies and fleeces, joined hosts and helpers at Little Larford on Thursday, July 16 for the start of a packed programme. Even though opportunities for viewing the garden were extremely limited, we all enjoyed the buf-

fet supper in the marquee - and no-one got stuck in the car parking field!

We regrouped at the Black Country Museum on Friday morning, and German notes were provided for the introductory session, which was followed by a Victorian school lesson, a trip through the canal tunnel and a scary walk down a coal mine. The faggots and peas lunch was a novel experience, as were attempts to understand the dialect of volunteers in the old shops and houses! The rain held off for much of the day, which ended with a superb meal for everyone at Holy Innocents Church Hall, home of the Horticultural Society.

Saturday morning or no, Charles Talbot had persuaded the Mayor and Mayoress to meet us for a formal reception followed by a bilingual Town Hall tour. Specially-commissioned sticks of Twinning rock were presented in thanks! A strange yellow object was briefly spotted in the sky before



Canal trip at the Black Country Museum



Derrick Aston (l.), showing his garden to Klaudia Knopf, Klaus Sackrzewski and Annelene Topf

we all went our own way for selected activities – Warwick Castle, Wightwick Manor, David Austin Roses, Bridgnorth, Bewdley, Stourport Basins and, of course, exploring and shopping in Kidderminster. Miraculously the showers vanished in time for a rather noisy fish and chip supper in Geoff's garden, lasting well into the night.

Domestic commitments had prevented the Husumers attending the KHS Open Gardens earlier in July, but nearly all of the proud Kidderminster gardeners beavered away again to stage an action replay for our guests on Sunday. Lingered over a

huge picnic spread at the home of one of the hosts, before tardily setting out for more viewing, meant we arrived at Broadwaters Park at the same time as a torrential downpour. The guided tour by the Friends of the Park was abandoned before it began, but the day ended in another garden dry enough for Colin to take some damp group photos. The now traditional climax of Skittles, and delicious hot food, at the Talbot warmed everyone up again.

All too quickly Monday morning came and the sad faces at departure time indicated how much fun we had all had together. Everyone is already looking forward to next year's return trip to Husum!

Hilary Boyle

From the Committee

In the last edition we reported that the Committee would next meet in September. This meeting has been postponed to October, so that there is nothing to report at this stage, but that meeting will be covered in the next issue.

Husum Calendar

For the information of any intending visitors to Husum, here are some of the events that will take place in or near Husum during the next few months.

October 1-7 – Husumer Filmtage (Film Festival)

October 17-18 - Krabbentage (Shrimp Festival)

October 18 – Traktorado (6th International Model Tractor Exhibition)

November 23 – December 29 – Weihnachtsmarkt (Christmas Market)

February 15-16 – 11th Nord Gastro & Hotel (Exhibition of Catering and Hotel Management)

February 21 – Biikebrennen (Bonfire symbolising the driving out of winter cold and storms)

March 6 – 38th Wintermarathon Husum

March 13-14 – Krokusfest

March 18-21 – New Energy Husum

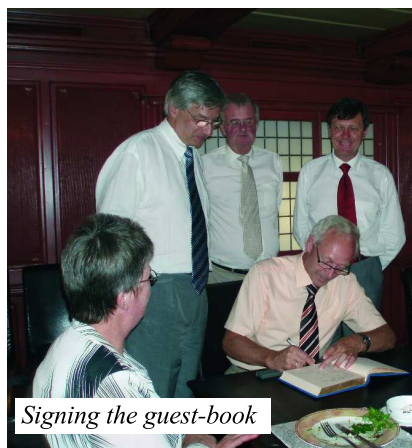
April 4 – Oster-Motorradtreffen & Biker Gottesdienst (Easter Sunday Biker gathering and open-air church service)

A full programme of events, exhibitions, etc. can be found at www.husum-tourismus.de

Visit of the Mayor and Mayoress to Husum's Hafentage

After nearly ten years as a Charter Trustee I, with my wife Terry (accompanied by Mayor's Officer, Bob Fleming) made our first trip to Husum for the Harbour Days festival in August. My only regret is that I waited so long to make my first visit!

We arrived, via ferry and road, on Wednesday August 5, just in time to take part in some of the opening celebrations on stage with Rainer Maaß (Husum's *Bürgermeister*) and Marek, the Mayor of one of Husum's other twin towns, Trzcianka in northern Poland. Making a speech



Signing the guest-book

about the glories of Kidderminster in English to a couple of thousand German speakers is an interesting experience, even for me! The Polish delegation were there throughout our stay and we spent much enjoyable time with them.

So much was packed into the five days' stay that I cannot go into much detail here. However it includ-



The Mayor and Mayoress (centre) with Polish and German friends

ed a formal reception in the evening of the opening, a tour of the local countryside and sea defences and a civic lunch with Rainer, Marek and the *Bürgermeister* of Helmstadt, when we all signed the official visitor's book. We were shown the ongoing development and expansion being undertaken at the superb exhibition site and learnt a great deal about the major advances being made in wind power. The afternoon spent on this was a particular highlight for us.

The formal events ended on Saturday night with a singing concert at the Castle where many young singers competed against each other. The quality was superb. As well as watching the tug-o-war at

the outer harbour on Sunday there was also plenty of time to enjoy the harbour side events and, as well as enjoying the local fish and shrimps, I admit to having a glass or two of beer!

Terry's and my thanks go to Rainer and all the people of Husum who made it such a memorable first visit. It was busy and active but never a chore!

Howard Martin

Christmas Concert 2009

A reminder that the Christmas Concert will take place on Saturday December 5, at Baxter Church. Pam Cunningham, Director of Music of the Kidderminster Valentines, is once again arranging the programme, and we are very grateful to the choir for again offering to provide the "backbone" of the programme. As this edition is appearing a month early, we are as yet unable to announce the full line-up, but the programme will include at least two school choirs, and the programme will include something for all tastes!

The proceeds of the concert will again be donated to KEMP Hospice and the *Hospiz-Dienst Husum*.

Tickets for the concert will be available at the beginning of November, and you will be able to obtain them from Judy Morris (01562 751753). We shall be producing a publicity poster, which will be distributed as widely as possible. If you would like a supply, again please contact Judy at the beginning of November.

Germany on Film

Some time ago we reported that the *Husumer Verein für Partnerschaften* (the Twinning Association in Husum) had arranged visits to see English films as part of their "social activities". Thanks to Hilary Boyle, and with the co-operation of Mr. Hamblett at Kidderminster Library, we now have the opportunity to attend the showing of German films (with English sub-titles). The two films – "Wings of Desire" (*Der Himmel über Berlin*) – a portrait of Berlin before the fall of the Wall, and an essay on human love; and "The Lives of Others" (*Das Leben der Anderen*) – the story of an actress and her dramatist partner, spied on by the East German secret police, and a winner of the foreign language Oscar, will form part of the Autumn programme of the Wyre Forest Film Club, which meets in the Library Gallery on Tuesday evenings at 7.30 p.m. If you wish to attend, membership of the Film Club costs £1.00 (running from January to De-

cember), plus £4.50 per film (£4.00 for pensioners).

The Autumn session includes nine films, and begins on October 6, with "Wings of Desire" being shown on October 20 and "The Lives of Others" on October 27. Other films in the session will include "Letters from Iwojima" (dir. Clint Eastwood) – told in Japanese and supposedly reconstructed from a cache of unsent letters from this theatre of the Pacific war; "Katyn" (Polish, with subtitles), telling the story of the horrific massacre of the Polish officer classes by the Soviets in 1940; and "Looking for Eric" (dir. Ken Loach) – in which a football-mad postman gets life coaching from Man. Utd. star Eric Cantona – Loach's lightest, happiest film for some time.

"Newcomers' " First Trip

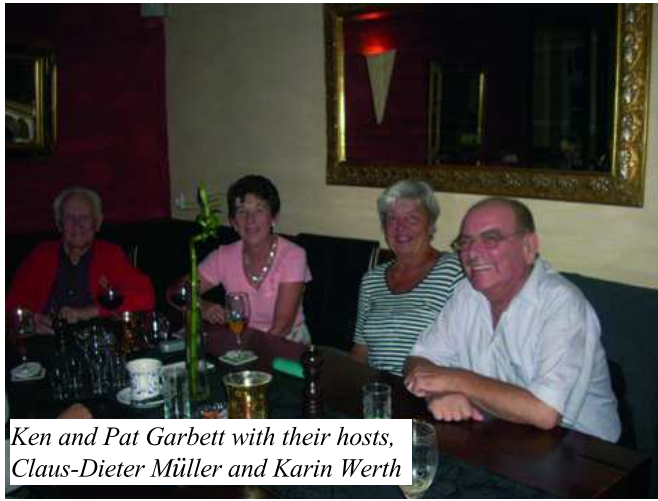
Efforts to enable "newcomers"- people keen to visit Husum and start Twinning, but not belonging to a group which exchanges - finally bore fruit in August. Combining forces with a small party of "Oldies", everyone enjoyed a wonderful programme, which provided plenty to do with free time for pursuing our own interests and catching up with old friends. Events began as soon as we arrived, in lovely weather, at high tide, with an



Jim Pearman and his granddaughter with the Nightwatchman



All aboard in Friedrichstadt



Ken and Pat Garbett with their hosts, Claus-Dieter Müller and Karin Werth

evening get-together with all the hosts in the *Nordtor*, a floating restaurant in the picturesque harbour.

A reception by the *Bürgermeister* Rainer Maaß in the spectacular Town Hall the next morning was followed by a guided tour of the town ending in a delicious complimentary lunch in the local department store. A coach took us all the next day to Schleswig, to visit the Viking museum and village, the Cathedral and fishermen's quarter, returning in time for a group meal in a harbourside restaurant.

Despite the glorious weather, Jim Pearman attended the market service on Thursday in Skt. Marien-



Charles enjoys an ice-cream in Friedrichstadt

kirche in full Town Crier regalia and then strolled around the bustling market and holiday crowds, ringing his huge bell. At 11 o'clock, the Husum night watchman called the "all's well" from the Old Town Hall balcony, followed by Jim - in impressive voice - giving

greetings from Kidderminster in both English and German. There was just time to explore the market before setting off to Friedrichstadt for a canal cruise.

Choice of individual activities on Friday was partly governed by an abrupt change in the weather and – even more sadly - Saturday's planned horse-drawn carriage ride across the tidal mud flats to a nearby island had to be abandoned due to severe thunder-storms. However everyone found alterna-

tive (some indoor) attractions instead! We all had much to talk over during the farewell meal in a traditional old farmhouse/museum restaurant. The visit ended with the drive to Hamburg for a tour of the city and the flight home.

All members of the group had a wonderful time. Quite apart from the superb programme arranged by Eva Maaß, we made new friends, caught up with old ones, practised our German, explored new exchange possibilities, and sampled local food. More importantly, the newcomers now understand Charles's comment that a visit to Husum changes one's life! We hope they will

all be able to welcome visitors from our twin town in the future as well as joining the rest of us in returning to Husum as often as possible.

Hilary Boyle

New Members

Welcome to Heather and Geoff Cox, who have recently joined the Association. We hope that they will find their contacts with other members and with Husum interesting and enjoyable.

Kidderminster-Husum Twinning Association



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Chairman: Dr. R. Summers;
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Treasurer: Mrs Christine Dutton;
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Newsletter

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