



From the Editor

Having published the last issue at the beginning of October, we are now also bringing forward the "Winter" edition – mainly so that we can send New Year greetings to all our readers!

We have a number of reports of visits to or from Husum, that took place in the Autumn of last year. Some of these may seem rather out of date, but I am sure you will still be interested to know of the experiences of those who journeyed "hin und zurück" (to and fro!).

Ray Harrowing

Husum-Kidderminster Golf Competition – the "Schimmel-Ryder" Cup

2009 is the Centenary year for Kidderminster Golf Club, and we were proud to have the

our numbers accordingly; nonetheless the fixture was very lively indeed, with some very good golf played at the hot end of the spectrum, and something a little more pedestrian at the other.

The teams were: Husum - Hartwig and Antje Haacke, Dieter and Uta Knörr, Kaspar Leistner, Birgit Ederle and Peter Lorenzen. Ann Westwood, and Gerald and Lilian Weaver variously made up numbers for the visitors. Kidderminster - Rod and Sandra Summers, Alan and Hilda Gregory, Jane Murrant, Neil Nicholls, Mike Spencer and Barrie and Ann Westwood.

As well as the two-day competition we had two golfing Away Days, at Worcester Golf and Country Club, and Shirley Golf Club. The Worcester course was a particular hit with the visitors. Both courses are mature parkland, the lushness very striking to our visitors. Also our greens are faster than at the Husum club, and this caused some difficulty for them.

On the "free" day the group chose to split three ways. The hardy enthusiasts opted to play at Kington on the Welsh border (again) - the highest 18-hole course in England. Others chose a shopping trip to Birmingham, while the third group visited Warwick Castle.

The two main **Social events** were: a Skittles evening at the Talbot Inn, Hartlebury. Hilary Boyle generously organised us - with great expertise - and even organised the prizes (this has been voted a must for the future); a Barbecue/buffet chez Neil and Jane Nicholls in Worcester, following the Worcester golf day. Dieter took over the barbecue - sausages and black pudding outside - the early



Husum golfers visit us to compete for the trophy. The weather was fantastic for the whole week - happily so, since we chose September in preference to June. Golf in the rain is no fun! I am proud to report a resounding win for Kidderminster. Played over two days in Ryder Cup format the result was 8.5 - 3.5 to our team. The Husumers only had seven players this year so we had to reduce



Dieter Knörr hands back the trophy to Kidderminster's Rod Summers

evening allowing this - and lots of good fare indoors as it became cooler.

Fish and chips and curry remain our visitors' favourite English food, curry now being part of British cuisine. The first thing the visitors bought on arriving in Kidderminster was a solid Fish and Chips afternoon feast, and the same evening we all went out for a Curry. Later in the week we had another Curry Night, preceded by "nibbles" - actually a meal in itself - at the Gregorys'.

Rounding off the week was our **final Dinner** at Kidderminster Golf Club. Prizes were awarded, including Longest Drive to our captain, and the Trophy was returned to Kidderminster. The overall score is now three wins to Kidderminster and two to Husum with one tied match. Our various friendships continue to deepen. Indeed a twinning event has now matured into the Kidderminster-Husum Golfing Society. Golf balls with logos have appeared, and there is talk of a society tie. Who would have thought this when we started in 2004?

Rod Summers (Captain)

Churches on a Mission

At the end of September a small group of representatives of churches in and around Kidderminster travelled to Husum for five days during which they saw a number of churches, met many members of Husum congregations, toured the area and brought back some happy memories.

We are grateful to Rev. Katharine Green and Margaret Whale for their "newcomers'" views of Husum and its churches, and to Peggy Guest, who has made the trip before.

The visit to Husum in September was a huge success. A group of eight of us from different churches in Kidderminster met together to travel to Husum for the weekend of the 24th – 28th September. Over the past year working as curate at St Mary's church I have heard many good things about the Husum-Kidderminster Twinning Association. So when Canon Owain Bell said there was a trip going this September I jumped at the chance. After much preparation and plan-



Peggy and Catherine Guest, Katharine Green, Margaret Lillis and Loree Napier pose in sunny Husum

ning by Ray Harrowing and others we found ourselves on the plane to Germany.

We arrived Thursday evening and were met by our hosts. I stayed with Andreas and Inke Raabe, who are both pastors. They were wonderful hosts and showed me all the sights, including several trips: to the North Sea (paddling in the cold!), to the museum of Theodor Storm, and to the small town of Friedrichstadt. On the Friday we met together at Pastor Andreas's church (Friedenskirche or 'Peace Church') with people from different churches in Husum to chat and eat a meal together. After the meal I remember looking up to see a room full of people deep in conversation, chatting ani-

matedly; a lovely picture of friendships blossoming and new ideas being shared.

Another highlight was the trip to Hamburger Hallig on the Saturday. After a wonderful meal sampling local delicacies, we walked

full of character, wide streets (some of them cobbled), comfortable-looking houses of various styles, little traffic - and very clean. My hostess came on foot to meet me and we walked to her large apartment near the town centre. Her English was very good (my

German is non-existent!) and we got on famously. She introduced me to the shops, the harbour, the Castle and the park, and we worshipped at her Roman Catholic church. Highlights of the visit for me were the meal and discussion at the *Friedenskirche*, the visit to the dyke, where we had a superb meal in the restaurant, the performance of "The Creation" at *St. Marienkirche*, the fare-



The church group show off their new Husum scarves

along the coast and observed the wildlife. That evening we listened to Haydn's "Creation" at St Marienkirche, a moving and very professional performance. This was then followed by a *Pharisäer* at the hotel bar: a 'must-have', I had heard!

Before we left we went to the *Rathaus* and were told all about Husum and the local area. We also had the chance for final photo opportunities overlooking the harbour. As we left there was a certain sadness that we had to say goodbye but also a real joy at the wonderful friendships established, both old and new, and the memories which I am sure will stay with us for many years to come.

Katharine Green

My visit came about as a result of a small paragraph in the Kidderminster Shuttle to which I responded, having no idea of Husum except that it was on the German coast and near the Danish border. My first impressions were of a town

well meal, and the reception at the *Rathaus*.

Husum is a lovely place, well worth a visit. The people are warm and kindly - nothing is too much trouble. Many of them have visited Kidderminster and enjoy coming here because of our friendliness; well, they too gave us a warm welcome and every conceivable



Iris Baggott with Pastorin Inke Raabe

able kindness. We met as strangers and left as friends

Margaret Whale

As we travelled to the airport I must confess that I felt a little unsure of what to expect this time as the itinerary we had received left a few spaces and question marks. However, from the moment we arrived at the Hotel I had no need to doubt as we received such a very warm welcome and those staying in the Hotel were immediately invited to supper at the home of Georg and Marketta Weßler.

The next day we taken by Karin Urbach for a visit to Hamburger Hallig in the *Wattenmeer*. We drove across a very straight 4km road through a conservation area of salt marshes, one of the most important wetlands in the world for migratory birds and which this year has been awarded World Heritage Status. We arrived at a thatched Restaurant for our lunch and afterwards had a brief talk from a volunteer in the exhibition centre. Saturday evening was our chance to hear a performance of Haydn's 'The Creation' performed in the *Marienkirche*. This was a fine performance with a very professionally trained choir and orchestra. The three soloists were also of a high standard and formed an excellent ensemble. The work was performed with only two breaks of two minutes each. Fortunately the pews were reasonably comfortable!

Sunday morning found the four of us at the 15th-century *Klosterkirche*, part of the *Marienkirche* parish. We entered through an extremely pretty and almost English-looking garden surrounded by Almshouses. The short service was led by Pastor Raabe's wife, Inke, who had thoughtfully produced a translation of her sermon for the Kidderminster visitors! During the service we were treated to some very impressive playing on the brilliantly-sounding North German organ. It was not until after the service when we were celebrating the golden wedding of two people from their congregation that I realized it was Kai Krakenberg (who had conducted the concert the previous evening) who was in the organ loft. What an added bonus for our visit! The concluding voluntary, by the French composer Lefebvre Wely, was well known to St. Mary's people as it is played by David Morgan our organist.

Before this visit I had not realized the similarity of the Husum coastal area to that of the northern Netherlands and as we travelled around seeing the many huge turbines gracefully turning their blades it became apparent that wind power is being used on a vast scale, in fact there are over 20,000 turbines in use in the country and more than 100,000 people are employed in the industry. Karin also showed us places where maize and roadside green material was being collected to be turned into Biogas. They really seem to be thinking about energy conservation in a big way.

All too soon our visit came to an end with a final Reception given by the *Bürgermeister* at the *Rathaus*. As we left he gave each one of the "Kidderminster ladies" a newly-designed Husum scarf. This was a very kind gesture and I know that we will wear them with pride and with memories of friendships made during our five extremely happy days in Husum.

Peggy Guest

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.

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 20-21 – 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

Under the Thumb of the Dockkoog! Some thoughts of a regular swimmer

One has to face up to the truth – even when you've retired, you can't decide how to use your free time. I'm not thinking of my obligation to look after the grandchildren, or going

shopping, or doing the housework, seeing friends, or doing some voluntary work. No, what I mean is that the *Dockkoog* tells us how to manage our life during the Summer!

The *Dockkoog* is Husum's special place for swimming, and if you want to swim you need water – no doubt about it. But there's a problem with the North Sea coast – the water comes and goes, every day. So every day the big question is, "What time is high tide?" And this time – high tide time – overrides every other plan for the day, no matter that we would like a relaxed breakfast, when we would like lunch, and so on. You just have to get out the bike, pick up the swimming gear and start off "out west"!

The time you have for nice bathing in the sea is quite long, so long as the wind comes from the west. High water is easily reached then. On your way to the beach you meet people who are on their way home, and you ask: "What about the water today?", and they usually reply: "Oh, it's great!" But when the wind is from the east there will be less water, and you hardly dare ask whether there's still some left. Then the answer will be, "Well, there's not so much any more, so hurry up!" But for those who are enthusiastic *Dockkoog*-swimmers, it doesn't matter that the water only comes up to their knees, they still swim! And anyway, at the *Dockkoog*, you always meet a lot of friends!

A note in conclusion: our thanks to the powers that be in Husum, whatever their "colour"; bathing at the *Dockkoog* doesn't cost one cent!

Peter Richter (a member of the *Husumer Nachrichten*'s "senior editors" group)

**Translated by Hedwig Müller.
September 2009**

Husum Ahoy!

My fourth yearly Autumn visit to sing with the Theodor Storms Chor in Husum was marked by a complete absence of sunshine, but it was also

a time to enjoy a feast of Mozart. Penny and I flew from Birmingham to Hamburg as usual, then took the brand-new *S-Bahn* (suburban train) to the main railway station, and the train to Schleswig, where we were met by Marketta Weßler. On the return journey Georg Weßler drove us straight to the Hamburg airport – for chauffeuring us, and for their unfailingly generous hospitality, we owe them very sincere thanks.

Friday morning provided an opportunity, on the occasion of the anniversary of the opening of the *Altenbegegnungsstätte* (a community centre for the elderly run by *St. Marienkirche*), to hear a talk by Henning Scherf, the former *Bürgermeister* of Bremen, on opportunities and services for the elderly; he was an engaging and passionate speaker. Lunch at the *Ratskeller* followed, after which I paid a visit to the Theodor-Storm-Schule where I was welcomed by Frau Karschin, the Director, and given a tour of the school.



St. Marienkirche, Husum

Later that day I joined the members of the Theodor Storms Chor on a coach to St. Peter-Ording for the first rehearsal of the weekend.

The choir had joined with the *Kantorei St. Peter* to perform Mozart's *Requiem* (in the 1993 realisation by American composer Robert Levin) and *Vesperae solennes de Domenica*, and, as Jens Weigelt, the TSC's conductor, was recovering after a heart attack, the rehearsals and both concerts were conducted by Christoph Jensen, director of the *Kantorei St. Peter* and a former pupil of Herr Weigelt.

Saturday began with some shopping and then, after lunch, the journey to Tating, near St. Peter-Ording, where that day's concert would take place. Tating's *St. Magnuskirche* – the largest on the Eiderstedt peninsula – dates from 1103 and has many historic features: a good venue for Mozart, but as it turned out not really ideal for the size of the choir, orchestra and audience. Nevertheless, an enjoyable rehearsal and performance, marked particularly by the beautiful singing of the four soloists and the playing of the *concerto classico* orchestra – a group of professionals and students based in St. Peter-Ording.

On Sunday we and our hosts were guests of Manfred Kamper (former *Propst* of the then Husum-Bredstedt *Kirchenkreis*) and his wife Frigga for a lunch that featured *Grünkohl*, a speciality of Nordfriesland, after which we made our way to the *Stadtkirche*, St. Marien, for another rehearsal before our second concert. *St. Marienkirche* is a much larger venue than the church at Tating, and although there was a capacity audience the overall effect was very impressive. Again the soloists excelled, and Christoph Jensen showed himself an able and sensitive musical director. All in all a most enjoyable concert. Sunday's concert began at 5.00 p.m., which allowed plenty of time for the party at the Thomas Hotel that followed – a time to reminisce and to renew old friendships. At the party Jens Weigelt, who had attended that day's rehearsal and concert, made a speech, and was evidently well on the way to recovering his former energy and strength.

Before we left Husum on Monday there was just time for a call at the *Rathaus*, where we met up with *Bürgermeister* Rainer Maaß, and a bit of last-minute shopping. And so back to England – tired, but happy to have experienced once again the pleasures of friendship and music-making in Husum.

Ray Harrowing

From the Committee

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

- A project that the Theodor-Storm-Schule is carrying out about a Jewish girl, who had been a pupil of the school that became the TSS, and who lost her life in Auschwitz;
- The possibility of arranging a major visit to Husum for the opening of the *Kongresszentrum* (the big extension to the *Messehalle*) in 2010;
- The possibility of planting purple crocuses in Husum Way;
- A link of some kind between the Kidderminster Shuttle and the *Husumer Nachrichten*;
- Arrangements for the Christmas Concert.

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



On the Horizon

A number of visits to and from Husum are being planned for 2010, but we only have two firm dates to record at present, and a likely additional arrangement; we shall be able to report on further events in the next edition. The one of which we have knowledge is the visit of the Theodor Storms Chor to sing with the Kidderminster Choral Society over the weekend May 22-23, and the likely one is the visit to the Krokusfest on March 20-21.

Please watch out for further details. If you wish to add events, visits, etc. to this list, please inform the Editor.

Worcestershire Forum of Twinning Associations

The Forum held its October meeting in the Town Hall (the first time that it has met in Kidderminster) and Charles Talbot was Chairman for the meeting. The Mayor, our President, also attended.

The main discussion centred on the new “Vetting and Barring” rules for people having contact with children and vulnerable adults, and the effect that these rules could have on twinning activities. Two or three people from Associations in the Forum are meeting County Council officers to discuss this further. A further item related to the difficulties experienced in obtaining funding from the EU for twinning purposes; letters had been sent to MEPs representing this area, and a very helpful response had been received from Michael Cashman MEP.

The differing levels of support from the various local authorities was discussed, and it was felt that some Councils were just not interested in twinning – although the Twinning Charter is always an agreement between local authorities, not between Associations!

Worcester’s link with Worcester in Massachusetts was mentioned, and it was noted that one of the major manufacturers there in the 19th century was Matthew Whittall – from Kidderminster! This infor-

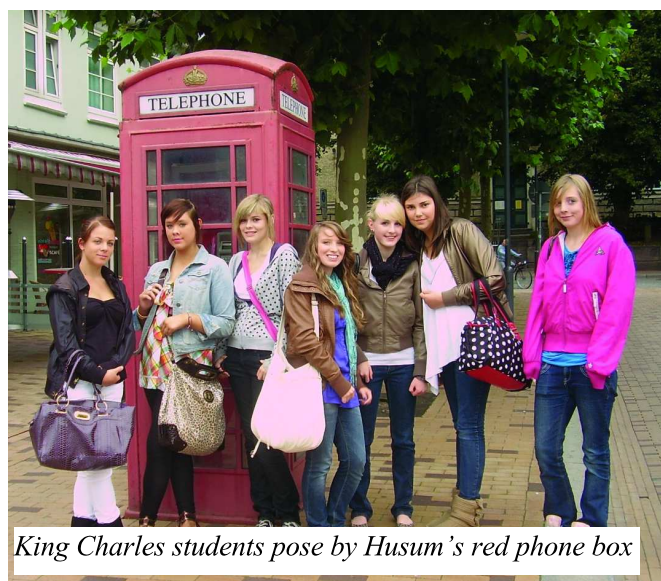
mation may just be useful in helping the link between the two Worcesters along.

King Charles School visit to the Theodor-Storm-Schule

At the end of September seven students from King Charles I School in Kidderminster made the trip to Husum, to spend a few days with host families and to experience life at the Theodor-Storm-Schule. They took part in a variety of activities, including a ferry trip to one of the *Halligen*, and we understand that they greatly enjoyed the experience. We are hoping that a fuller account of their visit will be available for the next edition of the Newsletter, and in the meantime we have some pictures of the visit.



King Charles students with their hosts at Theodor-Storm-Schule



King Charles students pose by Husum's red phone box

Twinning Christmas Concert

The third Christmas concert, presented by the Twinning Association with the invaluable help and advice of the Kidderminster Valentines, took place at Baxter Church on December 5. Rev. Gerald England – who had been expecting a relaxed evening off – very kindly operated the sound system, and interval refreshments were provided by the Valentines and the Association's Social Committee.

The Valentines, resplendent as usual in their sparkling red outfits, took centre stage and, led by conductor Pam Cunningham, sang items ranging from *O Holy Night* to *I wish it could be Christmas every day*, and were on their usual effervescent form. Naomi Berry, soprano (formerly a member of the Wyre Forest Young Voices and now studying at Birmingham Conservatoire), sang two solos, *The Little Road to Bethlehem* and *Somewhere, over the Rainbow*, and was received with enthusiastic applause. Singers and instrumentalists from Baxter College, under the name "Vox" and led by Music teacher Freya Robinson, performed items in a variety of styles. One of these was a rendering of the German carol *Stille Nacht*, which pleased many in the audience who had connections with Germany. Tim Morris (Town Hall Organist and Director of Music at St. George's Church) played the organ for three carols for choir and audience.

Charles Talbot, Secretary of the Association, compèred the concert in the unavoidable absence of Peter Tomlinson. He paid tribute to all who had taken part, and Jacqui McGinn from KEMP Hospice added a word of thanks to the participants and the Association for their support of the Hospice's work.

Donations will be made to KEMP Hospice and the *Husumer Hospizdienst* from the proceeds of the concert.

Ray Harrowing

New Member

We are delighted to welcome Christina Jacobsen as a member of the Association. Christina comes from the Danish minority of North Friesland, and is at present studying in Aarhus, in Denmark. In 2006 she was a Teaching Assistant at King Charles I School, so she feels she has a link already with Kidderminster. We particularly welcome Christina's offer to help

with the translation into German and Danish of more pages of our website! She is not the first member from overseas – Husumers Renate and Heinrich Linkogel, and Marketta and Georg Weßler, are also on our membership list.

Passing on the Baton

As readers may know, Dr. Rod Summers has retired as the Chairman of the Association's Committee, and the AGM, in March, will be asked to elect a new Chairman. At the same time, Charles Talbot will be stepping down as Secretary, and a new Secretary will be appointed. The Committee is looking at the work that various people do for the Association, and will make a number of recommendations about "who does what". In particular we are looking for someone who can assist with the technical side of maintaining the Twinning website, and if this is your particular skill and you would be prepared to work with us in keeping the website up to date and interesting we would be delighted to hear from you. Please contact Ray Harrowing (see below for details).

Kidderminster-Husum Twinning Association



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Newsletter

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