



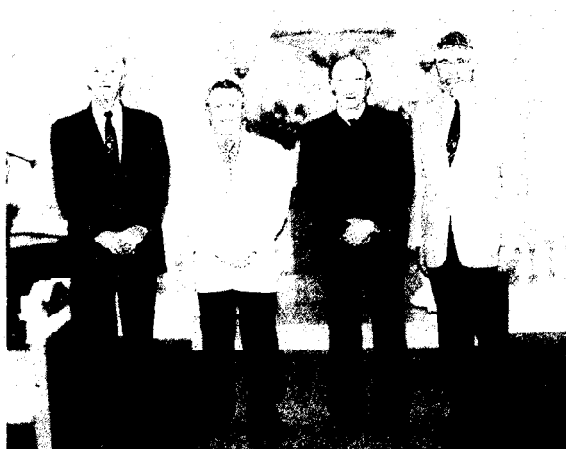
# TWIN TOWN NEWS



Volume 7: Issue 1: March 2004

## *Presentation of Window for the Marienkirche*

So far, a total of £394 has been raised by Kidderminster churches and individual members of the Association towards the cost of one of the new windows being installed in the restoration of Husum's Marienkirche. A further sum of 800 Euros was raised towards the fund at a concert given in the church in August by the Male Choir and Valentines.



L-R Rod Summers, Terry Garbett, Charles Talbot and Georg Wessler

The glass was presented to the church on behalf of the Kidderminster/Husum Twinning Association on Sunday 2nd November by Dr Rod Summers, Chairman. Also at the service were Vice Chairman Terry Garbett, and Secretary Charles Talbot with his wife and grandsons. The engraved dedication reads on one pane in English A GIFT FROM THE CHURCHES AND PEOPLE OF KIDDERMINSTER, ENGLAND OCTOBER 2003 and on one pane in German GESTIFTET VON DEN KIRCHEN UND DER BEVÖLKERUNG AUS KIDDERMINSTER, GROß BRITANNIEN OKTOBER 2003. The complete window will be dedicated at a service on Sunday 30th May when members of Kidderminster congregations will be visiting Husum.

If anyone else would like to make a donation towards the project please send a cheque,

payable to The Kidderminster/Husum Twinning Association, to Charles Talbot, Barratts Court, Rectory Lane, Rock, Kidderminster DY14 9RR, by the end of April.

## *It's A Winner!*

Over 80 members and friends enjoyed the Race Night organised by the Social Committee. More than £200 was raised and great fun was had by all – this was the first, but we hope not the last, Night at the Races. Thanks to Terry, Ken, Pat, Keith and Liz for their time and generosity in masterminding the whole event, and for providing such an excellent buffet.

## *Another first - A 'Royal' visit*

Kidderminster's Carnival Queen, Caroline Greenhill, is to visit Husum at the end of March to see the new Crocus Queen crowned. A couple of years ago, Norman Broome, who, as well as being Chairman of the Twinning Association at the time, was and still is, a leading member of the Kidderminster Carnival Committee, had the idea of inviting the Husum Crocus Queen and the Kidderminster Carnival Queen to visit their respective opposite numbers. The idea met with unanimous enthusiasm and a lot of discussion and planning on both sides has gone into arranging the exchange for the first time this year. Norman, with Colin Hill, Chairman of the Carnival Committee, will accompany Caroline and her mother, Ann, to Husum for the last weekend in March when the Castle Park should be a spectacular carpet of purple crocus. We hope the weather is neither too warm nor too cold and the crocus bloom at the right date!

The return visit to Kidderminster will be for the weekend of Kidderminster Carnival on June 19th when the Crocus Queen will join the Carnival procession. We hope the Twinning Association will be represented with a suitably decorated

conveyance and passengers – any offers considered! We also plan to have a stand on the Carnival Field in Brinton Park and if anyone would like to help with that please phone Charles on 01299 832797.

## *Golf Exchange*

A group of twelve Kidderminster golfers will be visiting Husum in June to play their opposite numbers. There will be two matches at



Husum, followed by trips to courses on Föhr Island (North Sea) and Ringenes in Denmark (Baltic Coast) with some of our hosts. This is the first golfing visit, and we anticipate that there will

be great interest in a return visit probably next year. We will be able to take our guests to some interesting locations as well as our own area.

## *Civic Visit*

Cllr Helen Dyke, Mayor of Kidderminster and President of the Twinning Association, is also travelling to Husum for the Crocus Festival this year, accompanied by her Consort Cllr Peter Dyke, Town Clerk Charles Talbot and the Mayor's Officer Bob Fleming. Their programme will include a welcome reception, tours of the Ship Museum and the Castle, attending a service at the *Marienkirche*, visiting *Realschule Nord*, several official lunches and dinners, as well as seeing the Crocus Queen ceremony and tiptoeing through the crocuses – all between arriving Friday afternoon and leaving Monday midday!

## *The Husum Verein*

The Husum Verein has just held its first AGM and been well reported in the *Husumer Nachrichten*. German speakers can log on to the newspaper at [www.shz.de](http://www.shz.de), (*Schleswig-Holstein Zeitungsverlag*) then click on *Husumer Nachrichten*.

They were able to report the successful visits in 2003 and looked forward to the visit of the Carnival Queen to the Crocus Queen. The forthcoming golfing week and further visits by

the Scouts and Baxter College were also anticipated.

The Verein is also responsible for Husum's contacts to Gentofte (Copenhagen) in Denmark, Heiligenstadt in Thuringia and Trzcianka in Poland.

## *Worcestershire Twinning Association Forum*

On 14th January Charles and Jean Talbot attended a meeting of this Forum in Bromsgrove. There were fourteen persons present representing Bromsgrove, Redditch, Bewdley, Worcester and Droitwich Spa Twinning Associations.

There was a very interesting exchange of experiences especially on methods of financing twinning. This discussion led to an offer from Redditch to host the next meeting which will concentrate on successful techniques for obtaining finance from the EU and other sources. The meeting will be held on 12th May at a venue to be advised. If anyone would like to attend, please contact Charles Talbot on 01299 832797.

## *WFSO Visit*

*The Wyre Forest Symphony Orchestra exchange to Husum 29th October to 2nd November 2003.*

"A very special feeling" was how the German conductor, Thomas Wiese, summed up the spirit of the orchestra exchange with the Husum orchestra, *Collegium Musicum, Nordfriesland*. This was surely our best visit yet. A group of twenty-one musicians, friends and family made a very early start from Kidderminster to take the plane over to Lübeck, and on to Husum, with only a short breathing space before our rehearsals began in earnest. In a packed *Congress Halle* on the Friday night, the joint concert included



Wagner's *Rienzi* Overture, Dvorak's Slavonic Suite, and finished with the sublime Brahms Double Concerto for cello and violin. The soloists, Katja Mehlhorn and Ilonda Kindt, both young music students astonished us with their virtuosity, and were applauded long and loud on stage,



*Christa Petersen (L) and Linda Fowler share a joke during rehearsals*

and again at the post-concert party by the orchestra. Chairman of WFSO, Roy Smith, presented a fine Royal Worcester bowl to the Husum orchestra for the Town's 400th anniversary, and, although not a fluent German speaker, gave his speech in German which was very warmly received. There were several stalwarts of the Twinning Association on the visit: Charles and Jean Talbot and Terry Garbett in the audience, as well as Rod Summers, Chairman of the Association who was playing cello in the orchestra.

We were taken on a number of interesting visits in the area, including a cemetery at Lunden, the 'Clan' cemetery, which had raised a few eyebrows when spotted on the itinerary; but which was very unusual and interesting for its large family vaults - one of which the orchestra was allowed in - and for its cryptic inscriptions on the headstones. We never thought visiting a cemetery could be so much fun! The Pastor regaled us with stories from the past of the local priest being murdered by the town's people, the plagues which followed and the extension of the church and installation of a splendid new Baroque pipe organ, as an act of community contrition. We went on to Tönning, via a quick visit to picturesque Friedrichstadt, to see the fabulous *Multimar* sea-life centre, which describes the special North sea coast environment, locally known as *Watt*. Here we got a worms-eye-view of the sea bed, wondered at a stunning range of aquaria, explored a whale inside and out, and relaxed to some whale sounds and music. It seemed almost sacriligious, but finished the visit with a delicious seafood baguette!

The next major visit was to Husum itself - we were taken on a walking tour around the town, which took in the Ship Museum, the new Town Hall, the Harbour, the poet Theodor Storm's house, the town square and St Mary's Church. Husum is absolutely charming - as are its people.

Our hosts were very kind and generous, entertaining us with fine hospitality, and great music-making. Many players in the orchestra are now old friends, and we couldn't wait to plan our next event together. In fact, a golf-twinning event is already in the planning stage for next Spring. The Wyre Forest Symphony Orchestra website has given the Husum orchestra some ideas, and the use of email certainly assisted in the preparation for the trip. We will be hosting the Husum orchestra officially in 2005, and hosting private visits of Husum players next year, and have invited them to join in our concerts. Once again, the twinning of our two towns has brought about further understanding, the exchange of ideas, and the music has enriched our lives.

Linda Fowler

[Next WFSO concert Sun June 16th Kidderminster Town Hall - Ed]

## *Civic Visitors from Husum October 2003*

In October 2003 seven senior councillors, the *Bürgermeisterin* and *Bürgervorsteherin* visited Kidderminster for three days. For many of them, as new Councillors it was their first visit to Kidderminster. Their programme included a presentation by Walter Delin, Chief Executive of WFDC to explain local government, a civic dinner in the Corn Exchange hosted by the Charter Trustees, a guided town walk which took in a brief tour of the library and the *Weavers Wharf* development and a visit to Brintons. They were privately hosted for an evening and ended their stay at *Music for You* followed by a farewell drink. The Twinning Association Officers were invited to the civic dinner and joined the group at other events.



## Scouts

A party of eight Scout leaders and helpers will be visiting Kidderminster from the Husum area over Easter to plan a possible group visit to the area in 2005. The Mayor will receive them and Charles Talbot will be showing them around the Town Hall and King Charles Room on Thursday 8th April.

## New Member Group

The Kidderminster Carnival Committee has joined the Twinning Association as a group member. We welcome them and look forward to promoting and enjoying a lasting connection between the Carnival and the Crocus Weekend. Chairman Colin Hill will be their representative on the Management Committee.

## Churches

Plans are almost complete for a further visit to Husum at the end of May, for the festival of Pentecost. This weekend will be a big ecumenical occasion, and the opportunity will also be taken to dedicate the Kidderminster window and hand over the money that has been collected in Kidderminster for this project.

The group will include 17 members of local churches, as well as one from Pensnett. About half will be staying with Husum families, the other half being booked in at the Hotel Hinrichsen. As a preliminary to that visit, two members of St. Mary's Church in Kidderminster have just spent a very full weekend in Husum.

## Other news in brief

The *Realschule Nord* has just celebrated the opening of its new wing. The old building will now be renovated. Baxter College hope to resume pupil exchanges in the coming year.

## Subs due now...

Subscriptions for 2004-2005 will be due at the AGM and are as follows:  
Individual or Family or Couple £5.00  
Corporate club, Society, Organisation £25.00.  
To join as a new member or to renew your

subscription, please send appropriate fee to the Membership Secretary, Phil Austin, 12 Mayfield Close, Kidderminster DY11 5NG. Please make cheques payable to Kidderminster/Husum Twinning Association.

## Obituary

Michael Dutton died following a sudden and rapid illness in December 2003. Mike had been a prominent member of the community for more than thirty years, and made a huge contribution in many areas locally; as well being treasurer of the Twinning Association since 1995.

A talented amateur violinist, he was by profession an accountant, latterly in partnership with his wife Christine. He made friends naturally and easily, many of whom came to support him at both the Wyre Forest Symphony Orchestra and the Kidderminster Choral Society, in both of which he had been an enthusiastic member. For a while he was chairman of the WFSO.

In addition he was a keen golfer, member of the Chamber of Commerce, as well as several other societies. Mike visited Husum many times, both with the Choral Society and with WFSO. He is very sorely missed. He leaves wife, Christine, two sons and a daughter.

## **Kidderminster/Husum Twinning Association Committee**

Chairman, Dr R Summers; Secretary, Charles Talbot; Cultural Secretary, Ray Harrowing; Membership, Phil Austin.

### **Newsletter**

The Twin Town Newsletter is edited by Jean Talbot. Any contributions for the next newsletter will be welcome. Please post, fax or email copy and photos (jpeg format) to

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ROCK, Kidderminster DY14 9RR.

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