



From the Editor

After another busy "Summer season" of visits and other activities, both here in Kidderminster and in Husum, we approach the end of 2013 and look forward to another successful year of twinning. We have a number of reports of visits to and from Husum, and we are very grateful to all those who have contributed articles and photos to what we hope you will agree is another very interesting edition.

We take this opportunity of wishing all our readers a very Happy Christmas and a great twinning New Year.

Ray Harrowing

Annual General Meeting - Notice

Notice is hereby given, in accordance with the Constitution of the Association, that the Annual General Meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 26, 2014 at 7.30 pm., in the Severn Suite, Kidderminster SVR Station. The agenda and other papers for the meeting will be circulated in due course.

Garden Party

Our second garden party, held once again at the home of Charles and Jean Talbot, was a great success, graced as it was by beautiful weather and the presence of many members and friends – including Ulf and Annegret von Hielmcrone from Husum. The social committee laid on a sumptuous feast, with a German theme, and Annegret contributed wonderful desserts in the form of *Grützen* (fruit compôtes). The afternoon concluded with musical entertainment, with Charles

accompanying the singing of German songs and sea-shanties. In total, after meeting expenses, the event – which was not in fact planned as a fund-raiser – resulted in an income to the Association of £248, of which the raffle raised £51.

Our grateful thanks go to Charles and Jean, and also to the social committee who worked so hard to make the event a great success and a very enjoyable occasion – and, of course, to all who came!



Rainer explains the levels that floods have reached in the Binnenhafen



Cycling on Hamburger Hallig

The next afternoon we were joined by Charles and Jean Talbot, who had travelled to Husum overland, and proceedings commenced with a reception given by Husum's *Bürgermeister*, Uwe Schmitz, in the *Rathaus*. There we were introduced by Eva and Rainer Maaß to a delegation from Düsseldorf, who were joining us for several events over the next few days, and the *Bürgermeister* of Heiligenstadt, another of Husum's twin towns.



Geoff Boyle is quite attached to Husum!

Time passed rapidly, and it was soon time for the official *Hafentage* opening ceremony on the Harbour side, led by the *Rödemisser Spielmannszug* and the *Husumer Shantychor* and culminating in everyone joining in to sing "Husum Ahoy". During a break in the proceedings our secretary, Hilary Boyle, managed to speak to the leader of the *Shantychor* about visiting Kidderminster in the future – hopefully we will see them in concert in Kidderminster soon. We were then privileged to be invited to the evening reception given by the *Hafentage* organisers at the *Schiffahrtsmuseum* before returning to our hosts' homes tired but happy or staying on to

Oldies visit to Husum – August 2013

On Tuesday August 6, four of the original "Oldies" amongst whom were Barbara Longmore (née Penn) from the very first Kidderminster youth group to visit Husum in 1960, and five "honorary" Oldies, left Birmingham Airport en route to Husum to stay with host families for a week-long visit - which this year coincided with *Hafentage* (the Harbour Festival).



The Binnenhafen, and the Big Wheel in the Marktplatz



Visitors from Düsseldorf



Twinning is a piece of cake!

view the festival proceedings on one of the three stages set up around the harbour.

Thursday morning saw us, accompanied by our hosts, our new-found friends from Düsseldorf and several Husum Oldies, travelling north by train on the *Deutsche Bahn* "Sylt Shuttle" for an unusual day out. After some free time in Westerland, the largest town on the island of Sylt, we boarded a coach for a sightseeing tour of the island. Travelling north at a leisurely pace we had a short break at List, the most northerly German ferry terminal, so that the hungry ones amongst us could sample the culinary delights available at one of the original Gosch restaurants before making our way southwards, arriving eventually at the ferry port of Hörnum for a two-hour ride on one of the Adler-Schiffe company's fast ferries, passing by Amrum, Föhr and Hallig Hooe and a colony of seals basking on a sandbank, to arrive at Nordstrand where coaches waited to take us back to Husum in the early evening.

After a free morning Friday afternoon saw us meeting up at the *Amsinck-Haus* Information Centre on Sönke-Nissen-Koog for a leisurely five-km. ride by bicycle or car to the nearby Hamburger Hallig for a

delicious early evening lamb barbecue. There was even the opportunity for the more daring of us to swim in the "warm" (21°C) sea at the Hallig!

On Saturday morning some rain fell but this did not prevent us touring the area by car and visiting Tetenbüll, with its historic church and shop, and St Peter Ording where we had lunch at another Gosch restaurant before travelling on to see the Eider Barrage where festivities were taking place to celebrate the 40th anniversary of its completion. True to form for a visit to the area coffee and cake then followed at *Schloss Hoyerswort*, before we returned to Husum once again in the late afternoon for more Hafentage events.

Sunday was a restful day with the opportunity for those amongst us who so desired to attend the morning services at the *Marienkirche* or the much smaller *Kloster* (Cloister Church), near to Theodor Storm's tomb. The *Kloster* houses some of the relics (including the original altar cross) from the original *Marienkirche* which was demolished in 1807 due to disrepair.

After lunch the *Hafentage* programme continued unabated until it finally ended with a firework display late in the evening.

The final event of our visit took place at 17:00 Monday afternoon where most of us met up at Café Brütt in the Nordsee Museum for a farewell buffet with hosts and friends before everyone had an early night in preparation for our departure by train from Husum at 05:25 the next morning and our flight home to England.

Jerry Mayfield

Tote Bags

The Committee has decided that the Association should have a supply of tote bags (see picture) available for use as gifts when groups go to Husum or act as hosts to visitors from Germany, or for sale. These are now available, and have in fact already been used in this way.

If you would like to buy the bags, they are priced at £2.00 each, plus postage and packing at 69p. each.



An order form is enclosed for your use, or you can arrange to collect from Hilary and thus save postage.

Scouting Connection

A Kidderminster Scout leader took part in a neckerchief presentation during a visit from her German counterpart.

Simone Robinson, a student at King Charles I School, is a leader with KD9 (Spennells) Scout troop. She hosted a two-week visit by Jana Maleen



Simone (l.) and Jana

Bock from Husum, a visit organised by Hilary Boyle after an approach by Jana's grandmother, Inge

Thomsen, who had visited Kidderminster in the past. Jana attended a Scout camp, and has been taking lessons at King Charles I School – she has been brushing up on her English at school as well as with Simone and the Scouts.

Photographs

We are always pleased to receive pictures of events and other activities relating to the twinning process – we endeavour to make the Newsletter more interesting and colourful by using them. But it is not always clear who the photographer was, and we want if possible to credit the right person when we publish their picture. So we would ask the authors of reports always to include the name of the photographer who was responsible for the pictures.

Thank you!

Ray Harrowing (Editor)

From the Committee

The Committee met on September 24, and received reports from a number of groups, as well as news of progress with other groups that were planning to become involved. A number of these reports are the subject of articles elsewhere in this edition of the Newsletter.

The cost of purchasing a large quantity of crocus corms for planting on further sites in the town has not in fact been offset by contributions from local councillors and other sources to the same extent as in the two previous years, and this has caused a significant drain on the Association's funds; we hope that members and friends will be able to support the fund-raising activities that will help to bring the funds up to a reasonable level. The sites earmarked for planting in the coming season include areas at Kidderminster Railway Station, the Police Station in Habberley Road, and at the Chester Road North/Stourbridge Road junction.

Plans were made for a Skittles Evening in the New Year and for the Annual General Meeting in March. Progress on the new format of the website was noted, and reports included one on the very successful visit of the "Oldies" and others to *Hafentage* in August. The possibility of having new ties and badges was explored, and information about the celebration of the first ten years of the Association's equivalent in Husum was noted.

The Committee will meet again on November 26 and on February 11. If members have matters that they would like the Committee to discuss they are invited to contact the Secretary. Hilary Boyle.

New Members

We are delighted to welcome new members Claire Spencer and Colin Hill. They have both of course been connected with twinning for several years, Colin as Chairman of the Kidderminster Carnival Association, which is a member organisation of the Twinning Association. Colin also regularly contributes photographs to the Newsletter and is prominent in the Kidderminster Photographic Society. Claire is a well-known artist, and holds exhibitions of her work in Kidderminster and elsewhere. We hope that they will continue to enjoy visits to Hu-



The "Kidderminster" window



Canon Owain Bell after the dedication of the Kidderminster window

sum and to take part in welcoming visitors from Germany.



The work is finished



View from the organ loft

St. Marien Milestone

On Sunday November 3 the congregation of Husum's *St. Marienkirche* celebrated the completion of nearly ten years of restoration and refurbishment of the church, with a festival service.

Georg Weßler has been the project manager over the whole period, as well as playing a prominent role in raising the necessary funds. Donations came in from far and wide, including Kidderminster. One of the first jobs to be done was the replacement of the

windows, and the cost of one of these new windows was donated by various groups and individuals in Kidderminster - two of the clear panes of Jena glass are engraved with this information in German and English.

The church, which was built between 1829 and 1833 to a design by the Danish architect C.F. Hansen, was remodelled in the early years of the 20th century and was left rather dark and unwelcoming. The work of the past eight years, which also included damp-proofing and repairs to brick- and stone-work, has returned the church to its original light, bright and colourful design.

On the Move

On Owain Bell's retirement from his post as Vicar of St. Mary's Church, in Kidderminster, he and his wife Kim have moved to Kempsey, south of Worcester, but we understand that he will continue his membership of the Association. Another couple who have moved recently are Charles and Jean Talbot, who have left the leafy fastnesses of Rock for the townscape of Somerleyton Avenue, in Kidderminster. We wish them all well in their new homes.

Boys' Brigade – a first visit to Husum



Members of the BB group, with the Mayor and Mayoress, and Hilary Boyle

The Boys' Brigade, 1st Kidderminster Company, started their preparations for their first visit to Husum with a fund-raising Coffee Morning, on 14th September 2013, at Milton Hall Baptist Church, Lorne Street, their HQ, when they were pleased to welcome Councillor John Campion and Mrs. Diane Chambers, the Mayor and Mayoress of Kidderminster – Councillor Campion is, of course, the President of the Kidderminster-Husum Twinning Association this year. Joining them were members of the Twinning Association. Coffee and cakes were enjoyed by all, and cakes and bric-a-brac were sold, helping to raise the BB's profile in the community. The Mayor handed over a cheque from the Association to the Boys' Brigade, to help with much-needed funding

The Boys' Brigade expressed their thanks to everyone who had supported them in raising funds for a group of senior boys to travel to Kidderminster's twin town. They were looking forward to travelling via Heathrow Airport to Husum for a week.

Graham Knight, one of the leaders of the group, takes up the story:

After a flight from Heathrow and two trains we arrived in Husum in the evening to a round of applause and a welcome from the Schobüll *Pfadfinder* Scout Group. We were taken by our host families to their houses for our first night in Germany. On the Sunday we joined the *Pfadfinder* group in church for a welcome service which was in German and English. We were due to spend time in the forest but the rain prevented this, so instead we spent the time playing games with the group and getting to know them. The evening was spent with our host families.

On Monday some of the members went to School and became German pupils for the day. Three of the adults (Jonathon Salter, Tom Russell and myself) went to the local college and helped with an English class which was a great experience for both them and us. We were due to stay at the college for another class and the Boys to stay at school for longer but an announcement was made to change our visit. The storm that had hit Britain the day before was



At Schobüll church on Sunday morning

going to hit Husum and all schools and colleges were closing, and people were to go home and ride out the storm. The storm hit Husum directly in the afternoon, ripping off roof tiles, and demolishing road signs and trees. Many of us helped our host families and the neighbourhood with securing buildings and furniture, also clearing away roof tiles after the winds had died down. The storm brought us together in a way we couldn't have experienced in any other way.

On Tuesday we went to a very wet Tönning to visit the Multimar (Wadden Sea National Park Centre) and had a guided tour. This helped us to dry out after walking in the rain from the station. In the evening we joined the *Pfadfinder* group for games and a meal. They gave us a presentation on their summer camp which was very interesting.

The boys went to School again on the Wednesday as the schools had also been closed on the Tuesday. I also went to School and helped my host Silke in the English class for the 10-year-olds. Later on we met at the North Sea Museum and had a guided tour before going off to lunch. Afterwards we started to walk along the dyke from Husum to Schobüll but the weather had other ideas and we ended up taking shelter in a restaurant by the river for a coffee. After being rescued by the minibus we went back to the vicarage where the group meet and had waffles cooked for us which were very nice. The forest where some activities should have taken place was out of bounds as the storm had blown most of the trees down. There were some 80% of trees blown down in the forest and woods around Husum and fallen trees were all over the area.

On Thursday morning we went to the Market Service in St Marien Church and the pastor gave us a welcome and a guided tour of the church. We spent the afternoon looking around Husum town centre and buying presents. On the last day it rained again but we were indoors at the Church in Schobüll and Silke Raap who is the pastor showed us around the church and explained its history. In the afternoon and into the evening we joined the group for their weekly meeting. We took part in their activities and explained to the members about the Boys' Brigade. We presented Silke Raap with a Boys' Brigade polo shirt and a bouquet of flowers.

From the group we were each given two badges that they wear on their uniform and these will be put on our polo shirts. To end our visit our host families joined the group and we spent the evening singing songs in German and English. Also we invited the group to Kidderminster and we hope that this will happen.

On Saturday we left Husum on the train after a last group photo on the platform. The visit was a memorable one for us. We were not only made to feel welcome but we also felt part of the families we were staying with and part of the *Pfadfinder* group. I, and the whole group, look forward to many more years of visits and seeing our friends again.

Graham Knight

A sad Postscript

We have just heard that in the storm three people lost their lives on the island of Föhr.

Editor

On the Horizon

We usually list here some of the twinning-related events that will take place either in Kidderminster or in Husum over the next few months. Whilst there are plans for a number of events over the next year, we don't actually have confirmed dates yet, so the list will appear in our next edition.

We shall be reporting on these events in future issues of the Newsletter and on the website, www.kidderminster.husum.twinning.co.uk. If you wish to add events, visits, etc. to the list, please inform the Editor.



Residents help Town to bloom

Farfield Residents' Group have planted three thousand crocus corms at each entrance to their road as part of the Twinning Association's project to brighten up the town. They will also be planting another 5,000 crocuses, donated by The Lions, in front of the SVR and mainline railway station buildings.

We are very grateful for their involvement in the project, and we hope, when the Spring comes, to see yet another fine display of lilac-coloured blooms.

Photo credits:

Klaus Evers, Nicky Griffiths, Ray Harrowing, Colin Hill, Graham Knight, Jerry Mayfield, Georg Weßler. We apologise if there are pictures contained in this edition that have not been properly acknowledged.

Kidderminster-Husum Twinning Association

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Newsletter

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