



From the Editor

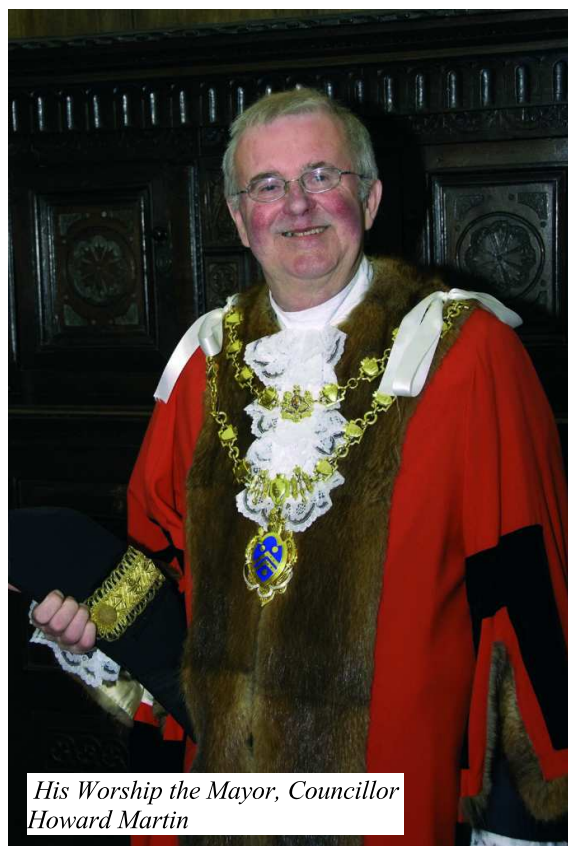
I have been the fortunate recipient of certain additions to my heart over the last few weeks, and during that time I have received many good wishes and offers of help with the Newsletter, for all of which I am most grateful. If this edition contains errors and omissions, I apologise, and will refer you to my surgeon!

The year's round of twinning activities continues unabated, and, I'm glad to say, so does the flow of contributions to the Newsletter; again, my thanks to all concerned.

Ray Harrowing

Welcome to our new President

We are very pleased to welcome as our new President the Mayor of Kidderminster for 2009-2010,



His Worship the Mayor, Councillor Howard Martin

Councillor Howard Martin, who represents the Broadwaters Ward of Kidderminster on the District Council. Councillor Martin has already had a

taste of the activities of the Association; he joined in the celebratory meal held to welcome the "Oldies" from Husum in 2008, and also, as Deputy Mayor, welcomed the group at a reception in the King Charles Room. He was among those who welcomed the *Krokusblütenkönigin* during her visit to Kidderminster for the Carnival. We hope that Councillor Martin will enjoy his term of office as our President, and that he will find time to support us as part of his busy calendar of engagements – we understand that he will sample the delights of *Hafentage* in Husum early in August!

Carnival Time!

Again this year the Association was represented both in the Carnival Parade and on the Carnival Field at Brinton Park itself. Ken and Pat Garbett once again entered their minibus in the Parade – suitably and colourfully decorated with the British Union and Husum flags, as well as an array of blue and gold balloons. Passengers in the minibus included Heinrich and Renate Linkogel from Hu-



Ken Garbett with Renate and Heinrich Linkogel

sum, here to "chaperone" the *Krokusblütenkönigin*, Catherina Neubauer. Catherina herself had a place of honour in the procession, riding in the open



The "royal party"



Ruth and Catherina visit the Association's stand

was bedecked with flags and fitted out with a vast amount of publicity material that had been assembled by Ray Harrowing. The beautiful weather attracted a large crowd, and those who were manning the tent, by asking passers-by if they had heard of Husum, managed to entice a good number in to look at the literature on display and awaken their interest in twinning. Visitors included Catherina, Heinrich and Renate, who spent time looking at the display and copies of recent Newsletters before posing for photographs with the Carnival Queen and looking around the various tents and stands on the field.

After the close of the Carnival, nine people, including representatives of the Carnival and Association Committees and Catherina and Ruth, gathered at the "Wok and Roll" Chinese Restaurant for a celebratory meal.

The remainder of Catherina's stay in Kidderminster was a whirl of activity. She was hosted by Tim



A photo of Bewdley Bridge is called for

carriage that also conveyed the Carnival Queen (Ruth Keenan) and her Princess and "Rosebuds".

On the Carnival Field Jerry Mayfield's large white party tent was erected by a small group of enthusiastic volunteers; it

Committee at a barbecue organised by John and Margaret Pearsall. On Monday, with Colin Hill and Claire Postins, she visited the Town Hall for the flag-raising ceremony, then met the Mayors of Kidderminster and Stourport-on-Severn, the Deputy Mayor of Bewdley and the Chairman of the District Council. She then signed the "distinguished guests" book in the Mayor's Parlour before boarding a train at the Severn Valley Railway Station for the journey to Bewdley for a fish-and-chip



Catherina takes tea with King Charles!

lunch by the river. Then on to the Clee Hills to enjoy the panoramic views of the surrounding countryside. In the evening she was a guest at a barbecue in Chaddesley Corbett, at which the Bewdley Rotary Club were entertaining Rotarians from all over the world who were attending the Rotary International Convention in Birmingham.

Thanks are due to Ken and Pat Garbett, Terry Garbett, Rod Summers, Jerry and Val Mayfield and Pam Morris for working so hard to make the Carnival day the success that it was, and to the Gulliver family and the many others who were involved in hosting and entertaining Catherina, Renate and Heinrich.

Beginners' German Course at Baxter College

We are very pleased to report that as many as 20 members of organisations belonging to the Kidderminster-Husum Twinning Association have recently completed a 6 week beginners' German course at Baxter College organised by Suzanne Prout.

Following on from the success of this course Suzanne hopes to offer another course in the Autumn. For more information see <http://baxtermfl.typepad.com/baxtermfl/2009/07/1languages-all-hours.html#comments>

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 remainder of this year.

August 5-9 - *Hafentage (Harbour Days)*

August 15-22 – *Piano Festival: "Raritäten der Klaviermusik" (Piano Rarities)*

September 18-27 – *Pole Poppenspäletage (Puppet Festival)*

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)*

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

One of Husum's most distinctive Buildings

The *Alte Rathaus* (Old Town Hall) in Husum's *Marktplatz*, which is used at present by the tourism company, has a long and varied history. It was built in 1601 and has since been changed several times, both inside and outside. In the year 1601 (two years after Husum came under the rule of Duke Johann Adolf of Gottorf), the citizens made a donation to the town: they decided to place the building of a *Rathaus* in the hands of master-builder Peter Maastricht, of Tönning. On 19 April the foundation-stone was laid, and by 1 November building work was completed. The costs amounted to 8,836 *Lübsch Marks* (*Lübecker* currency). The Duke also permitted the Husumers to build a cellar under the *Rathaus*, which was the only place in the town that had the right to serve beer to strangers. However Duke Johann Adolf added a condition that there should be a passage provided between the *Schloss* and the *Marktplatz* suitable for horse-drawn carts – this still exists as the *Schlossgang*.

From the Middle Ages the German *Rathaus* was not only the seat of the urban administration; at the same time it functioned as a court, in which the members of the municipal authority might formally meet with the mayor. At the heart of Husum's *Rathaus* was the large meeting room. Here councillors and the mayor made important contracts for the city. The hall was also the scene of representative gatherings, large celebrations and stage performances.

In 1702 the *Rathaus* was renovated for the first time. Among other things the outside steps were built, which to this day still lead up to the main entrance. Further big changes were made in the years 1809 to 1811, as part of which the baroque ridge turret was added, and in which a bell was hung.

In 1858 the appearance and the room layout of the *Rathaus* were fundamentally changed; the main meeting room was converted into office space, and the frontage was transformed in the neo-gothic style. The construction was probably not very well carried out, and by 1890 the damage to the façade was already so serious that a new frontage was decided upon. In 1892 the multi-talented Husumer, Friedrich Thomsen, planned and built a new façade in the neo-Renaissance style. But approximately 80 years later this was again in a ramshackle state and had to be torn down, and in 1971 today's - sixth - version was built, to be extended yet again in 1981 by the building of the distinctive gable.

With the removal of the city administration into the new *Rathaus* at the *Binnenhafen* in 1989 came the question: what should be done with the old building? Since 1986 the building in the *Marktplatz* had been protected, and an archaeological and building survey by a German-Danish team of architects resulted, at the end of 1989, in a plan for its use as



a "Citizen and Cultural Centre". Shortage of money meant, however, that this project had to remain a dream.

In 1995 a proposal to sell the historic *Rathaus* to private investors was an alarm signal for citizens who were conscious of its historical importance, and the then *Bürgervorsteher*, Dr. Ulf von Hielmcrone, suggested the formation of a "support group" tasked with developing plans for the use of the building. The idea of making the old *Rathaus* a proper tourism centre – a "House for Guests" – found support among the local politicians, but this project has also failed so far to come to fruition.

An "action group" of concerned townspeople have now started a petition against the sale of the old *Rathaus*, and signatures are being collected at various places in the town. "Such an important example of the history of Husum should remain the property of the town", said Gerd Kühnast, spokesman for the group, which brings together

the *Gesellschaft für Husumer Stadtgeschichte* (Husum Historical Society) and the *Interessengemeinschaft Baupflege* (Building Preservation Group). He said that it was particularly infuriating that the townspeople had been excluded from the discussions. Serious proposals for a new use for the building had lain in the drawer long enough, and should now be taken further. "And before the Council sells the old *Rathaus* and takes the money for other purposes it should make every effort, at once, to get funding from the new State programme for town centre development".

Translated and adapted from Husumer Nachrichten, May 28 and 29, 2009

Forest Quilters – our First Visit to Husum

On Thursday, April 30, ten quilters and one husband arrived at Hamburg airport to be met by 'old' friends. We travelled to Husum to the home and garden of Karin and Holger Petersen, where we met all eight members of the "Storm Quilters". After a meal, we went to Husum Town Hall to meet *Bürgermeister*, Rainer Maaß. We presented him with a small wall-hanging quilt to represent



Brenda presents Rainer with his quilt

Forest Quilters, the hands of friendship across the sea and the Theodor Storm house with grass and crocuses.

The next day, we all met at the train station, also meeting all respective husbands; we were presented with lovely

quilted badges warning 'BEWARE, QUILTER ON THE MOVE'! We travelled across country to the island of Sylt, and we then toured the island by bus. Unfortunately the commentary was all in German - Karin had tried to get us a translation, but there was not one available, but this did not detract from the lovely views around us. We then took the boat for a lovely three-hour trip back to Husum. In the evening, we went back to our various hosts for a meal, laughter and chatting into the night.

The next day, we had a walking tour of Husum

with an English-speaking guide; it was both beautiful and fascinating. After lunch, all the 'quilting' ladies were taken into the countryside to tea rooms set in picturesque gardens, where we had *Kaffee und Kuchen*. There our hosts, the Storm Quilters, had prepared some items for us to sew. In the sunshine, we produced stuffed owl key rings amidst much laughter and final comparisons. As sewing did not appeal to the man of our group, he had the trip of a lifetime. One of the husbands of our hosts, Reiner, is a pilot and belongs to the local flying club, and Reiner took John Banner, Holger Petersen and Werner Christiansen on a flight over Husum and the surrounding area as far as the Baltic Sea. That evening we went to the home of Wilfred and Melissa for a camp fire in the garden with a 'Show and Tell' of quilts made by the Husum Quilters, together with hilarious 'camp fire singing'.

Sunday May 3 – our last day. We travelled to the home of Christiane and Werner Christiansen for a mouth-watering barbecue. Unfortunately as it had started to rain, after days of superb weather, we ate our meal at a long, long table reaching from end to end of Christiane's lounge. Sadly after lunch, we had to make our way back to Hamburg for our flight home.

The first visit by Forest Quilters to Husum was over, but we will all hold memories of the friends we met and the warmest of welcomes we had received.

Brenda Banner

(A further photograph of the visit is shown on page 8 - Ed.)

From the Committee

Some notes from the meeting held on June 9:

Scarves and ties will probably be available in August.

Membership has slightly increased.

A quiz night will be held in the Autumn.

Crocus planting in Kidderminster is being investigated.

King Charles I School are looking at the possibility of further links with European schools (possibly schools which are connected with Husum).

Cricket – a possible tournament in Denmark in 2010.

Scouts – plans for a visit to partner groups in 2011.

Photography – Colin Hill has offered his services for any twinning event.

Next meeting – September 22.

Husumer Kulturnacht

Husum held its seventh "Evening of Culture" on July 11; once again it was bigger, with more varie-

ty, and attracted more visitors. From churches to art galleries, museums to cafes, 23 venues in all were open, five of them taking part in *Kulturnacht* for the first time. The programme included almost every form of entertainment imaginable – all kinds of music, from rock to the organ works of J.S. Bach and from opera to church bells; history, from tours of the town to talks about Theodor Storm; dance, fine art, exhibitions, puppets, sculpture, craft – the list was almost endless. And all for a 5 Euro ticket (full price). Our congratulations to the organisers, and particularly to Jutta Albert and her staff of the *Turismus und Stadtmarketing* Office, on such a successful event.

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Christmas Concert 2009

We are very pleased to announce that our third Christmas Concert will take place on Saturday December 5, at Baxter Church. Once again the concert is being organised by Pam Cunningham, Director of Music of the Kidderminster Valentines, and we are very grateful to the choir for again offering to provide the "backbone" of the programme. The full list of groups and soloists taking part is still being prepared, but it will include at least two school choirs, and the programme will include something for all tastes!

We are also grateful to the Baxter Church authorities for allowing us to use the church for this concert, from the proceeds of which donations will again be made to KEMP Hospice and the *Hospiz-Dienst Husum*.

Tickets for the concert will be available later in the year.

On the Horizon

A brief outline of events and visits that will be taking place over the coming months:

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24-30 August – Visit of "Oldies" and others to Husum

6-15 September – Visit to Kidderminster of a team from Husum Golf Club

23-30 September – Students from King Charles I School visit Theodor-Storm-Schule, Husum

24-28 September – Visit of representatives of Kidderminster churches to Husum

We shall be reporting on these events in future issues of "Twin Town News" and on the website, www.kidderminster-husum-twinning.co.uk.

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

New Members

Welcome to Jim Pearman, Kidderminster's Town Crier, who has just joined the Association and will be travelling to Husum in August – for what we trust will be the first of many visits! Also a warm welcome to Rebecca Villegas – again we hope that she will soon be able to experience the varied delights of Husum, as well as joining in our activities as an Association.

Obituary

Margaret Sey

We were sorry to receive news of the death of Margaret Sey, who was one of our members. With her husband, Donald, she had connections with Franche Baptist Church and Trinity Methodist Church. We send our condolences to Donald and the family, and to all their many friends.

"Oldies" and "Newcomers" - August visit to Husum

On Saturday July 4 most of the group who are going to visit Husum between August 24 and 30 met -thanks to the good weather - in our garden for drinks and supper. This was the first time that everyone, from homes as diverse as Kidderminster, Hopton Wafers and Rock, and aged from 12 to 75, had had a chance to meet each other.

As darkness fell, and after much reminiscing, Charles Talbot produced his guitar and, ably assisted by his grandson Daniel on the accordion, entertained everyone with numerous traditional folksongs including the favourite "*Wo de Nordseewellen*".

A good time was had by all and everyone is looking forward to meeting in Husum in August.

Jerry Mayfield

Churches' Visit to Husum

At the end of September a small group will travel via Birmingham and Hamburg to Husum for a weekend hosted by the churches of Husum. They



The Church of St. Marien

represent a number of churches in and around Kidderminster, and the group will include recently-ordained curate at St. Mary's Church, Kidderminster, Katherine Green. This will be the seventh in the series of representative visits, although there have been contacts and visits back and forth by individuals and small groups from churches over a much longer period.

The churches in Husum are busy preparing a programme for the visit, which will as usual include church services, tours, meals together and opportunities for discussion and reflection.

... and now for 2010!

Plans are already being made for twinning events next year. Appearing first on the calendar is the annual visit of the Carnival Queen to the *Krokusfest* in March, but on this occasion the *Husumer Verein* wants to make it a much bigger event – it will be three years since the visit by Kidderminster “Oldies”, cricketers and others for the thirtieth anniversary of the signing of the Twinning Charter, and they think it's about time we had another big party! So pencil the dates in your diary – March 13-14!

Preliminary arrangements are also in hand for a visit to Kidderminster over the weekend May 22-
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23, by the Theodor Storms Chor, who will be making their fifth visit as guests of the Kidderminster Choral Society. It's possible that a group from the Husum churches will come at the same time.

We understand that other groups are also planning ahead, but we don't have dates or other details yet; they will be reported in due course.

Lastly, those who were present in October last year to welcome the Husum “Oldies” may remember that *Bürgermeister* Rainer Maaß put forward the idea of a get-together of “twins of twins”. He and the *Verein* are pursuing this possibility with the aim of bringing together representatives not only of Kidderminster and Husum, but also of Husum's other twinning partners (Heiligenstadt, in eastern Germany, Trzcianka, in Poland, and Gentofte, in Denmark), and their other “twins”! This is as yet at a very preliminary stage, but we shall watch with interest as the plan develops.

Husum, Picturesque North Sea Town

This is the second instalment of the article by Jutta Albert, Husum's Tourism Officer.

Husum – Cultural and Blossoming Wonder

Storm's City of Husum

Husum is the home of the famous German poet of the 19th century, Theodor Storm. His literary works have made him world-famous. Best-known of all is the novel “*Der Schimmelreiter*”, which has been translated into many languages (translated into English by Denis Jackson as “The Dykemaster”). His famous poem “*Die Stadt*” (The Town) immortalised his hometown Husum in German literature. Go on a journey of discovery with us as we trace Storm's life in Husum and through the country of “The Dykemaster”. Allow yourself to be enraptured by the living connection between the novel and reality, for instance with our holiday offering “Storm's City of Husum - Tracking the Dykemaster”.

Cultural City of Husum

Husum offers you an abundance of cultural titbits. Maritime history for those big and small, unique concert series in the castle of Husum (*Schloss vor Husum*), magical puppet festivals, theatre and galleries, North Friesian rural life and traditions... Whatever appeals to you ... The impressive Husum cultural and museum landscape can be wonderfully experienced by taking the cultural path (*Kulturpfad*) or during the cultural night (*Kulturnacht*). Undoubtedly one shouldn't miss

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the Museum of Theodor Storm (*Theodor-Storm-Zentrum*). Husum's famous cultural centre is the Castle of Husum. Every year in August, piano music enthusiasts meet in Husum, to listen to the "Rarities of Piano Music". The North Sea Nissenhaus Museum (*NordseeMuseum Husum Nissenhaus*), is the largest museum of North Friesland, demonstrating life and culture in the coastal area in former days and including paintings of the collection of Ludwig Nissen, who became a millionaire in New York and donated the Nissenhaus and his collection to his hometown. The Museum of Navigation and Shipbuilding in North Friesland (*Schiffahrtsmuseum Nordfriesland*) displays the former era of shipbuilding in Husum and demonstrates all about navigation in the *Wattenmeer* area. Don't miss the "The wreck from Uelvesbüll" - a 400-year-old cargo ship.

Husum – the "Purple Wonder" of Crocus Blossoms

Husum is colourful. Early in the Spring, the cosy harbour city provides visitors with a colourful image. The "Purple Wonder of the North" – the blossoms of more than four million violet crocuses in the Husum Castle Park – is celebrated every year with the crowning of the Crocus Blossom Queen at the *Krokusblütenfest* (Crocus Blossom Festival). A unique nature play which you abso-



The "Purple Wonder"

lutely should not miss. With our all-inclusive package "Crocus Magic on the North Sea", experience how colourful and vibrant Husum is in Springtime.

Husum – Shopping Life around the Tine

Husum - North Friesian shopping experience

Husum is the centre point of life in North Friesland. One comes to Husum in order to shop and stroll.



Statue of "Tine"

Many specialised shops await you – department stores, boutiques, dreamy little shopping streets. Here, you will certainly find your new favourite object and something to take home for your loved ones!

Particularly impressive is the Husum Market Square. Twice a week, the largest North Friesian market takes place. Have you ever heard Low German, Friesian or Danish? Here's your chance!

On the market square, you will see "Tine", Husum's secret symbol, created by the famous German sculptor Adolf Brütt. She stands directly in front of *St. Marien* (St. Mary's Church), surrounded by imposing gable fronts of old shops. We would be glad to tell you

more on a guided tour of the town.

Husum Christmas Market

At Christmas, the Christmas market around the "Tine Fountain" leads one into the Husum city centre and gives the city a particularly cosy atmosphere. A seductive aroma of roasted almonds, gingerbread and mulled wine wafts through the city and the business world charms us with its Christmas decorations.

Husum – City with a Vision and Centre of Big Business in Wind Energy

Salt in the air and always a fresh breeze from the North Sea. That's Husum. And this unending view of the North Sea. Did you know that In Husum's city district of Schobüll, you will find the only dyke-free section of the North Sea coast of Schleswig-Holstein? It gives a magnificent view of Husum Bay – just the place to unleash your soul. And the place, too, for new ideas and business because, under the wide skies of North Friesland, there is time and space for creativity.



Quilters on their visit to Sylt

Thus, resourceful people, trying and testing, created wind energy technology and made Husum the "Wind Capital of the World". The trade fair "HUSUM WindEnergy" is the world's biggest trade fair in wind energy technology, attracting thousands of engineers and business people of the new energy industries to Husum. Husum – always on the pulse of the times.

When will we have the chance to welcome you?

Jutta Albert

Stop Press!

We have received information that the application to UNESCO for the *Wattenmeer* (the seas and islands of Nordfriesland) to be recognised as a World Heritage Site was approved on June 26! This recognition of the uniqueness of the *Watten-*



The tiny island of Sudfall assaulted by winter waves

meer, at the highest level possible, will undoubtedly bring a major boost for worldwide tourism to Husum and its neighbourhood. Other World Heritage Sites include the Grand Canyon and the Great Barrier Reef...

We are indebted to the following for photographs included in this edition:

Ken and Pat Garbett, Jerry Mayfield, John Banner, Colin Hill, Heinrich Linkogel, D. Haack (*Turismus und Stadtmarketing GmbH*)

Kidderminster-Husum Twinning Association



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Membership: Jeremy Mayfield;
Cultural Secretary: Ray Harrowing
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Newsletter

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