

KIDDERMINSTER-HUSUM TWINNING ASSOCIATION



Newsletter

Volume 19, No.1 - February 2016



FROM THE EDITOR

A Happy New Year to all our readers - alles Gute für das Jahr 2016!

Welcome to our new, smaller Newsletter! We have decided to make this and some other changes so that we can reduce the overall cost of the Newsletter, but we shall try not to lower the quality. If you need to contact me, please note that my address and telephone number have changed (see back page). We apologise for the non-appearance of the usual November issue; in the aftermath of my house move, some matters have had to be 'rescheduled'!

The Newsletter exists to report on Association activities and to reflect its members' interests and concerns; please keep your news and other articles coming!

Ray Harrowing

A GLITTERING DIAMOND ANNIVERSARY

Sixty years of fun and friendship were celebrated in 2015! We are hugely proud of our ongoing twinning links with Husum, in company with only a dozen other English towns whose post-war friendships with German towns are still active.

The earliest known town twinning in Europe was between Paderborn, Germany and Le Mans, France in 836. Keighley in West Yorkshire began a twinning arrangement with two French communities in 1905, developing in 1920 into



Rainer presents a gift to the Mayor at the reception

the first recorded modern twinning agreement with Poix-du-Nord, France. The vast majority of Anglo-German links were established in the aftermath of the Second World War, beginning with Bristol and Hanover in 1947. Sadly many have lapsed or even been scrapped by cash-strapped councils.



Fortunately the current Twinners can stand on the shoulders of their giant predecessors in both Husum and Kidderminster to maintain our links. 2015 saw the Carnival Queen at *Krokusfest*, Forest Quilters in Husum, KD8 scouts joining their Husum link troop at a jamboree in Denmark, Kidderminster Choral Society hosting Theodor Storm choristers for their 25th anniversary concert, and the distribution of specially designed Jubilee badges.

The culmination was the Summer visit by twenty members of the Verein (Husum Twinning Association) - a super example of long-standing and new friendships! A wonderful time was had by all, enjoying each others' company at civic and social events including a Mayoral reception, the Museum of Carpet, Severn Valley Railway, Ironbridge, skittles, and a farewell meal. As we were celebrating only the initial links between our towns, we have more excuses for future parties to mark the 40th anniversaries of the official civic charters - signed in Kidderminster in 1976 and Husum in 1977!

Hilary Boyle

(More photos of the visit can be found on pages 6, 7 and 8)

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING - NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of the Association will be held in the Valley Suite, Kidderminster SVR Station, on Wednesday, March 16, 2016 at 7.30 pm. The agenda and other papers for the meeting will be circulated in due course. Spare copies will be available at the meeting.

The meeting will include reports of activities over the past year, and elections, but the atmosphere is always light-hearted and friendly, and we try to include something for everyone. This year we shall be entertained by a group of singers known as the Gracenotes (members of the Kidderminster Valentines), and of course there will be sumptuous refreshments. We do hope that members and non-members alike will be able to join us!

We are grateful to Ann Denton, Group Leader of the KD8 Scout Group, for preparing a very full report of their July visit to their Danish counterparts, the Stjerne Gruppe. Rather than taking up several pages of the Newsletter we have placed it on the new 'Reports' page on the Association's website.

A GARDEN GATHERING

In these dull days of Winter it is very pleasant to remember the very successful Summer Garden Party, held once again in the lovely surroundings of Tim and Pamela Wadsworth's garden in Lowe Lane. Forty people enjoyed the fine weather, and £109 was raised for Association funds. Grateful thanks are due to Tim and Pamela, and to Ken and Pat Garbett for organising the event.



A TOWN COUNCIL FOR KIDDERMINSTER

Following a vote last May, in which a big majority expressed their wish for Kidderminster to have a Town Council, the Wyre Forest District Council agreed to set the wheels in motion. Now, from December 2015, the former 'Charter Trustees' have become a 'shadow' Town Council, in preparation for elections in May that will see the 'real' Town Council come into being.

This process places the town on an equal footing with the other towns and villages in the District, and will mean that a number of the more 'local' functions that the District Council now carries out will become the responsibility of the Town Council, for instance, allotments, public toilets, the War Memorial, the Town Hall, the Baxter and Rowland Hill statues and so on, although the Town Hall is being leased back to the District Council.

What will this mean for the Twinning Association? It's too early to answer that question yet, but there have always been 'friendly relations' between the Association and the Charter Trustees – the Town Mayor has been our President and the Town Clerk (Charles Talbot) is our Vice-President – so we are confident that these contacts will continue and strengthen in the future.

R.I.P. PETER LITHERLAND

The Association has lost a former Vice-Chairman and loyal member over many years with the passing of Peter Litherland, who has died at the age of 91.

A native of Barnsley, Peter joined the Royal Naval Reserve at the age of 17, and saw service during World War 2 as a naval pilot on D-Day and at the surrender of the Japanese fleet in 1945. On his return to Barnsley after the War, Peter became a management trainee with Marks and Spencer, and later, in 1970, became Store Manager at the Kidderminster branch, where he remained until his retirement in 1982. He was a member of the Chamber of Commerce, and was responsible for the Christmas lights in Vicar Street.

Peter married Dorothy in 1960, and they celebrated their Diamond Wedding in 2010. Dorothy passed away a year or two later. His daughter Anne described Peter as 'very gregarious and very kind' – qualities that

many who are linked with the Twinning Association will remember with affection. We send our condolences to Peter's family.

ON THE HORIZON

The following are some of the events and occasions that will take place in the coming months. More will be added as details become available, and they will be reported on in the Newsletter or on the website.

February 5 (7.30 pm) – Quiz Night at Chester Road Sports Club

February 17 – Committee Meeting

March 16 (7.30 pm) – Annual General Meeting (Valley Suite, SVR Station)

March 16-20 – Masonic Visit to Husum

March 19-20 – Husum Krokusfest

May 5 – Elections to Kidderminster's new Town Council

Summer Term – King Charles I School European Tour, including a visit to Husum

July 15-18 – Visit of Husum gardeners to Kidderminster

July – Joint camp by KD8 and Stjerne Gruppe Scouts – Kidderminster and Edinburgh

August – Civic visit to Kidderminster to celebrate 40 years since the signing of the Twinning Charter

THE COMMITTEE met on September 16, and received a number of reports from groups. Some of these reports are the subject of articles elsewhere in this Newsletter.

A welcome was extended to Chloe Tabellion, the new Head of Modern Foreign Languages at King Charles 1 School. The Summer Garden Party held at the home of Tim and Pauline Wadsworth on August 18 had been very successful and had raised over £100 for Association funds. As there would be a number of quiz events in October it was agreed to delay the next Quiz Night until early in the New Year.

The August visit of the *Verein* to Kidderminster had been very successful, and the organisers, especially Jerry, were thanked for all their work. The replacement, on December 1, of the Kidderminster Charter Trustees by a Town Council would provide opportunities for closer co-operation, for instance by marking the 40th anniversary of the signing of the Twinning Charter in Kidderminster in 2016 and in Husum in 2017.

An Extraordinary General Meeting of the Carnival Committee would be held in December, and if no volunteers came forward to take over the reins the Carnival would finally fold. Colin Hill was thanked for his long service to twinning, and he was presented with with a Jubilee badge. Planned and possible visits were noted, as follows: Boys' Brigade to Husum in 2016; Choral Society to Husum in 2017; KD8 Scouts to joint camps in 2016, 2017 and 2019; King Charles 1 School tour to European countries, including Husum, in 2017; Husum gardeners to Kidderminster in 2016; Storm Quilters to Kidderminster in 2017.

The Committee met again in November, and received progress reports on the various planned visits and activities. Arrangements for the AGM in March 2016 were noted.



The Gracenotes, performers at the AGM

The Committee will be meeting again in February; if members have matters that they would like the

Committee to discuss they are invited to contact the Secretary, Hilary Boyle.



*Birgit supports
Bridgnorth's Castle!*



At the Museum of Carpet



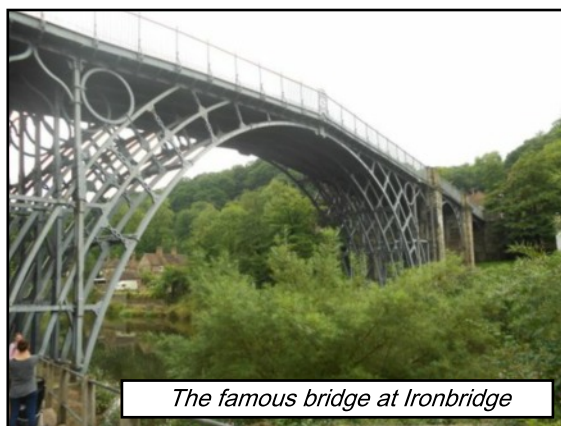
Ken in action at the Skittles evening



*Silke - champion
at Skittles*



Pat, Ken and Klaus take tea at Highley Station



The famous bridge at Ironbridge



The service at Trinity Methodist Church



Auf Wiedersehen!

Kidderminster-Husum Twinning Association

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Chairman: Terry Garbett

Vice-President: Charles Talbot

Secretary: Hilary Boyle

Treasurer: Christine Dutton

Membership: Jerry Mayfield

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Newsletter

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