



From the Editor

We are pleased once again to bring you news of ongoing links with our friends in Husum, and to tell you of new contacts and plans for the future. We are indebted, as always, to a number of members and friends for their articles and photographs.

Ray Harrowing

Annual General Meeting

At the AGM in March we received reports of the various activities, and visits of groups to and from Husum, over the past twelve months or so. The members of the Committee were re-elected, and the Officers of the Association were also reappointed to their positions.

To round off the meeting, first, Charles Talbot gave a very interesting talk about the genesis of Kidderminster's new Museum of Carpet, and then Heather Wastie sang and played some songs that she had written after gathering from former carpet workers their first-hand accounts of life in the carpet mills.

Social Gathering

We are very pleased to welcome Jo Gaud as a member of the Association's social group. This is an informal group of people who supply us with refreshments at meetings and also make arrangements for events such as the Quiz evening. We are very grateful to Jo for her kind assistance.

In our last edition we wished Ken Garbett well after his major surgery - Ken has been a mainstay of the social activities of the Association. We are very glad to be able to tell readers that Ken is making very good progress.

Our new President

We welcome Councillor John-Paul Campion, recently elected mayor of Kidderminster for the municipal year 2013-14, as the new President of the Association, and hope that he will

find opportunities to become involved in the activities, here and in Germany, of the Association and its member groups.



Husum Handover

At the recent AGM of the *Verein für Städte-Partnerschaften und Städte-Patenschaften der Stadt Husum* (Husum Twinning Association), Georg Weßler handed on the baton of Chairmanship of the *Verein* to Rainer Maaß.



Georg Weßler

Georg had chaired the *Verein* since its inception ten years earlier, and the AGM thanked him for his long and effective leadership.

As well as Kidderminster, Husum has links with towns in Poland, Denmark, and the eastern part of Germany, and Georg Weßler has done

a great deal of work to foster these relationships – although his main interest has always been Kidderminster, and this link is still the most active of the four. Georg's involvement with twinning in fact began when, as a member of the Theodor Storms Chor, he was one of the hosts for the first visit to Husum, in 1990, of the Kidderminster Choral Society, and he has taken part in many visits, either as a host or as a guest, since then, whether of the Choral Society or of the groups representing the churches in Husum. We offer Georg our sincere thanks for all that he has done to build good relationships between the two towns.



Rainer Maaß

Rainer's association with Kidderminster goes back much further; as a teenager he took part in some of the first exchange visits to and from Kidderminster, staying on many occasions with the late Norman and Anne Broome – at Norman's funeral, Rainer described him as his “English father”. More recently, and particularly as Husum's *Bürgermeister*, he has been a leading figure in the partnership between the two towns. Now retired, he has stepped into a number of important voluntary roles, and we are delighted to welcome him as the new *Vorsitzender des Vereins*.

Website

The Association's website has now been operating for about eight years, and we are very conscious of the need both to keep it up to date and to present the information attractively and in a modern format. Our technical advisor, Peter Burlingham, of NotAnotherDotCom Ltd, is working on these aspects and we hope to have a new-look

website up and running shortly. So, watch this space!

Ray Harrowing (Webmaster)

Our wonderful trip to Husum - March 2013

On Friday March 22, the Boys' Brigade minibus took my family and me, with members of Kidderminster Carnival Committee, to Birmingham Airport, from where we flew to Hamburg in Germany. We took a fascinating two-hour train journey from Hamburg to Husum. Once in Husum, we were kindly greeted by Rainer Maaß, a member of the Husum Twinning Society, who took us to our hotel. The hotel had prepared a small reception supper for us and we were introduced to some members of the Hu-

sum Twinning Society. It was so nice to be greeted with such wonderful hospitality.

On Saturday morning, Rainer and his wife took us to see the dykes, just outside Husum. It was windy and bitterly cold (-20° wind chill!), but really spectacular. After visiting the brilliant dykes we were taken to the New Energy Exhibition in Husum. It was all about sustainability and ways of creating new energy. It's unimaginable that there are so many ways of creating energy! We could certainly learn a thing or two from them in this country!



Hannah and Kira wave the flags for twinning

Unfortunately, the Crocus Festival we had all travelled for was cancelled; the weather hadn't been too good and consequently no crocuses were in bloom. However, the Husum Twinning Society still threw a lovely reception for their English guests. This was where I met 18-year-old Kira Weinreich, this year's Crocus

Queen. She was very pretty and spoke excellent English; she was also very happy that I had come to meet her.

Kira also came with us for the day on Sunday. For a 'light lunch'(!) Rainer took us all to a great seafood restaurant in Husum and we all had a huge portion of fish and chips, recommended by Rainer. After this, we went to a stunning aquarium. I travelled with Kira in her car; she played me some German music that she likes and I played her some British music. It was really good fun and so nice to get to know someone from a different culture. I've



Hannah (back row, second from l.) with her family and other members of the Kidderminster group

stayed in touch with Kira through Facebook and we both hope to meet again very soon. I was very disappointed to hear that she couldn't join us for Kidderminster Carnival this year.

On Sunday evening Rainer and some of the Husum Twinning Society took us to a restaurant called *Der Roter Haubarg*. We all had a delicious lamb meal and visited the small on-site museum, which told the history of the beautiful building with 99 windows that housed the restaurant.

Husum town has many small shops and cafés and a stunning little harbour. We especially liked the fabulous chocolate shops (I wonder why?!). Our hotel consisted of several small houses along the street all joined together; they served a wonderful breakfast.

Everyone made us feel extremely welcome and we hope to return in the near future. I enjoyed the trip to Husum so much and know that when we return, the hospitality will be as great as it was for that weekend. Thank you all very much for what was an amazing trip, which I will never forget.

***Hannah Cornish, Kidderminster Carnival Queen
2012-13***

Crowned at last!

Husum's new *Krokusblütinkönigin* (Crocus Queen), Kira Weinreich, confesses to being pretty excited at the prospect of representing the town. Her coronation had to be postponed owing to the wintry weather, but it finally took place on Saturday, April 7 at 11 o'clock: the 18-year-old Theodor-Storm-School student was crowned on the steps of the old *Rathaus* (Town Hall) and commenced her year of office.

She had, however, already fulfilled her first engagements. "Before it was announced that the Festival would be moved, I had had interviews in the snow-covered *Schlosspark* (Castle Park) with satellite TV broadcasters "1" and RTL", Kira says. "The resulting two-minute clip was broadcast on television." Her school didn't raise any objection to her absence for the morning's TV shoot. "My teachers are behind me, and two have even offered to put together facts about the crocuses for me." She had

received a lot of encouragement after her election (which she won by a large margin): "from the family, from my circle of friends, from everywhere." Many people who had until then only seen the results in the newspaper and on Facebook came up to her and congratulated her.

The purple dress suits her well; it has long been ready, and she has already had a test drive in the car, she says, laughing. And she has had a detailed briefing on the process of the *Krokusfest* and on the programme for the next twelve months: "I know what's coming, and I can prepare myself." In addition, the former Crocus Queen, Sandra Weber, has given her some advice. "I feel really well prepared," she says.

She's very happy about what's to come: "It is really going to be an exciting year," Kira says, adding: "I will make every effort to properly represent Husum and to be a worthy successor to Sandra!"

*(with acknowledgments to the Husumer
Nachrichten)*

The Storm Quilters visit Kidderminster

We had a great time with our four visitors from Husum's Storm Quilters - a first trip to Kidderminster for Helga and Melitta but Gabi's second. Karin is a long-standing Twinner! The weather was (relatively) kind for an action packed programme for the long weekend, naturally centred around our mutual interest: the Malvern Quilt Show, a Sit-and-

are hoping that more planting will be taking place in the next few months.

From the Committee

The Committee met on May 14, and received reports from a number of groups, as well as news of progress with other groups that were planning to become involved. Membership numbers continue to grow, and the Association's finances are healthy. The link between the KD8 Scout Group and the scouts in Husum remains particularly strong, and a group will be coming to Kidderminster in July, spending some days here before going to a joint camp in Ross-on-Wye.

Further meetings of the Committee will take place on September 24 and November 26.

Helmut Neumann

I have been asked to write a few words of my memories of Helmut Neumann who died earlier this year.

I was lucky enough to be able to join the youth ex-

change group that went to Husum in 1962 - I think we were the second group to go. It was the first time I had been abroad and it was a big adventure for a sixteen-year-old. We went on the ferry and I remember it being a not very pleasant experience as it was quite a rough crossing. By the time we arrived in Husum we were all very tired.

I was fortunate to be staying with "the Neumanns" and as Herr Neumann was the leader of the Husum youth group I felt very privileged. I was accepted into the family home with his wife, who was a lovely lady, and their two daughters Helga and Sabine. Herr Neumann was a very affable man with a ready smile and I liked the whole family at once. I could tell that he was very well thought of by both the Kidderminster and the Husum groups and like "Our Charles" he believed in the joining of the two towns and the importance of the younger people getting to know each other - which we all did - a wonderful experience.

In 2006 I was asked by Charles to host a Husum lady who had belonged to the exchange group many years ago. I agreed with trepidation but all went well and through her I met many more Husum people and she



Brenda Banner (l.) and the Storm Quilters

Sew session at Glynis's home, making colourful chicken pin cushions, a Show-and-Tell at Liz's, and a look at the Library exhibition of quilts from both groups on the theme "Our Country, our Town, Our Friendship".

We also had wonderful tours of Harvington Hall and the new Museum of Carpet, and a hilarious Beetle Drive (I had no idea quite how competitive everyone was...) after a fish and chip supper. A well-attended final night supper at Sara's was not really the end as a few of us accompanied our guests next day, transferring to a Birmingham hotel for concerts in both Symphony Hall and the Town Hall. As ever, copious amounts of food and drink were consumed, matched only by the volume of laughter as we renewed our friendships. The invitation for a return visit to Husum has been eagerly accepted!!

Hilary Boyle

More Crocuses for Kidderminster

We are delighted to be able to report that several new sites have been identified for the planting of crocuses around the town. Some of these have been approved, and others are still under discussion, but we

invited me back to Husum to stay with her when "The Oldies" (for that is what we had become) were to return the following year. So it was that in 2007 I went back to Husum for the first time after forty-five years, again a big adventure. I met Frau Neumann and Helga again. Sadly Sabine had passed away. We had just a little chat at a formal evening and they indeed remembered me, but by then Herr Neumann was not the man he once was, which was very sad to

Helmut's daughters Helga and Sabine were both members of the Husum youth groups who came to Kidderminster in the 1960s. (Helga still lives in Husum and we met her in Husum last time we were there which was only a couple of days before he died). His grandson (Helga's son) also came to Kidderminster some years ago with the *Rödemisser Spielmannszug*.



Helmut and Ilse Neumann on the Nordertor

see. My memories of him as he had been were not diminished and it brought back happy memories of my first visit to Husum all those years ago.

Writing this now, as an older woman, I realise the legacy he has left behind and the friendships people from both towns have made because of him and his like – a man not to be forgotten.

Anne Witts (née Brighton)

...and some additional information from Charles and Jean Talbot

Helmut was born in Berlin in October 1919 and served in the German Navy during the war. After the war he came to Husum with the German State Railway, and I first met him when I took my first group to Husum in 1962. He was then the *Kreisjugendleiter* (the town's youth leader) and had organised the first visit in 1960. He had a dry sense of humour and a nice smile and was very efficient. He came to Kidderminster in 1961, 1963 and 1965, and he was then moved by the railway to Hamburg where he remained for the rest of his life. I kept in touch with him and visited him on several occasions. He and his wife came to the Oldies' meeting on the *Nordertor* a few years ago.

Kidderminster Choral Society's visit to Husum - May 2013

During the week beginning May 20, 2013, 15 KCS members, eight partners and Geoff Weaver our conductor travelled by various means from Kidderminster to Husum, to join our Twin Town's choir, the Theodor Storms Chor, in a concert on Sunday May 26 in the *St. Marienkirche* in Husum. This time we sang Rossini's *Petite Messe Solennelle*.

Seven KCS members stayed in the *Hotel am Schlosspark*, which they were very happy with. The other KCS members stayed with TSC members,

some for the first time, others revisiting old friends. We had three rehearsals on consecutive days, one with Christoph Jensen, the TSC conductor, and two with Geoff Weaver, plus the pre-concert rehearsal, when we were joined by Christoph Jensen on the harmonium, Adam Szvoren on the piano and the four soloists, Julia Henning (soprano), Ulrike Andersen (alto), Martin Hundelt (tenor) and Hans Christian Hinz (bass). The soloists, the harmonium-player and the pianist were excellent and the combined choirs' performance that evening was very well received by an enthusiastic audience in the *Marienkirche*.

Afterwards we had an excellent supper in the *Handwerkerhaus* just up the road. KCS members sang two madrigals which everyone enjoyed. Finally we all joined hands to sing *Auld Lang Syne* together.

In addition to the singing, we were formally welcomed one morning at the town hall by the *Bürgermeister*. We also had two outings. The first was to the *Hamburger Hallig*, one of the many small islands west of the mainland not far from Husum, where we enjoyed afternoon tea together. Unfortunately the weather was poor so we had no views across the *Hallig*. The second outing was all day on the Monday after the concert. The weather was poor then too. We drove to the tiny



Ready for a cold trip to Langeness

harbour of Schluttsiel where we boarded a vessel to take us to the *Hallig* of Langeness. As it was low tide we had to make a long detour to this, one of the longest *Halligen*, but we arrived safely. There we were taken by tractor-drawn carriage to the far end of the *Hallig*, where we had an excellent buffet meal. Then we were able to visit a house which is now a tiny

Most people from Kidderminster then returned home by various means. Those who were flying from Hamburg had to leave Husum at 5.00 am. by train in order to catch their 9.40 am. flight. Luckily they all made it on time. Other members travelled to Denmark or to France, or elsewhere in Germany, for a holiday.

Everyone enjoyed the "Husum Experience" and singing together. Our grateful thanks go to Heinrich Linkogel for organising such an enjoyable stay. In two years' time TSC members are due to join us in a concert here in Kidderminster, so hopefully more KCS members will be able to participate in Twinning.

Pauline Powell

Postscript: Pauline and her husband Bob have masterminded the visits of the Choral Society to Husum ever since the first in 1990, and she and Bob have decided to take a well-earned break from this task. The role will now be undertaken by another member of the Society, Jane Williams, and we welcome Jane's involvement. At the Husum end, Heinrich Linkogel, who has been the Chairman of the Theodor Storms Chor for 25 years, has retired



Taking a bow (from l.): Adam Szvoren, Julia Henning, Ulrike Andersen, Martin Hundelt, Hans Christian Hinz, Geoff Weaver and Christoph Jensen

museum, and the ancient church which is still active. En route by the boat we were able to see some seals not far away.

from both that position and that of visits organiser. Juliane Uphaus – who has visited Kidderminster in the past - has succeeded Heinrich in both roles, and

we look forward to seeing her and other members of the choir when they visit Kidderminster in 2015.

Ray Harrowing

Husum Golf Club Visit, June 9-14

Ten mixed players from Husum arrived for the annual competition for the "Schimmel-Ryder Trophy", headed by their President Werner Lonsdorfer, and Club Captain and organiser Dieter Knörr. There were, as always, two competition days and two social away days. Because of diary pressures the visitors had to return home after four days of golf, thus excluding a free day. This is generally welcome as a rest, and a chance to look around the area, or make a special day out. However, we opted for four consecutive days, and the weather was nice for the first three, though rain came on the fourth. Overall the visit was a thorough success.

The golf details were as follows:

Monday 10 - S-R Trophy, Kidderminster, mixed pairs.

Tuesday 11 - The Worcestershire, at Malvern. social

ster players. The weather was kind, and in view of the fare it was as well that the following day's golf was not competitive.

The Worcestershire course in Malvern Wells is gorgeous, and at times dramatic, and with stunning views - though some Husumers were kind enough to remark that Kidderminster is its equal. We had an excellent evening meal there. The other away day was at Ludlow, slightly marred by some rain, and more so by being a stop in the John O'Groats to Land's End Cycle Race. The road intersects the course, and there were groups of heaving cyclists appearing from nowhere, to mess things up. My card had been going a treat until they started whizzing by - with cars, loudspeakers, marshalls and Uncle Tom Cobley an' all! The final straw was a women's half-marathon lumbering through. So, advice re golfing at Ludlow - check dates for marathons, national or local cycle races, tractor shows, horse racing, and other unexpected delights, including heavy lorries and farm vehicles.

We ended with a final dinner at Kidderminster Golf



The golfers ready for action

event only.

Wednesday 12 - S-R Trophy, Kidderminster, individual.

Thursday 13 - Ludlow, social event.

On the first evening Sandra and I hosted a barbecue at home, enabling us all to get acquainted. We were extremely grateful to John and Margaret Pearsall, who not only organised the food but also provided a small marquee with tables and seating for the 28 guests - who included some additional Kiddermin-

ster players. The weather was kind, and in view of the fare it was as well that the following day's golf was not competitive.

Club, attended by all those who had participated over the four days. Our visitors had intended to take the Trophy back to Husum, its birthplace, but this was not possible, as Kidderminster had a substantial overall win. The Trophy was presented to me, as Kidderminster Chairman, by Werner Lonsdorfer, for another year.

Rod Summers, Chairman

Membership

There are a few members who have so far not renewed their membership of the Association – membership fees were in fact due at the date of the AGM. If you are one of these, you will find enclosed with this Newsletter a note from Jerry Mayfield, the Membership Secretary, giving full details.

We do hope that you will want to remain members of the Association.

On the Horizon

We list here some of the twinning-related events that will take place either in Kidderminster or in Husum over the next few months. We shall obviously keep the list up-dated as dates are confirmed.

August – visit of Kidderminster group to *Hafentage*
August 6-13 – visit of “Oldies” to Husum

October – visit to Husum of group from Milton Hall Boys' Brigade

November 15-16 – celebration of the Husum Verein's first ten years (Shulah Oliver, a violinist who performed in Husum as a young member of the Wyre Forest Symphony Orchestra, and more recently as a soloist in her own right, will give a concert in the *Schloss* as part of these celebrations)

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.e

Husum Calendar of Events

Husum welcomes thousands of visitors from far and near, particularly during the Summer months, and the Tourism and Marketing office is heavily involved in promoting events of all kinds which serve both to attract the visitors and to interest Husumers themselves. A very full programme of events, exhibitions, etc. can be found on the Tourism and Marketing office's website at www.husum-tourismus.de.

New Members

We are delighted to welcome new members Hannah Cornish (Carnival Queen 2012-13) and family members Suzanne, Sean, Lucie and Fraser. They obviously had a great time in Husum in March, despite the weather, but we hope that their next visit will give them not only the same warm welcome but also some of the beautiful weather that we know Husum sometimes offers! We also wel-

come Peter Jones and Elizabeth Solven (one of the “oldie” members of the original youth groups from the 1960's).

Photo credits:

Penny Harrowing, Colin Hill, Eugen Kelch, Heinrich Linkogel, Neil Nicholls. We apologise if there are pictures contained in this edition that have not been properly acknowledged.

Kidderminster-Husum Twinning Association

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Secretary: Mrs Hilary Boyle
Treasurer: Mrs Christine Dutton
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Newsletter

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