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KIDDERMINSTER-HUSUM TWINNING ASSOCIATION *Newsletter*

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TEN YEARS OLD

Husumers celebrate a birthday

In November the *Husumer Partnerschaftsverein* (Husum Twinning Association) celebrated its tenth birthday with an exhibition and reception in the *Rathaus* (Town Hall), a film evening, a concert in the *Schloss* (the Castle) at which the solo violinist was Shulah Oliver from Kidderminster, and a very interesting lecture by Anne-Marie Leather (who lived for some years in England) on some leading English figures.

"This partnership and friendship is unique."

Rainer Maaß, Chairman of the *Verein*, greeting guests at the reception, said: "this is a small anniversary for Husum, but it is right that we should celebrate it". He regretted that representatives of Husum's four twin towns (Kidderminster, Heiligenstadt, Gentofte and

Trzcianka) could not be present because of time constraints. He explained that cordial relations had already existed with Kidderminster for more than 50 years - the first tentative steps had been taken in 1955, and had gradually grown. "This partnership and friendship is unique, in my opinion", he said. Links with Trzcianka, in Poland, were also growing. The first contacts with Heiligenstadt had been made, under difficult circumstances, during the time of the GDR, but of course this connection had originally been made by Theodor Storm, who had been the District judge in Heiligenstadt, in Thuringia, from 1856 to 1864. Herr Maaß had to concede that friendly ties with the

From the Editor

Having been given a much-improved Desktop Publishing package for Christmas, I couldn't wait to try it out. The idea is that the Newsletter and the newly-designed website should look similar. This Newsletter is the result - I hope you like it. The Winter is a "fallow" period for twinning activities, but we do have a number of reports and other items to offer, and we hope that this issue will be of interest.

Please keep sending your contributions!

Ray Harrowing

Friendship and
Understanding

Freundschaft und
Verständigung

Copenhagen district of Gentofte were unfortunately only on paper for now.

Bürgervorsteher (people's representative) Peter Empen congratulated the *Verein* on its anniversary. "Looking back", he said, "it was the right decision to put the twinning work on a private basis ten years ago". There was a feeling that the whole process would otherwise be subject to town politics. But the real work was already being done by schools, choirs, clubs and other organisations as well as by churches and individual people. The connection to the twin towns reached a different level and a higher quality through the *Verein*, and it had achieved far more through its creative Committee and its active members than could be done by committees which were concerned with politics. "Countless contacts



Georg Weßler



Rainer Maaß

and friendships now exist and they promise great things for the future", he said.

Georg Weßler, former Chairman of the *Verein* and one of its founding members, talked about its ten-year history. "We looked to the future with optimism", he said, "and we have had a very interesting time". The goal was to establish friendly relations and to strengthen and thus contribute to international understanding. The *Verein* had had an extensive programme of education, including cultural programmes and language courses; there were currently 51 members, including two from Kidderminster. In particular the youth exchanges had proved a great success; the Husum Fire Brigade's youth section had regular and intensive contacts with their opposite numbers in Heiligenstadt. There were not such good links with Trzcianka, in Poland - "here we've got more work to do so that this

Please visit our website:

www.kidderminster-husum-twinning.co.uk

contact can be brought to life", Herr Weßler said. In total, there were ten groups and associations now participating in regular visits and exchanges, and everyone involved could testify to unforgettable experiences. But more contacts were still possible, and he invited sports clubs, the *Landfrauen* (ladies' groups) and the Lions Clubs to take part. "I can tell you that it's a very worthwhile activity", he said.

We send the Verein our congratulations on reaching this landmark, and we wish them continued success for the future.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Members of the Association will find enclosed with this issue the Agenda and Minutes for the Annual General Meeting to be held on Wednesday, March 26, 2014 at 7.30 pm., in the Valley Suite, Kidderminster SVR Station. If you are a member, but

have not received these papers, please contact Hilary Boyle (Secretary). 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.

Last year we had a talk by Charles Talbot about the history and setting up of the Museum of Carpet - with which he and Jean are deeply involved; this year we shall be entertained by close harmony group, Gazraz (made up of members of Kidderminster Male Choir), and of course there will be sumptuous refreshments. We do hope that members and non-members alike will be able to join us!



Greetings from Biblins

OFFICERS OF THE TWINNING ASSOCIATION (see also next page)

Chairman: Terry Garbett, 14 Trimpley Lane, Kidderminster, Worcs. DY11 5LB (01562 637900)

Secretary: Hilary Boyle, 30 Blakebrook, Kidderminster, Worcs. DY11 6RG (01562 68535)

Treasurer: Christine Dutton, 40 Lea Bank Avenue, Kidderminster, Worcs. DY11 6PA (01562 823961)

SCOUTING TOGETHER IN GOOD WEATHER

When I received this report from Kelvin Morris, about the visit of the Danish Scouts to Kidderminster's KD8 Scouts last July, I imagined that I could condense it into a few punchy paragraphs, but on reading it more thoroughly I realised that this would not do justice to a very interesting and action-packed

window of opportunity for our joint camps is always subject to the overlap of school holidays - in this case just less than two weeks.

The heat wave that we were experiencing in July resulted in a very tired coach party of scouts arriving at midnight on July 17. They settled quickly into their accommodation in the scout hut compound at Rhydd Covert, and prepared for a prompt start the next day.



Dinner will be served

week. So here it is in full - a lovely antidote to the wet and miserable weather as I write!

Editor

The planning for this visit had started a year earlier, when KD8 (St. John's) Scout Group were the guests of the Stjerne Gruppe at the first scout and guide associations' joint jamboree at Holstebro in Denmark. The

Thursday - another hot day! Escorted by Nathan Carroll from KD8, our visitors were guided on a hike that took them to Bewdley via Trimpley and Habberley Valley, arriving in time for fish and chips. They had time for a look around Bewdley before their planned visit to the Museum, which included demonstrations of rope making and clay pipe making. Then they were on the move again,

OFFICERS OF THE TWINNING ASSOCIATION (continued)

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hiking back to Rhydd Covert for a series of activities at 6 pm. Following their long day, the evening provided the opportunity to have time at leisure; back at the scout hut the KD8 Executive Committee had provided a leisurely buffet, with time to meet new people from KD8 and the Kidderminster District Scouts. Conversation went on late into the evening.

Friday started early with a trip on the Severn Valley Railway to Bridgnorth, taking in the engine house at Highley; just enough time to visit High Town in Bridgnorth and buy some souvenirs before heading back to the station and Kidderminster.



By the late afternoon the temperature had dropped a little, so the walk down to the final event of the day, a trip round the Town Hall was not too arduous. There Charles Talbot gave us a colourful tour,

explaining things in both German and English. The visit to the Court Room, with lurid details of past trials and punishments, went down a treat. The early evening gave time for some relaxation; one group visited the Wyre Forest Glades for a swim, while others returned to the scout hut for leisure time and to prepare the evening meal.

Saturday brought another early start; departure for Biblins Campsite in the Forest of Dean saw the German coach and several KD8 vehicles heading off in convoy, and 90 minutes later we (KD8) were entering the site from the English side of the Welsh border, while the coach was

wending its way along a 2.5 mile logging track to a point on the Welsh side, next to the suspension bridge that links to the site. What a way to start the camp! Setting up camp and preparing the main meal of the day were the priorities for the rest of Saturday.

Sunday - very hot! Team games were organised for mixed groups of Husum and Kidderminster scouts, and the abundance of water (and the process of getting wet) was important for keeping cool! After a day of such activities the scouts had to do some wood cutting, in order to cook their evening meal on open wood fires. The younger cubs and scouts had had practice sessions at the scout hut to prepare them for camp cooking; over the weekend everyone took part in cooking on several occasions. Sunday evening was our first camp-fire, with traditional songs from both groups.

On Monday we split into several activity groups, which went their separate ways to enjoy kayaking on the River Wye or to take part in a caving expedition; in the afternoon the groups swapped over.

Tuesday saw the whole camp making a trip to the "Big Pit", a coal mine museum at Blaenafon. There were many surprises underground for the youngsters, with tales of the past about very young children working in the darkness for many hours at a time. On the way back to Biblins camp-site we spent some time in Abergavenny - time for some Welsh present-buying!

Wednesday and Thursday again saw groups of scouts heading off in different directions. The

German Film Evening - King Charles I School (Science Block) - Wednesday March 19 at 7.00 pm. The film is "The Miracle of Bern" - how the 1954 World Cup helped an 11 year old lad bond with his father, recently released by the Russians as a rather damaged ex-PoW. It has universal appeal but of course, whilst no knowledge of football is needed, it will certainly go down well with fans. Its depiction of an almost "period" era is wonderful! German-themed refreshments. Entrance free, but please reserve your place with Pat Garbett.

young adults went to the hills to hike for the day, while groups of cubs and scouts made off up the River Wye to visit the maze, butterfly farm and laser activities. Cubs from both groups hiked down the Wye to Monmouth on a very hot Thursday, the Forestry Commission woods helping to keep us in shade for much of the way. On this, the final evening of the camp, we were joined round our camp-fire by a Scout group from Ealing, in London, who were camping nearby. It was clear that scouts the world over like the same sort of songs, sketches and jokes! On Friday morning we said good-bye to the Husum scouts, as they boarded their coach for the long trip home. Many fond memories of yet another successful joint camp for Stjerne Gruppe and KD8, and talk of the next time we shall meet.

Since the camp in July, our friendship group in Husum have invited KD8 to the Tydal camp-site in Denmark in 2015 - this will be for their DSS Scout and Guide Association International Camp. We have also learned that the next International Jamboree in Denmark, for all Danish Associations, will be in 2017 - we attended the last one in 2012 and gave a report on it in an earlier edition of this Newsletter.

*Kelvin Morris - Group Scout Leader
8th Kidderminster (St. John's) Scout Group*

IN MEMORIAM PAM CUNNINGHAM

It is with great sadness that we have to report the death of one of our long-standing supporters, Pam Cunningham. Pam was the founder and Musical Director of the Kidderminster Valentines ladies' choir, and, as



Pam, with mementoes of her musical life

a devout Catholic, also joined in some of the visits of the churches group in Kidderminster and Husum.

Pam came with husband Alan to Kidderminster from her native Wales in 1971, and trained as a teacher at Shenstone College, subsequently teaching at three schools in this area.

Pam's choir started small, but grew to prominence in the Kidderminster area, helping to raise thousands of pounds for charity and hosting choral events at the Town Hall, which involved choirs from around the Midlands. Under her leadership the choir sang at Symphony Hall in Birmingham and the Royal Albert Hall in London, as well as in Husum.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL NOW DUE!

Members will find renewal forms enclosed with this Newsletter; for those who pay by Standing Order their new Membership Cards are enclosed, and those who do not at present pay using this method are invited to complete the enclosed form.

Pam will be greatly missed by her family and friends, and we offer them our deepest sympathy.

FROM THE COMMITTEE

The Committee met on November 26, and received reports from a number of groups, as well as news of progress with other groups that were planning to become involved. Some of these reports are the subject of articles elsewhere in this edition of the Newsletter.

The cost of purchasing crocus corms for planting on further sites in the town, which was a matter for concern at the previous meeting, has been met in full; generous donations have been received from Councillors Fran Oborski, Marcus Hart and Mike Kelly, as well as from the Lions Club, Baxter College, residents of Farfield, the District Scouts and Rotary; the profit from the Quiz Night (£ 321) and from sales of cards and tote bags (£ 34) was also put to this purpose. Planting had taken place at Habberley, the Police Station and Chester Road, and at least three other sites were awaiting work.

There were discussions about the possibility of involving visiting Husumers in a commemoration service marking the beginning of the First World War, and about the celebration in 2015 of sixty years of links between Husum and Kidderminster.

The Committee met again on February 11, and updates on a number of visits and other arrangements were noted. Plans for the commemoration of the start of the First World War were discussed; there will be a "Service for Peace" at St. Mary's Church on Sunday August 3, and a Vigil in Brinton Park at 10.30 pm. on Monday August 4. Further plans are being made and will be reported later. A German Film Evening was also planned (see details in this Newsletter).

The Committee will meet again on May 14. If members have matters that they would like the Committee to discuss they are invited to contact the Secretary, Hilary Boyle.

READY FOR MORE CROCUS DISPLAYS

As I write, in many locations around the town the purple crocuses are bravely showing their



Tough gardening conditions at Kidderminster Station

NEW MEMBERS

We are very pleased to welcome as a new member group the 1st Kidderminster Boys' Brigade Company. They have already visited Husum (see report in the last Newsletter), and hope this year to host the group that welcomed them then.

heads, promising to provide a very colourful display as soon as the weather allows. Enthusiastic groups of people have again been adding to the planting - at the last count approximately 170,000 crocuses have been planted, and, given a couple of years, we can expect them to multiply and spread the display much more widely.



KD8 scouts ready to dig at the Police Station



KD15 planting at St. Michael's Close



Planting at the Rose Theatre



Crocus gardeners from Baxter College

We are very grateful to all those who have supported the purchase of crocus corms, and to the many who have done the planting; photos of some of them are shown here.

PHOTO CREDITS

Klaus Evers, Ray Harrowing, Colin Hill, Jerry Mayfield, Kelvin Morris

We apologise if there are pictures in this edition that have not been properly acknowledged.