



March 2015

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KIDDERMINSTER-HUSUM TWINNING ASSOCIATION

Newsletter

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AMBASSADOR CRAIG

National Recognition

Craig Bateman, 18, a member of the first Kidderminster Company, The Boys' Brigade, who has visited Husum and been involved in the exchange between the BB and the Schobüll Pfadfinder Group, has been appointed as an #iwill ambass-



Craig, with Professor James Arthur, University of Birmingham, Director of the Jubilee Centre for Character and Virtues; Team GB Paralympic Athlete, Liz Johnson; and Jean Tomlin OBE, Trustee of Step Up to Serve

ador to the Step up to Serve programme, which aims to double the number of young people involved in social action by the year 2020. At an event at the O2 in London, Craig shared his experiences of making a difference in the local community, to 400 guests who also heard

messages of support from the Prince of Wales and the Prime Minister, David Cameron.

Craig said: "I have always had a genuine passion for using my skills to make a difference in my local community. To be appointed an #iwill ambassador will enable

From the Editor

Members of the Association will find either their membership cards or a reminder about payment of subs enclosed with this Newsletter, as well as papers for the AGM. You will also, of course, be aware that this year is the Diamond Jubilee of our twinning contacts with Husum. We hope it will be a year to remember!

Please keep your contributions coming!

Ray Harrowing

Friendship and
Understanding

Freundschaft und
Verständigung

me to create new and exciting opportunities for the next generation. As an ambassador, I will work to ensure that young people have a voice, influence and a place in society, making sure that they are at the centre of key decision-making and are a real driving force in planning for the future."

Craig has undertaken a range of social action projects as a member of the Boys' Brigade. To achieve his Queen's Badge, the highest badge available in the Brigade, he completed the 'Building Your Skills' course, helping out in his local community and church. He helped to organise the BB trip Husum in 2012, and he is also a member of Worcestershire Youth Cabinet.

Eric Hudson, director of the Boys' Brigade in England, said: "We are exceptionally proud of Craig and the commitment he shows to social action initiatives in Worcestershire. He gives a great deal to the local community and the church and such enthusiasm will undoubtedly encourage and inspire more young people to make a difference in their local community. In addition to supporting social action, Craig's role as an #iwill ambassador is character building while providing valuable life skills. We wish him every success."

*With acknowledgements to the
Kidderminster Shuttle*

BACK AGAIN BY POPULAR DEMAND

The Twinning Association membership badge proved so popular, both in

Kidderminster and with the *Verein* members in Husum, that we ran out last year! Jerry has managed to source a new supply -



pictured above - of quality metal pin badges from a company in Lincoln.

At only £2.00 each, these will no doubt continue to be in demand in both Twin Towns; we have already received a request from the *Verein* for fifty! If you would like to purchase one please contact Jerry Mayfield or Hilary Boyle via the website.

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.

March 25 - Annual General Meeting, Valley Suite, Kidderminster SVR Station

Please visit our website:

www.kidderminster-husum-twinning.co.uk

March 28-29 - Visit of Carnival Queen to Husum Krokusfest
May 6-10 - 25th Anniversary visit of Theodor Storms Chor to Kidderminster Choral Society
May 9 – joint concert of Theodor Storms Chor and Kidderminster Choral Society - St. Mary's Church, Kidderminster (see www.kidderminsterchoralsociety.co.uk for details)
May 14-17 – visit of Forest Quilters to Storm Quilters, Husum
July - visit of KD8 Scouts to Husum
August 20-25 - 60th Anniversary visit of Husum twinnings to Kidderminster

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.

THANE CAME TO TOWN

Thane (pronounced 'Tarnuh') Albers recently came to Kidderminster for about two weeks and did a stint of work experience at the Museum of Carpet. Geoff and Hilary Boyle were her hosts, and Jean and Charles Talbot made the arrangements with the Museum. I asked Thane if she would tell us something about herself and her visit.

RH - Do you live in Husum?



Thane with Carnival Queen Jessica Campbell

TA - No, I live in a really small village about 6 miles from Husum.

RH - Where do you study, and what are you studying?

TA - I go to school in Husum; my school is the 'Hermann-Tast-Schule'. I shall graduate there next year, taking my 'Abitur' which is something like a baccalaureat. I am focusing on languages - English, French, German and Latin, but my major subject is English and I do all the other major subjects, like maths, physics, politics, history and so on.

RH - What are your hobbies and interests?

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)

TA - In my leisure time I like to dance hip hop; I have done that for 10 years. I also work in an ice cream-parlour when I'm not in school and like almost all young people I love seeing my friends.

RH - Have you brothers or sisters?

TA - Yes, I have an older brother. He will be 21 years old in March.

RH - Where do you like to take your holidays?

TA - For my holidays I like to go almost everywhere but Germany. I like the country I am living in but I love to see the world and because sadly our summers turn out to be quite short I like to go somewhere warm. Especially somewhere really exciting, where you can just really see a lot of the nature and things you haven't seen before!

RH - Why did you come to Kidderminster?

TA - I came because I love to hear and to speak English; it's just a passion. I had to do something like a work placement and I thought maybe I could do that in England because it would be a great experience. Kidderminster it was then for reasons of the twinning association and I am really happy I got there.

RH - What did you like about Kidderminster?

TA - That's really hard to say. I think I just liked it because it's English. I liked the detached houses, and the surroundings with those hills and woods. I liked how nice the people were, even if they probably would have been as nice in Kidderminster as anywhere else.

RH - Did you visit any other places while you were here?

TA - I got around a bit. I was in Birmingham one day and we also visited Ludlow Castle which was really nice because I had recently heard about it while dealing with English history and of course I saw a bit of the surrounding area.

RH - What did you do at the Museum of Carpet?

TA - At the Museum of Carpet I got some good information about Kidderminster's history at first. Then I got to work in the library there and to do some work in the archive. That was really interesting work!

RH - Did you enjoy your stay in Kidderminster, and would you like to come here again?

TA - I did enjoy my stay, yes. I had the luck to live with a really nice couple and they made my stay really nice. The people in the Museum of Carpet welcomed me warmly too and nice people make the whole atmosphere really good. I would really like to come back someday in the Summer because I think the sun makes everything look way better and I would like to see Kidderminster green and sunny.

RH - Had you visited England before?

TA - No, I haven't been to England before. I was in Ireland but not in Northern Ireland so I even haven't been to Great Britain before.

I am very grateful to Thane for answering all my questions; we look forward to seeing her again at some time in the future.

Ray Harrowing

OFFICERS OF THE TWINNING ASSOCIATION (continued)

Membership Sec: Jeremy Mayfield, 15A Ludlow Rd, Kidderminster, DY10 1NR (01562 639257)

Cultural Sec: Ray Harrowing, 147 Birmingham Ro, Kidderminster, DY10 2SL (01562 822476)

Social : Pat Garbett, 39 Batham Road, Kidderminster, DY10 2TW (01562 630326)

NEWS OF SCHOOLS EXCHANGE

Following previous successful German Exchanges with the Theodor Storm Schule in Husum, teachers and students at King Charles I School are hoping to relaunch the exchange over the next school year.

We are hoping, in liaison with colleagues at our partner school, to establish an e-pal link between students. This would enable them to practise their language skills, as well as develop friendships, before visiting each other's countries. We envisage in the first instance setting up an email correspondence between students. However, this could also take the form of a more traditional 'pen-pal' exchange by letter.

The staff and students are very enthusiastic about this joint venture because it means that our young people are able to:

- Have a taste of the German/English schooling systems;
- Sample life in a German/English family;
- Raise their awareness of the possibilities of working/living in another EU country;
- Improve their German/English skills.

The experience offered by a week's stay in Germany/England will enrich pupils' lives for many years to come. We also hope that many long-lasting friendships will be formed.

*Nicola Vincent (Head of Languages,
KC1 School)*

COME THE JUBILEE

As most members will already be aware, 2015 is a very important milestone for the Kidderminster - Husum Twinning Association, marking 60 years since the first contact between the two towns.



Diamond Jubilee celebration plans are in hand, culminating in a visit to Kidderminster from the 20th to 25th August by members of the Husum Verein (Twinning Association) and a civic party.

Pictured is the special Jubilee badge a limited number of which have been made as souvenir presents for this year's exchange visitors, hosts and helpers.

GARDENERS: A FALLOW YEAR

We are sorry to report that the stalwart Husum supporters of the Gardeners'

Notice - Annual General Meeting

Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting will be held on Wednesday March 25, 2015, at 7.30 pm. in the Valley Suite, Severn Valley Railway Station, Kidderminster. An agenda, and the Minutes of the 2014 meeting, are enclosed. Entertainment will be provided by members of the Kidderminster Male Choir; refreshments will be provided, and all are welcome.

exchange visits have been unable to fix upon dates when their holiday breaks can coincide. They have therefore decided that, rather than bringing a smaller and less representative group to Kidderminster this year, they should postpone their visit until 2016. We look forward to welcoming them then.

KEEP QUIZZING!

We are delighted to report that the Quiz Night at the end of February was perhaps the most successful ever, with nearly 100 people taking part and a total of £ 426 raised for Association funds. Quizzing was fast and furious, with Bob Hill, our illustrious question-master, struggling to maintain order.

Our grateful thanks go to Pat and Ken Garbett for their faultless organisation of the event, to Bob for his masterly conduct of the proceedings, and, of course, to all the members, families and friends who so generously supported the event.

Apart from the serious quizzing business, the evening was a great opportunity to renew old acquaintances and make new friends; we hope that some of the non-members who were present will feel the urge to become more closely associated with twinning!



Crocuses at Broadwaters

IN BLOOM AGAIN

As we write, the crocuses are in full bloom again - even those at Habberley that were



Habberley in Bloom

mistakenly mown during the flowering season last year! The maintenance of displays of flowers is never straightforward, and we hope that the installation of a bus bay at the Police Station, and the redevelopment of Kidderminster Station, will not affect the efforts of voluntary groups who have planted crocuses in these locations.



Spring comes early to Hoobrook



Blooms at Broadwaters

CHORAL SOCIETY'S VISITORS

We are busily finalising plans for the visit in May by 22 members of the *Theodor Storms Chor* from Husum. They will arrive on



Wednesday, May 6, and our programme will include three rehearsals for the joint concert on Saturday, May 9, the works to be

performed being Haydn's *St. Cecilia Mass* and Vivaldi's *Gloria*. Tickets for the concert, at £ 10 each, are now available on-line, at www.WeGotTickets.com. Children aged 16 and under are entitled to free admission, but a "ticket" will need to be booked. Tickets purchased on the door will cost £ 14.

We are arranging a full programme of visits and other activities; the visitors will leave on Sunday May 10.

Jane Williams - Co-ordinator (KCS)

FROM THE COMMITTEE

The Committee met on February 11, and received reports from a number of groups. Some of these reports are the subject of articles elsewhere in this edition of the Newsletter.

Membership has dropped slightly, to 93 individuals or family members. It was hoped that forthcoming visits and exchanges would boost interest. The Quiz Night had been a great success, and again this may result in interest in membership of the Association. Pauline Geddie was now leading the German classes, and Ruth Allen, newly-appointed German teacher at King Charles 1 School, was hoping to revitalise the link with the *Theodor Storm Schule*.

With the demise of the Carnival Committee it was very likely that the event would not be held this year or that a Carnival Queen would be chosen. After the visit of the present Carnival Queen, Jessica Campbell,



to Husum in March for the *Krokusfest*, there was at present no prospect of this link being maintained.

The AGM will take place on March 25 and the next Committee meeting on May 21. If members have matters that they would like the Committee to discuss they are invited to contact the Secretary, Hilary Boyle.

BIIKEBRENNEN

On February 21st, Husumers, like the inhabitants of many other towns and villages in North Friesland, looked forward to the end of winter with a huge bonfire on the dyke at the end of the Dockkoog. The long-standing tradition is bound up with a prophecy that, if it's freezing on the 21st, winter will last for another 40 days. If it's warm on the 21st, then you can soon sow the cabbages and peas!



PHOTO CREDITS

Hilary Boyle, Colin Hill, Husumer Nachrichten, Kidderminster Shuttle and Jerry Mayfield.

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