



## From the Editor

*The number of visits during the past few months, and reports carried over from the last edition, has meant that we once again have a very full issue of the Newsletter, and I am very grateful to all who have contributed. Especial thanks to the Mayor and to the Crocus Queen for their articles.*

**Ray Harrowing**

## Fond memories of a first visit to Husum

In 2006, Geoff and I moved to Cookley and soon discovered that Kidderminster is twinned with Husum, which we had never heard of! But the story really starts back in 1974 when, at the age of 18, I went on a school exchange to Davenport, Iowa. In 2009, after a 35-year gap, I returned to Davenport for a school reunion and had a week's holiday with the girl I had stayed with all those years ago. One evening in Iowa, it came to light that my US friend's grandfather was born in Husum. What an amazing discovery! This prompted Geoff and I to join the twinning association and then arrange a holiday in Germany and Denmark, to include two nights in Husum.

It wasn't long before we were in the car with Ingrid who navigated us to the coast near Bredstedt where she lives, on an evening of beautiful blue skies and cotton wool clouds. As keen photographers we were delighted. The scenery was stunning and Ingrid gave us so much information about the area, both verbally and by collecting leaflets in English for us wherever we went. Next day we visited Friedrichstadt, taking a boat tour as well as strolling round the town, then made our way to Husum.

The harbour area was bustling with people visiting the various stalls and watching street entertainment (see photo). We enjoyed lunch at a harbour-



Street entertainers in Husum

Months before our intended departure, we sought help from Jerry Mayfield to contact someone who would be able to offer us accommodation in early August, around the time of the harbour festival. He put us in touch with Rainer and Eva and, after an anxious wait; we finally heard that a lady by the name of Ingrid would be willing to have us to stay in her home. So on Monday August 2 we boarded a ferry at Harwich for the 18-hour crossing to Esbjerg, arriving in Husum late afternoon on Tuesday 3. As Ingrid opened her front door there was a degree of anxiety in all of us, as the only communication we had had was two brief emails from me in stilted German and a brief phone conversation. However, anxieties soon dissipated as Ingrid showed us to our room in her lovely house and asked us what we would like to see, "nature or culture?" We said both! And she replied that we only had one day!!

side fish restaurant before heading for the Theodor Storm Museum, a fascinating insight into the poet's life - of particular interest to me, as a poet myself (I obviously need more writing desks!). After taking in a stunning exhibition of photographs, at the Nordsee Museum, of some of the coastal places we had seen the previous evening, we headed back to the Town Hall to meet the *Bürgermeister* and his wife. Eva and Rainer officially welcomed us to the town, showering us with gifts and sparkling wine (not literally). We felt very privileged. We discussed the possibility of links between Kidderminster Camera Club, of which we are members, and a similar organisation in Husum.

By the time we left Husum next morning, we felt as if we had been there for days. And yes, we had seen nature *and* culture! We can't thank Ingrid

enough for her wonderful hospitality, and look forward to the opportunity to welcome her, and/or other members from our twin town, into our home in the future.

**Heather and Geoff Cox**

## **A New Era for Husum's *Binnenhafen* (Inner Harbour)**

Those who know Husum will recall the two lines of sturdy posts set in the harbour bed on either side of the *Binnenhafen*. These served mainly to mark



*Husum's Binnenhafen (Inner Harbour)*

out the "parking bays" for small pleasure boats and cruisers and to prevent them swinging in the river current and the tide.

Well, the posts have gone, and the port authority hopes to attract larger vessels that will now be able to moor right in the middle of the town.

Claude Brühn, owner of the *Nordertour* floating restaurant and leader of the group hoping to attract more water-borne tourism, tells me: "it may take a year or two before we notice a difference; ships' owners and captains will already have planned which harbours they will visit this year, and maybe also next year, but we hope that our advertising will begin to bring some responses after that". In fact, we have seen from the webcam which overlooks the *Binnenhafen* that a number of larger vessels have already begun to visit the centre of Husum.

**Ray Harrowing**

## **A Message from the Crocus Queen**

It was our first time in England and the first impression was that it was strange that the cars drive on the "wrong" side for us! When we landed in Birmingham, we didn't feel that we were far from home because Terry Garbett was so friendly, and we felt very comfortable.

The whole journey was great fun; I think this was because of the good relationship between Mareike and me. We're not just sisters, we're good like friends! As soon as we went through the door of the Gulliver's family house, it was like being at home, because they were so friendly and nice and fun. We got a meal when we arrived, which was so great, and we had our own room. And when we were in Kidderminster it was the time of the football World Cup. So when it was the England match, we saw the game with the whole family. So it was the same feeling as being at home! We are so thankful to the Gulliver family.

The day of the Carnival Parade was great. Amy, the Carnival Queen, was at first a little shy but then we had a lot of fun with her and with the rosebuds. The tour through the fantastic town in the carriage was very nice, and the Park was fantastic - I've never seen anything like it. Colin was great - he took a lot of pictures of Amy, the rosebuds and me. That was fun. We got such a lot of impressions the whole day, it was unbelievable. But the best thing was, that everyone treated us as if they had known us a long time.

That evening we met Clair and Pam. They were so nice, like we belonged to their family. We were with everyone at a Mexican restaurant and we talked a lot. That was the best evening ever because we felt so good. We were so grateful!



*Annika and Amy*

As the Crocus Queen I have been in Cologne, and also in Heiligenstadt, which is the second partner city of Husum, which was also great, but not comparable with my trip to Kidderminster. I will never forget this great time and next year I want to come back to visit all the friendly, nice people.

In Cologne for example there was a Hotel Fair, which was international and very interesting but not so “familiar” as Kidderminster. On my recent visit to Heiligenstadt in the east of Germany there was a twin town festival too. It was really great and I met a lot of other queens who were also very nice. I think, it’s important for a town to have a queen, because of marketing and representing the town. As a queen you have the chance to stand for your own town. Everyone hears about the town which the queen is representing and that is a good advertising.

I really want to visit England again, because the people were so open and so nice. Saying goodbye to Kidderminster was really hard!

**Annike**

## The Twinning Website

Since we embarked on the development of a website, with the valuable input of Gavin Clark of MTT (Midland Technical Translations), we have been very gratified not only to receive complimentary comments about the site but also to have a large number of responses to what has been included on the site. We’ve had correspondence from around the world and a lot of interest from other twinners. Of course, to anyone who opens up the German or Danish pages, it will be obvious that we still have work to do; we are grateful to Peter Bang, Eva Maaß and Christina Jacobsen for the assistance that they have given in translating material.

A drawback in the way the site was set up was that much of the content and the layout depended upon a knowledge of the specialised computer language known as HTML (I won’t bore readers with a fuller explanation!); the need to learn this language and to put it into practice has slowed the input of information on to the pages. So we have decided to make a new arrangement for the hosting and further development of the site, which came into effect at the beginning of August. The new provider will be one who I already work with in the

development of another website, that of the Kidderminster Choral Society – known to his friends as “notanotherdotcom.com”!

We are indeed most grateful to Gavin for the work that he has done for us on the website over the past few years; MTT are members of the Association and we look forward to a continuing relationship with the Company - we would not hesitate to recommend them for any translation services that readers may need!

**Ray Harrowing (webmaster)**

## 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 next few months.

*November 22 – December 27 – Weihnachtsmarkt (Christmas Market)*

*January 1 – New Year Concert*

*February 14-15 – NordseeGastro & Hotel Exhibition*

*March 26-27 – Krokusfest (Crocus Festival and crowning of Krokusblütenkönigin)*

*April 24 – 27th Easter Motorbike Rally*

A full programme of events, exhibitions, etc. can be found at [www.husum-tourismus.de](http://www.husum-tourismus.de)

## Husum Nordsee-Congress Centrum opening

Over the August Bank holiday weekend our President Kidderminster’s Mayor Jeffrey Baker and his wife Rita, accompanied by Vice - President Charles Talbot and his wife Jean, four “Oldies” (Anne Witts, Ken Ryder, Val and Jerry Mayfield) from the 1962 and 1964 youth exchanges and the Mayor’s officer Bob Fleming, who incidentally is also a member of our Association, were privileged to be invited to take part in the official opening celebration of Husum’s new Congress Centre.

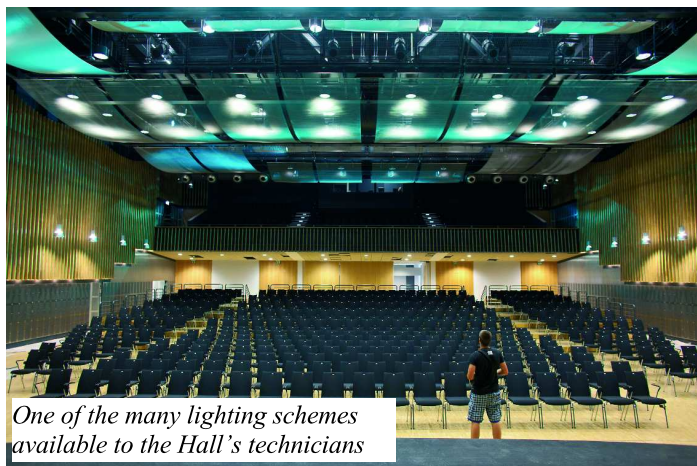
The “Oldies” followed by Charles and Jean arrived in Husum on Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> to a lovely summer’s



*The Kidderminster group with representatives of the Husumer Partnerschaftverein (Twinning Association)*

afternoon while Jeffrey, Rita and Bob arrived the following evening about 1½ hours before the start of an evening reception (having been delayed en route by German heavy goods vehicles returning to base prior to the weekend curfew) arranged for us at the “Old Person’s House” adjacent to the *Marienkirche* by Eva and Rainer Maaß and friends from the Husum *Partnerschaftsverein* who we met together with our respective hosts and the *Bürgervorsteherin* of Husum, Birgitt Encke, and representing two more of Husum’s Twin Towns Marek Kupś the Mayor of Trzcianka, formerly Schönlanker, in Poland and Bernd Beck the *Bürgermeister* of Heiligenstadt, accompanied by his wife. Heiligenstadt is in the east of Germany where Theodor Storm spent part of his early working life. Much delicious food and drink was consumed and as the evening progressed Rainer Maaß welcomed us all to Husum and then advised everyone present that we all had reserved seating in the third row of the *Kongresshalle* for the opening ceremony on the following day with the main guest of honour being Peter Harry Carstensen the Minister-President of Schleswig-Holstein.

lobby of the Nordsee-Congress Centrum for a champagne reception before proceeding into the *Kongresshalle*, for the opening ceremony hosted by



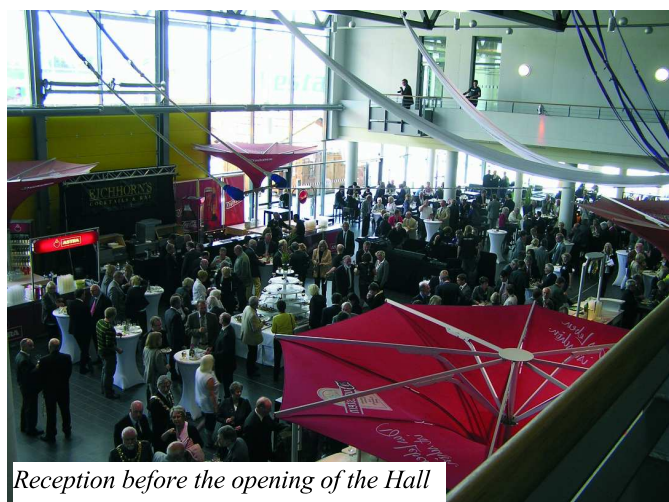
One of the many lighting schemes available to the Hall’s technicians

Rainer Maaß, which uncharacteristically started late. Speeches by various people including Peter Harry Carstensen followed, interspersed by musical entertainment by the Schleswig-Holstein symphony orchestra with superb vocal solos from mezzo-soprano Svitlana Slyvia and tenor Jin Hak Mok. An extensive hot and cold buffet followed during which Rainer Maaß received the key to the door of the Centre, from the development team, before it opened to the public at 2:00pm with an extensive programme of free afternoon entertainment which amongst numerous others included sessions from the *Theodor-Storm-Schule*’s, “Husum Youth Orchestra” conducted by Harald Breuer, and the *Herman-Tast-Schule*’s *Zircus Miraculix*.



The Rödemişer Spielmannszug in full flow

From 7:00pm, in a moderate entrance charge applied for entertainment from numerous live bands, a stand-up comedian, and a Disco, all of which eventually concluded after 3:00am on Sunday morning!



Reception before the opening of the Hall

A relaxed Sunday morning followed with some members of the group attending morning service at the light, bright, newly redecorated *Marienkirche* before taking a tour of the “new” *Rathaus* at 11.30 terminating in a light snack of *Krabben* rolls and Champagne or Orange juice before we all departed on a whistle stop tour of the area commencing with a short stop at the base of one of the giant (3 Megawatt) wind turbines

to enable everyone to hear just how quiet they are in operation. As the weather started to close in we arrived at the *Roter Haubarg* for a look at the museum and the local traditional sport of *Ringreiten*

A bright and sunny Saturday morning duly arrived and we all assembled, to the music of the Rödemiş *Spielmannszug* (marching band), in the

before moving on towards Westerhever to view the historic lighthouse and cottages. Unfortunately as we approached the car park nearest to the lighthouse a torrential downpour ensued which caused a rapid retreat to a nearby restaurant for coffee and cake! Suitably refreshed, we paid a short visit to Tetenbüll to view the church and the nearby one hundred year old shop followed during a break in the rain. Friedrichstadt followed next as the pouring rain returned before we all returned to Husum to prepare for a superb evening meal at the *Dörpskrog* restaurant in nearby Ahrenshöft provided for us by *Stadt Husum* and the *Husum Partnerschaftsverein* during which our Vice - President presented a copy of "Town and Borough: A Civic History of Kidderminster" to Marek Kupś before everyone said farewell to Geoffrey, Rita, Bob and Marek who were returning home the next morning.

Monday morning arrived to some much appreciated sunshine however a planned trip to Hallig Südfall for the remainder of the group had to be abandoned owing to the possibility of thunderstorms in the area. A revamped programme was quickly devised for the rest of the morning and afternoon which included a visit to the Nordstrand Pottery, the Sheep Shop which believe it or not sells everything to do with sheep and a visit to an old favourite the *Café Halligblick*, which has re-opened under new owners, for *Pharisäers* and Ices. It will be a great pity that the delightful sea view from the front of the *Café* will be totally obscured when the height of the dyke is increased by two metres in the future.

Every member of the group thoroughly enjoyed the weekend, which as usual finished all too quickly, and would like to take the opportunity to thank all their hosts, the *Husum Partnerschaftsverein*, *Stadt Husum* and most of all Eva and Rainer Maaß, who arranged much of the programme, for as usual making us feel so welcome and for looking after all us so well.

**Jerry Mayfield**

## Husum – First Impressions from the Mayor and Mayoress of Kidderminster

When we landed at Hamburg airport it was raining quite hard – same as at home Rita said! On the car journey to Husum, the skies cleared and by the time we reached our destination it was a bright, late August evening. After reaching our hotel we got ourselves organised and then we attended a reception at a local hall with *Bürgermeister* Rainer Maaß,

his wife Eva, local councillors, Twinning Committee members plus friends who gave us a very enjoyable evening that included an enjoyable buffet.

On the Saturday we attended the opening of the



*The Mayor and Mayoress, with Frau Annegret von Hielmcrone (L.)*

Husum Nordsee – Congress Centrum. This is a magnificent new hall to be used for concerts, conferences, orchestras and many other uses. Everyone of note from the area was there. It was a magnificent spectacle and the audience was filled to capacity as *Bürgermeister* Maaß spoke of the jewel in the crown of Husum. There were a number of very special people present including the Minister-President of Schleswig-Holstein, Peter Harry Carstensen, the top politician in that part of Germany. Following the official opening there was a buffet reception. We were then shown around the building by

the *Bürgermeister*, who showed us how many events could be shown at the same time in this magnificent building. We ended the late afternoon by listening to a German Oompah



*Rainer holds the key*

Band. Rita, Bob Fleming and I then went for a very pleasant meal at the English Bar on the Husum Waterfront on the evening which was a fitting end to a memorable day.

The Sunday started with fine sunny weather. We started off after breakfast with a walk through one of Husum's fine parks, which we were told is covered in crocuses during the springtime. We also

saw a lot of the main parts in Husum away from the main concourse. Rita very much liked this part of the day. We then met up with the *Bürgermeister* at the Town Hall, where he showed our party around the municipal offices. We ended the morning having fresh prawn rolls in the board room. These were magnificent as these prawns were straight out of the sea! It was all aboard the mini bus for a tour of the Dykes and all around the local surrounding areas. Wind turbines are everywhere in this area, literally hundreds of them. Many members of the local population are employed in the wind industry. Unfortunately, the rain then came down very heavily and our afternoon was curtailed somewhat. But we did visit a beautiful old church on our journey back to Husum. This alone made the day. On the Sunday evening, we were treated to a wonderful dinner at a local hotel. Everyone had a great time, great conversation and people who we had never met before became good friends. Many photographs were taken.

Monday, and following a leisurely breakfast, we made our farewell to *Bürgermeister* Maaß and his lovely wife Eva, also to Jean and Charles Talbot who were staying on for a long spell in Husum and then we were aboard our bus for the journey to Hamburg airport.

Both Rita and I will have very happy memories of a few wonderful days amongst very good friends and the beautiful town of Husum.

**Cllr Jeffrey Baker (Mayor of Kidderminster)**

## Hilary goes Walkabout

Some readers may be aware that our intrepid Secre-



tary (well, you have to be intrepid to take on that job!) went off to Australia for some weeks in the

Summer. She spent her time walking with friends in Northern Australia, and met up with other friends, including former Association members Liz and Keith Weston, who are now living in Sydney. Hilary brings greetings from them to all who remember them.

## Quiz Success

We are very pleased to be able to report that the Twinning Quiz Night, held on Friday October 8, yielded a surplus of income over expenses of £328 – a wonderful result, much of which was due to the efforts of Pat and Ken Garbett, our “social committee”. Many thanks to them, and also to all those who supported the event. We understand that, as well as the 58 who had bought tickets in advance, nine people actually paid “on the door” – they were welcomed with open arms!

## On the Horizon

2010: representatives of Husum churches will be in Kidderminster on October 22-25;

2011: KD8 Scouts visiting Husum July 2-12;

July - joint quilting exhibition in Husum Rathaus;

Visit to Theodor Storm School by King Charles I School September 21-28;

2012: Visit to King Charles I School by Theodor Storm School March 30 - April 6.

We shall be reporting on these events in future issues of “Twin Town News” and on the website, [www.kidderminster-husum-twinning.co.uk](http://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.

## Help us to keep in touch with you

If you change your home address, e-mail address or telephone number and in the case of an organisation your contact person please let Jerry Mayfield, the membership secretary, know so that his records which are considered to be confidential can be kept up to date.

He may be contacted via our website [www.kidderminster-husum-twinning.co.uk](http://www.kidderminster-husum-twinning.co.uk), by telephone on 01562 639257 or directly by e-mail at [jerrymayfield@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:jerrymayfield@blueyonder.co.uk).

## From the Committee

The Committee met in September and welcomed two new representatives of member organisations to their first meeting - .

Among the items discussed were:

- an invitation to take part in the Bewdley Christmas Fair;
- Interest in becoming involved from two scouting groups in Husum, Kidderminster Harriers Football Trust, amateur radio enthusiasts and Morris Dancers;
- The latest situation regarding the twinning of Holy Trinity School and the Danish School in Husum;
- King Charles I School – German lessons, dates of school exchanges with the Theodor Storm School and an invitation to hold a further German film evening;
- A visit by Husum “Oldies” in October 2011;
- The Association’s information stand at the Horticultural Society’s show;
- A joint exhibition in the Husum Rathaus by Husum and Wyre Forest Quilters;
- Various visits that had taken place or were being planned – details of these can be found elsewhere in this Newsletter.

The Committee will meet again on November 28.

## A Musical Visit to Husum

Once again, at the beginning of October, I made the trip to Husum via Birmingham and Hamburg to sing with the Theodor Storms Chor. My preparation for

our concerts was less than complete; whilst the TSC had rehearsed for nine months, my own work on the programme had been far less comprehensive, with the result that the three rehearsals, in Itzehoe and Husum, formed a steep learning curve!

As on many visits in the past, my kind and generous hosts were Marketta and Georg Weßler, their home very conveniently located five minutes’ walk from Husum’s Marketplace. I arrived on Thursday and left on Tuesday, which made for a less frenzied visit. But Friday, Saturday and Sunday were filled with travel and with music. On Friday we went by coach



Harvest Festival at St. Marienkirche

to Itzehoe, where we rehearsed John Rutter’s *Magnificat* and Mendelssohn’s *Lobgesang* (Song of Praise). Itzehoe is about 60 miles from Husum, so we got home at about 11.30 pm. On Saturday we set off again for Itzehoe, at 12.30 pm for the final rehearsal and concert with the *Itzehoer Konzertchor* in their modern and well-appointed theatre. The conductor was their Musical Director Eckhard Heppner, and we had a trio of fine soloists. The orchestra was the KlassikPhilharmonie Hamburg. Sadly the theatre was less than half-full, and the performance somewhat lacked focus and sparkle. Home again at 11.30 pm.

Sunday morning saw us attending the *Erntedankfest* (Harvest Festival) in *St. Marienkirche* before setting out at noon for another rehearsal and concert, this time in Husum’s brand-new Congress-Centrum. This multipurpose hall is very well suited for choral and orchestral performance, with a good acoustic and state-of-the-art lighting and sound facilities, and the adjoining seminar rooms provide ample off-stage accommodation.



The Itzehoe Theatre ready for action



*Ladies in Waiting - TSC members ready to perform*

Monday was a more leisurely day of shopping and visits, before my return home on Tuesday. Another hectic, but very exciting, enjoyable and worthwhile visit to our twin town.

**Ray Harrowing**

### **New Member**

We are delighted to welcome another new member – Robin Wood. We hope that he will have opportunities to visit Husum and to take part in welcoming visitors to Kidderminster.

The concert was memorable: it took place on the 20th anniversary of the reunification of Germany, it was the first choral and orchestral concert in the new hall, it was Jens Weigelt's last major concert after 40 years as the Director of the Theodor Storms Chor, the soloists and orchestra were on top form, and every one of the 700-plus seats had been sold. The music was better-rehearsed, and received prolonged applause. The *Bürgermeister*, Rainer Maaß, opened the proceedings with a speech welcoming all to the new venue, and at the end presented Jens with a gift from the *Stadt*.

After the concert members of both choirs assembled in the Thomas Hotel for a party, at which Eckhard Heppner and Jens Weigelt both expressed their thanks for the performances and Jens received another gift, this time from the *Itzehoer Konzertchor*.



*Left to right: Georg and Marketta Weßler, Frigga and Manfred Kamper*

Following the concert of Advent music in December, Herr Weigelt's place as Musical Director of the Theodor Storms Chor will be taken by Christoph Jensen, Director of the *Kantorei St. Peter* in St. Peter-Ording. He is a former pupil of Jens.

### **Photo credits:**

*Stadt Husum, Karen Breckenridge, Jerry Mayfield, Colin Hill, Geoff Cox, Ray Harrowing*

## **Kidderminster-Husum Twinning Association**

### **Officers**

Chairman: Terry Garbett  
 Vice-President: Charles Talbot  
 Secretary: Mrs Hilary Boyle  
 Treasurer: Mrs Christine Dutton  
 Membership: Jeremy Mayfield  
 Cultural: Ray Harrowing  
 Website: [www.kidderminster-husum-twinning.co.uk](http://www.kidderminster-husum-twinning.co.uk)

### **Newsletter**

The Newsletter is edited and published by Ray Harrowing. Any contributions for the next issue will be welcome. Please post or email copy and photos (jpeg format) to:

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