



Twin Town News



Editorial Note: Much of the material in this edition was prepared last Summer and we apologise for not distributing it then.

SHANTY CHOIR'S FIRST VISIT



"THE SHANTY-CHOR HAS A NEW FAN CLUB- THE PEOPLE OF KIDDERMINSTER" So reads the title of the article in the Husumer Nachrichten, giving the report of the Husumer Shanty Chor's first visit to Kidderminster over the Spring Bank Holiday weekend, when they took part in a series of events organized by the Twinning Association. Members of the Shanty-Chor, a well known choir that specialises in singing shanties and songs of the sea, arrived at Birmingham Airport on Friday afternoon and met their hosts in time for tea. Hosts had been 'collected' from a number of sources: contacts in the Kidderminster Choral Society, the churches, the RBL Youth Band, Harry Cheshire High School, the Charter Trustees, the Wyre Forest Arts Forum and so on. In the evening they attended the Annual Meeting of the Charter Trustees and the induction of Councillor Steve Roberts as Mayor of Kidderminster - an event that must be very rare in the experience of German visitors and one which filled them with awe and wonder, at the wealth of tradition and ceremonial, the fine robes and the solemn atmosphere. Their sense of occasion was conveyed to the Husumer Nachrichten when they arrived home - in fact, it was the main topic of the report!

Led by its founder, retired architect Anton Johannsen, the choir performed twice on Saturday - first in the Swan Centre at 11 a.m. when a sizeable crowd of shoppers heard a selection from their repertoire - and later at a concert in the Town Hall. This attracted a good audience who enjoyed a polished performance of sea-shanties in English and German as well as contributions by the Quattro Gentro barbershop quartet - four members of Kidderminster's Male Choir. The Shanty-Chor made their mark on the

evening with very approachable music and echoes of the life of the sea that is always so close to the minds of the people of that coastal region. The barbershop men also acquitted themselves in fine style with very varied songs and a piece of audience participation which certainly cemented international relations.

On Sunday the German visitors with many of their hosts, attended morning service at Holy Innocents Church in Kidderminster, contributing musical items to the service. This was conducted largely in German, by Canon Guy Smith, who, with members of his congregation, has close links with the Lutheran Church in Germany. The visitors with their hosts made trips to various local places of interest in the afternoon and the final event, before the choir left on Monday morning, was a very enjoyable party which included all those who had been involved over the weekend. The new Mayor of Kidderminster had received the visitors in the King Charles Room at lunchtime on Saturday and was a guest at both the Saturday evening concert and the party. Civic dignitaries from Wyre Forest District Council and Stourport on Severn and Bewdley Town Councils also attended the Concert.

Members of the choir struck up many new friendships during the weekend and there is every likelihood of these being renewed in various ways in the future. Norman Broome, Chairman of the Twinning Association, commented that the visit had been very enjoyable and a real boost for the Association's activities; it had brought new visitors to Kidderminster from Husum and more families had been introduced to the ongoing process of friendship and understanding between our two countries.

Ray Harrowing

NEW SHIP MUSEUM OPENS

Civic visit to Husum 1st to 6th April 1998.

In March an invitation was received from the SCHIFFFAHRTSMUSEUM NORDFRIESLAND to attend the ceremonial opening of the new wing of the Museum built to house the 17th Century freight ship discovered in 1994 on the coast near HUSUM. The Town Clerk, Mr Charles E. Talbot accompanied the Mayor, Councillor Stephen Rushton and the Mayoress, Miss Janet Green

who flew from Birmingham to Hamburg and thence by car to Husum. The Mayor and Mayoress stayed at Hinrichsens Hotel as guests of the Town of Husum and the Town Clerk was hosted by Dr. Ulf-Dietrich von Hielmcrone, MdL(MP).

In the evening they were greeted by the Bürgermeister of Husum, Herr Cornelius Kohl, and entertained to supper.

The following morning the party visited the Husum weekly Market which has been held in the town centre for over 700 years and which is extremely popular - a must for any visitor's itinerary on a Thursday!

In the afternoon they were greeted at the Rathaus (Town Hall) by the Bürgervorsteher, Herr Peter Empen, who is a teacher at Realschule Nord twinned with Harry Cheshire High School. He took the party to visit the Husum Shipyard where they were conducted around the yard by the Managing Director. They inspected a large freighter, built for a Chinese firm, which was due to be launched the next day.

That evening Herr Empen entertained them to supper in the Ratskeller.

The next morning Herr Kohl took the party to visit the island of Nordstrand to view the dykes followed by a visit to the Hamburger Hallig. The weather was very stormy which gave an unforgettable impression of life on these small islands which have no dyke for protection from the open sea.

In the afternoon, they attended the opening of the new wing of the Ship Museum and inspected the Ship. There followed a two-hour ceremony and Lecture by a Professor of Archaeology. The Mayor presented to Herr Peter Cohrs, the Chairman of the "Friends of the Ship Museum", a framed photograph of a luxury motor yacht built in Kidderminster, kindly provided by **SEALINE INTERNATIONAL** of Kidderminster. The Husum Shanty Choir sang sea-shanties in German and English. Later, the party was entertained to supper by Herr Janssen, the Deputy Bürgermeister.

Saturday was a free day for shopping and sight-seeing. In the evening, the party were entertained to supper privately by Dr. von Hielmcrone and met Mrs. Barbara Heller, Chairman of the Kidderminster Kuratorium when the progress of many twinning projects was discussed.

On the final day Dr. von Hielmcrone and Herr Janssen drove the party to Denmark where they visited the Royal Summer Castle at Gravenstein and took lunch in Sonderborg. They then drove to the west coast and visited Mögelltondern and the Castle of Schakenborg, the home of Prince Joachim of Denmark. The evening was spent at leisure in Husum.

The party were driven to Hamburg for the flight back to Birmingham.

C E TALBOT

HARRY CHESHIRE TWINS AGAIN

On Monday March 16th nine students aged between 14 and 16 with two teachers from our partner school, Realschule Husum Nord, arrived in Kidderminster for a week of fun and friendship. German partners were taken to lessons (which they video-ed!! much to the amusement of their hosts), taken on a tour around our school and given a flavour of daily life at Harry Cheshire (including eating a school lunch). The girls visited Worcester by train. They went on a tour of the Royal Worcester Porcelain factory and did a treasure hunt.

"Getting to know Kidderminster" included a reception at the Town Hall with Mr Charles Talbot, lunch at McDonalds and a swim at the Glades.

The whole group (German and English partners and teachers) spent a great day out in London on Friday 19th, shopping and sightseeing.

Finally, after a weekend with their host families, our guests set off back to Husum on Monday March 23rd. Not too many tears were shed as we knew it would only be 23 days until we would all meet up again in Husum.

SO.....On Wednesday April 15th nine Harry Cheshire students accompanied by Pauline Harrison and Claire Wheeler set out for Husum and another week of guaranteed fun and even more friendship. During our stay we spent time in lessons, were also welcomed at the Rathaus by the Mayor, visited the market and did a town quiz which helped us to learn all about Husum. Our trips out of town included Saturday in Hamburg with a tour of the harbour, Sunday on the island of Sylt and Monday on Hallig Hooge complete with bikes (don't forget to pedal backwards to work the brakes and no you don't need gears here!).

Sadly, on Wednesday April 22nd we had to leave Husum but we brought home with us many unforgettable memories and the knowledge that once again the spirit of friendship and twinning between our two schools continues to live and flourish.

Staff and students at Harry Cheshire would like to express their thanks to the Kidderminster Youth Trust who, once again, generously helped to fund our travel costs.

Our connections with the Youth Trust and the Youth House have been further strengthened this year thanks to the help and involvement in school ventures of Anne-Marlen Petersen. Anne has

been in school to observe and help in year 9 German lessons and has helped our "A" level German student to prepare for her Speaking Examination as well as taking part in activities when our German guests were staying with us.

Vielen vielen Dank Anne and best wishes for your future. Do come back and visit us again.

Pauline Harrison

AUF WIEDERSEHEN ANNE-MARLEN!!

MY STAY IN KIDDERMINSTER

"The six months have gone very quickly", that's what everybody says and that's what I think. But that may be because of all the new impressions I got. The European Voluntary Service is a very good opportunity to go abroad and learn about culture as well as learn the language of a foreign country. It also gives the opportunity to work in a subject you have never worked in before, like my experience in the Kidderminster Youth House: I worked with young people, helped with the pre-school gymnastics, worked in the office and helped a student with her German A-Level. So I received a lot of new impressions - good and bad ones - and these helped me to decide what I want to do in future. Altogether I can say, that I have really enjoyed my stay in Kidderminster. **Anne-Marlen Petersen**

[The following item was written by Anne before she left last year]

THIS YEAR'S YOUTH EXCHANGE

After the successful visit in the summer of 1997, arrangements are being made for this year's visit from the Haus der Jugend in Husum. The youth worker Thomas Jarstorff from Husum is going to take a group of about 30 young people to visit the Kidderminster Youth House. They will be arriving in the evening of 30 July and will be staying until 2 August 1998. Accommodation is provided at the Sailing Centre in Upton Warren. The program for their stay includes sailing training as well as a quiz through Kidderminster and a football match in the Kidderminster Youth House. They are also going to visit the Kidderminster Town Hall which will be shown to them by Charles Talbot. With this variety of activities, we are hoping for a successful visit **Anne-Marlen Petersen**

MORE MUSIC IN HUSUM - WYRE FOREST SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA JOINS IN THE 10th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS OF THE COLLEGIUM MUSICUM : MAY 1998

About eighteen members of the Wyre Forest Symphony Orchestra visited Husum for six days at the end of May, our second visit, the first being two years previously. We were wonderfully hosted by our opposite numbers, members of the Collegium Musicum von Husum. As well as playing music together we variously did some sightseeing, with organised trips to Schleswig and Friedrichstadt, bird watching, stork spotting, mud flat walking, swimming as well as liberally feasting and outrageously lazing. Many friendships were strengthened and new ones made. Time rushed all too quickly for us.

Our visit was on the occasion of the Collegium Musicum's Tenth Anniversary and there was a whole week of celebrations, much of it involving us. The highlight was twofold in the form of two major concerts, both in the Kongresshalle to an audience of around 600. Our two orchestras rehearsed together at length, also with a 120-strong choir, so much of the week involved music making. Chris Eldridge and Thomas Wiese shared conducting duties, and the language difficulties enhanced rather than impaired the proceedings.

The first concert was the actual birthday occasion and included some formal speeches, followed by champagne all round and culminating in a tremendous party for all the musicians in the Schloss vor Husum. The second one, three days later, involved the choir of one hundred and twenty (four choirs from the Husum region combined) performing amongst other items the Beethoven Choral Fantasy. Once again there followed a splendid party, this time in the Kongresshalle itself.

Thomas Weise had engaged a superb Greek violinist, Georgio Demertzis, who played in each concert. His playing was breathtaking and put a stamp of excellence on the week.

I am pleased to say that our presence strengthened the playing considerably. In every way the visit was a great success and hugely enjoyable. Our hosts went to enormous trouble and we thank them most sincerely. We are looking forward to a return visit by Collegium Musicum to Kidderminster in 2000, when we plan to give a Husum - Kidderminster Millennium Concert in the Town Hall. **Rod Summers**

SINCE THE ITEMS ON THE PRECEDING PAGES WERE COMPILED MUCH HAS HAPPENED ON THE TWINNING FRONT - the Youth House exchange took place in July and was as successful as last year; Pat Streafield, a Church youth leader went to Husum to look at potential projects for a youth group to undertake in the coming year to establish a church twinning link; a follow up party was held for Shanty Chor hosts to swap photographs and watch a video of the weekend - another video has since arrived from the Husum guests and a return visit was made by six hosts in a mini-bus piloted by Ken Garbett in October to Husum.

In January this year the Bürgermeister, Herr Cornelius Kohl and the new Burgervorsteher, Herr Peter Empen were invited to attend the opening of the 'People and Patterns' exhibition at the Library. They were entertained jointly by the Twinning Association and the Charter Trustees. It was Herr Empen's first visit to Kidderminster. He spent a morning at Harry Cheshire with which his own school is twinned.

Many projects and events are being planned for the coming year which will see a number of first time exchanges as well as the renewal of some long-standing twinning friendships.

1999 EVENTS PROGRAMME - so far....

Monday 15th March 1999 - AGM at the King Charles I Room, Town Hall' Kidderminster at 7.30pm : the formal part of the meeting will be followed by a talk on the role of the Consul given by Cllr Mike Oborski, Honorary Polish Consul. This will be followed by tastings of German wines and cheeses. **All members and friends are welcome.**

15th March - A group of 15 pupils from the Realschule Husum Nord arrive for a week to stay with hosts from Harry Cheshire High School.

March - For the third year a volunteer from Germany, this time from Husum, will be coming to spend six months working at the Youth House under the Experiment in International Living scheme. We still need accommodation for him - an allowance of £50 a week is paid to the host family - if you can help please telephone 01562 .752711

April - The Wyre Forest Young Voices make their first visit to Husum.

June - As part of the Kidderminster Choral Society's Centenary Gala week of celebrations they will be joined by the Theodor Storm Choir. Also during that week a Choir from a Polish School which is twinned with a school in Husum will be visiting. Watch this space for further announcements and Programme.

July/August - Church youth link visit to Husum for two weeks.

August - The KMC Valentines will make their first visit to Husum for four days.

To be continued.....in our next.....

Items of news, reports of visits, notices of fundraising events are needed for the next newsletter - please - to Jean Talbot.

KIDDERMINSTER/HUSUM TWINNING ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP

SUBSCRIPTIONS FOR 1999/2000 WILL BE DUE AT THE AGM ON 15th MARCH 1999.

The increasing activities arranged by the association depend on the support from its members as well as on grants negotiated by the Committee. If you have any ideas for fund raising to help groups and individuals travelling to and hosting guests from Husum, these will be welcomed.

Individual Membership: £3.00

Family Membership: £5.00

Corporate/Society Membership: £25.00

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, PLEASE TELEPHONE ANY OF THE NUMBERS GIVEN IN THE PANEL BELOW

KIDDERMINSTER/HUSUM TWINNING ASSOCIATION OFFICERS AND MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

PRESIDENT: MAYOR OF KIDDERMINSTER

CHAIRMAN: NORMAN BROOME:01562 751074

SECRETARY: CHARLES E TALBOT:01299 832797

TREASURER: MIKE DUTTON

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY: PHIL AUSTIN

REPRESENTATIVES OF THE FOLLOWING: KIDDERMINSTER CHARTER TRUSTEES, THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION YOUTH BAND, KIDDERMINSTER SWIMMING CLUB, KIDDERMINSTER CHORAL SOCIETY, WYRE FOREST SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA, HARRY CHESHIRE HIGH SCHOOL, DISTRICT YOUTH SERVICE, WYRE FOREST ARTS FORUM, KIDDERMINSTER MALE CHOIR, KMC VALENTINES, KIDDERMINSTER CHURCHES.