



TWIN TOWN NEWS



Volume 8 Issue 1 March 2006

The Husum Bridge Weekend 30 September - 3 October 2005



One little Kidderminster resident is undaunted by the grand bridge-naming ceremony

This weekend was planned as the highlight of the 50th anniversary celebrations and a delegation of twelve persons from Husum led by the new Bürgermeister, Rainer Maass and the Bürgervorsteherin Birgitt Encke was welcomed at Birmingham Airport by Philip and Margaret Corneby and Charles Talbot and taken to the Gainsborough Hotel. Lunch was followed by a talk by Councillor James Dudley, the Wyre Forest District Councillor (and Charter Trustee) responsible for the Regeneration of Kidderminster Strategy. The party then

boarded a coach and visited the sites about which Councillor Dudley had been speaking and walked down Comberton Hill to the Ring Road to get the feel of this important "Gateway" to the town.

In the evening the party were entertained by the Mayor and Charter Trustees at Harvington Hall with a guided tour of the house followed by an excellent dinner and speeches of welcome. A delegation from the Husum Verein für Städtepartnerschaften led by Georg Wessler and his wife Marketta arrived late that evening and were accommodated privately.

Saturday the 1st October dawned fair to the relief of all. The guests and many distinguished visitors, including the First Secretary at the German Embassy in London, Herr Martin Langer and the High Sheriff of Herefordshire and Worcestershire, Mr Andrew Grant and Mrs Grant, assembled at the Town Hall. Led by the Mayor Councillor Peter Dyke, the Bürgervorsteherin Frau Encke and the Bürgermeister, Rainer Maass, the company walked in procession to the bridge in the *Weavers Wharf* shopping centre.



A plaque commemorating the event was unveiled followed by short speeches from the Mayor and the Bürgermeister. The Worcestershire and Sherwood Foresters Association Band played both National Anthems. The procession returned to the Town Hall where the company including representatives from the Danish Scouts in Husum, members of the Restormel



Twinning Association which is twinned with neighbouring Ditmarschen, and many members of the Kidderminster/Husum Twinning Association, was entertained to lunch by the Mayor and Charter Trustees. The day's events were photographed for us by Steve Ficken of the Kidderminster Camera Club whom we thank for this permanent record of the occasion. In the evening guests enjoyed a first rate concert by young musicians in the Town Hall.

On Sunday 2nd October the Mayor, Charter Trustees and the visitors attended the Harvest Thanksgiving Service at St Mary's Church when the former Probst of Husum, Manfred Kamper preached the sermon. Lunch was provided in St Mary's Chantry although the excellent steak and kidney pie was not universally enjoyed by our guests! In the afternoon the civic guests were entertained by members of the Charter Trustees and the evening was spent at the home of Dr and Mrs Summers.

On the last morning the Bürgervorsteherin and Bürgermeister accompanied by Charles Talbot visited Baxter College and St John's C of E First School which hopes to start a link with the Iven Agsen first school in Husum meanwhile Frau Theresa Chromik, principal of the Theodor Storm School (Grammar School) visited King Charles I High School. After a farewell lunch at *The Brasserie*, the civic guests departed for Husum.

Charles Talbot

Gardeners' Visit, 24-27th June

Despite breaking away from the traditional format of group visits – or maybe because of that? - the inaugural visit by sixteen gardeners from Husum, timed to coincide with the Kidderminster Horticultural Society "Open Gardens" day on June 26th, seems to have been a hugely successful. It was not only a new experience for the majority of the hosts, but also, as there is – as yet – no Husum Horticultural Society, even the visitors were not so much "a group" as a bunch of strangers with a common interest in gardening!

Jean Talbot kindly went, at the crack of dawn on Friday 24th, with the coach to bring them from Stansted to Aggborough, from where they were whisked off by their hosts, depositing luggage en route, to Arley Arboretum. Despite such a long journey, even the steady rain couldn't dampen their enthusiasm and an extra trip around Virginia's garden in Shatterford was squeezed in before a meal (not the *al fresco* occasion I had hoped for!) to help get to know each other.



The gardeners enjoying some Kidderminster sunshine

Committee members from the KHS joined all the visitors and hosts – and some volunteer interpreters! - for a formal greeting by the Mayor and Charles Talbot, followed by tours of the Town Hall, on Saturday morning. A quick stretch of legs up to the Weaver's Loft was rewarded by an excellent display by their volunteers, which was obviously much appreciated. After whistle-stop shopping in Weavers Wharf, most of the visitors elected to go on to *David Austin Roses* at Albrighton with some of the hosts. Others stayed more locally, and enjoyed the magnificent Wolverley Church flower festival, and visits to two private gardens (including a delicious afternoon tea!).

The main focus of the visit was the Open Gardens on Sunday, for which the weather was glorious. Individual hosts took their own guests, plus an occasional extra from the few who had opted for a hotel stay, around the wide variety of allotments and gardens on display. Gathering for a "sundowner" that evening, everyone was buzzing. Although barely a handful had managed the full canon, everyone had had a wonderful day – enjoying all they had seen, as well as the extremely friendly receptions given them.

It was rewarding to see how rapidly friendships developed over the weekend, between hosts, helpers and guests. It really was a group who departed on Monday morning, and there are already expressions of interest for a return trip for the Schleswig-Holstein *Offener Garten* next June. [Ed Update: The *Offener Garten* weekend is from 23-26 June 2006 and we hear that a group is booked to travel to Husum.]

Hilary & Geoff Boyle.

Return visit of Husum Golfers 19-25th June 2005

Last June, Sandra and I took a group of 10 golfers to Husum and had four days of golf, including an inter town match. We won the match, but more importantly had a great time. This June it was their turn to come to Kidderminster.

Eight golfers came and were privately hosted – this always takes a lot of arranging, not least because the guests are largely dependant on their hosts for the duration. On golfing days it is impossible to cook and entertain at home, everyone, particularly the wives having neither time or energy left. So we ate out every night, after a welcome dinner on day one *chez* Summers.

Our visitors had provided a beautiful trophy for the competition, a large picture of the famous Theodor Storm *Schimmelreiter* - the rider of a white mare. This depicts the spectre of the Dykemaster of bygone times riding through storms to inspect the safety of his dykes, the apparition a harbinger of tragedy.

The Golf: We had won in Husum last year. This year's match was in the same format, consisting of two days' competition, played on days one and



The Schimmel-Ryder Trophy

three. Before we began, our visitors were given an official welcome by the Captain and Secretary of Kidderminster Golf Club. Unfortunately the Club President was ill but sent his best wishes. We had some great golf, in glorious weather, and both teams had their moments. Our captain- the writer of this article- won The Longest Drive competition, but otherwise confined himself by and large to the longer grass. Kidderminster eventually emerged the winners and thus took over the splendid trophy, and are already invited back to Husum next year.

Apart from these two match days at Kidderminster Golf Club we had arranged two "away days". The first of these was at Patshull Park near Pattingham, a lovely parkland course in the grounds of a former country estate. The greens failed to live up to the fees charged, but the beauty of the place more than made up for this. The second away day was to have been at Upper Sapey but was rained off - no disaster, as we were getting physically tired. Instead we designated this a second day off.

The Days Off: A misnomer, we had two of these. Jane Murrant arranged the first, a trip to Stratford via Coughton Court of Gunpowder Plot fame, in

lovely weather. Then a wander around Stratford was followed by a private river cruise, and with suitable refreshment. After repaying for drinks at Jane's house we ate out again (all you could eat for £6 - highly recommended). See below.

The Evening Meals Day one - a barbecue arranged by the Gregorys, every one contributing; day two - at the *Brasserie*, eighteen present; day three, following the second leg of the Schimmel-Ryder trophy - our Match Dinner at the Golf Club preceded by cocktails at the Westwoods; day four- at the Red Lion at Bradley Green, stuff yourself for £6, very painful; day five - Final Dinner at *Bodenham Arboretum* where the restaurant opens to order, is set in the ground, and provided a stunning venue for our big party. Charles and Jean Talbot joined us, Charles a most intriguing guest speaker.

The Friendships: It is fair to say that the event exceeded all expectations on both sides. Many new friendships were made and old ones reinforced. Though we finished the week exhausted, both we and our departing visitors parted on a high. Before leaving, our guests issued us with the warmest of invitations to visit them next summer.

The Personae *Husum:* Hartwig & Antje Haake, Dieter & Ute Knoerr, Kalle & Carmen Schwarz, Axel Brieschke, Kaspar Leistner. *Kidderminster:* Rod & Sandra Summers, Mike Spencer, Alan & Hilda Gregory, Jane Murrant, Neil Nicholls, Mike & Beryl Thirsk, Barrie & Ann Westwood, Charles Tilling, Bob Fleming.

Rod Summers

Visit of Danish Scout Group from Husum to Blackwell Court Scout Centre 28 June-6 July 2005



The Stjerne Gruppe of Husum

At 8:00 am on Tuesday 28th June a party of forty Cubs, Scouts and Leaders from the Stjerne Gruppe of Husum arrived four hours early at Blackwell Court to begin a nine-day visit. Tents were quickly erected, the first of tenshopping expeditions to *Asda* had taken place and by 2:00pm most of the younger members of the group were enjoying the heated outdoor swimming pool!

Wednesday was spent settling in and enjoying more of the facilities at Blackwell Court prior to their visits on Thursday to the Severn Valley Railway and Kidderminster Town Hall where they were received by the Mayor Cllr Peter Dyke and Charles Talbot of the Twinning Association.

The evening of Friday 1st July saw them joined by members of the 8th Kidderminster (St Johns) Scout Group for a joint camp which started well with an evening campfire at which songs in English, German, Danish and Peruvian were sung to the delight of all present.

Saturday morning saw the Cubs and Scouts departing offsite for separate adventures with the Scouts going on a 15km hike starting at Trimpley Reservoir whilst the Cubs all travelled to the Kidderminster Scout Campsite at Rhydd Covert to enjoy various different activities awaiting them. All too soon after a short ceremony at which numerous names, addresses and articles of Scout uniforms were exchanged between members of the two groups the joint camp finished on Sunday afternoon.

Monday morning saw a change in the weather; even so everyone enjoyed a day long visit to the Black Country Living Museum. On Tuesday the weather did its worst while the group visited Warwick Castle for the day and in the evening joined the 8th Kidderminster (St Johns) Scout Group for a farewell get together and barbecue.

All too soon Wednesday July 6th arrived and at 5:00pm the group set off on their long journey back to Husum.

Jerry Mayfield

Churches and Choirs together in Kidderminster 5-9th May 2005

The weekend saw a visit by two groups from Husum – the membership of the groups

overlapped at some points, but basically there were twenty-six people altogether. The first was a group representing Husum's Evangelical Lutheran churches, and they had a busy programme which included a discussion group (the evening before the General Election) on "Faith and Politics", an Ascension Day service, a visit to Hartlebury Castle to meet the Bishop of Worcester, and Sunday services at a number of churches; our guests found all of these to be times of friendship and close fellowship.

The musical encounters were just as many and varied, with a number of rehearsals - it was the first time that members of the Theodor Storms Chor had sung opera choruses, a memorable song recital by the bass-baritone Roderick Williams, attendance at a lunchtime organ recital given by Martin Knizia (Husum-born, now organist at a London church), the wonderful "Night at the Opera" concert and of course the inevitable party. The two groups also combined to spend a relaxing afternoon at Coughton Court, near Alcester.

All in all, a very happy few days, and yet another evidence of the real friendships that have grown up between these two bits of England and Germany.

Ray Harrowing.

Carnival time in Kidderminster



L-R Rod Summers Crocus Queen Katarina Kwadrant and partner, Carnival Queen Rebecca Adderley & Georg Wessler in front of the Husum stand on the Carnival field.

For the second year running, the Husum Crocus Queen rode with the Kidderminster Carnival Queen on her float in the Carnival Procession. Ken and Pat Garbett's minibus followed colourfully

decorated in blue and yellow balloons and streamers with Husum flags flying. Rod, Charles, Georg and others joined in shaking collecting tins for the cause. Meanwhile on the Carnival field



Rod, Georg and Charles taking a break from rattling the cans in the carnival parade

the Gazebo was pitched – thankfully in sunshine unlike last year's rain and gales – with a display of Husum information and a 'Taste of Husum' hamper raffle. In the evening a party of weary Carnival Committee, Twinning Committee, and visitors enjoyed a Chinese supper together.

The Chairman goes to School

During a week which saw in quick succession the visit to Kidderminster of the Crocus Queen, the golfers and the gardeners from Husum, Georg Wessler and I found some time for a number of visits that were aimed at finding and encouraging new links between our towns. Georg, who is the Chairman of Husum's version of the Twinning Association, was acting as emissary from various educational establishments in Husum, and together we visited St. John's First School, King Charles I High School and Kidderminster College. Charles Talbot was also with us on our visit to St. John's.

At each we were made very welcome, and Mrs Fitzjohn at St. John's, Mr. Gulliver at King Charles and Mr. Mason at the College each showed a great deal of interest in making connections with their German counterparts.

We were given guided tours at each, and Georg was not allowed to be merely a spectator – in each classroom we visited at St. John's he taught the children how to say "Guten Tag" and "Auf Wiedersehen", and at King Charles he was closely questioned for about forty minutes (in German) by a Sixth Form group on the subject of

conservation and recycling! At the College we were photographed, with Tim Mason, for the in-house magazine.

Some of the boys at St. John's were particularly interested to meet Georg, as they were Cub Scouts and were due to meet up with the Scouts from Husum in July. Also at St. John's we met up with a young lady (a recent graduate who was there as part of a project relating to African lions!) who had visited Husum as part of the then Harry Cheshire School exchange, and was still in contact with friends in Germany.

Our overall impression was that in all three establishments there is a keenness to get involved in projects that could widen the perspective of the pupils/students, and we were very encouraged by our reception. We are keeping in touch with the schools and the College, and we hope that these initial contacts will soon begin to bear fruit.
Ray Harrowing.

Husum Youth Groups reunion



Helmut & Hilda Neumann, leader of Husum YG in 'the 60s

We had a marvellous time in Husum at the group reunion in August, with over sixty people turning up - shrieks of recognition, some struggles to remember names and faces and much poring over old photographs.

A slide show of visits in the seventies then singing with Charles Talbot (guitar) and Reinhardt Bernstein (accordion) completed a really memorable occasion and rekindled old friendships.



Husumers reunited! Birgit Gütschmied & Zielke twins

Kidderminster Youth Groups reunion

A month later over fifty former youth group members from the 1960s to 1980s and several former Kidderminster Swimming Club members gathered at the Harriers Suite for the Kidderminster reunion. Many more had been contacted and others who were unable to come sent messages. As at the Husum event, many people hadn't seen each other for several decades and greeted each other with recognition dawning and memories flooding back.

A display of photographs was set up from the twinning archive collection (!) and others brought photographs, albums, slides and other memorabilia. Charles needed no persuading to sing a selection of the songs he had taught us all and a few more old favourites. We know that Rainer Maass is hoping to bring a group to visit Kidderminster in the autumn so there will be an opportunity to meet up again and perhaps for some to see their original hosts/guests.

A New Bürgermeister for Husum



Taking the oath



Frau Ursula Belker, outgoing Bürgermeisterin, signing the 'Golden Book of Husum' witnessed by Frau Birgit Encke, Bürgervorsteherin.

At the end of August, the Mayor of Kidderminster Councillor Peter Dyke was invited to Husum to attend the ceremony to install the new Bürgermeister, Rainer Maass whom many in Kidderminster will know from his time first as a member and then as leader of the Husum Youth Exchanges in the 1970s with his Kidderminster counterpart, Margaret Broome, daughter of the late Norman and Anne Broome. Rainer Maass headed a delegation of Husum Councillors to Kidderminster for the naming of the Husum Bridge on 1st October.



L-R Cllr Peter Dyke, Mayor of Kidderminster; Charles Talbot, Town Clerk; Rainer Maass, new Bürgermeister.

Presentation to Husum



Presentation of mezzo-tint to Dr Astrid Fick, director of Husum Museums by Cllr Dyke, Mayor of Kidderminster

While in Husum the Mayor made a presentation to the town on behalf of the Kidderminster Charter Trustees and the Kidderminster / Husum Twinning Association (of which he is President) to mark fifty years of the connection between our towns. The gift of an antique mezzotint of King Charles I appropriately marks another much older and recently discovered link between the towns. King Charles I granted Kidderminster's Charter in 1636. His aunt Augusta, sister to the King of Denmark, lived in Husum Castle when widowed. She collected pictures and had asked for one of her nephew – it was destroyed in a fire but now the print showing King Charles I hangs in the Castle next to a portrait of his mother, Queen Anne, wife of King James I of England.

A Year in the Life of...Antje Kress

For the academic year 2004/5, Antje Kress moved to Kidderminster to attend Haybridge High School. Back home in Husum in August, Twin Town News talked to her about her English experience.

What gave you the idea of coming to England for a year?

My parents had asked my brother if he would like to go and study somewhere for a year like our older cousins had done; they tried to persuade him but he wasn't interested and I thought why don't they ask me, but I was only 13 at the time.

Why did you choose to come to Kidderminster?

I wanted to go to an English speaking country and first I thought of USA but it's such a big country and through my parent's connections with the church they had visited Kidderminster and met a few people. So I talked to my teacher Frau Urbach and she got in touch with Pauline Tabberer and Ray Harrowing to find which school would be best and how to arrange it.

What did you have to do then to apply?

We emailed the school and sent my papers to the Head of Languages at Haybridge. Before coming I took an intensive English language course for a week in Husum with John Rowlands (a Kidderminster man who teaches short courses at the Volkshochschule each year).

What happened then?

I was accepted as a teaching Assistant with the German Department and I chose three subjects to do course work and exams; Design Technology was my favourite and I got the best marks in that at AS level, the others were Biology and Critical Thinking.

What did you have to do as a teaching assistant?

I covered seventeen lessons every two weeks with years 9 to 13 and occasionally years 7 & 8, helping with pronunciation and explanations. I enjoyed it but it didn't give me aspirations to become a teacher!

What were the main differences from schools here?

Here there is no lunch-time, we have 2 breaks of 15 minutes, we start at quarter to eight and finish at quarter to one except on two days when it's 2.30 and there are no after school activities. In England there was free time in the Common Room which gives you time to make friends. Another difference is that you wear uniform at Haybridge up to year 12 & 13 then there is a very strict dress code. They all hated it but preferred to wear it.

Did you find it easy to make friends?

I had a good group of friends: we went shopping in Birmingham, to the cinema in Worcester and Birmingham and to the theatre in Wolverhampton.

Did you go home to Husum in the holidays?

At Christmas I stayed there – it was really strange, although I had a ticket to fly back on 23rd I stayed. I was very homesick on 24th because

here we go to Church and have our presents but I found myself in Sainsbury's - it was so busy! I did come home for New Year and my parents came to Kidderminster in May.

How did you feel about coming back to Husum?

Leaving was really hard because of the close friends I had made especially in the last few months. There were a lot of farewell parties.

Has it been hard to settle down since you've been back home?

I still think in English even when I wake up and I miss speaking English.

What are you doing now?

I am back in year 11 at the Fachgymnasium, that's a Technical High School. I'm studying for my Abitur (A levels) specialising in Electronics and Technical subjects.

How would you advise anyone thinking of taking a year to study in England?

It was very good experience. I saw another part of the world and way of life, staying with three different families. I didn't only learn a language, I grew up and became much more independent in this year.

Jean Talbot

Race Night

At the final event of the year in November the Races were fast and furious, the refreshments sustained the punters and a total of £320 was raised for Association funds so everyone was a winner! Huge thanks to the organisers – our indefatigable social committee led by Garbetts and Westons.

News from the Husum Verein

We hear that in February the Verein held their second 'English Dinner' – about twenty-six people enjoyed cock-a-leekie soup, roast leg of lamb with mint sauce and caramel custard. In between courses Georg Wessler gave a short talk about the Kidderminster Carnival and Annegret von Hielmcrone described Mayor's Sunday in Kidderminster. The chef, at Strück's Gasthaus in Schwesing used to work for the *Cunard Line* hence his experience of the 'traditional English'. His previous English Dinner menu for the Verein was mulligatawny soup, roast beef with

Yorkshire pudding and horseradish sauce, sherry trifle finishing with Stilton and celery.

Anyone know a chef who could prepare a German menu for our enjoyment? How about shrimp soup or herring salad, pan-fried plaice with bratkartoffel, or rouladen, then rote grütze, perhaps with a Pharisäer (or two) to round it off?? Any reasonable offers considered!

The Golden Jubilee Concert

The Golden Jubilee Concert on Saturday 14th May 2005 featured the Kidderminster Male Choir, the Kidderminster Valentines and the West Mercia Constabulary Band with Sue Broome of *BBC Hereford & Worcester* making her debut as compère.



Norman Broome's daughters, Florence and Margaret

The celebration concert was Norman Broome's idea and he put in the preliminary work before his unexpected death at the end of March just after his return from the Husum Crocus Festival. Charles and the other officers and committee pulled things together and worked hard to ensure that the evening was the success that Norman would have wished. The concert raised over £1500 for the Association. We were particularly delighted that Norman's daughters Florence and Margaret were able to be present.

Coming up in 2006

This should be less hectic than last year but already in the programme are visits in March to the Crocus Festival by the Mayor, Cllr Peter Dyke who will be making his fourth trip to

Husum, accompanied by Associate Town Clerk, Martin Fellows, making his first visit. Also in Husum that weekend will be several staff from King Charles I High School furthering contacts with the Theodor Storm School.

The Carnival Queen Rebecca Adderley will be visiting with representatives from the Carnival Committee for the crowning of Husum's new Crocus Queen. She will be chosen in the coming weeks and will be crowned on the Town Hall steps by last year's Queen Katarina Kwadrans. Rebecca will join them to hand out bunches of crocuses to the crowds and spend the rest of the day visiting shops and stalls in the town and, of course, viewing the crocuses. It's a great weekend to be in Husum to see the famous carpet of purple crocus in the Castle Park which attracts visitors from far and wide.

Husum's crocuses are so well known they feature in this year's desk calendar published by the Federal Foreign Office, Berlin and distributed to all German Embassies throughout the world. Even more importantly, the Husum page for the week of April 10th –16th has the caption: 'Crocus time in Husum lifts the heart and banishes winter' from Stacey Andrews, Great Britain, visitor from Kidderminster, a sister city of Husum; this against a photograph taken by Colin Hill, of Stacey who was last year's Kidderminster Carnival Queen, on her visit to the Crocus Festival in March 2005. Later in the 2006 visits will be made to Husum, in May by the churches group, in June by gardeners, golfers and scouts.



WFSO and CMN at the Safari Proms

The Collegium Musicum will be coming to play with the Wyre Forest Symphony Orchestra at the Safari Proms in July.

We shall report on them all and any other events in due course. Your reports are needed for others to enjoy reading and to whet the appetites of those who have yet to visit. Please send any contributions for the next Newsletter to Jean Talbot, if possible by email: charles@talbotkidder.demon.co.uk.

Membership renewal reminder

Subscriptions became due on 1st March. We would like to encourage members to pay by standing order, and so forms have been sent to members with the Agenda and notice for the AGM. If you prefer to continue paying by cash or cheque please let Membership Secretary Phil Austin have your payment as soon as possible.

The Editor apologises that you have had to wait so long for this issue but she has been suffering from 'Twinning Fatigue Syndrome' since the conclusion of last year's events.

Photo credits for this issue

Jerry Mayfield, Colin Hill, Jean Talbot, Steve Ficken and Frau Knizia of *Husumer Nachrichten*.

Kidderminster-Husum Twinning Association



Committee

Chairman, Dr Rod Summers; Secretary, Charles Talbot; Cultural Secretary, Ray Harrowing; Membership, Phil Austin.

Newsletter

The Twin Town Newsletter is edited by Jean Talbot. Any contributions for the next newsletter will be welcome. Please post, fax or email copy and photos (jpeg format) to :

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The Carnival Queen and the Crocus Queen

