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KIDDERMINSTER-HUSUM TWINNING ASSOCIATION

Newsletter

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HISTORIC ENCOUNTER *Celebration and Commemoration*

Preparations for a visit by a civic party from Husum to Kidderminster's First World War commemorations in September had been cooking slowly on the back burner for a long time – but co-ordinating Kidderminster's Charter Trustees, Wyre Forest District Council and the Twinning Association was a mammoth task only completed in the nick of time! The current *Bürgermeister*, Uwe Schmitz, was making his first ever visit to England. Happily he was accompanied by the ex-*Bürgermeister* Rainer Maaß and his wife Eva - both long standing Twinning enthusiasts. Even more luckily, all three speak very good English!

A full on programme began on arrival on Friday evening when Kidderminster's Mayor, Councillor Mike Price, hosted a reception

with Charter Trustees in the Mayor's Parlour followed by a meal at the Brasserie. Saturday was a more informal Twinning day



The Husum flag flies in the evening over the Town Hall

From the Editor

This edition is rather late, but by the same token it's an opportunity to wish our readers a Happy Christmas and a Peaceful 2015!

For a number of former members, this issue will be the last that you receive, as you have not renewed your subscription. We're sorry to lose you!

Please keep your contributions coming!

Friendship and
Understanding

Freundschaft und
Verständigung

Ray Harrowing

– a visit to the Museum of Carpet preceded an SVR trip to Highley. Fortified by lunch at the Ship we explored the Engine House before taking tea ready for the return train ride. A brief breather, and off again – now to the Pines for Skittles and supper.

Sunday was a complete contrast. Charles and Ray took Herr Schmitz and Herr Maaß to Trinity Methodist Church for the morning service, when they met the new



Uwe Schmitz at the controls

minister, Revd. Nick Collison. After lunch came the more sombre purpose of the visit: after assembling at the Town Hall, visitors, Charter Trustees and Councillors processed to St. Mary's Church for a wreath-laying ceremony at the war memorial, and the commemoration service itself. Music by a Polish choir and readings by German and English representatives enhanced a service culminating in Herr Schmitz and Councillor Stephen Williams jointly lighting a

peace candle.



Our guests ready for skittles



On parade at the Commemoration ceremony

Councillor Williams and the town Mayors met with the Husum party again that

Please visit our website:

www.kidderminster-husum-twinning.co.uk

evening at Stone Manor. The Twinning Association vice-president, chairman, vice-chairman & secretary were included and all enjoyed a wonderful meal together: A fitting end to a wonderful weekend!

On Monday morning Charles took our guests to visit Kidderminster Youth House, before they journeyed to Birmingham Airport for the flight home.

Hilary Boyle

(More photographs of the weekend can be found on page 8)

GARDENERS VISIT HUSUM

On 18th July nine gardeners set off for Husum in glorious weather. A minibus took us to



The Kidderminster gardeners ready to fly out

Birmingham airport for a flight to Hamburg. From Hamburg airport, the S-Bahn whisked us to Altona station for a train to Husum, and we were welcomed on the platform at Husum by our hosts – a happy reunion for some and

a meeting with new friends for others. As it was quite late in the evening we divided up, each going to the homes of our hosts.

The following morning we all met in the Castle Restaurant for a delicious breakfast after which we had a leisurely stroll into town. As the temperature was about 30°C we soon found a café for cool refreshments. Continuing our stroll we took in the square with its many colourful and interesting stalls, St. Marienkirche and the harbour. Back to the castle and we were in need of more refreshment before driving to a garden where the speciality plants were hostas. Klaudia, one of the hosts, couldn't resist buying three plants for her already intensely-planted garden. The next visit was to a day lily centre and tea-room in Tating, based

in an old school house. We were given an interesting talk on the lilies by the owner. Before the talk we were treated to delicious cream cakes courtesy of our hosts. One of the cakes, called a *Windbeutel* turned out to be a 12 inch high tower of cream and ice-cream on a base of puff pastry with more puff pastry on the side, surrounded by fruit puree. We shared ours between four people! In the evening we all met up again in Treia

at Klaus and Klaudia's house for an evening meal and drinks taken outside in their fabulous garden. Feeling replete we added to the

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)



Day lilies at Tating

conviviality by having a German and English sing-song.

The following morning after a leisurely breakfast we all met at the station in preparation for our journey to Sylt – an island

to buy a delicious shrimp or fish roll, to the main port. Here we boarded a boat for the two-hour trip around the islands back to Nordstrand on the mainland, where a bus took us back to Husum. An evening meal of German fish and chips at a speciality fish restaurant overlooking the harbour ended a very interesting, but somewhat tiring day.

Monday morning started early with a farewell breakfast at Annalene and Holga's house. Each host had provided something for the breakfast. What a spread that was - it was wonderful! But our weekend trip was unfortunately drawing to an end. With all the places we had visited and the things we had seen, it had seemed longer than just a weekend. We all made our way to Husum station to catch the 9:31 am. train, feeling quite sad to be leaving our friends, but looking forward to their visit to Kidderminster next summer.

Bryn and Margaret Phillips



I wonder why it's called a Windbeutel?

off the west coast, reached by train over a causeway. We had time to wander around the holiday town before getting on a tour bus round the island, with a stop at a small port

THE BOYS' BRIGADE PLAY HOST

On Sunday October 12 the *Pfadfinder* (Scouts) Group from Schobüll arrived in Kidderminster to join the 1st Kidderminster Boys' Brigade for the week. The 13 scouts and two leaders were soon settled into their host homes. A welcome meal and church service took place later on the Sunday at Milton Hall Baptist Church.

On Monday morning we headed to the town centre where Charles Talbot gave a guided tour around the Town Hall. Afterwards we had

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)

a tour, again with Charles, around the Museum of Carpet, where the Scouts enjoyed the interactive exhibits. In the afternoon we went to St Mary's Church for a guided tour. The evening was spent at Boys' Brigade giving the Scouts the opportunity to meet our younger members and take part in our activities.

Wednesday saw the group travelling by train to Worcester. A visit to the cathedral was followed by a visit to the Tudor Museum in the Shambles and some lunch. The group had some shopping time and then a visit to Worcester Museum before heading back to Kidderminster. The evening was spent playing computer games which were certainly a hit with the scouts.



Thursday brought a highlight of the week, a visit to the West Midlands Safari Park; the park had provided free entrance and lunches which was generous of them. The day was greatly enjoyed, although there were a few green faces after going on the various rides after lunch. The evening was spent with hosts.

The Black Country Museum was the place to visit on the Friday, giving the group a taste of the Midlands in Victorian times. Later on the group had the experience of Merry Hill giving them a chance to spend some of their pounds.

Tuesday morning brought a look around King Charles School with the help of pupil Craig Bateman and ex-pupil Liam McMahon. They seemed really impressed with how well-equipped the school is compared to German Schools. They then went to Bewdley for good old fish and chips next to the river. There was afterwards a visit to Bewdley Museum, followed by a walk in the Wyre Forest to work off the lunch. In the evening the group joined the Brigade Band and had a go on the instruments before hearing the band playing some display pieces.

Saturday, the last day before going home, saw a visit to Birmingham on the train. The group spent the morning at the Think Tank Science Museum. After lunch the group was let loose to do some souvenir shopping. On our



Visit to the Town Hall, with Charles Talbot

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, will be sent to members in due course. Refreshments will be provided, and all are welcome.



Meeting the gruffalo in the Wyre Forest

progress with other groups that were being investigated. Some of these reports are the subject of articles elsewhere in this edition of the Newsletter.

The next Committee meeting will take place on February 11, and if members have matters that they would like the Committee to discuss they are invited to contact the Secretary, Hilary Boyle.

return we had a meal and a short service where gifts were exchanged between the groups.



In the stocks at the Tudor Museum in Worcester

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.

January 30 - twinning quiz night (Chester Road Sporting Club, Kidderminster)

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

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 Husum Gardeners to Kidderminster

July - visit of KD8 Scouts to Husum

August 20-25 - 60th Anniversary visit of Husum twinnings to Kidderminster

It was a busy week but it was a week in which ties made when we visited Husum last year were strengthened. There will be more visits in the future both formal and informal. A thank-you to all those people who helped in the visits and also to those who hosted the group - we could not have done it without you.

Graham Knight

FROM THE COMMITTEE

Since the last issue of the Newsletter the Committee has met twice, in September and November. Reports were received from a number of groups, as well as news of



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.

SUGGESTION BOX

One of our members, Ron Bubb, has noticed that, in the main Post Office in Ombersley Street, Droitwich, there is a bright yellow German postbox that was given to the town



by their twin town, Bad Ems. He suggests that, particularly in view of Kidderminster's association with the setting up of the postal service that is now the norm in most countries in the world, it would be appropriate for us to present a red post-box to Husum, and that



this might be a good way to mark our anniversary next year.

Ron also suggests that, like other towns such as Droitwich and Worcester, Kidderminster should have a sign showing the distance to Husum - perhaps on the "finger post" outside the Town Hall. If you have any views on these suggestions, perhaps you could pass them on to a member of the Committee.

Finally, Ron, as a member of the Royal British Legion, has expressed his, and the local branch of the Legion's, appreciation of the arrangements for the Commemoration Service on September 30. Their thanks go particularly to the Association, to Cllr. Mrs Anne Hingley, and to Revd. Rose Lawley.





Winners and losers at the Skittles evening



Herr Schmitz with Husum's wreath at the WW1 Commemoration



*Tete-a-tete at The Brasserie
(Hilary, Eva and Rainer)*



*Cllr Williams and Herr Schmitz light the
Peace Candle at St. Mary's Church*



Relaxing at Highley Station

PHOTO CREDITS

Hilary Boyle, Colin Hill, Graham Knight, Jerry Mayfield, Bryn Phillips and Jean Talbot

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