



A Crocus Special!



From the Editor

Once again our apologies for the late appearance of this Newsletter – but on this occasion it means that a number of reports from recent events can be included. In our last edition we looked forward to a busy 2012, and this is certainly proving to be the case; although some events have had to be postponed, there is still a lot to report, and this is especially so with our headline subject – crocuses. We have a number of reports of visits to and from Husum, and we are very grateful to all those who have contributed articles and photos to another very interesting edition.

Ray Harrowing

Kidderminster's Crocus Project

Every Spring six million crocuses burst into flower in Husum's castle park, creating a magical purple carpet of blooms. The crowning of the Crocus Queen and the festival around this is a massive tourist attraction. Whilst we can-

not aspire to this, the Twinning Association wants to enhance Kidderminster with some Spring displays of Husum's purple crocuses, especially at the approaches to the town.

Our aims are: to make Kidderminster more attractive; to involve as many people as possible in the project, thus allowing ownership (and hopefully reduce vandalism) of the planting sites, and increase civic pride generally;

to raise awareness of Twinning activities and increase participation throughout the community - we want to keep our very long and strong links with Husum going!

So far seven sites have been finalised, and there are more under discussion:



Busy planting crocuses at Broadwaters



Carnival Queen Jessica Homan, with Association Chairman Terry Garbett and Horticultural Society Vice-Chairman David West

Broadwaters Park had its first planting in September 2011 and the Friends have plans for local groups of all ages to enlarge this into two large drifts of flowers for 2013;

Husum Way, Wyre Forest School (Stourminster) entrance and Burcher Green will all be organised by Comberton & Offmore Action Group;

Spennells & Aggborough Residents' Group will plant at the Hoobrook War Memorial and their Youth Group will provide "muscle" for other groups;

St George's Park – Friends of the Park will also plant in the Autumn;

The area around Richard Baxter's statue, near St. Mary's Church, has been re-landscaped by Wyre Forest District Council and will have a show of Husum crocuses next Spring.

We are very grateful to the Friends' Groups and other groups, to the staff of the District and County Councils, and to the many others who have co-operated to start this project off in such a positive way.

Hilary Boyle

Eine leibhäftige Märchenprinzessin – a truly fairytale Princess

This is a translation of an article that appeared in the Husumer Nachrichten on the Monday after Husum's Crocus Festival.

The weather had deteriorated somewhat for the proclamation of the *Krokusblütenkönigin* (Crocus Queen) and the sun had no chance to break through the thick clouds. However, people flocked in droves to Husum's Crocus Festival. They came from Germany, of course, but some also travelled from Denmark. The car licence plates as well as the many dialects left no doubt of this. All wanted to see the purple wonder in the Park and to let the camera record it for all time, or at least for the family photo album.

The Rödemis marching band and the "Søderjyske guard" from Aabenraa in Denmark gave a musical frame to the first official appearance of the new *Krokusblütenkönigin*, Sandra Weber, and on the steps of the old town hall, at 11 am. the Chairman of the Commercial Association, Peter Cohrs, announced the new Queen. In addition to "royalty" from other German towns there was a truly fairytale princess - the Kidderminster Carnival Queen, Jessica Homan – who had travelled from her English home town. Husum's "Crocus Partnerstadt", Düsseldorf, had also sent its ambassadors, Irmgard Lür and the Honorary President of the "Association Pro Düsseldorf", Hans-Otto Christiansen, who is a native of Husum.

The Crocus Queens Sina Heinrich and her successor Sandra Weber both sounded very excited as they responded to the announcement by Peter Cohrs, who gave the microphone first to Uwe Schmitz, saying

that he had heard, when Herr Schmitz was standing for the office of *Bürgermeister* of Husum, that "he has a soft spot for the monarchy". Uwe Schmitz cheerfully caught the ball and countered that the monks had brought the crocuses to Husum to cultivate saffron, but that there is also the "modern theory", that it was in fact the Husum traders, who wanted to bring visitors to the town and could "earn a *Taler*" by promoting the crocus wonder. "But over the weekend we shall uphold the monarchy here", said Schmitz and he wished success to the Festival, as well as to everyone who was there. "We have earned Spring", he said.

A touching climax to the enthronement was the farewell speech by Queen Sina. She said that she could look back on a beautiful year; "the children have often asked me what I do when the crocuses aren't in bloom; my answer has been that I acted as a purple splash of colour for the town" - a statement which was rewarded with great applause. Then Sina handed the Crown to her successor, Sandra, who said that she was looking forward very much to her time in office and promised to be a worthy representative of the *Stormstadt*.

After completing the Royal duties the Queens hurried



Sandra Weber and Jessica Homan (nearest the camera)

to the *Schloss* (Castle) Park to meet their "subjects". Around the *Marktplatz* and the Park craftsmen offered their goods. The sunny Sunday attracted more people who joined the natural spectacle to take a stroll among the stalls. Peter Cohrs was very

satisfied that "so many people have found their way to Husum". Many tens of thousands of visitors experienced Husum at its most colourful on Saturday and Sunday. Herr Cohrs was also pleased that most Husum businesses responded to the call for Sunday shopping - even if the weather was almost too good for a shopping spree! "The shops were full, and I've seen only happy faces", Cohrs said. The Crocus Festival is a great advertisement for Husum and let's hope that everyone who has visited this year can journey safely.

Our Guests in Husum

With big hugs, and with the promise of "See you again!" the ninth meeting between Christians of various denominations from Kidderminster and Husum came to an end. For five days, ten people from the British town were hosted by the *Stormstadt*, with old friendships being renewed and new contacts being made, and with Holy Communion being celebrated together.

Highlights were the sermons preached by Owain Bell in *St. Marienkirche* (St. Mary's Church) and by Rose Lawley in the *Friedenskirche* (Peace Church). Members of both congregations said that their words were practical and down-to-earth. The guests themselves were particularly impressed by the *Bahnhofsmision* (Railway Mission), through which the former *Bürgermeisterin* (Mayor), Ursula Belker, conducted them on Sunday afternoon. In the Station Mission, she said, homeless people and travellers would find not only a kind word and warm soup, but also unconditional respect: "they are not our customers or our clients, they are our guests".

The programme consisted of sightseeing, culture and meetings; hosts and guests joined in visits to the Viking Museum at Hedeby and to the Cathedral in Schleswig. On Saturday the Crocus Festival was the centre of attention, and in the evening there was the



Sue Garratt and Iris Baggott at Haithabu

opportunity to attend a concert. The last evening finally brought together the Churches group, Husum's twinning association, and Kidderminster's Carnival Association. The Carnival Queen from Kid-



Jessica in her regalia

derminster was a suitably royal personage, and her mother, who accompanied the 15-year-old, endured good-natured banter as the "Queen Mum" of the day.

The focus for the group was on coming together and discussion. Many of the group have known each other for years, but others were there for the first time. One concern that came to the surface was

how these encounters could work in the future. "We have one thing in common," said Dean Emeritus Manfred Kamper on the first evening, "we are all grandparents!" Everyone agreed that it would be good if younger people could join in and could carry on this valuable contact.

Inke Raabe

My first visit to Husum

Here are some extracts from a long article that Revd. Rose Lawley wrote for St. Mary's Parish Magazine.

I have been here in Kidderminster for five years now and almost from the beginning Ray Harrowing has been trying to persuade me to go to Husum; well this year he succeeded and I'm glad he did!

We set off on March 22, quite early in the morning. It was my first trip to Husum, my first to Germany and my first on a turbo-prop plane too! At Hamburg Airport, we were welcomed very warmly by Hans Peter and Marketta, then after a short refreshment break we set off by train to Husum.

When we arrived in Husum we were welcomed by our hosts and taken to the *Friedenskirche* (the Peace Church) where we enjoyed getting to know each other a little more and were treated to a meal of fresh bread and soup - followed by cake. After the meal we listened to a group of local brass musicians who played for us 'Now thank we all our God' and 'Land of Hope and Glory'. Then it was time to depart to the places where we were staying, to hosts' homes or hotels. I was staying with the Pastor of the church, Andreas and his wife *Pastorin* Inke Raabe, whose home is attached to the church.

Day 1 - sunshine and no wind, which I was told was very unusual for Husum. After breakfast we joined

the rest of the party at Haithabu near Schleswig, on the Baltic, to visit the Hedaby Viking Museum, where we were shown round by an English-speaking guide. Hedaby is one of Germany's most significant archaeological museums, located on the site of the Vikings' former urban trading centre. Then came lunch in a nearby inn before moving off to the *Dom* (Cathedral) in Schleswig where the same guide joined us again. We joined together in an act of worship led by Andreas, who along with Inke had been ordained there some years before and then, after touring the Cathedral, we walked to a wonderful café for more superb cake! Then back home, where we enjoyed a wonder-



Hedwig Müller, Owain Bell, Rose Lawley and Andreas Raabe on the Kidderminster Bridge

ful traditional German meal expertly cooked by Inke a perfect end to a perfect day.

Day 2 - no sunshine, but a grey and cold day. We walked into the centre of Husum via the Park where the crocuses bloomed, and watched last year's Crocus Queen handing over her crown to the new one. Kidderminster's Carnival Queen was also there; she was a great credit to us all and to the people of Kidderminster. The town was full of tourists, stalls and music provided by marching bands and others all very colourful on a very grey day. In the afternoon Andreas and Inke took me out to see the dykes that hold the North Sea back from reclaimed land. We visited a café called *Zur Nordsee* (very appropriate) on the top of the dyke overlooking the North Sea for a very welcome warm drink and yes you may have guessed CAKE! In the evening Inke and I went to the theatre to see a production about homeless people.

Day 3 – Sunday - I was to preach at the *Friedenskirche*. The night before Andreas had kindly helped me with my welcome in German! The service went well (I think), my sermon was projected (in German) on to the wall beside me. The sunny weather had returned and so after the service, we walked into the centre of town for coffee at the *Altenbegegnungsstätte* with the rest of the group. Then back through the market, where all sorts of stalls were

selling a wide range of food, drink and craft items. Back home for a welcome cup of tea and a break before our next visit, to the *Bahnhofsmision*, situated by the railway station. It is a small mission providing beds and food for homeless people. All of the group were very impressed with the quality of the facilities, and particularly the fact that it is not manned by staff at night! In the evening we had a party for all the visiting twinnings including the Carnival Queen and her mother, again at the *Altenbegegnungsstätte*.

Day 4 – the day we would return home, but not before an Official Reception for all the twinnings at the *Rathaus*. There was also a delegation from Düsseldorf present – so lots of speeches. Gifts were exchanged, and it was soon time to return to the hotel where some of our party had been staying to catch the minibus back to Hamburg Airport. Throughout the visit new friendships had been made, old friendships deepened and wonderful memories shared.

Yes, I can most definitely say that I enjoyed my first visit to Husum very much, and do hope that someday I may be able to return. The kindness and warmth we all received was amazing and I personally have some wonderful memories to keep me going until then. So thank you Husum and we look forward to seeing some of you soon back here in Kidderminster.

Revd. Rose Lawley

What was it like for First-timers?

Since having Therese Chromik, the Head of a High School in Husum, to stay with us, we had been keen to accept her invitation to make our first visit to Germany. Now that we are both retired, we signed up to go on the 2012 Church Group visit. From the moment we left the car at Trinity to board the coach early on the first morning until we were brought back by



Anne and George in the Hotel Hinrichsen's Strandkorb

coach four days later, we were superbly cared for. The whole trip was worry-free.

Would we change anything? Next time it would be better if Anne didn't suffer a broken arm three days before the trip!

Anne and George Perkin



St. Marienkirche, Husum

We flew from Birmingham to Hamburg on a lovely clear morning. Both airports were extremely quiet - a sharp contrast to travelling to Majorca in school holidays! It was great to be met by two friends from our twin town who guided us through the train journey from Hamburg to Husum. Things we remember: immaculately clean trains and stations and porters sweeping the platforms while waiting for the next train to arrive!

We were greeted by our host, Therese, at the station, taken to her home for a brief settling-in time and then the programme began. There was a lot to do and little time to wander around but we were happy to fit in as much as we could in our short stay. So we embraced the welcome supper, the visit to a Viking museum, touring a wonderful Cathedral and the classical concert at the *Schloss*. We enjoyed the Crocus Festival and were so proud of our Carnival Queen who was lovely and showed a maturity well beyond her 15 years. We fitted in a trip to the Christmas Museum and to see the dykes holding back the North Sea, a stroll around the harbour and still found time to shop for gifts for Ben and Olivia. In between times we were eating and drinking. We have never been offered so much delicious cake!

We were so warmly greeted everywhere we went – at church on Sunday (supporting an anxious Owain Bell who was preaching in German!), at the Town Hall reception and at the group meals laid on for us. They were so very generous and hospitable - we wanted for nothing.

Would we go again? Absolutely! If you see Ray Harrowing approaching you purposefully ahead of the next visit, we would encourage you to find out more and consider getting involved. We had some great chats with our fellow travellers from other churches in Kidderminster and from the Civic party.

A Violinist visits Husum

Having never before been abroad, in 1995 (aged 13) I travelled with the Wyre Forest Symphony Orchestra to Husum and spent a fantastic few days in this wonderful town. Since then it has held a special place in my heart. After six years studying at two of the world's leading Conservatoires (the Royal College of Music and the Royal Academy of Music) and subsequently working as a freelance violinist, I at last got to return to Husum to give a concert with my pianist, Simon Marlow, 17 years after my first visit!

We arrived in Husum on the afternoon of Monday, March 26 – the day after the Crocus Festival - to give a concert that evening in the stunning setting of the Castle - it was just as I had remembered it! That evening many familiar faces from 1995 were in the audience and it was wonderful to be able to catch up with old friends. Unfortunately Simon and I had to



Shulah Oliver - violin soloist

leave Husum by 10.30 am. the next day in order to travel to Krefeld (the next stop on our tour) so we were unable to see much of Husum. However Frau Annet von Hielmcrone gave us a brief tour and all the happy memories of my first visit to Husum flooded back.

Our stay in Husum was all too short, but the reception we were given was so warm and welcoming that we

hope to return in the near future and be able to arrange to stay in Husum for longer than 20 hours!

None of it would have been possible without the contacts I had with the Twinning Association and of course all the hard work that Herr Weßler and Annetta put into organising the concert. I hope it won't be another 17 years before my next visit!

Shulah Oliver

Sprechen Sie Deutsch?

The German classes at King Charles School continue to be very successful – a number of people are becoming quite fluent under the tuition of Sarah Shaw. The classes will continue after the Summer holidays, possibly still on a Monday evening, and hopefully still at the cost of £30 per term – firm details will be available later. More students are always welcome and you can join the class in September.

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:

July 22, August 2, August 15 – Pole Poppenpäler Sommerspiele (Puppet performances)

July 7 – August 25 – Schleswig-Holstein Music Festival (concerts in Husum on various dates)

August 1-5 – Hafentage (Harbour Festival)

August 17-19 – 7th Husumer Kunsthandwerker Tage (Crafts Festival)

August 18-25 – Raritäten der Klavierwerk (Rarities of Piano Music)

August 30 -September 9 - Pole Poppenpälerstage Internationales Figurenfestival (International Puppet Theatre Festival)

September 1 – Husumer Triathlon

September 7-9 – Internationaler Storm-Tagung (Celebration of Theodor Storm's work)

September 18-22 – HUSUM WindEnergy (International Wind Energy Congress and Exhibition)

September 27 – October 3 – Husumer Filmtage (Film Festival)

October 13-14 - Husumer Krabbentage (Shrimp Festival)

A much fuller programme of events, exhibitions, etc. can be found at www.husum-tourismus.de

Kidderminster Carnival 2012

Despite the current economic situation, which prevented this year's Crocus Queen from joining us from Husum, the Association was represented for the seventh year in succession at the Brinton Park showground on Saturday June 23. Following an earlier



Erecting the marquee on a windy morning!

approach, made by our Vice-President's wife Jean Talbot, this year we shared a large steel-framed marquee, kindly provided by the 8th Kidderminster Scout Group, with the Kidderminster Civic Society and the soon-to-open Museum of Carpet.

Once again we had a large display of material kindly set up in advance by Hilary Boyle who was unable to



Hannah Cornish and Jessica Homan

join us as she was in Husum with a party from the Kidderminster Horticultural Society.

Amongst visitors to the marquee were former Carnival Queen, Jessica Homan, and her successor, Hannah Cornish, as well as our new President Cllr. John Aston and his charming consort Madeline who expressed their interest in visiting Husum during John's year in office. Many thanks are due to all who helped us on the day including Mike and Betty Stokes, Ken and Pat Garbett, Kelvin Morris, our Chairman Terry Garbett and my wife Val who all worked hard to make the day a success.

Jerry Mayfield

New Members

We are delighted to welcome more new members – Murray Bridges, who has been connected with the Carnival for some time and in that role has already been a visitor to Husum, and Ilse and Steve Stride. Ilse is German by birth but has lived in Kidderminster

for some years. We are glad that they, together with Lawrence and Chris Rose, have made contact, and we hope that they will all have opportunities to visit Husum and to take part in welcoming visitors to Kidderminster.

The Association on Show

The many and varied groups that are involved with



Ulf cuts the ribbon to open the exhibition

Twinning came together to put on an impressive display at Kidderminster Library during the month of June. All the display cases on the first floor contained colourful and informative presentations, as did the ground floor information boards and display cases. Guests from Husum – Dr. Ulf von Hielmcrone and his wife Annegret – opened the exhibition, and other guests included three teachers and a student from Husum's *danske Skole*, who were in town to visit Holy Trinity International School and popped in before leaving for the airport on the way home.

Thanks are due to all those who worked hard to produce the displays, and especially to Hilary Boyle who not only masterminded the arrangements but prepared and mounted some of the displays herself. Thanks also to Ken and Pat Garbett, who provided refreshments after the opening, and to the long-suffering Library staff who were very helpful with information and guidance.

Three days before the display opened, an article appeared in the *Husumer Nachrichten*, written by Annegret von Hielmcrone, about the arrival of the Olympic torch at Kidderminster's Severn Valley Railway Station. The article and picture can be accessed at [http://www.shz.de/index.php?id=160&tx_ttnews\[tt_news\]=2455623&no_cache=1](http://www.shz.de/index.php?id=160&tx_ttnews[tt_news]=2455623&no_cache=1)

Help us to keep in touch

If you have an active e-mail address and have not received any information recently about our forthcoming social events, press releases or member-

ship renewal could you please let our Membership Secretary, know by an e-mail to: jerrymayfield@blueyonder.co.uk.

On the Horizon

Since the last edition of the Newsletter, some of the visits and events listed there have been postponed. The rearranged dates, if known, are shown below. A number of the visits are shown as "possible"; we shall obviously try to up-date the list as dates are confirmed.

July – visit of KD8 Scouts to Danish Scouting Jamboree

October 19 – opening of Kidderminster's Museum of Carpet (a number of guests from Husum will be there).

October 26 – quiz night (at Kidderminster Cricket Club)

Autumn - planting of crocuses at several Kidderminster sites.

2013

March – Annual General Meeting (date to be announced)

Spring – possible visit of Hu-

sumer Shantychor to Kidderminster Male Choir

May – postponed exhibition of Kidderminster and Husum Quilts – Kidderminster Library

June – postponed Kidderminster Choral Society visit to Husum

Summer – possible visit of "Oldies" to Husum

July – visit of Husum gardeners to Kidderminster

August – visit of Kidderminster Male Choir to Hafentage

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.

Danish Visitors to Holy Trinity

At the end of May 2012 three teachers from the danske Skole, Husum, Lis Blumenau, Nicole Bergholz, and Yvonne Cibis Lange, visited Holy Trinity International School where they were given a warm welcome by staff and students alike. They were accompanied by Finja Pöksen, a student from the school, who stayed with an English family. The purpose of the short stay was to develop contacts and make plans for an exchange visit to Kidderminster in the autumn by a party of twenty-three Danish students.

The visitors especially enjoyed Holy Trinity's special Queen's Diamond Jubilee school assembly, where plenty of enthusiastic flag-waving took place, and the

opening of the Twinning Association's exhibition in Kidderminster Library. The school's Head of Geography, Ron Jackson, found time to show them the flood defences at Bewdley. Danish teacher Yvonne Cibis Lange commented that the differences between the danske Skole and Holy Trinity would intrigue her students, who do not wear school uniform and have a differently structured school day.

During the visit an application was submitted to Youth in Action for financial support for the exchange. Teachers and students in both schools are looking forward to developing further the relationship between Holy Trinity International School and the danske Skole. Together the two schools will be exploring some of the key challenges that face the European Community - the need for both unity and diversity, and the cultivation of respect and tolerance for different cultures, communities, religions, languages and social classes.

With many thanks to the Twinning Association for their continuing support.

A Dane at the Wicket

We welcome 15-year-old Jannik Wiese, from Husum, who is a rising star on the Danish cricket scene (the Husum Cricket Club is composed mostly of local Danes and plays in the Danish League). Jannik is spending four and a half weeks here, practising and playing cricket, going to school with the two sons of his hosts Sarah Beadsworth and her family, and – lucky chap – attending the one-day England - Australia match at Edgbaston on July 4.



Cricketer Jannik Wiese, with his timetable

Jannik's visit follows a trip by Kidderminster Victoria CC's youth team to Husum four or five years ago, when the idea was hatched that some of Husum's players, perhaps even a team, might come to Kidderminster. Jannik says that his team-mates will be most envious of his trip – and especially of his chance to attend a classic match, which, as he says, is like England playing Germany at football. The only down-side to his trip is that he will still be going to school, at Baxter College, while his friends back at home will be spreading their towels on the beach! And two days after he returns to Husum he will again be playing in a League match.

Footnote

Sixty members and friends enjoyed a lovely barbecue - under skies that eventually turned sunny, at Charles and Jean's house at Rock, on Sunday July 1. A full report and pictures will appear in the next issue.

Photo credits: Hilary Boyle, Pat Garbett, Ray Harrowing, Colin Hill, *Husumer Nachrichten*, Jerry Mayfield, *Stadt Husum.*, Betty Stokes

Kidderminster-Husum Twinning Association

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Newsletter

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