



TWIN TOWN NEWS



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Open to the World: the new twinning website

www.kidderminster-husum-twinning.co.uk

After some months of thinking and planning, the Association is about to have its own website, which will mean that we can spread our message and make ourselves known far beyond the borders of Kidderminster, of England, or of Europe! We believe that it will be a means whereby former members of our youth groups,

You can contribute in other ways, too. First, we shall be including a picture gallery on the site. There will be six sections, each containing 12 pictures, in the following categories: Kidderminster landmarks, Husum landmarks, the history of the Association, concerts and other occasions, visits, and "party time!". There will also be many other pictures on the other pages, and, if you have a picture or pictures that you think would fit into any of these categories or would look good elsewhere, you can send them to Ray, either as originals or scanned to a floppy disk or CD in .jpg format. All originals will be returned.



for example, will be able to make contact again, wherever they are in the world, and it will also give us an opportunity to show others how we in Kidderminster "do" twinning with such great success.

The committee is working with one of our newest members, *Midland Technical Translations*, of Church Street, Kidderminster, to build the site and prepare the various pages of information, and we hope that the site – perhaps in a basic form – will be up and running by the start of October. The group working with MTT are: Charles and Jean Talbot, Jerry Mayfield, Philip Austin and Ray Harrowing, and Ray will, at least for the time being, be the webmaster.

One of the items that will appear on the website is the Newsletter – the current edition as well as some of the past copies, so that the reports of various groups that have been published in the past will now also be published on the website.

Second, we are inviting members to sponsor the website, which will cost about £300 to get to its full form. Anyone who contributes £25 or more to the project will have the opportunity to be named on the site as sponsors – if they so wish. If you would like to contribute in this way, please complete the slip enclosed with this Newsletter and return it to the Treasurer, Christine Dutton.

Charles Talbot

Introducing our new President, the Mayor.



Cllr Paul Harrison became the new Mayor of Kidderminster in May at the annual mayor making ceremony and becomes President of the Twinning Association for his year of civic office.

We welcome Mrs Mary Breese as Mayoress – a particular pleasure as she was a member of the first youth group to visit Husum in 1960. We hope they will enjoy their year in office and the opportunity to welcome guests from and to visit Husum during the year. For the Mayoress, October brings a chance to try and recognise several faces from the 1960 groups when a party of over 20 former youth group members revisit Kidderminster with the Bürgermeister Rainer Maass, who first came to Kidderminster in the 1970s with a youth group from Husum.

Where were all the Crocuses? Crocus Festival, Husum March 24-27 2006

This was my first visit with the Carnival Committee to Husum on the occasion of the Crocus Festival to see the crowning of the Crocus Queen. The party included the Chairman, Colin Hill, Carnival Queen, Rebecca Adderley accompanied by her mother, Ann, Jean and Charles Talbot, the Mayor, Peter Dyke and Terry Garbett from the Twinning Association.



Rebecca Adderley with her mother, Ann & Rainer Maass

Our early flight to Hamburg was met by Herr Fischer from the Husum Town Hall team and we were soon on our way through the snowy landscape of Northern Germany. The woods around Hamburg gradually gave way to large, flat, snow bordered fields; against the background of dark grey skies the white wind turbines gradually emerged stretching to the horizon.

We were soon in the cosy bar of the Hotel Hinrichsen where lunch was waiting for us;

we met Bürgermeister Rainer Maass and Georg Wessler. After lunch a tour of the town with an excellent guide revealed piles of snow and the solid ice of the moat around the castle but NO CROCUSES were to be found. The icy wind round every corner turned us into blocks of ice and we were ready to defrost in the warm embrace of the top floor of Schmidt's for coffee and cakes.

At the new Rathaus a party was ready to welcome us and after the formal welcome we had a tour of the building, rather like the interior of a ship, arranged on 3 levels with an open centre surrounded by galleries. An excellent exhibition of work by the Husum Art Society was on show with many paintings abstract in concept with bold design and vibrant colour. From the far end of the building was a fine view overlooking the Harbour. Following the tour we went to the Old Rathaus for a welcome dinner hosted by Bürgermeister Rainer Maass, a lovely meal preceded by a 'vitamin drink' which was hot orange but with much more to it which enlivened the party!

Saturday morning was the highlight of our visit at the Old Rathaus where our party was delighted to meet the New Crocus Queen and the 'Old' Crocus Queen Katarina Kwadrant, both beautiful young women in their early 20's. Rebecca, our Carnival Queen, joined the others carrying baskets of purple crocuses. Herr Maass conducted the proceedings from the Town Hall steps with Herr Peter Cohrs, Director of Schmidt's and head of the Husum Chamber of Commerce who talked of the springtime normally heralded by the crocuses. The Queens mixed with the people in the Market Place distributing their flowers whilst the rest of us went to the Schloss. The arts and craftspeople had stalls selling pottery, wood-carving, candle-making and bread-making in an attractive setting in the cobbled yard of the historic building. I slipped away into the Schloss to see the art exhibition; a contemporary show of large abstract oils and chalk drawings shown to such advantage against the simple architecture with its grey and white walls and beautiful fireplaces. Lunch was mäersbröten, preserved herring in a crispy roll with hot Pharisäer to drink. We ate outside beside the newly erected bust of Tönnies, one of the founders of sociology who lived in a house next to the Schlosspark

The afternoon was spent out of town at the new Exhibition Centre to see 'New Energy Husum' where the latest technology in alternative energy was displayed. We saw photovoltaic cells making electricity; biomass furnaces for a range of crops; solar heating and biogas production. The staging of 'New Energy Husum' consolidates Schleswig- Holstein's claim to be the 'green' state of Germany with wind farms operating in the region contributing 10% of clean electricity into the National Grid.

The evening found us getting dressed up in our ball gowns and evening suits for the greatly anticipated Officer's Ball at the barracks on the edge of town. The hospitality was excellent and the food was the most wonderful banquet. When the band started to play, everyone rushed onto the dance floor to dance but after 2 or 3 numbers they left the stage and we all sat down. The music was not as loud as bands like to play here but every thing was played in 4/4 and the dancing was the same for every tune, a sort of country style quickstep, even the Tennessee Waltz! A full Scottish pipe band entertained us in the interval, the members being immaculately dressed in kilts and sporrans and played 'Scotland the Brave' and other typically Scottish numbers which we found both impressive and amusing.

An early start on Sunday morning brought the party and our hosts together at Marienkirchke for the church service, the theme of the morning being 'New Energie'. The assistant Pastor, Frau Dr. Bongert, a member of the Green Party in the town, is particularly interested and it was the theme of the sermon. A typical Sunday meal is Brunch and we went to the Nordertor, the Harbour Restaurant for ours. This was a typically German large breakfast with many different fish and cold meat salads to try with our crispy rolls and lots of hot coffee.

A free afternoon gave us time to enjoy the entertainment in the Marktplatz: a very professional girl sang lots of English popular songs, wrapped up in a warm fur collared jacket. The older ladies who danced traditional dances were not so lucky and wore thin blouses and cotton skirts in the still freezing temperatures. Colin and I then went on a tour of the commercial galleries and found the excellent Galerie Tobien in Neustadt with a changing exhibition of prints and paintings many by artists working in the region. The owner who spoke good English was

kind enough to show us round and then took us behind the scenes to show us his framing and gilding workshop where his daughter does the gilding, a very difficult and rare skill today.

The artistic theme continued into the evening when our party visited the house of an art lover, Georg Wessler, where we met some old friends. His collection of Modern paintings and prints was delightfully displayed in the modern interior of the traditional house overlooking the Schlosspark. As a small token of thanks for his hospitality I daringly took one of my little drawings on hand made paper. He said it would fit in very well in his collection. Frau Wessler presented us with an excellent buffet prepared by a group of young people with special social needs who run a café in the town.

Monday was our departure day but was just as full as the others. Colin and I were invited to visit the home and studio of Friedrich Laubengeiger whom some of you have met. Elka and Friedrich made us very welcome with their good English and showed us many of his paintings and ceramics which were beautifully hung in their old farmhouse in the village. We were presented with a catalogue of the retrospective exhibition which he put on to celebrate his 70th Birthday. Friedrich was the art teacher at the Gymnasium in the town for more than 30 years and his catalogue included much of his early work, some done of the school and the students.

Back to Husum and to the Harbour area and lunch at Der Frisenkrog, where we had an excellent fish meal, even though it was on a Monday! I sat next to Frau Birgit Encke, Burgervorsteherin, and although neither spoke the other's language well, we were able to communicate a bit so I look forward to her visit to Kidderminster to renew our acquaintance. The meal finished with formal farewells and promises to meet up again.

The afternoon was spent shopping and packing ready for our bus to take us to the airport and our flight home. But that is another story!! I thought that we were given the most warm and friendly hospitality and generosity and I am looking forward to the opportunity to return some of that when next time a party from Husum come to visit the town. I also look forward to the possibility of developing links with other artists and craftspeople in the future.

Claire (Spencer) Postins

Chemistry in Husum King Charles I School Visit to Theodor-Storm-Schule in Husum March 2006

In March three teachers from King Charles I School travelled to Husum with the Civic and Carnival party, braving the chill winds and remaining snow, for a 5-day visit to the Theodor Storm School. Sarah Shaw (German) took with her letters and photos from pupils eager to start 'pen-friendships' and pave the way to an exchange between the two schools. She and colleagues Simon Robinson (geography) and Kenneth Partridge (chemistry) toured the school, met pupils and staff, and discussed the practicalities and obstacles to be overcome in setting up an exchange. They were hosted by teachers from the school and were able to see something of Husum and surrounding area.

Since then, much has been done by the schools and visits are proposed by pupils from Husum to stay for a week in Kidderminster next March and for a return visit by GCSE year 10 pupils from Kidderminster to Husum next October. The Association is delighted to hear this news and wishes the schools every success in developing their partnership.

Seven Churches go to Husum 4 – 8th May 2006

A group of fourteen people, representing seven Kidderminster churches, spent a beautiful weekend in Husum. We were greeted, almost as soon as we arrived, with a reception at the Rathaus, hosted by the Bürgermeister, Rainer Maass, who said how important he felt it was to have such a strong link between the churches of the two towns. In the evening there was a welcoming party, at which there must have been 40 Husum church representatives present.

On Friday we visited Schleswig, where the Bishop gave us Tee und Kuchen and talked with us for about an hour and a half despite a very busy schedule. Also that day we went to the Globushaus exhibit at the Schloss Gottorf – a recreation of a huge 17th century globe (now in St. Petersburg) which you enter and which turns around you. This exhibit is not to be missed by any future visitors to Husum!



The not -to-be missed Globe

On Saturday we had a tour of the island of Pellworm, during which Pastor Adam showed us over his present church and the Alte Kirche. This church is undergoing a complete renovation, with a big grant from the EU, and outside it in the graveyard is a simple slab commemorating the 96 Allied sailors and airmen who lost their lives in that area.



Taking it easy in Pellworm

On Sunday morning we attended services at various churches, and Rev. Mary Austin, from Trinity Methodist Church, preached at St. Marienkirche. She preached in English, but copies of the German translation were available for those who needed it. Many in the congregation were very appreciative of her message and her way of expressing it. We all gathered at the Catholic parish house for lunch, and we were entertained by some young musicians from the church.

Early on Monday we travelled by train to Hamburg and spent the day there before flying out in the evening. At the waterfront we looked

over to where the Queen Mary 2 was in dry dock. We then went to the Finnish Seamen's Mission for lunch and a tour of their superb premises, before visiting St. Michael's Church, where we had a guided tour and most of us went up the very high tower for a panoramic view of the city.

We had many opportunities for meetings, discussions, meals together and just relaxing – the newspaper on Saturday carried the headline *Reverend dörst im Strandkorb* (Reverend [Owain Bell] sleeps in deckchair) This was the fifth visit between churches of the two towns, and several said that it was the best yet. A number of new contacts were made, which hopefully will bear fruit in due course.

Ray Harrowing

Ed: We are very pleased to report that, after a serious illness, Manfred Kamper is now making very good progress and is again taking a full part in the life of the church and the community.

RIP Thomas Wiese

It is with much sadness that we report the death of Thomas Wiese in Minnesota, USA where he had spent the last days of an illness of several years. Thomas had spearheaded the twinning of *Collegium Musicum* of Nordfriesland, based in the Schloss vor Husum with the Wyre Forest Symphony Orchestra.



The late Thomas Wiese in rehearsal at the Halle

His work, along with our prime movers Christopher Eldridge (then musical director) and Rod Summers (then chairman), established the

exchange of visits and joint concerts between our two orchestras. This began with WFSO visiting Husum in 1995, and subsequent alternate visits every two years. Latterly due to his illness the exchange has partially lapsed.

Not only was Thomas an excellent conductor, but a very able cellist too. His wife Corinna, a flautist, has visited Kidderminster several times. Thomas leaves four children. They live in the family home near Husum.

Rod Summers

New Twinners

The Experience: 4 To 8 May 2006

After years of gentle persuasion, this year we "bit". A 4.30a.m. start, strange people, no language, were we daft? After being welcomed at the airport by two mini-buses with such friendly drivers to take us the long ride to Husum, meeting our hosts and a lovely meal, a walk on the dyke, a Civic Reception at 5-00 p.m. and another attractive buffet at a centre for the elderly (followed by a spot of line dancing) in the evening, we were glad we'd come.

Our hosts Christine and Meinhard, retired teachers like us, were refugees from Prussia like others in the area - a good thing for banishing false stereotypes. Meinhard learned English staying at Methodist International House in Birmingham in the 1950's.

On Friday we visited Schleswig for a meal (coffee and enormous lavish cakes in the church hall) and a discussion with the Bishop (also a former refugee), but prior to that saw the only "Globus" in the world, a reconstruction of a 17th century original. It showed the 17th century world on the outside, and you can guess its size when some 8-10 people can clamber inside it to view the constellations while the whole globe rotates around you. Schleswig is a fine old town. Saturday saw us on the island of Pellworm for another appetizing lunch at a church with guided tour by the resident minister and a discussion. Sunday saw us in the Lutheran Church in Husum, where Mary [Rev. Mary Austin, minister of Trinity Methodist Church, Kidderminster] bravely preached (from a decorated projecting pulpit halfway to heaven) a full sermon in English, plus a quite lengthy prologue in German. It is moving to sing familiar hymns and recite the

Lord's Prayer simultaneously in two languages. This was a Churches visit, and a crystal vase was presented to the Husum churches from the Kidderminster churches. Lunch was provided by the Catholic Church. Their young people provided music afterwards, and we sang.

In the afternoon we were taken to Friedrichstadt by our hosts, a 100% Dutch town built by settlers in the 17th century, where they were allowed to practise their own religion. This was followed by a farewell get-together on a boat in Husum's harbour in the evening. Monday saw us en route by rail to Hamburg for a day tour, with lunch in the Finnish seamen's mission and cultural centre, and a talk about their work, before meeting our luggage at the airport and saying farewells to our patient guides.

Overall impressions? The overwhelming hospitality and friendliness of all our hosts. Wind farms everywhere, Husum a green town. Five days of unbroken sunshine! Living behind dykes, some beautiful churches. Should you go? Strongly recommended – we're converted!

Gordon & Betty Park

Who won the Schimmel-Ryder Trophy? The Golfers' Visit to Husum June 5-9th 2006



The Golfers enjoying the June sunshine

Ten golfers and one non-golfer made their way variously to Husum some on the low-cost flights, some posh - overnight via Esbjerg with cars, and one intrepid couple driving from Calais. This for the 3rd inter town golf match, currently an annual event, pioneered on our first visit two years ago, the Husumers returning to us last year. Score thus far: Kidderminster 2-Husum 0.

Two days of earnest competition ensued on the Husum course, and two other days were spent on

away days. In excellent weather, the competition on Day 1 was full-blooded and we were treated to a mountainous asparagus celebration. Following Competition. Day 2 was a memorable BBQ at the home of Kaspar Leistner, a modest but outstanding gentleman. This took place in a garden equipped with outdoor heaters, catering of every type, and great attention to detail. At the end of the evening, all slightly the worse for wear, presentations were made jointly by our captain (me) and theirs, Dieter Knoerr. (Dieter has a total grasp of English, having spent some Lufwaffe time seconded to the RAF over here. It became clear that the RAF still retains it's historic bon vivant style.)

We had been roundly beaten in the golf match, and the hosts became ever more jovial, such that our return journey relied heavily on automatic transmissions and would-be autopilots. Score now: Kidderminster 2-Husum 1.

On our away days we visited, first, an established parkland course just over the Danish border (Sonderjylland). If this was beautiful it was upstaged by the course at Altenhof, near Schleswig, in the grounds of a magnificent manor house adorned with azaleas and rhododendrons.

Our hosts took us on a day out to the Eiderstedt Peninsula, visiting the sea-side town of St Peter-Ordning. Here they put their toilets and restaurants on stilts, not because of strange personal characteristics, but due to the tidal change over the low gradient beach, apparently attracting the keener North Sea swimmer. This outing finished with a canal tour of Friedrichstadt - most of you readers will by now be familiar with this town from the many reports from members - followed by a vast meal in a local hotel. For taste perfect pork this is the place. Our captain (me) was the only pork eater, hence the outsize portion. The others chose, scholle (plaice) as indeed most of us did most other times in most of Husum's harbour-side restaurants.

We left Husum delighted and replete, to retake the trophy here in Kidderminster next summer, upon which I shall report then.

Roderick Summers
Twinning Chairman & Golf Captain.

Kidderminster Carnival

This year's Kidderminster Carnival took place in perfect weather much to the relief of those members taking part in the parade and manning the Association's stand on the carnival field – all of whom we thank for their time and energy in supporting this event.



Klaus Evers of the Husum Verein and Husum's Crocus Queen, Christin Lohrenz were hosted for the weekend by the Carnival Committee and the Twinning Association.



l-r Keith Weston, Charles Talbot, Ken Garbett, Jean Talbot, Ray Harrowing. Christin joined the Carnival Queen, Page-Leanne Price, on her float in the parade and finally after an exhausting day, the guests and all those who had helped were able to relax over dinner at the Natural Break, Blackwell Street, booked by the party for the whole evening.



Foreground l-r: Colin Hill, Claire Postins & Klaus Evers

As the day would have been Norman Broome's 80th birthday he was remembered in a toast proposed by Charles Talbot, especially apt as Norman had initiated the link between the Husum Crocus festival and the Kidderminster Carnival.

Friendships blossom! Kidderminster Horticultural Society visit June 2006

After last year's highly successful first visit to our Open Gardens Day by a group of gardeners from our twin town in Germany, 2006 was Kidderminster Horticultural Society's turn to enjoy a few days in Husum for their "Offener Garten" weekend ... and enjoy it we did!

It was a first trip for all but two of the group of sixteen - four of last year's hosts plus twelve committee members – so an early departure to Stansted was tinged with some trepidation.



The welcome in Husum – in the grounds of the beautiful castle, bathed in sunshine – was warm enough to dispel any nerves. Some were greeted by their individual hosts, whilst those opting for a hotel had "good fairies" to drive & show them around. There was only time for a brief walk around town before a wonderful group feast in the Kleingarten community hall. Supper was settled by a stroll around, particularly to see the Bundgarten (Friends of the Earth) plots. The Allotment Secretary's eyes were on stalks!!

The pace (and weather) didn't slacken on Saturday. The first of many coffee & cake breaks was provided for us all after a private tour, in English, of a small arboretum, before our hosts took their guests off to see individual selections of the Open Gardens. There was a wonderful

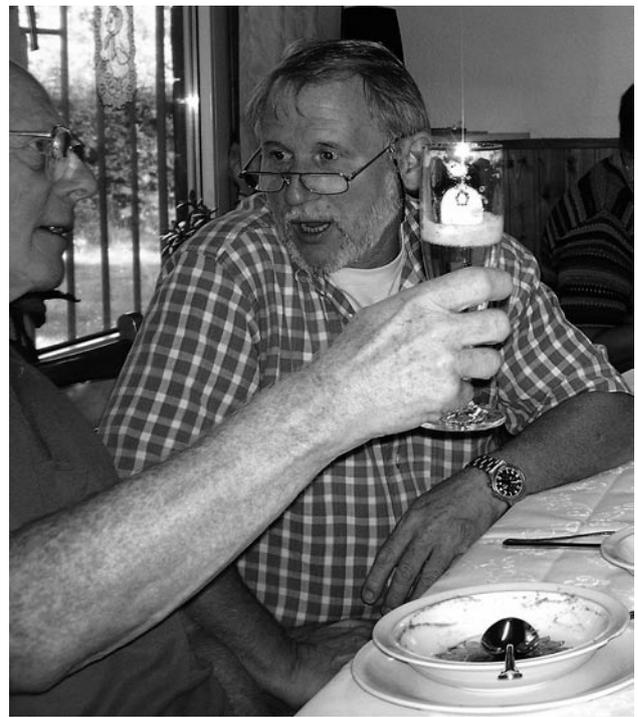
range, of very high standard, enjoyed by everyone, especially those who started with the Kleingarten of our particular hosts. For us, a fish supper by the harbour and an inspection of another host's new garden was a delightful end to the day.



A famous local artist's museum, in beautiful gardens, was the rendezvous on Sunday morning. A tour of Emil Nolde's gallery, complete with an English speaking guide, had been arranged. An introductory talk by one of the hosts gave us a prior insight into these contemporary paintings, and we surprised ourselves with how much we enjoyed them!



Regrouping for a visit to a 12th century church that evening, before a traditional wine soup meal in a very old farmhouse (open part time as a folk museum!), tales were swapped of another day's varied adventures – most had managed picnics on the coast as well as yet more Open Gardens!



Thirsty work - visiting gardens...

The hospitality we received was overwhelming, and - at an official reception (and farewell!) in the Town Hall – we were delighted the Germans accepted our invitation to make a return visit to Kidderminster next year. Making plans for this (and our next trip to Husum in 2008!) as we travelled home helped offset the sadness of leaving our new friends and their delightful town.

Hilary Boyle

Over here: Husum Youngsters July 2006

We have welcomed five young people from Husum during July - Maraike Lies, Christina Jacobsen, Johanna Mörs, Carina Glashoff and Marten Hüssel. They have stayed for various lengths of time, and with a number of host families – to all of whom we are very grateful. They all spent time in King Charles I High School, and again we are grateful to the Head Teacher (Mr. Gulliver) and his staff for making the arrangements. They also took part in, or were guests at, various activities and events. Later on, Maria Hempel came to stay here for three weeks, and her sister and a friend came later in the Summer.

This is a very encouraging development, and one which we are trying to make the most of; our visitors have met with young people from

our churches, etc., and we hope that as a result we may be able to encourage some return visits to Husum in the near future.

Diary of a July Jamboree The KD8 Scouts go to Husum July 2006

Ed: Although this is a long report we make no apology for printing it in full for the sheer fun and enjoyment it describes



Day 1

Early start, coach waiting for us at 4.45am, nervous parents waving their scouts goodbye. 5.15am heading for Bromsgrove and the first shout of "are we nearly there yet?" rings out. With a good tailwind we make it to Stansted airport in plenty of time and take over a small fleet of bag trolleys, several eager kids offering to drive the bags to the check in desk. Before we know it we are airborne and heading off to Denmark. The back few rows of the airplane filled with excited chatter and bright red fleeces. Esbjerg Airport soon arrives and we make our way across the tarmac on a slightly breezy, but still very warm afternoon. Peter Bang and the coach are there to pick us up and we are soon on our way enjoying the picturesque Danish countryside. A few sleepy heads have managed to drop off again and before they know it we are at the gates of Tydal Camp.

Since the last visit, Helmut (the camp warden) has bought a lot of shiny wheelbarrows, and we commander these to ferry our luggage across the site to our camp, ready and waiting for us courtesy of Dave Denton (our District Commissioner) and Rob Nutland (an eager parent and faithful committee member) they have driven ahead of us a few days before and put up all the major pieces of canvas ready for the invasion.

It's not long before the kids have unpacked what they need for the evening and are ready to head down to the river for a short dip. A few hours later and they return ready for tea and we hoped, bed. Eventually we settle them all down and have a restless night in the heat ready for the next day's activities.

Day 2

Early morning start, as we endeavour to get our camp ready for the official opening on Sunday. Each site has been asked to provide a "gateway". A traditional scouting affair, where the formal entrance to a campsite is marked by a gate or door, manufactured from poles lashed together with rope, pioneering we call it. The German scouts form one of our neighbouring sites and had been hard at it for a most of the week leading up to the camp and had created something resembling a western fort. We looked at it on a simpler level, with our much smaller scouts and smaller site we went for the simple 4 meter tall gateway with a double crossbar and the letters KD8 made from timbers 1 metre long lashed to the top. Simple but effective, and the kids thoroughly enjoyed it, especially the bit where they got to use a hole borer to make the holes the pole dropped in. Lunchtime came and went and the gateway started to grow a simple fence either side, and mid afternoon after a hard day's work, guess where the scouts all went, in the river again... and they say that scouts are allergic to water.

Everyone gathered at the campfire circle at 7.30 to enjoy a great show put on by the team, and the first episode of their play, about a scout a knight and a toilet tent! (You had to be there) At 11.00 pm they are just settling down for the night and there is a trumpet call to tell everyone to go to bed!

Day 3

Sunday and the official opening is pre-empted by a trumpet call at 7.00 (six o'clock English time!) to wake all the campers up again. Formal wear for three of us today as we have to carry our flag from the large parade ground though the centre of the campsite to the opening ceremony ground, where the camp is officially opened by Count Ingolff and Countess Sussie. A band plays music and everyone joins in the songs. Afterwards we return to our sub camp and have our own opening ceremony, having been joined on Saturday by a Polish Group from Wroclaw

and German scouts from Husum. A Danish group arrives later to make our camp complete.

The first order of the day is to collect more timber and get some more pioneering done, the sign and fencing completed we fashion a set of gates and after a hearty lunch, the scouts head off to the river... Evening is soon upon us but that means a campfire, well actually, the campfire was postponed until the next night because some football competition happened to be on and as we were in the host nation, they had put on a massive projector and huge marquee with seating for hundreds, so those that wanted to see, could watch the world cup final live. It was a great atmosphere, and although it's not strictly "scouting" I reckon all those that watched it got a buzz from just being there. Eleven o'clock and there's that trumpet again! Time for bed kiddies!

Day 4

The first morning of camp was to be a get-to-know-each-other day. Each scout was provided with five questionnaires and given the task of asking a scout from five different countries a series of simple questions, no prizes, but the makings of a lot of good friendships I am sure. Our lads were out gathering information most of the day, and surprisingly a lot of the forms that came back had girls' names on from around the world. The camp had scouts from, Germany, Denmark, Poland, Hungary, Iceland, Zambia, and one lone scout from Zimbabwe.

The afternoon was spent involved in Middle Ages activities. From making a leather purse, to building a Viking boat, everyone had something exciting to do. My gang of eager boat builders got an early bath, I reckon a bit on purpose, but were also eager to get back in the river later on. The campfire later that evening had a return to the story of the scout the knight and the toilet tent, and also a star guest, Ann Denton leading a few traditional English camp-fire songs.

Day 5

Hike day: our intrepid scouts set off on a coach which took us to Flensburg. A nice town on the north border of Germany, home to a lovely ferry, which took us to Kollund in Denmark, where we had to start walking. A pleasant day's hike lay ahead of us along the old Gendarmerie path which meanders back and forth across the German/Danish border.

We were carrying our beds and lunch, and lots of drinking water, the tents went on ahead, which in the heat we decided was a good plan. A couple of our good friends from the Stjerne Gruppe, Neele and Imke, were to be our guides and interpreters. We made our way wearily into the campsite hidden in the forest north of Padbourg, late evening, put up our tents and after a meal of sausage and potatoes we fell asleep, no river swims tonight!

Day 6

Weary limbs and tired heads all round but good news, we have a big breakfast and a short walk (with all our kit) to visit, the Frøslev Prison Camp Museum, a WW2 prisoner of war camp restored and re opened as a museum. After a good hour or so looking around, Peter Bang arrived again with a coach to take us all to another town to collect the rest of the day hikers and return us to Tydal. After lunch there were more middle ages activities and the scouts once again had a chance to learn some skills that had been brought to the camp by the assembled leaders from Europe and beyond.

The late afternoon was spent having a lazy and well earned swim in the river.

Another lively campfire saw a return of the scout knight and toilet tent story and more enthusiastic sing songs from Ann. The Zambian scouts sent in their secret weapon, a young daughter of one of the leaders sang a heart rending song from home which had everyone standing to applaud.

Day 7

A rest day, to recover from the hike, and a chance to take a tour of Fredriechstadt on the canal boat. The brilliant sunshine continued to roast us and we had a smashing trip. The feast that welcomed us at the Fishbar when we returned to the town was amazing, I haven't seen scouts say they were full for ages... From there we had another coach drive into Husum where we had time for a quick trot round some of the sights, before our three o'clock meeting with the Burgermeister.

We were welcomed into the chambers and our host gave us a brief introduction to the history of the town and its associations with Kidderminster. He took some questions from the floor and made us feel really at home. When the formal bit was over we had a chance to pop out onto the private balcony at the rear, well it was the fire escape really, but it gave a great view of the harbour

and closer parts of the town. We all had our photo taken for the local newspaper and then we went back inside to see the viewing platform, from where you can see lots of the interesting buildings of Husum. The evening of day 7 was set aside for the sub camps to have their own campfires, so we had a quiet little affair, all 120 of us, the German, Danish and Polish scouts mixing in amongst ours during the evenings sing-songs and fun and games till we felt like one big happy family.

Day 8

Middle ages market day. During the early morning we set up our market stalls, these ranged from fancy wooden bead making with hot wires to decorate the surface, to medieval jousting and archery. All the assembled scouts leaders and helpers had been tasked to bring a medieval costume, and there were some really cool outfits. Our group had decided on a theme of Robin Hood, and all the scouts were neatly outfitted in green with nifty Robin Hood style hats, complete with feathers, doing the rounds of the stalls as Robin's Merry men. We had a maid Marion and due to a little joke from an earlier pre-camp meeting, we also had Two Friar Tucks. King Richard completed the team accompanied by our court Jester.

The evening meal was a spectacular affair too, a pig roast. A caterer arrived mid afternoon with four pigs which they roasted over open fires till we were ready to eat. To feed just short of 500 people as quickly and efficiently as the caterers did was an amazing feat, and the meats were superb.

The feast was followed by the finale of the campfire, and the last installment of the scout knight and toilet tent story. It all ended happily ever after, the knight got the princess, the scout got his girlfriend and the secret of the toilet tent lives on for another year.

Day 9

Midnight on day 8 and a small party of Danish German and Polish scout leaders make their way into our camp. I had almost forgotten that it was my birthday, but they hadn't. A traditional happy birthday sing-song managed to nearly wake the scouts, but they managed to snore though till daybreak.

A big parade at the flag site as all the scouts

meet to raise their country's flags one last time to signal a close to the International Jamboree. We return to our subcamps and have our own flag raising to start our last full day at Tydal. More surprises as I am presented with gifts from our neighbour's leaders and my own troop. Sad sights today as we start to pack our belongings away and get ready for the trip home. Some of our neighbours are packing and leave during the afternoon, many of them have swapped details with our scouts and I feel that a few long lasting international friendships have a chance to blossom from this camp.

We have the task of taking down all the fencing and gateways, as most of the camp must be cleared before Monday for new arrivals, one or two of the massive works of art have been kept to entertain future campers over the summer season. As the afternoon rolls round and many of our friends have left, the scouts take a final chance to have a dip in the river. As midnight creeps up on us we get another visitation from our local sonsters, but guess what, it's Dave's birthday and they've popped round to wish him a happy day too.

Day 10

An early start is needed, hike tents have to be packed away, and all the scouts gear has to be stashed ready for the off at ten o'clock. We manage to get to the coach with minutes to spare, having hijacked all the wheelbarrows again.

The journey back to Esbjerg airport was quiet, except for the regular renditions of popular campfire songs from the back seats. By lunchtime we were at the airport and ready to fly, just time to have a quick meal to keep our energy up. Before we know it we are back at Stansted and on a coach back to Kidderminster. A few tired eyes manage to stay open for the whole trip. But I think some will be having a lie in tomorrow, and maybe missing school.

Our thoughts now go forwards to the next trip, maybe a return in 2009 to celebrate 90 years of the Dansk Spejdercorps, who knows... Diary of events and pictures are available for the next couple of years at <http://www.tyddelyt.org> a site hosted by the local scout groups and the source of many fond memories for a good while.

Stuart Hanslow

Scout Leader, 8th Kidderminster (St Johns).

Friends re-united 19-24 October 2006

Rainer Maas, Bürgermeister of Husum has gathered a group of 28 'oldies' from Husum to revisit Kidderminster in October. While some have kept up links over the years, others have not had any contact since they first came here as members of Youth Groups in the 1960s and 70s. They will spend the long weekend as guests of 'oldies' this end, many of whom have likewise lost touch with those they knew in Husum.

A programme of visits and events is planned with plenty of free time to revisit old haunts and look up old friends. We are likely to need some extra hosts so if you are able to offer a room (double, single male/female) please call either of the above and join the party! If you know of anyone else who might be interested and who hasn't already received a letter from us with details please ask them to call Charles Talbot (01299 0832797) or Jerry Mayfield (01562 639257).

German Language Learning

Sarah Shaw of the language department at King Charles I School has indicated that the school may be able to offer additional German language courses in the future and has asked the Association whether any members would be interested in Beginners' and Intermediate Levels of study.

If you are interested please would you contact Sarah Shaw at the school either by e-mail: office@kingcharles1.worcs.sch.uk marking the e-mail for the attention of Sarah Shaw or by letter to her at the school (King Charles I School, Comberton Road, Kidderminster, Worcs. DY10 1XA) with your names, address, telephone number and (if applicable) e-mail address indicating whether you are a total beginner or giving a brief description of your current level of competence. *Please don't telephone her at school, it can be difficult to locate teachers during the daytime.* She will then assess the demand and will inform the Association of any possible new ventures.

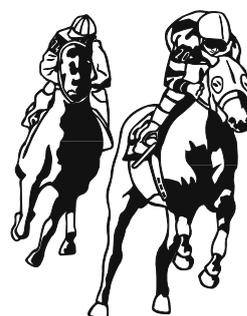
Welcome new faces

The Twinning Association has had a welcome increase in membership in recent months, so welcome to Kidderminster College, Mr M Bianco, Mrs G Lee, Mr and Mrs J Meadows, Mr and Mrs GB Park, Mr and Mrs J Pearsall, Mr and Mrs Whitaker; and representatives of the *Husumer*

Verein: Heinrich and Renate Linkogel and Georg and Marketta Wessler.

Race Night rides again

The Husum Race Nights are always a sell out!



Tickets are £7.50 and include a sumptuous supper and a couple of free glasses of wine – so book early with Ken & Pat on 01562 754168 or Keith & Liz on 01562 752012, Terry on 01562 637900 or Jerry on 01562 639257. Saturday 2nd December 2006, 7.00 for 7.30pm at Chester Road

Sports and Social Club.

Photo credits

Phil Austin, Linda Fowler, Pat Garbett, Colin Hill, Ray Harrowing, Mike Spencer, and members of Kidderminster Horticultural Society.

Ed: Thank you to all contributors. It's your newsletter with your news so please keep those reports and photographs coming in!

Kidderminster-Husum Twinning Association



Committee

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

Newsletter

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

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