



From the Editor

The Winter issue of the Newsletter is always a bit thinner than the others in the year, but I hope that once again you will find something of interest in these pages. Please note in particular the item about "electronic" copies; we shall be glad if you will let us know which method you would prefer!

Once again, grateful thanks to those who have contributed to an interesting edition of the Newsletter; some of the articles are somewhat delayed, but, as they say, "better late than never"!

An apology for the late issue of this edition; it looks as if the problem identified in the article entitled "To Post or not to Post" will solve itself, for this year at least!

Ray Harrowing

Report on the visit of Husum's Crocus Queen to Kidderminster and participation in the Carnival

On Friday, June 18 Husum's Crocus Queen made her excursion to Kidderminster. She was accompanied by her sister Mareike, and by Elke Laubengeiger, a member of the *Husumer Verein für Städtepartnerschaften* (the equivalent of the Twinning Association). The reason for her trip was the weekend celebration of the Kidderminster Carnival, a socially based event, which bears no relation to the German *Karneval*.

For the Carnival day Crocus Queen Annika Lorenzen was wearing an attractive purple garment and a crown, and she displayed a smiling and friendly appearance, good humour and a very good English she had learned at school in Husum, together with an extraordinary willingness to talk to and to co-operate with all the people she met on this visit. It was for the first time for both young women to travel to England and they had been looking forward to new insights and impressions.

They were offered hospitality by the headmaster of King Charles I School, which has established contact and twinning with Husum's Theodor-Storm-School. Elke Laubengeiger was well received by her old friends Sandra and Rod Summers who were delighted at this reunion.

On Saturday the main event took place. The Town Hall was the meeting point where a welcome drink was served. The Crocus Queen and her sister exchanged presents with the recently elected Kidderminster Carnival Queen, a young lady of 15 years. Friendly and light-heartedly Husum's Crocus Queen gave



Queens Annika and Amy

answers to the Kidderminster notables and pressmen, especially when asked about Husum. Afterwards they were led onto the forecourt where an ornamented coach drawn by

two white horses was ready to be boarded by the queens and their escorts. On the nearby parking lot decorated vans and groups from sports and other organisations had assembled ready for the procession. Among them was a minibus with the inscription "Kidderminster-Husum" on it. Many spectators were watching along the streets when the procession passed. Members of the Town Council and of the groups carried collecting boxes for the coins thrown at the floats by watching children and



From left: Helen Carter (Carnival Princess), Amy Phillips (Carnival Queen), Annika Lorenzen (Krokusblütinkönigin) and her sister Mareike.

adults. This was done in favour of a grant given to a hospice. The procession ended at Brinton Park, with the formal presentation of the Crocus Queen. In the evening we were invited to a meal. It was a joyful event which provided a chance for talks of new encounters and old friendships.

The next day, Sunday, proved to be an outstanding day, the "Mayor's Sunday". Mayors of the surrounding communities had been invited, all wearing their chains of office and gowns, some in red velvet and ermine trimming, and the queens were dressed in their stately garments. In carefully arranged order we marched from the Town Hall to St. Mary's Parish Church, led by a pipes and drums band. In front of the church we were welcomed and addressed by Canon Owain Bell. The present

Mayor of the town, dressed in purple velvet gown spoke during the service, which ended with the singing of the national anthem. The whole ceremony impressed us deeply.

In the afternoon the Chairman of the Kidderminster Carnival Committee, Mr. Colin Hill, and Claire Postins drove us across the beautiful, hilly countryside, through Bewdley and Stourport, both situated on the banks of the river Severn. Thus Annika and her sister Mareike got a special glimpse and deep impression of the beautiful Worcestershire country around Kidderminster.

As a result of this excursion Husum's Crocus Queen Annika and her sister Mareike are deeply impressed by the warm-hearted reception by our English friends. They have made excellent publicity for Husum and presented themselves favourably. There is nothing better for getting to know foreign people and their way of living than by travelling in order to make friendship and gain friends abroad. Husum's Crocus Queen has contributed a great deal to mutual understanding.

Elke Laubengeiger

Translated by Klaus-Hinrich Evers)

Annual General Meeting

With this Newsletter members will receive the Agenda for the AGM, which will be held at the Valley Suite, Severn Valley Station, Kidderminster on Wednesday March 30, at 7.30 pm. Visitors will be welcome at the meeting, which will include a talk by Herr Georg Weßler, who is the Chairman of the *Husumer Verein für Patenschaften und Partnerschaften* (the equivalent of the Twinning Association). Refreshments will be served.

To post or not to post, that is the question!

The costs of producing and distributing the Newsletter inevitably rise every year, and the Committee has looked at ways in which these might be reduced without affecting the quality or the coverage that we achieve. One method of saving would be to send "electronic" copies to members and others, and this can easily be done. However, a copy on a computer screen may well be read only by the computer user, whereas a paper copy can achieve wider circu-

lation, within the family or beyond. So, even if some people are happy to receive the Newsletter as an attachment to an email, we shall continue to produce paper copies which can be sent out as before. Paper copies are also used as a publicity tool, at exhibitions, shows and talks, and this will of course continue.

If you would like to receive the Newsletter by email in future, please contact me from the "Who's Who" page of the website (kidderminster-husum-twinning.co.uk).

Ray Harrowing

On the Horizon

March 26-27 – Husum *Krokusfest*

March 30 – Annual General Meeting

March 30 – April 6 – schools exchange visit – Theodor-Storm-Schule to King Charles I

May/June – visit to Husum by caravanners from Kidderminster

June – visit to Kidderminster by golfers from Husum

June 18 – Kidderminster Carnival – the *Krokusblütinkönigin* is expected to attend.

July 31 – August 5 – visit to Kidderminster by former youth group members from Husum, to celebrate the 375th anniversary of the granting of Kidderminster's Charter

August – Joint exhibition of quilting by Kidderminster and Husum quilters in the *Rathaus*

August – Husum *Hafentage* – the Mayor and others are likely to attend

September – visit to Husum by members of the Kidderminster Horticultural Society

September 21-28 – schools exchange visit – King Charles I to Theodor-Storm-Schule, Husum

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.

Those who were Strangers have become Friends

"Can't buy me love" – not exactly quiet music, the song rang out from the Chantry of St. Mary's Church in Kidderminster, as the band

"High Mileage" played for dancing, and ministers, vicars and pastors, Methodists, Anglicans, Catholics, Pentecostals and Lutherans together rocked the church. Those who were present agreed: You can't buy love; it's given to you. And another gift was the joining together of the various denominations from Kidderminster and Husum, inspired and "excited" – in a good sense of the word – by the One under whose name they came together.

The delegation from Husum had arrived on Friday night in Kidderminster and was greeted warmly in the Methodist Church at Broadwaters. Rev. Rose Lawley spoke of her work as a chaplain – on behalf of the church she goes to the people in the factories and shopping centres, offering counselling, but prepared to chat and have a laugh as a way of growing trust.



The Church on the market place – that was the theme for the church people from Kidderminster and Husum to think about over the weekend. It was the mission of the Church to go out into the world, to meet people where they are. This was also Propst i.R. Manfred Kamper's theme as he preached to the British hosts in Trinity Methodist Church. He talked about the market service, held weekly in Husum. "They come from the market," he said, "and they bring their purchases to the church, which is perfumed with the smell of celery and leeks and tomatoes." The Husum *Marktandachten* (market-day services) were an example of how the Church should be active within the world.

The British hosts had put together a varied programme for the Husum guests and showed

them the most beautiful places around Worcestershire, including the historic cathedral in Worcester and the Arboretum in Arley. Between the tours, and while travelling, there was time to get together and talk. "What we share goes deeper than friendship," said Mary Austin, superintendent of the Methodist church in Kidderminster. At the final party guests and hosts got together for the last time in the Chantry to celebrate their friendship. "Can't buy me love" – Iris Baggott and Sue Garratt had organized the concert and the band, and they were spot-on!

Inke Raabe

(Friedenskirche, Husum)

A Concourse of Caravans

We are planning a caravanning visit to Husum this year, at the end of May/beginning of June, and we invite any members (or members of associated groups) who are caravanners to join



Penny, home from home by motorhome

in. We have not yet chosen a campsite, but there are three near Husum and we are getting advice on which of them to use – the one in the Dockkoog (west of the town) seems about the best.

It is not intended that this visit should be "regimented" in any way – you are free to choose your own route, the dates on which you camp in the Husum area, and your programme while you are there, but we can offer advice on ferries, routes, costs, activities, etc. We ourselves (Ray and Penny) will probably be making this visit a part of a longer tour of the Continent.

A number of people connected with Kidderminster churches may well be involved in the visit, but this should not deter others, unconnected with the churches, from joining in; all are wel-

come! Please contact me if you are interested – see back page for contact details.

Ray Harrowing

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.

March 26-27 – Krokusfest (Crocus Festival and crowning of Krokusblütenkönigin)

April 24 – 27th Easter Motorbike Rally

29 April - 1 May - Wattenmeer Photo Festival - "Nature at its best"

June 18-19 – Schleswig-Holstein Open Gardens Weekend

August 10-14 -H afentage (Harbour Festival)

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

Storm Quilters Visit - August 2010

On Thursday 19th August, my husband John and I went by mini-bus to collect four Quilters and their husbands from Birmingham Airport. Another quilter and her husband were coming up from Cornwall after a two-week holiday. It was very good to see our friends again.

On our first evening, we all went to the home of one of our members for supper and a good talk together, and also to see a display around the house of some of our work. It was as if we had not been apart for a year and everyone had lots to talk about.

On the next day, the ladies went to the NEC to the International Quilt show, while the husbands were taken on a trip on the canal with David, Judith Hill's husband, on their narrow-boat. Unfortunately the weather was not good and it rained for most of the day. However during one of their stops to go to Haden Hall, they were invited by some locals to 'have a go at bowls' and on enquiring where they had 'cum' from, the said locals 'knew theym were foreign' but after explaining the rules of the game, gave our visitors a good time.

The following day we visited the Black Country Museum, with a trip on the canal, a fish-and-chip lunch and a lesson in the school-room,

where two members of our party were called to the front for being naughty boys! Unfortunately, again the weather was very wet, but our Husum visitors were not despondent as their weather at times was just as bad. In the evening, we went to the Admiral Rodney at Martley for several games of skittles along with a superb supper.

The last morning with us finally dawned bright and sunny; we all met up in Bewdley where, as an added bonus, there was a French market. After Sunday dinner at different houses, we took our guests into Birmingham, where they were staying for another two days.

Once again, we had a super weekend, with many laughs, and we hope to return to Husum in August to a Patchwork and Quilting Exhibition in the Town Hall organised by the Storm Quilters, to which we will be sending a number of quilts.

Brenda Banner – Forest Quilters

On Display

The Association has been invited, for the second year, to mount a display and information stand at the Holy Trinity School Open Day, which will take place on June 25. If you would be interested in staffing the stand and talking to visitors about twinning and the Association, please contact Hilary Boyle, the Secretary. The Association will also have its usual stand at Kidderminster Carnival, which this year takes



The display at the Carnival

place on June 18; again, volunteers to staff the stand will be very welcome.

If you, or your group, would like to make use of the display, or if you would like to arrange a talk about twinning or some aspect of Husum, please contact the Secretary, Hilary Boyle.

Accommodation is wanted!

Nathalie, from Cologne, wants to come to England to improve her English, and hopes that one or more families, preferably with young people of her own age (she's 17 years old), could accommodate her for a time during the Summer holidays – July 25 to September 6. Of course, that's a time when many people are on holiday, but perhaps you could think about having Nathalie for a couple of weeks during that time?

Here's a letter that Nathalie has written for *Twin Town News*:

My name is Nathalie Keßler, I'm 17 years old and I live not far from Cologne (where I was born) in a town called Hürth. I would like to improve my English by spending my holidays in an English-speaking country. In two and a half years I will hopefully pass my A-Levels and good English would really help me in doing so. I would really appreciate to be your guest if you could accommodate me.

In my leisure time I go dancing three days a week and I draw in a drawing club. I like the summer, chocolate, having parties with my friends and taking photos. Sometimes I also go skiing, swimming and inline skating. So I like sports in general.

At school my favourite subjects are Arts and PE. After school I do a lot with my friends.

I live with my mother and my younger brother in a single-family house. My aunt and uncle live next to us with my cousin. We share a big garden which connects the two houses. We have a strong family spirit which is very important for me.

My favourite meal is Lasagna but I look forward to trying food which is new to me. I'm an open person and I want to gain new experiences and to get to know your culture which is probably a bit different from our German way of life.



Nathalie Keßler

I'm a non-smoker and I would prefer to live in a non-smoking household.

I look forward to hearing from you soon and I'm excited to get to know the UK.

Yours Nathalie

From the Committee

The Committee met on March 2, and received encouraging reports from a number of groups. Of particular interest was the steps that are being taken to further the contacts between Holy Trinity International School in Kidderminster and Husum's Danish School; Ernest Carwithen, from HTS, will be among the party going over for the *Krokusfest*, and will meet up with teachers and students at the Danish School. He is an experienced exchange visit leader, and looks forward to meeting his Husum counterparts.

Other points:

Finance – the Association's finances are in a healthy state, and a full statement will be made to the AGM.

Cultural Contacts – the contact between the Wyre Forest Symphony Orchestra and Husum's Collegium Musicum is in process of being revitalised. The Collegium Musicum

will celebrate its 25th birthday in 2013, and a visit by the WFSO then is possible. Other possible contacts include dancers and further choirs, but these are in the early stages.

Women's Institutes and *Landfrauen* – these hoped-for contacts have been somewhat delayed, but we are hoping for news of progress soon.

Sporting links – discussions are progressing on a renewal of the junior cricket link, and on opportunities for contacts between runners and between football teams.

German Classes at King Charles School – these are proving very popular and are going well; if anyone would like to join in (cost is £30 per term), they should contact Sarah Shaw at the School.

Social Event – the Valley Suite at the SVR Station in Kidderminster has been booked for Friday, May 13 – further details will be announced, but an opportunity mainly to have a fun evening, to meet other twidders and maybe to introduce friends to twinning.

Photo credits: Colin Hill, Andreas Raabe, Jerry Mayfield, Ray Harrowing

Kidderminster-Husum Twinning Association

Officers

Chairman: Terry Garbett
Vice-President: Charles Talbot
Secretary: Mrs Hilary Boyle
Treasurer: Mrs Christine Dutton
Membership: Jeremy Mayfield
Cultural: Ray Harrowing
Website: www.kidderminster-husum-twinning.co.uk

Newsletter

The Newsletter is edited and published by Ray Harrowing. Any contributions for the next issue will be welcome. Please post or email copy and photos (jpeg format) to:

Twin Town News
147 Birmingham Road
Kidderminster
Worcs. DY10 2SL
Tel: 00 44 (0)1562 822476
(See website - above - for email address)