



July 2014

Volume 17, No.2



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ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Business and Pleasure

This year's AGM took place on Wednesday, March 26, 2014 at 7.30 pm., in the Valley Suite, Kidderminster SVR Station, and the usual good number of members attended. The formal business went smoothly; the financial report showed a surplus in hand to meet expenses, and Christine Dutton, our Treasurer,

was pleased to be able to report that the financing of the crocus-planting project was well in hand.

Representatives of a number of groups that are involved in twinning gave reports on their contacts with partner groups in Husum. The officers of the

Association were all re-elected, as

were the other members of the Committee.

This year we were entertained by a group of singers from the Kidderminster Male Choir called Gaz Raz, under conductor Steve Singleton; they presented a tuneful medley of songs including "Husum Ahoy!". Sumptuous



refreshments rounded off a very enjoyable evening.

From the Editor

We are very pleased once again to be able to include an article from Linda on her adventures into Husum's musical world - only partly because, without her contribution, this issue would have looked a bit under-nourished! We are including items that cover very varied matters, and we hope that this issue will therefore be of interest to readers.

Please keep your contributions coming!

Ray Harrowing

Friendship and
Understanding

Freundschaft und
Verständigung

WELCOME TO OUR NEW PRESIDENT

We are very pleased to welcome as our new President the Mayor of Kidderminster for 2014-2015, Councillor Michael Price, who represents the Offmore and Comberton Ward of Kidderminster on the Wyre Forest District



The Mayor, Councillor Mike Price

Council. We hope that Councillor Price will enjoy his term of office as our President, and that he will find time to support us as part of his busy calendar of engagements – at least one of those engagements will hopefully take him to Husum in the next few months.

FROM THE COMMITTEE

The Committee met on May 14, and received reports from a number of groups, as well as news of progress with other possible links that

were being investigated. Some of these reports are the subject of articles elsewhere in this edition of the Newsletter.

Plans for the acts of commemoration marking the beginning of the First World War were being finalised; there would be an ecumenical service at St. Mary's on August 2, and on August 3 there would be a ceremony in Brinton Park at which, at 11 pm., candles would be extinguished to mark the "lamps going out all over Europe". On September 28 there would be a civic service of commemoration, at which Rainer Maaß and *Bürgermeister* Uwe Schmitz would be present. Plans for the celebration in 2015 of sixty years of links between Husum and Kidderminster were also being formulated; this would involve the Charter Trustees, and invitations to the German Embassy and to Husum's other twin towns were being considered.

The next Committee meeting (in September) has not yet been arranged, but if members have matters that they would like the Committee to discuss they are invited to contact the Secretary, Hilary Boyle.

SURPRISES IN STORE

I've never seen the Husum crocuses 'live' as it were, only in photographs in this very Newsletter. So when my partner Mike and I were taken by our hosts, Karin and Joko, to the *Schlosspark*, in March this year, the sight of millions of purple crocuses standing to attention beneath the dappled shade of the springtime limes was awesome. And I mean that in its proper sense of the word! Our friends had invited us over to share in the weekend

Please visit our website:

www.kidderminster-husum-twinning.co.uk

of the March concert of the *Collegium Musicum* orchestra. Karin and I both play violin, and I was fortunate to be invited to play in the concert. I had originally told Mike that I would be required for one evening rehearsal and one

from attending previous *Collegium Musicum* rehearsals I do know that 'bar' is *takt* and that 'Bertha' means 'go from letter B'. But my new-found chamber-music buddies had to help me out with my counting - for example if we



The octet, and friends. Linda is front row, right, Mike back row, centre

were going from bar 156 - the look on my face while I tried to work out *takt hundert sechs und fünfzig* made them take pity and throw in a quick English translation to keep things moving along.

However, it was a great evening, having sight-read our way through the Spohr String Octet no. 1 op. 65, which actually was

concert, and that the rest of the time was ours. Then it transpired that there were going to be two concerts, the other one being in Wesselburen, about 40 mins drive away to the south. So that was three of our four evenings taken up.

Then upon arrival on the first night I was informed - with great delight - that not only had we been invited to eat with our friends Christa and Norbert in Treia, but that we were going to play some chamber music, octets to be precise. So bang went the fourth night as well! All in a good cause though, and Mike was magnanimous about my disappearing act. During the playing, I tried to get by on my scanty knowledge of the German language:

a double quartet. They made me the second leader - eek! so I was the very 'blind' (and travel-weary) leading the blind. Still, once you get a nice glass of something in your hand, all those wrong notes seem to melt away.

The two concerts went smoothly and were very well-attended: we played an all-Beethoven programme. A number of professionals were brought in to plug the empty spaces in the ranks, so a pretty good sound was produced overall. The second concert was in Husum's new *Congresshalle* - quite a superb performance space with a substantial stage, and so on. But a surprise was in store: while waiting in the wings to go on for the second half, I noticed two magnificent bouquets of

OFFICERS OF THE TWINNING ASSOCIATION (see also next page)

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Secretary: Hilary Boyle, 30 Blakebrook, Kidderminster, Worcs. DY11 6RG (01562 68535)

Treasurer: Christine Dutton, 40 Lea Bank Avenue, Kidderminster, Worcs. DY11 6PA (01562 823961)

flowers. They were for me! You could have knocked me down with a feather. I'm afraid I sat there in a rather unlovely fashion with my mouth wide open when the conductor started walking towards me during the applause. However, it was a privilege to be invited to play, and so to receive such a token of their appreciation was both a surprise and a delight.

On our last day, we were taken to the impossibly pretty seaside town of Schobüll, where we wandered around in glorious sunshine photographing the seascape, the chocolate-box houses and the unusual eighteenth-century church, which in times of flood had been a refuge. It was hard to think while standing on the board-walk, with the sea sparkling around us, that we would be back home in Heightington, in time for dinner.

Linda Fowler

TINE

Many who have visited Husum will know the fountain in the middle of the Marktplatz, surmounted by the statue of "Tine", the fisherman's wife, wearing wooden clogs and holding an oar from her husband's boat. The fountain and statue, by Adolf Brütt, were erected in 1902, in memory of two great benefactors of the town, Friedrich Woldsen and Anna Catharina "Tine" Asmussen. The statue and fountain, the official name of which is the Asmussen-Woldsen fountain, have just been cleaned and refurbished in time for the annual influx of tourists to the town.

ON THE MOVE

For a number of years the Association has had enthusiastic support from Canon Owain



The Tine statue

Bell and Rev. Mary Austin; both have made visits to Husum with groups representing Kidderminster's churches, and both have hosted visitors from Husum. Owain retired as Vicar of St. Mary's Parish Church last September, and his successor has yet to be appointed; Mary will retire this month as Minister of Trinity, Foley Park and Broadwaters Methodist Churches, and will be succeeded by Rev. Nick Collison. We extend our best wishes both to Owain and his wife Kim, and to Mary and husband Derek. Both couples have moved within Worcestershire, and they will be very welcome to continue taking part in the Association's activities. We look forward to welcoming Nick and his family, and we hope, of course, that they too will join with us in continuing the links that exist between our churches and those in Husum.

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)

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 updated as dates are confirmed.

July 18-21 - visit of gardeners to Husum

August – visit of Kidderminster group to *Hafentage*

September – visit of representatives from Husum, taking part in the Commemoration service on September 28

October 11-18 – visit to 1st Kidderminster Boys' Brigade by the *Pfadfinder* group from Husum

December – Twin Towns Art Exhibition in Husum, when it is hoped that Kidderminster groups may be able to participate

2015

60th anniversary of first contacts between Kidderminster and Husum - details to be publicised in due course

May 8-10 - Visit of Theodor Storms Chor to Kidderminster Choral Society

We shall be reporting on these events in future issues of "Twin Town News" and on the website,

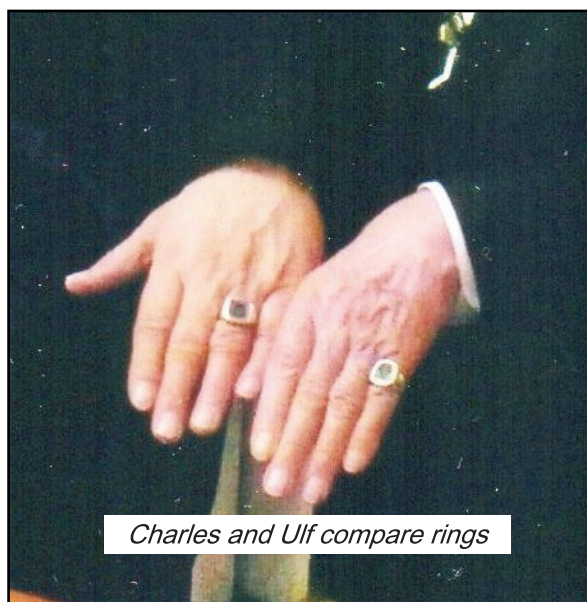
www.kidderminster.husum.twinning.co.uk.

Meanwhile, please watch for further details. If you wish to add events, visits, etc. to this list, please inform the Editor.

THIRD "GENTLEMAN OF THE RING"

Especially deserving Husumers may hope for a Ring of Honour in their home town. On this occasion, it was Dr. Ulf von Hielmcrone, to whom the third jewel was presented in a public

session of the Councillors in the Council Chamber. *Bürgervorsteher* (Leading Citizen) Peter Empen told the Council one evening in March why this was the right decision. Ulf von Hielmcrone hadn't invented volunteering, but he had practised it in exemplary fashion, "as Town Councillor, *Bürgervorsteher*, Committee Chairman, Archivist of the *Kloster* Church, Founding member of the Foundation for the Conservation of the Husum Townscape, instigator of the Husum Castle Development Association, Chairman of the Nissenhaus Foundation, and of the St. Mary's Church Organ and Building Association - and the part you have played in the twinning with Kidderminster



Charles and Ulf compare rings

has been fundamental", Herr Empen said. "Your tenacity, courage, and determination overcame the obsession with urban renewal, and left Husum relatively lightly affected." Ulf von Hielmcrone was now the third in the "League of Gentlemen of the Ring", the current *Bürgervorsteher* reminded his predecessor.

German Film Evenings - King Charles I School has generously hosted two German Film Evenings since our last issue; the first was in March, when the film was "The Miracle of Bern", and the second in July, when the film shown was "The Tunnel".

We are grateful to Stuart Arch for making these evenings possible, and to the catering students for laying on German-themed refreshments.

Also present was the first holder of the Ring, Charles Talbot, mentor of the *Partnerschaft* with Kidderminster and veteran of town twinning. "The second Ring of Honour, we were privileged to give to the late Peter Cohrs senior, a man who by his tireless entrepreneurship and a fine cultural understanding did so much for Husum". Finally, Ulf von Hielmcrone received yet another honour not often given; he was allowed to inscribe his name in the Golden Book of the town of Husum.

(translated from the "Husumer Nachrichten")

JONATHON SALTER

Jonathon Salter, pastor of Vernon Hall Free Church, Stourport-on-Severn, passed away on Wednesday 11th June aged 55 years. He was always an advocate for Kidderminster having



worked in the carpet trade for many years. One of his passions was the 1st Kidderminster Boys' Brigade at Milton Hall Baptist Church. Two years ago Jonathon was walking around the

field at the Kidderminster Carnival and visited the Kidderminster-Husum Twinning stand. He had the idea that the Boys' Brigade might become involved in the twinning of the two towns. Before we knew it we had been to Husum and Jonathon had achieved his aim of enabling our young people to experience another culture. It's a fitting tribute to Jonathon that the group from Husum will be visiting us in October, something that he was dearly looking forward to. Through his work Jonathon has helped our town to be a better place for our young people and through his vision this will continue.

Graham Knight

COMMEMORATION OF THE CENTENARY OF WORLD WAR I

Readers may be interested in arrangements that are being made by Churches Together in Kidderminster to commemorate the centenary of the start of the Great War - August 4, 1914.

On Sunday August 3 there will be a Service for Peace at St. Mary's Parish Church, when churches in the town will be taking part. White balloons will be released, bearing messages of peace from churches, schools, care homes and other organisations, as well as from individuals. On Monday August 4 people from the churches and the community are invited to gather at Holy Innocents' Church, Stourport Road at 10.15 pm., then to walk to the bandstand in Brinton Park for a short act of remembrance. Candles will be distributed and lit, and at 11.00 pm. the candles will be extinguished as a remembrance of "the lamps going out all over Europe". On Sunday September 28 there will be a civic service at St. Mary's Church which will be

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL - BETTER LATE THAN NEVER!

A few members have yet to renew their membership fees, and they will find enclosed with this Newsletter a letter from Jerry reminding them of the position.

attended by *Bürgermeister* Uwe Schmitz and Rainer Maaß, from Husum, and again all members and friends are invited to attend.

KIDDERMINSTER CARNIVAL

Carnival this year was blessed with a glorious



sunny day in Brintons Park on 21st June, much appreciated by the display tent team!

CROCUSES

Earlier this year the efforts of dozens of energetic gardeners were rewarded with wonderful displays of lilac-coloured crocuses at sites all over Kidderminster. In various parts of Kidderminster we have seen swathes of crocuses, giving a colourful appearance to what were once unremarkable patches of grass. Once again, our thanks go to the many groups and individuals who have been involved in planting and caring for the crocuses, as well as to the County and District Councils and other owners of the pieces of land that have been beautified.

CHORAL SOCIETY TO GREET FRIENDS OF 25 YEARS

Plans are being made for the visit to Kidderminster of a group from Husum's *Theodor Storms Chor*, in May 2015 - the 25th anniversary of exchanges between the two choirs. The joint concert at St. Mary's Church on May 9 will include Haydn's *St. Cecilia Mass* and Vivaldi's *Gloria*. A programme of rehearsals and other activities is being finalised, and tickets for the concert will be available later.

Jane Williams - Co-ordinator

SKITTLED OUT

Chairman Terry Garbett organised an excellent Skittles Evening in February to brighten the Winter months - a super social event at the Bewdley Pines Golf



NEW MEMBERS

We are very pleased to welcome as a new member group the 1st Kidderminster Boys' Brigade Company. They have already visited Husum (see report in the last Newsletter), and plan this year to host the group that welcomed them then.

Club. Prizes were hotly contested, and were bolstered by delicious home-cooked food between games. Chris won "Killer", while Penny got the wooden spoon for "best of three". Val somehow managed to win both the best score of the evening AND the wooden spoon for Killer! A fun evening, with time to socialise with other Twinners, was enjoyed by everyone - well done, Terry!

GERMAN FUN EVENING

We were delighted to be invited to take part in Stourport High School's "German Fun Evening" - members of their language staff and present and former students posed in Bavarian costumes in front of our stand!

Whilst few of the students seemed interested in town twinning, we were able to make a number of useful contacts with adult visitors to the event, and we hope that some of these will lead to further links.



GARDEN PARTY

This year's Summer Garden Party, on July 12,



took place at Comely Bank, Kidderminster, by kind invitation of Dr. Tim Wadsworth and his wife Pauline. 31 members and friends enjoyed plentiful refreshments, prepared by Jo and Michel Gaud and Ken and Pat Garbett.

A time of eating, conversation and relaxation was followed by a leisurely guided tour of Tim's extensive and beautiful gardens. Chairman Terry Garbett voiced the appreciation of all those present for Tim and Pauline's hospitality and presented Pauline with a bouquet.

PHOTO CREDITS

Hilary Boyle, Colin Hill, Jerry Mayfield, Norbert Petersen

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