



From the Editor

First, the apologies! A few errors crept into the May edition, partly because computer problems made proofreading difficult – the lines that were omitted from Hilary’s piece about the Krokusfest are now included, together with her report on the “Krokus Klassiks” concert which took place during the visit. The statement (in my report on the AGM) that the venue had since been destroyed by fire, was not correct; the fire was confined to another part of the building. I should have read the local newspaper more carefully!

Nothing daunted, we now offer our readers another action-packed edition - including some photographs of the Crocus Festival; we hope that you will enjoy reading of the exploits of various groups and individual visitors to or from Husum, and that those of you who have not yet taken part in such visits will at least put this undiscovered part of Germany on your holiday lists.

Ray Harrowing

Welcome to our new President



We are very pleased to welcome as our new President the Mayor of Kidderminster for 2008-2009, Councillor Marcus Hart – the youngest Mayor in the town’s history, as far as we are aware. Councillor Hart has already visited Husum,

it was apparently just one of a regular and very well attended monthly series. The young and talented soprano and tenor soloists and accompanist - beginning with opera arias and working through to more populist pieces at the end - kept all members of the audience spellbound throughout the entire sparkling performance. My only concern was for the glass chandeliers at one or two high notes!

Hilary Boyle

... and the missing wording from Hilary’s previous report (we have reproduced the final two paragraphs so that they make sense):

A little blearily, we set off on Sunday with the Topfs to Schleswig. We were thrilled to have the chance to see more of this delightful town - especially the

ling with the Mayor’s Officer, Bob Fleming (who is also a member of the Association) to the town’s annual celebration of its maritime connections, Hafentage. We understand that they had a great time, and can’t wait to return there!

Husumer Krokusfest - a Postscript

The concert – “Krokus Klassiks” - that we attended on Saturday evening as part of the programme for the visit was a stunning evening (possibly related to the fantastic group meal - and drink - afterwards of course!). We had never seen the interior of the Schloss before and were hugely impressed by its beautiful simplicity. We were even more impressed by the quality of the concert - especially on learning

fantastic Viking museum - than we will be able to fit in in June, when the gardeners’ group will be visiting



A trio of Queens - Christine, Charlotte and Marion



Charlotte and Marion

the Landesgartenschau. Only the prospect of our final group meal, at Dragseth's Gasthof dragged us away – and that too was certainly worth it!

Definitely running on reserve tank now, we squeezed in a final look at the harbour and the crocuses before taking the train with the official party to Hamburg.

Whilst they had a whistle stop tour with Georg before flying home, we had arranged an overnight stay. This gave us leisure to tour the *Rathaus* before meeting up with Olaf and Heinke Beck for a meal. We finally arrived home on Tuesday more in need of a holiday than of returning to work – but it was wonderful!

Husum Open Gardens Visit

Although our previous trip to Husum in 2006, and the two visits we have had from the German gardeners to Kidderminster, were fantastic, we enjoyed an even better time this year! A bigger group than before, 19 of us, had another wonderful long weekend in June



The gardening group

in our twin town. Our visit was timed for their Open Gardens scheme, but this year also gave us chance to visit the regional garden festival in Schleswig.

Their group – who are fast becoming old friends! – gave us an excellent reception, with a sumptuous spread of delicious food, as we arrived in this picturesque coastal town on Friday evening. It happened that the Saturday was Husum day at the *Landesgartenschau*. This meant we could not only (in superb weather) wander around the beautiful horticultural areas and displays, but could also enjoy folk dancing and local music displays as well as meeting the



Althea and Viking friend!

Mayoral delegation from Husum. Some hosts and guests managed to squeeze in sightseeing around Schleswig itself (the Viking museum being voted a big hit!) before meeting for tea and cakes at a local



Swathes of colour at the Garden Show

Open Garden, en route to a group barbecue back in Husum. A wonderful day climaxed as a paper balloon was signed by everybody and then - when the flame was lit in the tiny basket underneath – sailed off spectacularly into the evening sky, followed by a somewhat rowdy version of *Auld Lang Syne*!



Husum's organ-grinders on show

Guests and hosts went their own ways round selected Open Gardens on Sunday, passing each other at times

and indulging in yet more coffee and cakes. There was a variety of evening activities with some of the group being taken out on a small train across a causeway to a nearby island – quite the highlight of their weekend.

Monday's lunchtime flight home gave a short time for final local sightseeing, harbour walk and shopping before regrouping at the airport with the early birds who had taken in Hamburg's botanical gardens en route. The combination of wonderful hospitality from old friends, and gorgeous gardens in glorious sunshine seems unbeatable – what a challenge for the return visit of the Husumers here next year!!

Geoff and Hilary Boyle

(More pictures from the visit are to be found on the back page - Ed.)

Another Piece in the Patchwork that is Twinning!

On 16th May, I and my husband travelled to Birmingham Airport to join with Jane (another member of Forest Quilters) to meet Karin, Christiane, Frauke and Uschi, our visitors from Husum. We were all rather nervous as we had not undertaken anything like this before.

We had great problems parking and by the time we got into the airport I was in urgent need of the facilities! I then missed their arrival completely as I had created a security alert - in my rush to get back, I had left my handbag hanging on the toilet door. I raced back for it, by which time security personnel had arrived. As I ran towards the toilet, a lady with a walkie-talkie said 'It looks like a lady has come to collect her handbag - stand down' - Whoops!!

I got back to the Gate and our visitors had arrived; we need not have worried - we all greeted and introduced ourselves and from then on - *we laughed!* Our visitors were enormous fun.

During the visit: on Friday evening, we toured Kidderminster Town Hall. On Saturday, we all went to the Three Counties Showground, Malvern, to the Quilts UK show, around which we had centred the visit. Our visitors loved it, with hundreds of quilts to see and many traders to spend our money with. In the evening, we joined up with more members of Forest Quilters at a member's house for drinks and a buffet and that proved a huge success.

On Sunday, their last day with us, we took our visitors on the Severn Valley Railway to Bridgnorth, where we had booked into a restaurant for Sunday lunch. Three of our visitors had roast beef, with Yorkshire pudding (which they had never had before),

and Karin had lamb with mint sauce, the sauce also being new to her. We were due to return on an afternoon train, but the ladies did not want to leave, so we eventually caught the last train back to Kidderminster. After a short rest, we took our visitors into Birmingham, where I had booked them into a hotel for the remainder of their stay. I had given them lots of information and maps on things to do and see in Birmingham. We left them settled in their rooms with some tears and regrets that they were going home so soon. They were due to fly back on the Tuesday.

As soon as they got home, Karin telephoned me to say they had arrived home safely and told me about all the things they had managed to see while in Birmingham. We had such a super time with our patchwork friends from Husum and have all agreed that we have forged real friendships, we got on so well together. Arrangements are already in hand for a visit of Forest Quilters to Husum in 2009.

Brenda Banner

Footnote – a Card from Karin

Hilary Boyle received a card from Karin, which reads, in part:

“The reception in the Town Hall was not the only thing to impress my quilting friends. The embroidery exhibition too was excellent, and our visit to Birmingham was also great! Thanks again to Geoff that he wanted to accompany us on Monday. We were very well prepared with information, so it wasn't difficult for us. Geoff had a good time with us four biddies! By evening we had swollen feet. We also went into the Symphony Hall! We were allowed in briefly and experienced the wonderful sound of an orchestra in rehearsal. One only has to ask.... That was fantastic. All in all a superlative time.”

Committee Notes

Some notes from the May meeting of the Committee: DVD of Kidderminster - £50 donation (in principle) towards costs of a DVD of Kidderminster.

Race Night – to be held on 24 October, at the Severn Valley Railway “Valley Suite”.

Christmas Concert – Friday 28 November.

Crocus Queen – unable to attend Kidderminster Carnival; but has been invited to take part in Stourport Carnival on 6 September. She will be with us from 5 to 9 September.

Information and Publicity Display – Kidderminster Library (foyer and first floor), October.

Husum Artists – exhibition of paintings at Kidderminster Library Gallery in 2009.

Worcestershire Forum of Twinning Associations

We are not always represented at meetings of the Forum, but I was able to attend that held at Worcester Guildhall in June – other groups represented were Worcester, Droitwich, Bewdley, Friends of Gruchy (Redditch), Friends of Auxerre (Redditch) and Bromsgrove. We had lively debates on a number of subjects, but perhaps the most important piece of business related to Safeguarding Children and Young People – a subject that seems to appear in the news quite regularly. It's often thought that the problems of child safety are mostly to do with statutory bodies – children's homes, education, social services and so on. But voluntary organisations are also regulated by the legislation, and organisations such as those that are members of the Association – and the Association itself – have responsibilities if they deal in any way with young people under the age of 18. I shall be reporting to the Committee at its next meeting on some aspects of this subject.

The Forum organises an annual Quiz Night, which Bewdley won in 2007. Crowle Community Centre, in Worcester, will be the venue for this year's quiz, which will take place on Friday October 3; if you would like to organise a team (of four people) to take part in the quiz, please let me know, and I'll forward details to the organisers. Any number of teams can enter, but one team is designated as the representative of the relevant Association.

Bewdley produced, for a recent visit, a booklet that contained a picture and brief biography of every host family; is this something that some of our visiting groups might emulate?

As always, the Forum was impressed by the very busy calendar of events, visits and so on that our Association is involved in; unlike some of the others, however, we have only one twin town, whereas some already have or are developing links with a number of countries – Italy, Lithuania, the Czech Republic and the USA, to name but a few.

Ray Harrowing

Singers to St. Marien

Twenty-one singers from the Kidderminster Choral Society and a number of family members journeyed by different routes to Husum on May 28, returning on June 1 or over the following few days. The visit was marked by wall-to-wall

sunshine and temperatures that surpassed those of Kidderminster by several degrees.

We were made very welcome by our hosts of the Theodor Storms Chor, who had as usual laid on a very varied and interesting programme. We started on Wednesday evening with a reception in the *Rathaus*, where we met not only with hosts and other members of the TSC but also with a number of Husumers who are connected with the town twinning, and many new contacts were made as well as old ones being renewed. Rainer Maaß, the *Bürgermeister*, welcomed us in a speech that referred to the important place that the twinning of the two choirs held in the Kidderminster-Husum story, and he presented gifts to Pauline Powell, the organiser of the visit, Jonathan Price, Chairman of KCS, and Geoff Weaver, the MD of the English choir. Responding, Jonathan said how valuable the link had been over the 18 years since the first joint concert, and expressed the thanks of the Kidderminster group for the generous hospitality of the Husumers. Heinrich Linkogel, Chairman of the TSC, added a welcome, saying that the Husum choir were pleased that Geoff Weaver would be conducting the concert on the coming Saturday, despite his reputation as "Speedy Gonzales"!

Thursday morning was spent shopping or wandering around the street market which is a well-known feature of Husum's civic life, and the afternoon brought a visit to Eiderstedt, the fascinating peninsula to the south of Husum – once an area of three large and many smaller islands that have progressively been linked by dykes and reclaimed as farmland. Each polder, or "*Koog*", is named after a prominent personage of the relevant era, and the last area of reclaimed land, brought into use in the 1940's, is named "*Hermann Goering Koog*"! We visited a number of historic churches and were entertained to *Tee und*



Jonathan Price addressing the assembled guests

Kuchen by a member of the TSC who runs a young people's visitor centre. Our guide was another choir member, a former pastor of a church in the Eiderstedt area. That evening was spent in the first of three rehearsals, held in the St. Marienkirche, with Jens Weigelt accompanying on a somewhat less than adequate electronic keyboard. The choirs soon overcame differences of pronunciation of the Latin, variations in preferred tempo, and the "language barrier" to emerge as a unified group of singers, and all left tired but content with the evening's work.

Friday saw the group, with a number of hosts, travelling to Schleswig to visit the *Landesgartenschau* (state garden festival). The beautiful weather made this a particularly colourful and pleasant day out – although one member of the group missed her footing and fell, injuring her face, which did little to ease her through the forthcoming rehearsals and concert! A further rehearsal was held in the evening. We did not know until later that the non-singers of the group, who had decided to stroll round the town during the rehearsal, had "assisted the police", by helping to push on to the pavement a car that had been left with its brakes off and had rolled into the highway!



Saturday, the big day, dawned bright and sunny, and the morning was devoted by many to last-minute shopping before the afternoon rehearsal and evening concert. We were joined for the first time by our orchestra, the Hamburg Camerata, and four young soloists, most of them from Hamburg. Jens was able to quit his keyboard for the chamber organ, which he played from within the orchestra, and Geoff put the finishing touches to what was to be an exciting and memorable performance that evening. This again was not without mishap; one of our sopranos, who had been detailed to present flowers to one of the soloists, fell on going back to her place on the platform, and was taken to hospital with a suspected

broken leg. In fact it was not broken, but the next few days were very painful!

Most of the party left Husum by coach for Hamburg on Sunday – a tearful occasion for some as they parted from good friends, some old, some new. Others made their way to destinations in Denmark or had leisurely journeys home.

All in all, the visit came up to the high standards that we have come to expect of our contacts with the TSC, and we express our very grateful thanks to Jonathan, Geoff, and particularly Pauline, for all their hard work at this end, and to numerous members of the TSC (particularly Heinrich and Jens) at the Husum end. We look forward to yet another return visit to Kidderminster in 2010!

Ray Harrowing

... and here are some thoughts from a first-time visitor:

First impressions count . . .

I had been waiting for some time for an opportunity to visit Husum. After joining Kidderminster Choral Society some years ago, I was determined that one day I would join the merry band travelling over the North Sea to sing in a foreign town, and this year it was my turn, too. As Husum is our twin town, I was quite sure it would be exactly like Kidderminster. Well, isn't that the point of twinning?

Well, my first impression as we drove from the airport in our coach was that we had probably landed in Holland. However the veterans on board all seemed to recognise the passing towns across the flat landscape, so I was reassured that we were indeed in the right country.

On arriving in Husum, we were greeted by our very welcoming hosts, and learned that one of our earlier arrivals - our organiser, Pauline - had suffered a nasty fall. I later realised that this was an occupational hazard and a duty, shared mainly amongst the female members of the choir for the duration of our stay, and I therefore checked out my EHIC and travel insurance in case it was my turn later on. Perhaps the Theodor Storms Chor members would also practise this strange habit next time they visit Kidderminster.

Following a wonderful reception with the *Bürgermeister* in the Town Hall, photos of which appeared in the local press, we spent our next few days with

our hosts, exploring the beautiful harbour town of Husum and its market, and enjoying some trips in between rehearsals. As I come from South Wales, where we keep our sheep up the mountains, I was fascinated to see the local solution – all the sheep live on top of the dykes and watch the sea! I was also delighted to discover that it never rains in Husum, which has a Mediterranean climate, that sheep at the Schleswig Garden Show are bright blue, and that gardeners grow metal flowers.

Our rehearsals for the concert at the Marienkirche seemed to go well, although we noticed that our German friends were mesmerised (perhaps even horrified) by the speed of the conductor. Radishes were produced to calm everyone's nerves, and after a very thorough practice procession to get on and off stage, the female members of the choir were given a demonstration of how to tie the long and colourful scarves without strangulation. The concert itself was the high-point of the stay for me, singing beautiful music with new and old friends in an old church. I realised that this had only been made possible by the friendship and organisation over the years between the two choirs.

Our post-concert party included a moving rendition of *Green Grow the Rushes, oh*, although we did not have time to introduce our German friends to the far more complicated *Twelve Green Bottles, Hanging on the Wall*. As we walked home through the town that evening, I noticed again that if your Euros are running a bit low, the local jewellers are more than happy to buy your gold teeth to help you out. What more could you ask for?

Thank you to everyone in Husum for your hospitality and huge welcome. It was wonderful.

Jane Williams

School's Out!



As she came to the end of her three weeks at St. Ambrose's Catholic Primary School and prepared to spend a week's holiday in Shipston-on-Stour before returning home to Husum, Johanna Uphaus (pictured here with pupils Orla Evans and Tom Smith) said that teachers and staff

alike had been very welcoming, and that she had enjoyed her time at the school immensely. She also said a huge "thankyou" to her two host families, Kim and Owain Bell and Mary and David Howles, for their warm welcome and generous hospitality. We wish Johanna well as she continues her studies after a well-deserved Summer break.

The Kidderminster-Husum Golf Competition – the Schimmel-Ryder Trophy – Husum, 2008

Eleven golfers from Kidderminster took part in the annual mixed golf competition, with one non-golfing wife accompanying us. All but one couple, who brought their motor caravan on an extended tour, stayed in the Hinrichsen Hotel.

The competition consists of two days' competing on the host golf course, and also, as a social event, playing at two other courses. This year's competition was won by Husum, as it was on our previous visit there in 2006. The result was unequivocal, our hosts navigating their course much better than us. Husum rough is very long, and our players got into real trouble through being over-ambitious.

The Husum Golf Club, unlike clubs in the UK, is only allowed to cut the rough once in the Summer, for ecological reasons – butterflies and stuff - and the long grass will devour any wild shot. Searching for balls can take almost as long as the golf itself. I would dearly like to be present during the mowing; there must be hundreds of lost balls there. Finding lost balls is secret pleasure, and many a shady character can be spotted there out of hours, or in the fog or murk, allegedly admiring the view, but in reality hunting the little white sphere.

Apart from competing in Husum we visited Lohersand, south of Schleswig, then Hofberg, near Bredstedt. Lohersand is an elegant course, Bredstedt a mixed established and new one, with a fine farmhouse conversion as clubhouse. We always enjoy the relaxed atmosphere on the away days, though the weather at Hofberg was heavily Wagnerian – wind howling and rain pelting, in alternate bursts, bracing, enjoyable, and requiring good kit.

These golf games take up much of the day, and are a good way of getting to know new faces. The famed nineteenth hole is justifiably important, to clear away the frustrations from playing the course. Socially our hosts did us proud; post-golf dinners were enjoyed at the Rote Haubarg, the "Blinkfeuer" restaurant, and at a fine reception at the Husum Clubhouse (asparagus with salmon and ham, and new potatoes – provided by farmer and golfing friend

Peter Lorenzen). The Club manager had kindly organised live music to accompany the meal. That evening should be emtitled the “Husum Asparagus Challenge”; it was decisively won by the Kidderminster contingent.

We had a day off from our golf, and were taken to Schleswig, to the Schloss Gottorf, and in particular to the Globe. This is a reconstruction of the device built in the 17th Century, depicting the heavens as they were known at the time. The globe itself rotates around the seats, on the same axis as the earth. On the outside is painted a map of the planet Earth as it was then known. The Globe is a tribute to the astounding knowledge of astronomy in that era – along with the restored gardens and the Schloss itself, a good day out.



Golfing partners

On our return from Schleswig we were invited to the lakeside home of Mr. and Mrs Lorenzen, the potato people, then on to Dieter Knoerr (competition organiser) and his wife Ute’s house in Schobüll for *more* cocktails. **Dieter is on the village committee which has organised its own wind farm, and – more remarkable – its own underground heat generation. The heat is piped round the village for participants’ heating. Hence they have their own hot water and heating at minimal cost – a revelation to us all.** That same evening we drove with some hosts up to Nolde to dine at the new Michelin-rated restaurant adjacent to the Nolde Museum. It was well worth the sixty-mile round trip, though it was not cheap!

The last evening was Presentation Night, at Dr. and Mrs Haacke’s house, next to Schobüll Church. The hosts provided a lavish buffet. The Presentation was conducted by Dieter Knoerr in his inimitable style, and the trophy sadly remains for a further year in Husum. We look forward to welcoming the Husum players to Kidderminster in 2009. This will be our Centenary year, and a home win is definitely required!

Rod Summers - Captain

On the Horizon

A brief outline of events and visits that will be taking place over the next few months:

September 5-9 – Visit of *Krokusblütenkönigin*; she will take part in Stourport’s Carnival Parade on September 6.

September 25 – October 2 – Theodor Storm Schule students’ visit to King Charles I School.

October 16-21 – Visit of Husum “Oldies” to Kidderminster.

October 24 – Race Night at the Severn Valley Railway “Valley Suite”, Kidderminster Station.

November 28 – Christmas Concert at Baxter Church.

March 26 – April 2, 2009 – King Charles I School students’ visit to Theodor Storm Schule.

Carnival 2008

Once again this year we had a “presence” both in the Parade and on the Carnival Ground at Brinton Park. Ken and Pat Garbett made their minibus available, suitably decorated, and “showed the flag” (in this case the British and German flags) to great effect. The morning of Carnival day was wet, but this did not faze the construction team, and our bigger, better publicity tent was erected and fitted out with no problems. The afternoon was cloudy, but dry, and we were able to show our wares to the many hundreds of visitors – some of whom showed interest in Husum and in the Association’s work.

Husum’s Crocus Queen, Marion Kohler, had said that she would not be able to be with us this year because of a family wedding, and although the wedding didn’t in fact happen there wasn’t sufficient time to make all the necessary arrangements. She will, however, be in Kidderminster in September, and discussions with Stourport have resulted in her being invited to take part in the Stourport Carnival Parade on September 6.

Thanks are due to Ken and Pat, Jerry and Val, Charles and Jean, Pam, and Ray for their work before and on the day of the Carnival.



Publicity display at the Carnival tent



Husum's Mayoral party at the Garden Show



Small is beautiful



Ready for al fresco coffee and cakes



At the Hamburg Botanical Gardens



Association tent at Kidderminster Carnival

Kidderminster-Husum Twinning Association



Officers

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

Website: kidderminster-husum-twinning.co.uk

Newsletter

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