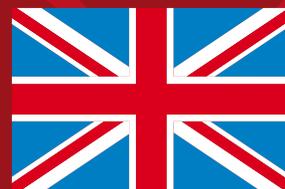


# The English House



## General information brochure

Hjørring Kommune



### **Where is it?**

Ved Skolen 4 in Hirtshals - by the side of Hirtshals school next to the bicycle sheds.

### **How to get there**

By train from Hjørring. The station is about 10 mins. walk from The English House.

By car - parking available at the church car park.

### **What is the The English House?**

The English House has been in existence since 1985, inspiring pupils with a massive injection of English through active language courses.

The teacher who is a native speaker, encourages participation of all pupils with varying abilities to take part in purposeful tasks. All courses are presented in English with the idea that the teacher does not speak Danish.

The teaching involves class, group, pair and individual tasks. Learning by doing is the motto!

### **How did it start?**

In 1985 a group of pupils attended a week of English for Fun during the Summer school activities. It was a great success and it was decided that the project should continue. All the 5<sup>th</sup> classes (who had just started English) were invited to participate in a 5 day course for each class, based at the Youth Hostel in Hirtshals. Andy Fish, the guest teacher from England succeeded in making these weeks very popular and eventually a more permanent base was required instead of using the Youth Hostel.

The house at Ved Skolen 4 became the venue from that

time. In 1989 Andy decided to venture further afield and Hirtshals commune wished to find another native speaker to continue running The English House.

Cheryl Strike took over in the February and has been there ever since! From 1985 to June 2007 courses of 5 days were obligatory for the 4th, 6th and 8th classes of Hirtshals, plus single Fun Days in English were offered to 3rd class pupils.

From August 2007, due to the amalgamation of four municipalities courses are on a voluntary basis. Instead of 6 schools in the old Hirtshals





commune there are now 28 to consider.

### **The house itself**

The English House is situated in the previous Hirtshals school's caretaker residence consisting of a basement with kitchen, office, toilet and one teaching room (Northern Ireland). A staircase leads to England which is the main teaching room, plus a hallway and the pupils' toilet.

The second staircase leads to the group rooms of Wales

and Scotland. All the rooms are decorated with objects and posters associated with these countries. Furniture is minimal due to limited space, so the pupils sit on cushions, but in each room there is a group table and 2 benches.

### **Equipment available:**

- Flip over board
- 4 pupil computers with Internet and printer
- television with video
- CD player
- overhead projector and screen

- copy machine
- laminating machine
- fridge
- oven
- electric kettle
- coffee maker

There is a table and bench outside in the small paved garden area.

### **A new era**

From August 2007 The English House serves all schools in Hjørring commune. All courses run by The English House teacher are entirely

free of charge to schools within the Hjørring education authority. However, schools attending courses at The English House are to cover the costs of their own pupils' transportation to and from the house. If the courses are held at the school then the transport costs of The English House teacher are to be met by the school.

### Courses for classes

From August 2007 The English House courses are no longer compulsory. Schools are to apply for their chosen courses on the Application Form stating their requests. Each course is for a class/

group of maximum 29 pupils, preferably held at The English House. If this is not possible then Cheryl will come to your school.

**3<sup>rd</sup> classes** may be 2 or three days

**4<sup>th</sup> - 7<sup>th</sup> classes** may be 3, 4 or 5 days

**8<sup>th</sup> - 10<sup>th</sup> classes** - The Danish-Brit Week is for 5 days held at The English House

Class	Time of courses 07-08	Content-theme examples
3 <sup>rd</sup> classes	Various times throughout the year	The body, everyday phrases, number, colour, music, art etc.
4 <sup>th</sup> and 5 <sup>th</sup> classes	April to mid June 2008	Number, monsters, shapes, colours, school in England
6 <sup>th</sup> and 7 <sup>th</sup> classes	September to mid November 2007	Number, geography, history of GB and USA + masses of general challenging tasks
8 <sup>th</sup> , 9 <sup>th</sup> and 10 <sup>th</sup> classes	Mid November to December 2007 + February to mid March 2008	Danish - Brit week** Cultural differences



The courses for 3<sup>rd</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup> classes are not only for the pupils but also intended as an inspiration to the English teachers. It is therefore highly recommended and hoped that the English teacher is present for all the course days or at least the first and last.

### **The Danish-Brit week\*\***

For 8<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup> classes (see separate information folder)

This is a unique week where the Danish class agrees to be hosts for 3 or 4 students from England. The English House has a unique “contract” with two secondary schools, who through interviews select their students to act as language assistants in The English House.

The cost of the journey (air, bus and train) for these students is met by The English House, by way of selling courses to other classes outside of Hjørring.

Through discussion, games and competitions, the teenagers share their knowledge

of their own countries and become aware of the many cultural differences and similarities between them.

Britain is brought to Denmark instead of taking the Danes to Britain!

### **Workshops**

For all school teachers and student teachers (see separate information folder).

The workshops are free for teachers in the Hjørring authority.

Full or half day courses are available on request for 10 or more teachers at a time.

### **How to apply for courses**

Fill out the application form and sent it via e mail to [cheryl.strike@skolekom.dk](mailto:cheryl.strike@skolekom.dk)

The applications will be considered and all applicant schools will be informed before the end of June, if they have been lucky to be selected.





## Schools outside of Hjørring Municipality

### *For pupils*

Individual course days are available to schools outside of Hjørring.

The price per day is 2.500 kroner (2007) for 4 hours. e.g. from 9am to 1pm.

For those wishing to have a camp school in Hirtshals, accommodation is recommended at the Hirtshals Vandrerhjem, about 15 minutes walk to the house.

The English House teacher will also visit schools in North Jutland for day courses.

### *For teachers*

One day workshops are available (see "Topics for Teachers' Courses").

### **Extra help for teachers** (for Hjørring municipality only)

#### *Subject support boxes*

(see Subject Support Box list)

There is a great deal of material sitting on The English House shelves for your use!

If you need more ideas/inspiration/help for your project work, communicative activities or examination texts then contact Cheryl and state your needs. Over many years, files full of pictures and activities,

posters, games, magazines, school uniform, story tapes, etc. have been collected and are available on loan. List available of subject matter.

The teacher of The English House functions as an adviser for Hjørring schools.

### **Final remarks**

It has been observed that the concentration and intensity of these English House courses often give a marked increase in the pupils' vocabulary within a very short space of time. Furthermore, the courses increase their self confidence and desire to express themselves.

The language used throughout is functional and meaningful.

Teachers attending have a great opportunity to observe instead of being "in the front line" and are often delighted to see that many of their quieter/less able pupils have made considerable progress.

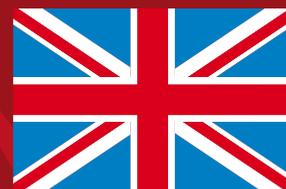
Looking forward to hearing from you.

*Cheryl Strike*





Hjørring Kommune



### The English House

Ved Skolen 4  
9850 Hirtshals

Tel. 72 33 42 24  
Between the following times:  
08.00 - 08.30 or 13.15 - 14.00

Teacher in charge:  
Cheryl Strike  
[cheryl.strike@skolekom.dk](mailto:cheryl.strike@skolekom.dk)