

## Norfolk and Norwich Koblenz Friendship Association

### Report to Twinning Committee 4 March 2010 .

Membership: 154 including 13 Ex Officio and 5 Honorary members.

By tradition the last of our 'events with the seasons' was the Advent Evening, again at the Birbeck Hall, Great Hospital and this was well recorded in the February 2010 **Kontakt**, which has just been sent out to members. It also contains our 2010 Programme:

Spring	19 March	AGM at County Hall.
Summer	20 June	Outing to Houghton Hall
Autumn	12 September	30 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary Lunch at Park Farm, Hethersett
Extra Meeting	16 September	Sewell Barn, celebration for 30 years

#### Other Activities:

18 April	Norfolk Association of Twin Committees Charity Sponsored Walk from Swanton Morley in aid of the Benjamin Foundation.
July 7-10	Feed the Minds Book Fair at St. Andrews Church in aid of Haiti, with an opportunity to select books for Novi Sad.
Weekly	DUaM German Conversation Group remains as popular as ever, with several new members attending.

**Rheinland Pfalz Jugendorchester.** Since February 2009 the Rhineland Palatinate has been in touch with us about the foundation of a 'Sullivan Society' and subsequently the planning of a visit to Norwich of the Rheinland Pfalz Youth Orchestra, during an orchestral tour to the U.K. in August 2012, when they already have a concert planned at Dorchester near Oxford. On 10 February three people from the Orchestra visited Norwich and saw St. Andrews Hall, and Norwich Cathedral. The orchestra has 90 members, which is much more than we had assumed from their initial contacts. They were very impressed with Norwich and what it has to offer. Clearly there will be a number of logistical and financial problems to overcome in relation to a visit.

The present Minister of State, including responsibly for the Arts in Rheinland Pfalz, is Dr. Joachim Hofmann-Göttig, who will become Oberbürgermeister for Koblenz on May 1 2010.

**BUGA Bundes Gartenschau.** The National Garden Show to be held in Koblenz in 2011. The NNKFA have booked a visit for 22-29 May 2011.

Norwich and all other twin cities have been invited to have a garden in this show, which lasts from April to October. There is finance available from the show organisers in Koblenz to help with this (up to €20,000 in total per twin). The show also wishes to welcome visiting performing groups and Chris Southgate, Andy Emms and George Ishmael are trying to move these plans forward in conjunction with Norwich in Bloom, so that Norwich can be represented at this important national event.

**Diesterweg Schule** has responded to my suggestion to try to twin with Clare School. Their school is next to BUGA and they are keen to be involved in the Twin Garden Project too!

Trier University student Isabelle Blum has just completed her volunteering at Attleborough High School, which is linked with the Koblenz Eichendorf School, which she attended.

The Hellesdon and Sprowston Band have become Corporate Members of NNKFA and are hoping to visit Koblenz again soon.

**Modern Vibrations Choir**, of which Barbara Theis, Vice-chairperson of NKFKeV is a member, are hoping to visit Norwich in October 2010 to give concerts in various venues – see Kontakt. We are looking for a Norwich choir with whom they could make contact. They will need to have an income from concerts as some members would find it difficult to finance their visit otherwise. At the moment the Assembly House has shown interest in a concert.

**Ironbridge visit.** We are preparing for a visit in October, as part of our 'Bridge Building'. This follows an approach from the Handwerkskammer in Koblenz to find a contact in this country for the Iron Museum in Bendorf-Sayn, near Koblenz where there used to be a major iron casting works.

**Art Alive in Europe.** Jennie Hawkes, diocesan arts organiser is in touch with Koblenz and other twin cities, hoping to interest them in the Art Alive in Churches weekend May 29 to 31 2010, and more importantly in an Art Alive in Europe project for 2011, for which she will be applying for a European Grant.

**Europe Direct** Koblenz have invited me to a conference on 23 February, to help twinning and other groups to know the sources and how to apply to them for European funding.

**NKFKeV**, Our opposite number in Koblenz have their AGM on 23 February too, and I hope to attend. It just so happens that we had planned to be in Germany from 22 February to 2 March.

**Bridge** We have linked the Koblenz Bridge Players (Herbert Gosch) with the Norfolk and Norwich Bridge club through their chairman, Mervyn Scutter, and we hope that this will lead to exchanges.

**Immer Wieder Rhein.** We have now heard that this exhibition of pictures of the Rhine taken by English photographers and particularly the Norwich and District Photographic Society can come to Norwich, and it is hoped to show it in the Cathedral Hostry later in the year.

**Twinning Committee Support** We are very grateful for the £200, which the committee makes to help us with the costs of administration and also the support we receive from the city and its officers.

**Dragon Hall** Some layout changes are planned, including the Twinning Centre. Offers of Volunteering and Fund Raising continue to be welcome.

**City College** Renewed contact between the City College and the Handwerkskammer is progressing well, with EU funding and it is hoped that there will be apprentice exchanges.

Waltraud Jarrold  
13 February 2010