

Norfolk and Norwich Koblenz Friendship Association

Report to Twinning Committee 5 June 2008.

On behalf of the NNKFA I would like to express our sincere appreciation and thanks to the Immediate Past Lord Mayor Councillor Roy Blowers, the Lady Mayoress, Sheriff Nick Williams and his Lady for all their enthusiastic twin-support. We were delighted that one of their last engagements included the presentation to our Chairman Jill Noble of a Voluntary Service Award 2008. This was very well deserved for the many public engagements to which she contributes.

We extend our very best wishes to the new Lord Mayor, Councillor Jeremy Hooke, the Lady Mayoress, and Sheriff Roy Waller, and hope that they will have a happy and interesting year.

20 April. We took part in the Norfolk Association of Twin Communities walk at Rockland St. Mary. This was well supported by twinning associations from across Norfolk. Money was raised for East Anglian Children's Hospices.

25 – 29 April. A delegation from Norwich Diocesan European Group visited Koblenz as guests of the Koblenz Mitte Churches, organised by Chairman of the NDEG Canon David Sharp, and Pastor Hajo Hermes in Koblenz. The group of 13 included the Dean of Norwich, The Very Revd. Graham Smith, who preached at an ecumenical service in the Christus Kirche, Koblenz. The programme included visits to the Volcanic Eifel region and the Benedictine Abbey at Maria Laach. We were also able to travel along the Rhine by train to Bingen, to see the recently opened Rheinland Palatinate Garden Show, magnificently spread along the bank of the Rhine. This event which moves to different cities, has given an opportunity to rejuvenate the former railway land along the river bank, which had previously had a really neglected look. We took part in an open air service in the Churches Garden, which is part of the show, and welcomes visitors each day, with services on Sundays. We were also welcomed by the City Centre Mayor for Koblenz, Marie Therese Hammer-Rosenstein, along with our hosts, which also marked the 30th anniversary of the Norwich – Koblenz twinning, signed on 22 April 1978. She talked about the important role of the church and other voluntary organisations in the affairs and services of the city, which was followed by discussion. We also had a talk and discussion lead by Dr. Karrow of the Koblenz-Landau University about climate change, and the part we can play in it.

14 – 16 May (during the N & N festival) a delegation of over 20 came from Koblenz lead by the Oberbürgermeister (Lord Mayor) Dr. Eberhard Schulte-Wissermann, to take part in the final conference on 'Spatial Metro' and also to celebrate 30 years of twinning. The civic party were welcomed by the Lord Mayor, were shown many of the recent developments and regeneration projects in Norwich, and also took part in a dinner hosted by the city to mark this anniversary. They also attended the final day's conference on Spatial Metro at Cinema City, when presentations were made showing the regeneration and other services, which had been benefits of this programme. The working together of partner cities had produced European Funding and other exchange of information and ideas.

We thank the Lord Mayor's Office, Andy Emms and Val Hay in particular for the excellent arrangements. The Koblenz delegates were very impressed with what they saw in Norwich, the presentations at the City Hall, and the hospitality, which they received.

15 May The 'Twin Lens' exhibition was opened in the Forum. This was an idea of the Chairman, Ludwig Langner of the Foto-Club Koblenz to show Norwich through the camera lens of Koblenz members, and Koblenz through the camera lens of Norwich members of NDPS. This was also visited by the civic delegation.

Sunday 18 May. The NNKFA held a 'Bring a Guest' event at Dragon Hall to promote both Dragon Hall and membership of our association. About 50 people enjoyed 'Kaffee und Kuchen', were entertained to Jazz, and had an opportunity to see the 'Twin Lens' exhibition on stands lent by Norwich in Bloom and arranged by Chris Southgate. Our membership is now 165.

Saturday 21 June. Our summer outing will be to Framlingham Castle and on to Woodbridge (Waldringfield) for a 2 hour boat trip on the River Deben.

25 – 30 July The 'Jubilate Deo Choir' from Winnigen and the Koblenz Region will be visiting Norwich and giving several concerts.

26 July	7.30pm Holy Trinity Church, Essex Street, organised by Rotary Club of Norwich in aid of Quidenham Hospice for Children (EACH)
27 July	10.00am Norwich Cathedral before the morning service at 10.30am Afternoon at Dragon Hall
28 July	12 noon Cromer Parish Church
29 July	12.30 St Georges Church, Colegate

Some of these times have to be confirmed.

During the summer two students from Koblenz will be coming to Norwich as part of their course and staying at Southwell Lodge.

Waltraud Jarrold
27 May 2008