

NEWSLETTER

The Norfolk and Norwich Novi Sad Association

Dedicated to Friendship

The Association exists to promote informal links between people and organizations in the City of Norwich and the County of Norfolk and those in the Municipality of Novi Sad. The Association is a non-political, non-sectarian organization dedicated to furthering friendship between the two cities.

From the Chairman

Welcome to our first Newsletter of 2023.

There have been a few changes to our Committee and we were sad to see Peter Beckley and Dr Brenda Moffit leave. When experienced people like this leave it is hard to replace them. In addition, our Vice Treasurer, Sue Prutton, sadly passed away. I am pleased that we have been able to replace them all with some excellent new faces. You can read more about them below.

Your team is working very hard to carry on the good work between our two Cities. This will see some changes, but ones we hope you find good.

Thank you for your support and we welcome new members if you know of any who wish to join us.

Doug. Underwood (Chairman)

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The Norfolk and Norwich Novi Sad Association
President: The Lord Mayor of Norwich
Vice President: Chair, Norfolk County Council

2023 Paul Cross Memorial Concert

Saturday 21st January 2023

Wendy Quinn

We were all delighted to welcome back to Norwich the talented young pianist Aleksandar Djermanovic to give a recital of romantic pieces in the beautiful surroundings of St Peter Mancroft Church.

We were treated to a brilliant performance, worthy of the international concert pianist Aleksandar has become since he first performed for the NNNSA in 2015. His playing of the Beethoven piano sonata for the opening of his programme was exquisite, followed by a powerful and impressionistic rendering of the ghostlike "Der Doppelgänger" by Schubert/Liszt. Our appreciation was increased by Aleksandar's helpful introduction to the story behind the piece, reading aloud the lyrics of the song.

Similarly, in the second half of the programme, the performing of the poetry of the songs set to music by Tchaikovsky and Rachmaninov, before he played the series of songs set up a haunting atmosphere. I particularly loved the Rachmaninov / Wild "Do Not Grieve" and the Tchaikovsky /Rachmaninov "Lullaby". We could only wonder at his skill in the playing of "Gargoyles" by Liebermann, his final piece, when his fingers made the keys of the grand piano sing aloud to the heights of the medieval church.

Aleksandar received much applause at the end.

The concert was mostly attended by NNNSA members and our President The Lord Mayor of Norwich, Cllr Kevin Maguire, who gave the speech of thanks to our pianist and presented him with the gift of a painting of Norwich.

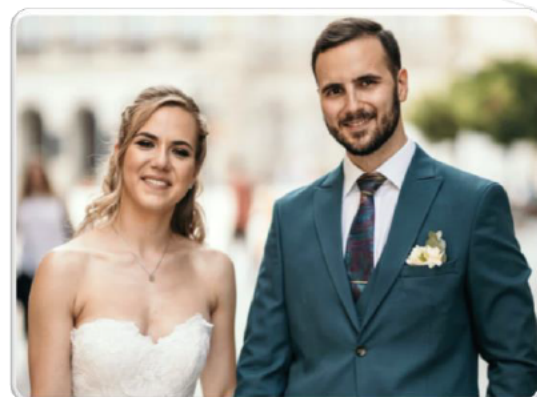
The Sheriff of Norwich, Caroline Jarrold also attended.

The concert is held annually to celebrate our twinning friendship with Novi Sad and raises funds for a project at The Milan Petrovic School for children and young people with a range of disabilities in Novi Sad.



Aleksandar had a very happy stay with Adrienne and Tony Cleary in Wattlefield during his visit, where he was able to practice and enjoy some relaxing home hospitality.

Aleksandar married Martina on 1st July 2023. We wish the lovely couple great happiness together.



2023 Twinning Summer Event

Southern Comfort Boat Trip

Sunday 2nd July 2023

Wendy Quinn

On a rather breezy summer evening members from all the Norwich Twinning Associations, as well as members from the Norwich Civic Association, set sail on board the Southern Comfort from Horning on the River Bure to travel to South Walsham Broad and back. We sat out on the upper deck to view the passing landscape of moored sailing boats and thatched bungalows with impressive waterfronts, as well as the greenery of the riverside willow and alder, geese and swans, and occasional sightings of other wildfowl.

We were treated to a running commentary from the captain and some of us spotted the heron diving into the water for fish, the fleeting flight of a marsh harrier hunting for prey and a flash of a kingfisher.

A plentiful buffet supper was provided and we enjoyed much socialising as we sailed leisurely along.

Thanks go to NNKFA Events Organiser, Sandra Sheppard for organising a most pleasant outing.



New Faces on the Committee



David Fullman
Vice Chairman

David has been a member for several years. He was Lord Mayor of Norwich in 1989/90 and again in 2017/18. In his first term he signed the twinning agreement with Novi Sad, at ceremonies first in Norwich and then in Novi Sad. He was a member of a delegation to Novi Sad in the early 2000s and also visited in 2018 for the 'Day of the City'.

Now retired from paid employment, David is a trustee of seven local charities, some of which provide funding for other charities while others provide direct services such as a training workshop for young people who do not fit into school easily and the Theatre Royal.

David loves travelling and exploring, as well as good food, solving puzzles, reading police procedurals, history and music.



Carole Kenney
Committee Member

Carole first became involved with the Association when she married her late husband, Paul Cross. Paul was an Education Officer involved in the setting up of the Association and who later became its Chairman for a number of years.

Carole accompanied Paul to Novi Sad and was very impressed with the culture and the warm hospitality of the people.

Some of you may remember the post-Memorial Concert reception hosted by Carole at her house in Grove Walk for many years.

Following her retirement, Carole started learning the piano and continues to enjoy that. Last year she bought an electric bicycle to explore rural Norfolk with Mark.



Mark Kenney
Vice Treasurer

Mark was introduced to the Association when he married Carole in 2014. (They met at classical guitar lessons!).

Mark moved to Norfolk from the Sussex coast in 1991 and continued his career as an architect until 2018 when he retired. His offices were based in Norwich and King's Lynn, but he worked on projects around the country.

Mark is a keen cyclist as part of the U3A organisation and plays table tennis weekly at his local club in Honingham.

He also enjoys swimming and painting – and continues to strive to play the classical guitar, recently branching out to learn the bass guitar (but, unfortunately, 50 years too late for the 1970s!).

Donation to the Milan Petrović School

The Association is very pleased to have transferred a sum of £1500 (1724 Euros) to the School this June, which has been safely received.

The School had planned to undertake refurbishment work to the hall over the summer holidays and the Association is delighted to be able to support this very worthwhile project. Photographs of the refurbished hall will be included in a future Newsletter.

Some memories of my time in the Association

Carole Kenney

I had a recent reminder of my early visits to Novi Sad whilst rummaging in a dresser for that 'extra' ingredient in a dish I was preparing. I alighted on an old bottle of Vinjak. It immediately took me back to the staffroom meetings with some of the teachers we were meeting in Novi Sad, where the custom of hospitality always seemed to comprise very strong black coffee and a small glass of Vinjak! The bottle was a good 30 years old now – and just as strong as I remembered. Mark insisted on sampling it too ... and much approved.



Another strong memory is of the year when Emyr Evans – a music advisor Carole knew through her work – took a group of young Norfolk musicians to Novi Sad. They combined with young Novi Sad musicians to perform together in the City. It was a lovely performance: maybe this could be repeated again one day!

A particularly warm and fond memory was a post-war return visit by children from Novi Sad who visited Norwich and stayed with local families. Entertainments and visits were arranged. One such was a trip to Wells-next-the-sea, where Carole's beach hut was the base for a very happy beach day, involving a big picnic and swimming. By coincidence, the Well's lifeboat was launched and a helicopter appeared too ... as if choreographed by Carole for the visit!

Annual Lunch

Of the Norfolk & Norwich Novi Sad Association
Sunday 15th October 2023

The Association is holding the lunch at The George Hotel. 12 noon arrival for 12:30pm. Please note this change of venue for 2023 and earlier time.

The cost of the two course meal, including coffee, tea and mints and a non-alcoholic welcome drink, is £26. The George Hotel offers a delicious Sunday lunch menu which, in our opinion, is very good value for money.

Vegetarian and gluten free options are available.



The George Hotel
10 Arlington Lane
Newmarket Road
Norwich
NR2 2DA

An invitation letter with menu has recently been sent out to all members. It requests that your menu selection and payment are returned by Friday 29th September 2023. Means of payment are provided in the letter.

Donations of prizes for the raffle to be run at the lunch would be very gratefully received. Please contact Wendy. We look forward to seeing many of you there.



The Norfolk and Norwich Novi Sad Association

Chairman: Doug Underwood. [REDACTED]

Hon. Secretary: Sandra Underwood. [REDACTED]

Vice Chairman: David Fullman. [REDACTED]

Treasurer: Gaetano Piccolo [REDACTED]

Deputy Treasurer: Mark Kenney. [REDACTED]

Committee Members: Wendy Quinn (Social Secretary). Cathy Piccolo (Sub Committees). Heather Ashmore (Minutes Secretary). Imogen Beckley-Mobbs. Carole Kenney.
