

Norfolk and Norwich Koblenz Friendship Association

Report to Twinning Committee 5 March 2009.

In 2008 the Musik Institut of Koblenz, who have regular exchanges with the Norwich Philharmonic choir, celebrated 200 years since it was founded. The final concert of these celebrations was the Beethoven Missa Solemnis on 4 November. Members of the Philharmonic Choir and Richard and I were invited to be at this concert, which was celebrated with a reception afterwards in the Rhein-Mosel Halle. Their next joint concert will be on Friday 24 April in Koblenz.

Our Advent Evening was for the first time on a Monday, December 1. This enabled us to welcome some of the members of Norwich Philharmonic, who had previously been excluded as they practice on a Tuesday. We were pleased again to be entertained by some of the Cathedral Lay Clerks, and members of the Girls Choir, who sang carols beautifully to us. We made a donation to the cathedral Choir to mark our appreciation. Ros and David Lancaster provided the musical accompaniment and introduction to the carols, which was much enjoyed. (see our Kontakt Newsletter)

Our AGM was held at County Hall on Friday 13 February, with over 40 members present. All the existing officers and committee members were prepared to continue and were re-elected. We were able to report on another successful year, and also enjoyed a social afterwards with refreshments provided by members of our DUaM group.

2009 marked the tenth anniversary since Jill Noble became chairman and she was presented with a Chairman's chain of office.

The DUaM group continues to flourish meeting on Wednesday mornings at 53a Keswick Road and when we are away at other members' homes.

The city published 'Norwich City Council A to Z of services' during the year, which mentioned 'Twinning' and this resulted in a number of enquiries for links, which we passed on, and are seeking to follow up. These often require several tries before something happens.

We continue to get requests for help from students and young people wishing to come to this country for work experience, often in teaching, as part of their University course requirement, or as au pair, or just for straight exchanges or pen friends.

Günter Hahn keeps us well informed of their activities in Koblenz. They have a new web site www.norwich-koblenz.de, which is worth visiting.

Charlotte Hobolm liaises with the City Hall to keep our web pages up to date. This can be found by going to www.norwich.gov.uk and searching for NNKFA.

All our committee meetings have followed DUaM meetings on Wednesdays, and have recently focussed on planning for visits, which we will have from Koblenz.

Norwich Rotary Club will be visiting their twin club Koblenz Ehrenbreitstein from May 1-4. This will mark 20 years of twinning.

Churches Visit. A group will be coming from Koblenz Mitte group of churches from 11 to 15 June, which will include a service at Holy Trinity Church (off Unthank Road) on the Sunday at 10.00am.

On Thursday 18 June (arriving late afternoon) the **Freundschaftskreis** group will visit us until Saturday 20 June, when they will join us on our Summer Outing to Burghley House near Stamford, where they will stay over night before travelling back home on the Sunday. Details of the programme will be sent out later.

June 26 to 28 June an International Dance Festival is being held in Winnigen, near Koblenz, and the Norwich Kemps Men are representing the UK.

22-27 September 2009 are the dates for the **NNKFA** to visit Koblenz. Details and Booking Forms will be sent out shortly.

We continue to participate in the Norfolk Association of Twinning Communities and their activities, including their sponsored walk in April, and have participated in the programme between Aylsham and Ochtendung (near Koblenz).

We look forward to the fruition of our plans, open to more twin opportunities and aiming to foster true fellowship and understanding.

Waltraud Jarrold
23 February 2009

KONTAKT NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 2009

NORFOLK & NORWICH / KOBLENZ FRIENDSHIP ASSOCIATION

HAPPY NEW YEAR 2009



Welcome to our first Newsletter of 2009. After all this cold and snowy weather, I imagine you are now looking forward to Spring.

We hope that everyone of you had a very Happy Christmas and a good and healthy start to the New Year.

Before we look into what lies ahead for you in 2009, let us first look back for a moment to our Advent Evening 2008, which many of you attended.

Chris Southgate has very kindly contributed his view of the event, see below.....



The picture on the left is a **German Word Puzzle**. Every single square either contains or depicts a letter.

If you read the squares from the top left to right, you'll get a German New Year's wish which says:

**ALLES
GUTE
IM
NEUEN
JAHRE**



A JOYFUL ADVENT by Chris Southgate

A group of 80 members and their guests gathered together in festive mood on the first day of December. The location was the Birkbeck Hall in the Great Hospital and the event was our NNKFA Advent Evening.

As the evening unfolded, our sense of anticipation grew into a joyful beginning to the Christmas Season. The Hall had been beautifully prepared by our eager and seemingly never tiring team of helpers. Elegant table decorations were set off by fine tablecloths, and the atmosphere was enhanced by a lofty ceiling and splendid architecture.

An almost irresistible, transparent bag of chocolate goodies lay in front of each individual table setting.

The nearby main fireplace was decorated with a huge Mahonia Star, an escapee from our President's Garden.

To my surprise it seemed quite difficult to get our members to their tables. Greeting friends old and new, plus gossip about the events of 2008 had claimed their attention.

Once we were seated, our carol singing began - tentatively at first, but soon we were in good voice. The able leadership of David and Ros Lancaster developed our vigour and warmed our spirits, in readiness for the advance to Christmas.



A welcome feature of the evening was the arrival of twelve choristers from the Cathedral Choir. Spencer Mitchell, one of our members, was a familiar face among them. Waltraud Jarrold as our president greeted them warmly and we relished their precise and fulfilling gift of a programme of Carols. We enjoyed poetry readings too, which were well chosen and thoughtful. One of those readings came from Christa Wood, whose careful preparations for the event were once more to see a successful outcome. Among her supporters was her husband, Colin, whose big reputation as a top-drawer slicer of 'Weihnachtsstollen' was seen to grow again.

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Our evening of fellowship started the Christmas season in fine style.

We were reminded to remember the grace and spirit of the season.

We left the Great hospital in good humour, thankful to the team who had made this cheerful occasion so full of goodwill.



Pictures: Waltraud Jarrold and Spencer Mitchell and the Choristers from the Cathedral Choir.

A donation of £100.00 for the Cathedral Funds was handed to the Cathedral Choir as every year.

The **A.G.M.** on Friday, 13th February 2009 at County Hall was yet again a good start for the NNKFA year. Once the formalities of the evening were concluded, our members enjoyed meeting again and talking together. Refreshments were very kindly provided by certain members and co-ordinated by Christa Wood. We can't thank her enough for all the hard work she puts into these events which extends to lugging water urns to shifting furniture !!!!!!!!!

Details of NNKFA EVENTS

June, 18th to 21st

Koblenz Freundschaftskreis visiting Norwich

June, Saturday 20th

NNKFA joint Summer Outing with FKN e.V. to Burghley House

September, Sunday 13th

Anniversary Lunch at Park Farm Hotel, Hethersett

September, Tuesday 22nd to Sunday 27th

NNKFA Visit to Koblenz

November, Monday 30th

Advent Evening at the Birkbeck Hall, Great Hospital, Bishopgate

Summer Outing to Burghley House 20th June 2009



Burghley House is situated near Stamford. It is a magnificent building set in a beautiful landscape. Work on the building began in the year 1555 and continued over the following 32 years. It was then enlarged and altered over the years by subsequent owners with each generation adding more treasures. Our visit will take you through 18 rooms filled with won-



derful artefacts and paintings.

A 33 seater coach has been hired. The cost for coach travel is £14.50 p.p. Entry charge to Burghley House is £9.50 p.p. **Total expense £24.00 p.p.**

If you are a member of the Historic Houses Association entry to the house would be £0.00.

The coach will leave Notcutts at 9.00am sharp.

Your car may be left at your own risk at Notcutts for the day (FOC - as the NNNKA will give a donation towards Notcutts' favourite charity) Reply slip attached.



Visit to Koblenz 22nd to 27th September 2009



Plans for the trip to Koblenz are well in hand. A 49-seater Spratts Coach has been booked and the route will be by ferry from Dover to Calais. We are leaving Notcutts at 7.15am sharp to catch the 12noon ferry.



The Hotel House Morjan is our venue again. 9 single and 6 double rooms have been booked. Some people may wish to make private arrangements to stay with friends.

Bookings for the Hotel will be strictly on a 'first come, first served', basis.

Please note that tea and coffee making facilities are NOT provided in German Hotels. If you like a hot drink in your room, it would be advisable to take your own small travel kettle and mug, plus tea and coffee, a spoon and whatever else you need. Don't forget a Continental Plug Converter. Coach travel makes carrying extra items quite easy.

The Hotel Haus Morjan has a superb position on the banks of the Rhine with magnificent views to the Fortress Ehrenbreitstein. The cost of coach travel is £135.00 p.p. which includes all coach journeys made in Germany.

The hotel room costs are **Euros 95** double and **Euros 60** single and include a good breakfast. Bills will have to be paid directly to the hotel.



Double Bedroom at the MORJAN

A non-refundable deposit of £ 25.00 p.p. should reach Christa Wood by 30th April 2009.

You may leave your car at your own risk at Notcutts for the duration of the visit (free of charge).

The NNKFA will give a donation to Notcutts' favourite Charity. Reply slip attached.

Diocesan Visit from Koblenz 11th to 14th June 2009

The link between the churches of Norwich and Koblenz continues to flourish and 17 people from Koblenz Mitte group of churches are visiting Norwich this year. This will include a service at Holy Trinity Church (off Unthank Road) on the Sunday @ 10.00 am.

Members of the Koblenz Freundschaftskreis will join us for the Summer Outing. Their visit is very short. They arrive on Thursday 18th June and leave again on Sunday 21st June. Following the visit to Burghley the Koblenz Visitors will stay overnight in the Peterborough area



'Feed the Minds Book Fair' will be held from 8th to 11th July 2009.

We are always looking for volunteers. If you would like to help in any way, please contact Waltraud Jarrold on 01603 454799.

The DUaM Group continues to flourish.

We are meeting on Wednesday mornings at Waltraud Jarrold's home, 'Moselle', and when she is away, at other members homes. This is a mixed nationality group and a good opportunity to get together and may be practise some German?. (Knowledge of the German language is not essential.)



PLEASE REMEMBER TO BOOK ALL EVENTS

AS SOON AS POSSIBLE

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NNKFA Summer Outing to Burghley House, Saturday 20th June 2009

I/We would likeplaces for the outing to Burghley House

NNKFA Members Coach (33-seater) £ 14.50 per person (non NNKFA £ 19.50)
 NNKFA Members Entry to Burghley House £ 9.50 per person

Total cost £ 24.00 per person (non NNKFA £ 29.00)

If you are a member of the Historic Houses Association, entry to the house is £0.00. (Don't forget to bring your Membership card)

Please make **cheques payable to NNKFA** and send to: **Mrs Christa Wood, 43 Eaton Street, Norwich NR4 7LD** to arrive no later than **16th May 2009**.

Name(s).....Date.....

Telephone Number.....Signature(s).....

NNKFA Visit to KOBLENZ , Tuesday 22nd to Sunday 29th September 2009

I/We would like to book.....places for the trip to Koblenz.

NNKFA Members Coach (49-seater) **£ 135.00 per person** (non NNKFA £155.00)

Deposit(s) of £ 25.00 per person enclosed (non refundable)

Please make **cheque(s) payable to NNKFA** and send to: **Mrs Christa Wood, 43 Eaton Street, Norwich NR4 7LD** to arrive by **30th April 2009** latest.

Name(s).....Date.....

Telephone Number.....Signature(s).....

And, for those of you who haven't yet renewed , here is another membership application form.

NNKFA Annual Membership Subscription Renewal Form

I/We wish to apply for membership renewal.

The subscription is currently £ 5.00 per adult member and is due on 1st February.

Name(s):Date.....

Address:

Telephone:Signature(s).....

Please make **cheque(s) payable to NNKFA** and send to:
Miss Mavis Wesley, 68 The Cedars, Albemarle Road, Norwich NR2 2EF to arrive as soon as possible please