

THE NORFOLK & NORWICH NOVI SAD ASSOCIATION

Report to Twinning Committee. 2 October 2008

The Association continues to emphasise its role in developing meaningful twinning links.

We are please to report on the success of the concert given jointly by music students from Novi Sad and music students from Norwich and Norfolk.

Working with the Norfolk Music Service and the Isidor Bajić Music School in Novi Sad proved to be most successful and it is anticipated that this contact and cooperation will lead to a regular exchange of students to and from both cities.

The young people from Norwich acted as hosts to the visitors. They developed a closer understanding of the positive and evolving situation in Novi Sad in particular and Serbia in General.

The visitors from Novi Sad experienced a week of continuing wonderment and their visits to London, Southwold and Holkham gave them much to think about.

The value of this exchange exercise is proved in the experience of one of the young visitors who, at the age of 17, has never been further than Belgrade. It was reported that he was quite terrified of going into an aero plane!

To widen the experience of just this one person has proved the exercise worthwhile.

The support of the Twinning Committee contributed greatly to the success of the occasion.

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The Norfolk & Norwich Novi Sad Association

Dedicated to Friendship

Just over half way through the year and there have been several Association activities that have proved to be very successful.

The visit to Novi Sad with an extended visit to Hungary in May/June and two 'local' social events—the 'Big Dog' ferry trip to Geldesdon Lock on the 1st July and the 'Great Yarmouth heritage Walk on July 17th.

The rest of the year seems to be full of other important events not least of which is the visit to Norwich of young music students from Novi Sad. The association is organising a concert in which these youngsters will perform with Norwich/Norfolk music students.

Other things of great import have been happening in Novi Sad with a very close connection to Norwich and Norfolk..

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Stars of the future?

The Idea.

For many years the Committee has been trying to re-establish contact between pupils and educational establishments in both Novi Sad and Norwich.

At one time there was an annual educational exchange between the two cities — one year there, one year here.

With changing circumstances in the educational organisation of both cities this exchange stopped.

The Committee is, therefore, delighted to announce that a contact, involving music, has been established

The Young Musicians

In cooperation with the Isidor Bajić Music School in Novi Sad and the Norfolk Schools' Music Service the Association is arranging a concert in September.

Three young musicians from Novi Sad and four young musicians from Norwich/Norfolk will be perform-

ing individually and in groups.

The young musicians from Norwich/Norfolk will act as hosts for the visitors and there will be an opportunity for them to see something of Norwich and Norfolk.

The enthusiasm that this visit has engendered is such that already there is talk of a return visit of some sort to Novi Sad.

The Programme

The programme of music is being planned and it is hoped that there will be an opportunity for musicians from both cities to perform together.

Although the final programme is far from settled at the moment music may well be selected from the following composers:

Andrew Arvin

Malcolm Arnold

Fredrick Chopin

Gaetano Donizetti

Eernesto Köhler

Franz Liszt

Dimitrij Schostakovich

And others

The Committee are looking forward to a very successful concert for the young musicians and hope there will be an audience of a size that will make the journey from Novi Sad and the work put in by the musicians worth while.

The Concert

The Norfolk & Norwich Novi Sad Association and the Norfolk Music Service will present

Stars of the Future.

A chamber music concert to be given by young musicians from Norwich and Norwich's twin city of Novi Sad

On Saturday 20th September at 7.30 pm at St. Thomas's Church, Earlham Road, Norwich.

Ticket will be available on the door but you may wish to purchase you tickets in advance.

Tickets are £6.00 (£4.00 students) and are available from our very reliable Social Secretary Wendy Quinn, 6 College Road, Norwich NR2 3JJ

Visit to Novi Sad Spring 2008

As with previous visits to Novi Sad the visit this year seemed to be dominated by overwhelming hospitality that seemed to manifest itself mainly in the super abundance of good food.

Such is this overall impression it is easy to lose sight of the fascinating and comprehensive programme arranged by Diana and Peter.

This year's 'theme' based loosely on the Roman and Byzantine period took the party to many interesting sights and places in Vojvodina and beyond.

As in previous years the group were welcomed at 'City Hall'. There is always a great interest in the Association and its activities in relation to fostering good relationships between the citizens of both cities. This meeting is always reported well in the press and on television.

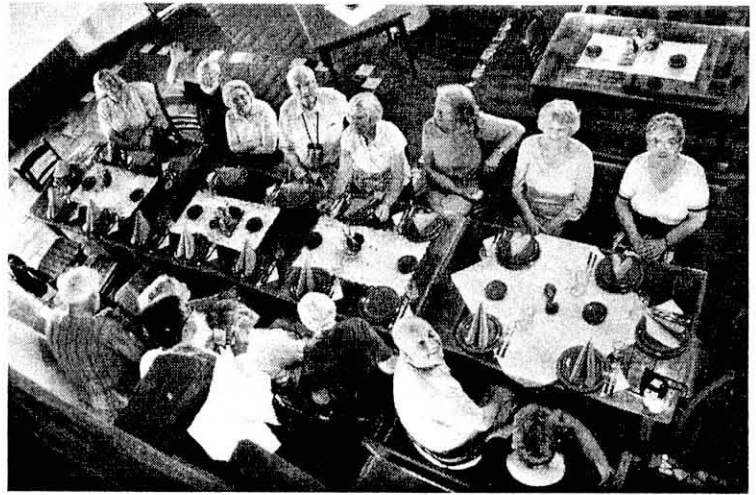
No visit to Novi Sad is ever complete without a visit to some of the local (and outlying) monasteries. They remain fascinating to those who have visited them many times. The progress of rebuilding and decorating that has gone on over the years is very impressive and to those who visit them for the first time they are a source of wonder and astonishment..

This year the day spent in Belgrade included a trip on the rivers Sava and Danube proved to be a very good way of seeing the development and history of this Balkan city from a different perspective. The dominance of the Kalemegdan fortress over the confluence of the two rivers and its command over the region can be really appreciated from 'river level'.

Those who were able to stay on for a few



The survivors in Hungary at Eger enjoying a well earned rest with Aphrodite



Members of the group about to demolish the next round of food at the Ethnic House near Šabac.

more days spent a very interesting time 'over the border' in Hungary.

An evening boat trip on the Danube through Budapest with the city 'all lit up' lived up to all the tourist publicity and the time spent in the capital proved to be of great interest.

However, the group felt more comfortable visiting and staying in the countryside at Eger. It was interesting, but not surprising, to note the similarities between some parts of Hungary and Vojvodina.

The Milan Petrović School.

During the time spent in Novi Sad the group visited the Milan Petrović School. This is a permanent part of the programme.

As always the visit to the school is not complete without delivering some material for the workshops.

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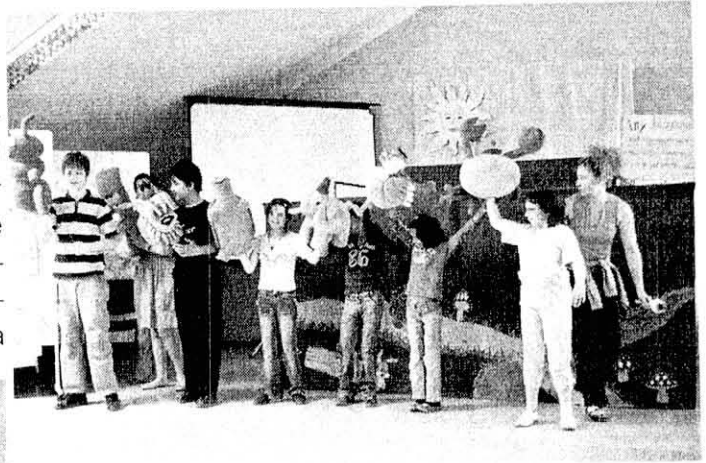


V. Chair Doug Underwood and Soc. Sec Wendy Quinn with eager hands unpacking wool for the weaving workshop.

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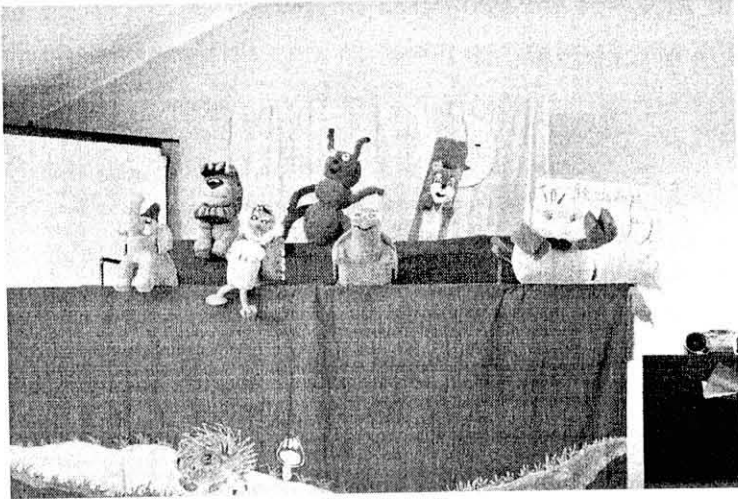
There was also the opportunity for Doug to present to Sklavica Marković, the Director, the proceeds of the Paul Cross Memorial Concert held in January. This gift of £1,500 was raised to fund the 'sensory green area' in the school.

The children at the school put on a specially rehearsed 'presentation' for the visitors. The children, with collective multiple hand-caps, performed a



The Performers

delightful adaptation of a traditional story using glove puppets of their own making. The children were word-perfect and delighted in their own performance. It was evident that a lot of hard work by both staff and pupils had contributed to this.



The play

NEWS FROM NOVI SAD

The Exit Festival

The Exit Music Festival was again a very big success with, as in previous years, a very large contingent of visitors from the UK.

The link between Novi Sad and Norwich was further strengthened by two bands from Norwich performing there - The Neutrinos and Halfway Hero.

A local Norwich Radio station 'Future Radio' sent a member of their team to Novi Sad to report on the event. They were, of course, favourably impressed by the people and the City.

Several of the younger visitors enjoyed being interviewed by the press and television.

This twinning link between the two cities continues to grow.

The Art Exhibition

The Norwich Twenty Group of Artists had a display of their work exhibited in Novi sad.

This was part of a travelling exhibition that visited the Norwich's twin towns.

The exhibition and two of the Norwich Artists were very well received. The work being considered of great importance as a contribution to the art scene of Novi Sad where it was very well displayed and the artists being considered great ambassadors for Norwich.

Those who attended the Exit Festival and the artists from the Twenty Group all spoke of the considerable hospitality they had experienced. And the genuine pleasure people expressed in having people from Norwich to visit.

Novi Sad Theological College

Every year for some years now Waultroud Jarrold, one of our members who is best known as President of the Norfolk & Norwich/Koblenz and District Twinning Association, has been much involved with an annual book sale in support of 'Feed the Minds'.

In the past they have supported the Ecumenical Humanitarian Organisation of Novi Sad with books and printing projects.

The Novi Sad Theological College, which prepares students for full time ordained ministry, is seen by 'Feed the Minds' as an institute in need of books and materials and it is hoped a collection of appropriate books will be sent to the College soon.



Dedicated to Friendship

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The Association exists to promote informal links between people and organisations 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 organisation dedicated to furthering friendship between the two cities.

Chairman: John Jennings,
5, Big Back Lane, Chedgrave,
Norwich. NR14 6BH

Treasurer: Jack Brooksbank,
8, Glenalmond,
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President : The Lord Mayor of Norwich

Committee members:

Doug Underwood (Vice Chairman); Diana Beckley (International Secretary); Wendy Quinn (Social Secretary); Heather Ashmore (Minutes Secretary); Brenda Moffitt (Concert Sub Committee); Ken Lock (Sub Committees); Caroline Lock (Sub Committees).

The Big Dog Ferry and the Great Yarmouth Heritage Walk

These two Summer events proved to be both popular and successful

On Tuesday 1st July members enjoyed a hot, sunny trip on the Big Dog Ferry to completing a round trip (45 minutes each way) from Becles to Geldeston Locks Inn for a Pub Lunch.

The meal was enjoyable and welcome as were the delights of the River Waveny and its wildlife en route.

enjoy the Great Yarmouth Heritage Walk.



Heritage Walk Group being interested and informed

able to add to their bank of information about Great Yarmouth

Both groups thought their experience is worth repeating.

Future Event

The next big event is, of course the Annual Luncheon. This will be at the Park Farm Hotel, Hethersett, Norwich on Sunday 12th October.

More details, choice of menu and booking form will

be with members soon.

On Thursday 17th July a determined group braved the wet to

The knowledgeable guide made the whole event one of great interest and the group was