

The Norfolk & Norwich Novi Sad Association

Dedicated to Friendship

POST ROOM

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CORPORATE RESOURCES

This supplement is a detailed report on the significant events of the year so far in relation to the 50th Anniversary celebrations.

Visit of Delegation to Norwich from Novi Sad

It is, perhaps, worth repeating here a section of the declaration of Friendship between Norwich and Novi Sad signed in October 1989:

"The signing of this document witnesses our solemn intention and pledge to continue to maintain and foster links between our Cities by encouraging exchanges between our citizens, in particular between young people: by the regular exchange of news, information and opinions, and the giving of mutual assistance in administrative and technical fields of local government"

The civic party from Novi Sad consisted of the President of the City Assembly, Mr Aleksandar Jovanović and the Deputy Head of the Presidents Office, Mrs. Dubravka Bugarski-Alimpić.

Accompanying them were Prof. Dr. Đorđe Janjić, Chairman of the Novi Sad/Norwich Association; Mr. Lazar Stričević, Committee member of the Novi Sad/Norwich Association and Mr. Dragoslav Klisura, Head of the Novi Sad Fire Service.

During the time the Delegation were in Norwich the Norwich Churches Novi Sad Group were acting as hosts to guests from the Ecumenical Humanitarian Organisation of Novi Sad. Vladislav Ivičiak, the Director and Eva Berenji, organiser of the Cancer Information Group of EHO

The Churches group had organised a comprehensive programme for them with visits to Norwich cancer support groups and other organisations. The visitors gained much from this and were able to take back to Novi Sad many ideas which they will be able to introduce to their own programmes.

The Civic party were subjected to a very full programme which they suffered gladly. Two of the visitors arrived in Norwich at 02.00 on 1st July and were up at 07.30 to go to the Royal Norfolk Show.

The visit to the Show was a great success and the programme arranged by Catherine Reynolds, Communications Officer of the Norwich Research Park, on behalf of the Show organisers, proved to be most productive.

The following, contained in a letter to the Show Organisers sums up the value of the visit:

"We were delighted to learn that the cooperative contact between the John Innes Institute and the Agricultural Research Institute of Novi Sad which was established many years ago was still 'going strong'. The cooperation between these two institutes has produced several new varieties of wheat and other small grains - mainly short staple and drought resistant. I think the Institute in Novi Sad is able to offer growing space for extensive field trials which are not possible here."

It was also of great benefit to meet representatives from the University of East Anglia. One member of the delegation, Mr. Lazar Stričević, a member of the University of Novi Sad, was able to present printed information about the University of Novi Sad and take away with him a similar amount about the University of East Anglia. There was also an exchange of contact details and it is hoped that a useful contact between the two universities will be established. If so, this will be of particular pleasure since past efforts have foundered for one reason or another. It would be particularly appropriate since both universities were founded in the same year.

The visitors were impressed by the variety of events and displays and there were those among the party who were able to cast and 'educated eye' over the livestock, horticulture (particularly roses), and to meet other professionals (Norfolk Fire Service)

The Novi Sad International Agricultural Fair is held every year in May. It is the biggest in Serbia and one of the most important agricultural fairs in Europe. There have been visitors from Norfolk to the Fair in the past – most notably Bernard Matthews when he was establishing a presence in Eastern Europe. His visit is still remembered. Our visitors brought with them information about the Fair (CDs).."

The following two days were filled with tours of the city and visits. Everyone who met the members of the Delegation were impressed by their interest in everything and their continued questioning.

The Association Reception, held by kind permission of and in cooperation with City Hall, provided an opportunity for a wide range of people and groups to meet. The Lord Mayor, Cll. Tom Dylan, as President, welcomed the Association's guests who included:

Mr. Branimir Filipović Minister Councillor and Deputy Ambassador from the Serbian Embassy.

The Delegation from Novi Sad

Chair of Norfolk County Council

Members of the Twinning Committee

Members of other Twinning Associations

Juliet Rickard of Norfolk Youth Orchestra

Members of Rotary Club Norwich

Members of 20 Group of Artists

Members of Norwich Churches Novi Sad Group and

their E.H.O. guests from Novi Sad

Representative from Norfolk fire Service.

Among over 40 members who attended were members from 'other parts' and included from London: Margaret Nicholson; Nemanja Subodinovic, and Edward Payne and from Belgrade: John & Ruzica White.

This event proved to be a very productive 'forum' for the exchange of information and the making of contacts.

A Civic Dinner was given in honour of the guests from Novi Sad which was hosted by the Lord Mayor. During the evening some very serious and 'in depth' conversations took place about the organisation and delivery of local government which was of benefit to hosts and guests alike.

Subsequent correspondence with Novi Sad has revealed how much the delegation enjoyed their visit and the value placed on the exchange of ideas and experiences.

Visit to Novi Sad

Earlier in the year the annual visit to Novi Sad by members of the Association took place. This event helps to keep personal contacts going and provides an opportunity for members who have not been to Novi Sad the experience of a Central European city and its peoples.

One of the most important functions of the visit is to go to the Milan Petrović School. The Chairman Mr. Doug Underwood presented the Principal, Slavica Marković with the proceeds of the Paul Cross Memorial Concert. This amounted to £1,500 and will go towards the purchase of equipment for the paper making workshop.

U.E.A.

Two members were pleased to host a student from Sombor. Aleksandra, who is at the University in Belgrade spent a week at the University of East Anglia on a Chinese Translation Course.