



KONTAKT Newsletter

August 2019

Norfolk & Norwich / Koblenz Friendship Association



"Understanding and Friendship" our motto.

Welcome to our 2019 August Edition, with the "Twinning Garden" a shining highlight.

Twinning Garden at All Saints Church, Westlegate.

This re-creation is truly a most welcome continuation of the original "Norwich Garden", one of six "Gardens of Friendship" created as part of the twinning contribution for the Bundes Gartenschau, BUGA, Federal Garden Show in Koblenz in 2011. All the Twin Cities were invited to create a garden representing their unique city character.

Norwich responded with a garden designed by George Ishmael, on behalf of "Friends of Norwich in Bloom," a garden with a theme of the city churches with a stunning "church window" sculpture in wood with stained glass designed and made by Sarah Bristow, a small pew and a lectern, with Norwich linked flower beds. This was a huge undertaking, which George and Chris Southgate installed in Koblenz, with dedicated planting by Jeanne Southgate.



Now a unique re-creation here in Norwich has been installed with the "Twinning Garden", representing all the Norwich Twin Cities (and Regions in some cases).

The stained glass panels have been put between panels of plain glass to protect them, and an extra glass panel has been added showing the twin cities logos, and those of the sponsors, with the Norwich in Bloom logo at the top. The 10th May was the "planting day" with chosen flowers representing each Twin City. Koblenz is represented by two grapevines from Waltraud's garden planted to climb up the structure from each side to meet on the top, as suggested by George Ishmael. Representative flowers are Norwich: Crocosmia, Rouen: Iris, Novi Sad: Sun Flower, El Viejo: Plumeria.



A most welcome surprise was the Fig Tree spotted, well established, nearby on the outer wall, completing the promise in Scripture (Micha 4.4) "and they shall live under their Vine and Fig Tree and none shall be afraid" truly a fitting verse for the unique Twinning Garden. The garden is also enhanced by a wooden garden bench donated by past Lord Mayor, Roy Blower and his wife Beryl. Roy, a true Norwich man and member of NNKFA, sadly passed away on May 26th.

The garden was opened on July 5th, by the Deputy Lord Mayor, in the presence of the Anglia in Bloom judges, who were in Norwich on this special day. Waltraud, as President of Norwich in Bloom, also spoke to welcome this unique Twinning Garden.

The AGM took place on Friday, March 15th 2019, in the Edwards Room at County Hall, and Jill Noble has provided this account.

There was a good attendance and Waltraud welcomed and thanked the Leader of Norfolk County Council, Cllr Margaret Stone and her husband Barry, and Cllr Roger Ryan from Norwich City Council who represented the Lord Mayor of Norwich, Cllr Vaughan Thomas. Before the meeting began, Cllr Margaret Stone walked round the room to greet each member of the Association personally. A gesture greatly appreciated.

In recent years, after the business part of the evening, we have had a guest item. This year we were pleased to welcome Waltraud's sister, Siglinde Krumme, who had arrived from Koblenz earlier in the day, with members and friends of the Koblenz Musik Institut Choir, who spoke to us after the formal part of the meeting.



Siglinde emphasised the need for, and positive benefits of friendship and understanding between our two cities, which are needed more than ever in the present uncertain situation as the country moves towards leaving the EU.

Siglinde summed up her feelings with a beautiful and heart felt recitation of the poem "Daffodils" by William Wordsworth. She had been inspired to do so after walking round Waltraud and Richard's garden earlier in the day. We sat spellbound as Siglinde recited the complete poem in perfect English!

The evening finished with refreshments kindly supplied by members of the Association.

Norwich Philharmonic Choir and Orchestra and Koblenz Musik Institut Choir held their bi-annual joint concert on Saturday March 16, "Verdi Requiem" with a full audience in the St. Andrews Hall. A very high standard, radiating true friendship – too brief the visit, returning on Sunday already, but the memory shines on.

NNKFA Summer Outing Saturday 15th June 2019

Report by Christopher Mallett. Photos by Rachel Mallett.

First, I would like to say thank you to Sandra Sheppard for the organising of the day. Sandra had written to at least two stately homes from which she had received no reply. Consequently it was suggested a trip on the Bure Valley Railway from Aylsham, followed by a boat trip from Wroxham, with a return railway trip to Aylsham and a celebrated afternoon tea. Andrew and his wife Susan form the professional and friendly management team of the Bure Valley Railway and are supported by a group of volunteers, including John Sheppard, who is the Chairman of the Friends of the Railway.



Every effort by the volunteers on the Bure Valley Railway was made to ensure the safety and comfort of their passengers. Much of this related to the careful planning by Sandra and Susan to ensure that there were appropriate facilities for everyone, which included wheelchair-friendly carriages plus a taxi journey at Wroxham.

It would appear a childhood enthusiasm for the travelling on a steam train was evident, as everyone had arrived early!

We travelled by steam train to Wroxham through the beautiful undulating Norfolk countryside. The crops of sugar beet, potatoes and spring wheat had benefited from the recent rain, in contrast to the ripening winter barley, where much had been devastatingly flattened by the rain, which will increase the difficulty in its harvesting.



On arrival at the berth of the 'Belle of the Broads', we were welcomed, first by Sandra, in the handing out of the yellow disc (boarding card/ticket) and subsequently by the crew. A boarding chair lift was activated for those in need, prior to those in the rest of the party. The captain gave a very interesting commentary on the various waterfront houses, the coppiced alder trees and also the wildlife, pointing out a white-crested grebe and chick, plus two swans with a very young cygnet.



Additionally, the captain indicated various boats and rivercraft, including one of five original working wherries and two pleasure wherries. Further attention was drawn to the small sailing boats, which were being used for teaching the craft of sailing to young people. We sailed on the River Bure and visited both Wroxham and Salhouse Broads. The proliferation of water lilies at the side of the river indicated how much cleaner the river was now than its polluted period of the 60s, 70s and 80s.



Although there were a few clouds in the sky, we enjoyed a sunny voyage and the shower held off until we had boarded the train for the return trip to Aylsham, where the sun was shining again on arrival for our delicious afternoon tea, organised and provided by Susan, and her team. After tea, Andrew, the owner of the Bure Valley Railway, gave a very interesting talk about the creation of the railway, its turbulent history and its present-day success as a major tourist attraction for the area and the UK.



Waltraud thanked Andrew Barnes for his talk.

Thank you Sandra and John for a very enjoyable, interesting and informative Summer Outing!



Feed the Minds 50th Book Fair was held again at St. Andrews Church

We had been helped the previous Friday by a "Living Chain" of students learning English, from Holy Trinity Church, to get the donated books into the Church, with on the Monday and Tuesday preparing and then on Wednesday 10th July the Opening by The Lord Mayor, Councillor Vaughan Thomas attended by the Lady Mayoress and the Sheriff Dr. Marian Prinsley with her husband, who extended their originally planned stay with us. We are very grateful to members and all others, who helped us. We raised £1750, which will be used in the Mara Region of Tanzania, where FTM is training Church leaders to help break the stigma of HIV/Aids.

DUaM continues to meet weekly on Wednesday mornings with growing numbers, enjoying conversation, mainly in German together and makes annual donations to FTM and Meningitis Now.

Autumn Programme 2019

September 4 - 11 Koblenz Bi-Annual Visit 2019.

A group of 28 members will be visiting Koblenz. The programme will include a reception by the Oberbürgermeister, a visit to Sayn to see the recently restored Sayner Hutte, a former steelworks building, our link with Ironbridge, which is an architectural masterpiece, and the Butterfly Park, a visit to Winningen for the Wine Festival, a tractor ride through the vineyards and the Fireworks over the Mosel, and a visit to Trier.

September 22: 39th Anniversary Lunch at Park Farm, Hethersett

December 2: NNKFA Advent Evening at the Great Hospital, Norwich.

Jugend und Jazz Chor Koblenz :

We are still looking for a link for this choir of young voices who entertained us so well at the 40th Anniversary Celebrations of the City Twinning of Norwich and Koblenz, in the Rathaus in Koblenz in April last year.

More than ever we need to grow Twinning connections as the Uk separates itself from the European Union. An example of ties between cities is Triorca, a combined Youth Orchestra between Norwich, Koblenz and Novi Sad.

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