

# KONTAKT Newsletter

August 2014

**NORFOLK & NORWICH / KOBLENZ FRIENDSHIP ASSOCIATION**



Welcome to the August edition of Kontakt

## A.G.M. March 14th at County Hall



We were pleased to welcome the Chairman of Norfolk County Council, Councillor Hilary Cox and the Lord Mayor of Norwich, Councillor Keith Driver to the AGM.

Waltraud opened the meeting with a warm welcome to

everybody. She expressed our thanks to Hilary Cox for the generous support we receive from N.C.C. in providing the venue free of charge for our meeting.

The business part of the evening followed the usual format and then we were able to enjoy the buffet supper, provided by members of the DUaM group, and a social time together. We thank to Christa Wood for organising the refreshments and Alan Taylor for a splendid slide show..

## Summer Outing to Anglesey Abbey, Cambridgeshire June 14th.



*Anglesey Abbey*

At 10.00 am sharp, with the timelines and precision so characteristic of the NNKFA, we set off from Notcutt's in one of Spratts new and very comfortable Mercedes Benz coaches, driven by Andy Patterson, our valued honorary member.

One hour and twenty minutes later saw us arrive at Lode, 5 miles from Cambridge. There was rain as we drove but when we arrived it had cleared away. It was a busy day at the Abbey, aided by weather that had become warm but not hot. John Sheppard quickly bought tickets for those of us not National Trust members so we could get into the cool gardens and wander up to the house.

Dating from the 12th century there is no longer any trace of its religious origins and its present form results from its purchase in 1926 by two brothers with an interest in the horse racing at Newmarket. In 1930 it became the sole property of the eldest brother, Huttleston, who by then had become Baron Fairhaven. He set about converting and furnishing the house making it his lifetime's work. He had a keen appreciation of art and a fine eye for all artefacts of quality and, unconstrained financially with his inheritance and mother's backing, he was able to indulge





these gifts and create a personal living museum.

American by birth spending the latter part of his teenage years at Harrow after his parents moved to Britain and serving in the Lifeguards during the First World War he seems to have fully absorbed the British elite culture of the time. He was disciplined, tough and very reserved – but his servants apparently liked him.



There was a strong pedantic element to his life (which the National Trust continues by ensuring that all visitors wear plastic overshoes before entering the house). He required strict timekeeping in his daily schedule and the house has more than 30 clocks; not any old timepieces but each a splendid and fascinating example of its own time. The daily duty of the housekeeper in checking, setting and winding the clocks was itself an important time-consuming task. All household activities followed a precise schedule; not just mealtimes and bed-making, but at 4.00 pm the second chauffeur had to drive to Cambridge to collect the evening paper, and the dinner had to be completed by 9.00 pm for then the butler brought the radio into the dining room so that Lord Fairhaven could listen to the evening news.



He entertained, for he had strong social links and was active in the community, serving in the Home Guard and as a JP, yet he never had more than three guests at one time (he disliked intemperate chatter). The dining room though was permanently laid with four places, even when he breakfasted alone.



Guests included the Queen Mother and Princess Margaret as well as other lesser royalty. The bedroom that the Queen Mother slept in has been preserved and has a curiously mundane look to it. But such guests left their mark in other ways, especially on the library windows where signatures have been scratched into the glass. There are two of Princess Margaret's. It is said that she stood on a stool for the second one to ensure that hers was the highest!



Delightful and fascinating though the house and its contents are (and one could happily spend a whole day examining them) the gardens deserve almost as much time. They are more than extensive, including a stream on which there stands an eighteenth century mill now reconstituted and put back into working order and making flour that visitors may buy (we did). The mill staff were remarkably chatty and I spent several minutes debating with the miller which pub the lawyers from the Norwich courts now attend (he used to work there as a policeman!). The ladders up to the top level are not for those with faint hearts!



And I must not forget to say, in my opinion, that the dining and toilet facilities at the Abbey entrance were first class and that the quality and politeness of the guides and the staff generally were notably better than at other NT properties I have visited.

And so back to the coach for our return - again dead on time. Well done everybody – and Andy!

*Michael Salt.*



## Triorca linked Concert July 6th

Metamorphosen – Sound of Harmony

This concert was performed in the Presbytery of Norwich Cathedral to mark the bombing of Koblenz and Norwich in the Second World War, and the later bombing and destruction of bridges in Novi Sad, during the Balkans Conflict. Whilst remembering the destruction and suffering of the past, we give thanks for the peace today and the linking of our three cities in friendship.

The idea for the concert came from a conversation between Waltraud and Chris Lawrence (who together with Ben Lowe, Anne Vallins and Ben Payne formed the Cavick Players in 2008). The Cavick Players were joined by the Guastalla Quartet from London.

Three young Triorca players from Koblenz, two from Novi Sad and one from Norwich School, were invited to play in this concert. It was well attended and was a memorable and moving experience. The presbytery has a unique atmosphere and acoustic, which on this occasion was enhanced by the sound of harmony from the skilful playing of the orchestra. The conductor was Ed Farmer, and contributed to a memorable event.

## Feed the Minds Book Fair, June 18th – 21st

Mayor Making preceded the Book Fair, and so the new Lord Mayor, Councillor Judith Lubbock, accompanied by the Sheriff, William Armstrong, and their consorts, graciously opened the 44th Book Fair (also the 50th anniversary of Feed the Minds). The grand total raised was £1500. This was enhanced by a donation of £500 from the John Jarrold Trust.

Many thanks to all who helped throughout the Book Fair, including NNKFA members.

## 20 Group Exhibition, March 18th

The 20 Group of artists celebrated their 70th anniversary this year. They have a strong link with the AKM Group of artists in Koblenz and Mittelrhein.

**Rotary Clubs Norwich and Koblenz Ehrenbreitstein** celebrated 25 years of their twinning link, marking the occasion by a week end meeting in Brussels at the end of May. Waltraud and Richard travelled on to Winingen and were please to meet **Ingrid and Günter Hahn** one evening.



**Siglinde Krumme**, Waltraud's sister, was awarded the Verdienstkreuz, der Bundesrepublik Deutschland, for her literary and cultural contributions and we give her our warm congratulatulations..



**Norwich and District Photographic Society and Foto Club Koblenz** held their joint photographic exhibition in the Hostry at Norwich Cathedral in July. The Hostry affords an excellent exhibition space and the wide variety of photos were displayed to their advantage. The NNKFA trophy was awarded to Herbert Franke for his photo of the Guggenheim Museum in Bilbao.

**Condolences.** We are sorry to report that three of our members have passed away.

**Stan Burn.** Stan and his wife Pam were stalwarts at the Book Fair every year. We missed them very much this year.

**Margaret Crisp** was a long standing member of NNKFA. She attended DUaM regularly and spoke excellent German. Margaret spent the final months of her life in Olive House, Newton Flotman, and was collected on a regular basis for DUaM on Wednesday mornings, so that she could enjoy Waltraud's hospitality and the company of her friends.

**Vivienne Johnson.** Vivienne was a former Maths teacher and Deputy Head at Norwich High School for Girls. She moved to Northampton to be near her family, but her funeral was held at St. Peter Mancroft in Norwich.



## Churches Group visit to Koblenz July 10th – 14th.



*Churches arrive Koblenz*



*At Stolzenfels*



*Organ Recital Florinskirche*



*Sunday Morning*



*Entertained by Carmen Lamsfuss*



*Great Pizzas*

A group of 12 from the Norwich Diocese visited Koblenz, as part of regular exchange visits, organised by Canon Barry Oake, Vicar of Thorpe St. Andrew and Pfarrarin Carmen Lamsfuss from Koblenz. The group were entertained by the churches in Koblenz, and

included visits to a hospital, and its recently opened care home and the monastery at Maria Laach, as well as a service at the Old Catholic (protestant) church, who also entertained the members for lunch. Waltraud, Jill and Richard were part of the group.



*Arno Herz HWK . AKU*

**Radio Hams Link** continues to have regular links over the airwaves. We welcomed the participation of Arno Herz, the very active radio ham, who has enhanced the HWK apprentice exchange link with the City College Norwich by the addition of AKU (Skilled Business Management) as well as the special focus on UNIMUS (Koblenz University Music).

## Dates for your Diary

Sunday, September 14th  
Monday, December 1st

Birthday Lunch at Park Farm, Hethersett.  
Advent Evening at Great Hospital