No. 176 January 2026

NEWSLETTER

The Norfolk and Norwich Novi Sad Association

Dedicated to Friendship

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

From the Chair

Our Association is a little bit different from the other Twinning Groups in so much as we have members from Wales, London, Devon, Suffolk, Oxfordshire, Hertfordshire, Belgrade and Norfolk. This is because some of these members were members of the former Yugoslav Society. It is great to have them but, in some cases, I have never met them although I have corresponded with them on several occasions. It was good, therefore, that I was able to meet one member from London at out annual lunch in 2025.

Your Committee is already planning this year's events. Our A.G.M. will be on Monday, 16th March at 7.30 pm. Our concert is on 13th June and our annual lunch is on the 11th October. Please put these dates in your diaries. We need our members to support these, especially our concert, which raises funds for the Milan Petrović school.

An important reminder. **The 2026 subscriptions are now due.** If members would kindly pay as soon as possible their membership cards can then be sent out with the A.G.M. papers, which saves postage.

This time I want to talk about the Petrovaradin Fortress in Novi Sad. This is one of the largest fortresses in Europe. It was built and sometimes rebuilt between 1692-1780. Covering an area of 112 hectares, it has 13 gates and 16km of underground passages on four levels. It was considered unconquerable because of its thick walls and the 400 cannons it housed. The clock tower is unique as the big hand tells the hours and the little hand the minutes - so the boatman on the Danube could see the time from a long distance.

Doug Underwood (Chair NNNSA)

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2026 AGM. 16.03.26. 7:30pm.

2026 Concert. 13.06.26. 7:00pm.

2026 Annual Lunch. 11.10.26.

The Norfolk and Norwich Novi Sad Association
President: The Lord Mayor of Norwich
Vice President: Chair, Norfolk County Council

Greetings from the 'Milan Petrović' School

We were delighted to receive this lovely Christmas card from the school a few weeks ago. It followed on from an article and photos reporting on the year at the Elementary and Secondary Boarding school. It was sent by our friend, Sanja Kekic, Manager at the school, and we are very pleased to share this with everybody.

May the New Year bring us all lots of inspiration
and exciting opportunities.
Here's to another year of successful cooperation,
friendship and achieving great goals together.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Elementary and Secondary Boarding School **"Milan Petrovic"**
Serbia - 21000 Novi Sad, Brace Ribnikar 32
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The Year of Inclusive Cooperation

The end of the calendar year is usually a time for reflection and for contemplating once again what we have achieved and to what extent our plans have become a reality.

2025 was a peculiar year during which both our staff and pupils have been facing various challenges, but at its end we all feel that in the future we will remember it as a year of inclusive cooperation.

Five major international projects, lasting from one to three years, have been performed. By the end of December, they will have all come to a fruitful end.

All the projects have social inclusion at its core as we feel that it is essential for building a fair, compassionate, and equal opportunities society, providing our pupils and beneficiaries with better access to education, community activities, and meaningful social interactions.

The project **Design for All in Education for an Inclusive World of Work** focuses on empowering professionals who support persons with disabilities, developing inclusive volunteering programs, strengthening international cooperation, and creating a digital platform for education and content exchange. Partners from Serbia and Italy jointly implemented activities including institutional visits,

professional meetings, trainings, pilot volunteering programs, and the production of manuals, audiovisual materials, and a final conference.

Design for All

The **Be My Inclusive Partner** project aims to develop and expand opportunities for the inclusion of persons with developmental disabilities across various life stages and activities. By connecting organizations locally and internationally (Slovenia, Croatia, Serbia), the project has supported long-term inclusive practices and has contributed to participants' personal and professional growth. Continuous inclusive workshops brought together individuals with developmental disabilities and peers of different ages and abilities, covering social skills, communication, mental health, sports, leisure, art and key European priorities such as digital, green, and active participation.

Be My Inclusive Partner

The project **A Mile for Inclusion**, conducted with Slovenian partners, focused on exchanging practical experiences, comparing legislative frameworks, and exploring ways to improve special education and upbringing. Joint recommendations and an online manual were produced, supported by four exchange visits of students and teachers. The project ended with an online conference and a round table.

A Mile for Inclusion

Through **Building Inclusive School Settings**, together with partners from Slovenia and North Macedonia, we have been collaborating for nearly three years to strengthen school inclusiveness. Outcomes include questionnaire measuring institutional inclusiveness, focus-group guidelines, and a multilingual handbook.

Building Inclusive School Settings

Finally, **Sportism** promoted inclusion through sport for children and adolescents with ASD and intellectual or multiple disabilities. Implemented by five partners from Italy, Croatia, Serbia and Romania, it emphasized motor-skill development, provided professional training, engaged volunteers and produced three e-manuals.

Project Sportism

What urged us to get involved in so many demanding projects? The answer is simple. It is our strong belief that education and inclusion are inseparable. We deeply believe that true learning happens only when every child feels seen, valued and supported.

For children with disabilities, access to inclusive education opens pathways to academic growth, emotional well-being and active participation in community life. It ensures they are not just present in the classroom but engaged, empowered and contributing to the society. That should be the key goal of every individual involved in lives of children with disabilities.

Our donation to the School

Thanks to the generosity of our supporters, the extra funds raised by the 2025 Paul Cross Memorial Concert (see August Issue No.175) and Norwich City Council's grant, the Association has made a donation of £1000 to the School. The School has chosen to purchase much needed equipment, including anti-slip mats and co-ordination training equipment. Sanja writes '… thank you very much for the donation. It really means a lot to us. Warm regards to you all'.

2025 Annual Lunch

A lovely opportunity to get together with old and new friends

Cheese Pie (Pita od sira – Sirnica)

Hand on heart, we can say that this recipe, kindly provided by Dragana Kacavenda, comes with the highest approval rating from the NNNSA Committee!

Ingredients:

- Phyllo pastry sheets (500g)
- Cottage cheese (300g)
- Sour cream (200ml)
- Sunflower oil (5 tablespoons)
- 4 eggs
- Salt (1 teaspoon/ adjust as you like)

Instructions:

Mix all ingredients to prepare the cheese filling:

Crumble the cheese into a bowl.
Add the eggs, sour cream, and oil.
Adjust the salt.
Mix well.

Grease a baking tray. Place one sheet of phyllo at the bottom of the tray. Brush on a thin layer of oil, then spread the cheese filling over the sheet. Add another sheet of phyllo on top and repeat the process of brushing with oil and layering.

Use about three to four tablespoons of filling and spread evenly over the sheet, coating each sheet before adding the next layer. Repeat the process with phyllo, oil, coating, and filling layers until you run out of ingredients.

- Preheat the oven to 200 C
- Bake 30–40 minutes until golden

Typically served approximately 30 minutes after baking, but it can also be enjoyed cold or reheated.

Enjoy ☺

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Annual Lunch

Of the Norfolk & Norwich Novi Sad Association
Sunday 11th October 2026.

The Association will again hold the lunch at The George Hotel. 12 noon arrival for 12:30pm.

The cost of the two course Sunday lunch meal, including coffee, tea, mints and a non-alcoholic welcome drink, will be similar to that of last year.

Vegetarian and gluten free options are available.

An invitation letter with full details will be sent to all members well in advance of the date.

The 2025 meal was a very friendly event and we do hope many of you will come again this year.

The George Hotel
10 Arlington Lane
Newmarket Road
Norwich
NR2 2DA

NNNSA Membership.

We are always delighted when new people decide to join and support our Association. Do please encourage your family and friends to join. Please put them in touch with our Chair, Doug Underwood, or our Hon. Secretary, Rade Babovic.
Membership prices are £12 couple / £8 single and £5 student. This can be paid either by a cheque or, if at all possible, by a bank transfer to the following Account:
Account Number: 43300854. Sort code: 20-62-68. Barclays. Norfolk and Norwich Novi Sad Association. Please give your name as the reference. Thank you.

The Norfolk and Norwich Novi Sad Association

Chair: Doug Underwood. **Hon. Secretary:** Dr. Rade Babovic.

Vice Chair: David Fullman. **Treasurer:** Gaetano Piccolo.

Deputy Treasurer: Mark Kenney.

Committee Members: Wendy Quinn (Social Secretary). Cathy Piccolo (Sub Committees).

Heather Ashmore (Minutes Secretary). Imogen Beckley-Mobbs. Carole Kenney.