

Norfolk and Norwich Koblenz Friendship Association

Report to Twinning Committee June 14 2018

Congratulations and welcome to our new Lord Mayor, Councillor Martin Schmierer and Sheriff Ros Brown. Thanks to the Lord Mayor for opening the 49th Feed the Minds Book Fair yesterday, 13th June.

40th Anniversary of the Norwich Koblenz City Twinning



Since the March Twinning Committee our strong focus has been on the 40th anniversary of the cities twinning, which was signed on 22 April 1978, and celebrated in Koblenz on Sunday 22 April 2018, with an official reception hosted by the Oberbürgermeister, Prof. Dr. Joachim Hoffman-Göttig, in the historic Council Chamber with the then Lord Mayor of Norwich Councillor David Fulman and his consort Paul Goymer, myself and my husband Richard, and Chairman of NNKFA Jill Noble, as well as many twinning linked friends from Koblenz representing the whole spectrum of involved support. It was decided by the Oberbürgermeister to use English as the language for speeches.

The official programme most generously included the new publication by Günter Hahn "A Tale of Twin Cities", which he also used as the basis for his illustrated speech, marking 40 years of twinning. A welcoming speech was given by the Oberbürgermeister with a reply by Lord Mayor David Fulman, and speech by me marking some of the highlights of 40 years working together.

An official lunch followed the reception. All present agreed that it was more than ever important to keep twinning links going with Brexit taking place. During their visit the Lord Mayor and his consort, were shown round Koblenz, the Festung Ehrenbreitstein, the new library and audio visual displays of the Rhein and Koblenz in the Romanticum, both housed in their Forum Building, which was partly inspired by the visit of a former Oberbürgermeister to Norwich and seeing our Forum.

We do trust that all our existing links will continue to flourish and that City and County support will continue, supported by our rekindled Library and Norfolk archive link.

We are pleased that there is now progress in the placement of a **Twinning- Garden**, using some of the material from the Twinning Garden originally created for the German National Garden Show held in Koblenz in the summer of 2011. Thanks to Norwich in Bloom for moving this forward.

Triorca: Combined Youth Orchestra from Norwich and Norfolk, Koblenz Region and Novi Sad, will take place, based in Norwich from July 21-28, with a concert at "Open" on Friday 27 July, and at Saffron Walden on Saturday 28 July. "Music the language of the World" and this programme helps to enhance our Twinning in a most welcome way. We hope you will support it in every way possible!

Norwich Allotment Holders have started a new link with their opposite association in Koblenz, which seems to be flourishing.

Sponsored Cycle Ride from Koblenz to Norwich will leave Koblenz and be started from the "Deutsche Eck", where the Mosel joins the Rhine, by the new Oberbürgermeister, David Langner on Friday 24 August at 9.00 am. This 800 km bike ride is in aid of the Community Sports Foundation, based behind Norwich City Football Ground, off Carrow Road, which is also converting the former Anglian Sports Ground on the Cromer Road for wide sports use. The cyclists will call at various football grounds on their journey. Do look out for them arriving in Norwich.

Future Events

NNKFA Summer Outing will take place on Saturday 23 June, with a visit to Woburn Abbey. The 49 seat coach is already fully booked!

NNKFA Autumn Event. 38th Anniversary Lunch, Sunday 16 September at Park Farm, Hethersett.

NNKFA Winter Event Advent Evening at The Great Hospital, Monday 3 December.

Waltraud Jarrold MBE