

Twinning committee

Date: Thursday, 15 March 2018

Time: 16:00

Venue: Mancroft room, City Hall, St Peters Street, Norwich, NR2 1NH

Committee members:

Lord Mayor (ex officio) (chair)
Councillor Bremner (vice chair)
Councillor Brociek-Coulton
Councillor Maxwell
Councillor Peek
Councillor Raby
Councillor Ryan
Councillor Schmierer
Councillor Wright
Ralph Gayton (El Viejo)
Waltraud Jarrold (Koblenz)
Jill Noble (Koblenz)
Sandra Underwood (Novi Sad)
Doug Underwood (Novi Sad)
Chris Rowe (Rouen)
Chairman (Norfolk County Council)
(ex officio)

For further information please contact:

Committee officer: Jackie Rodger
t: (01603) 212033
e: jackierodger@norwich.gov.uk

Democratic services
City Hall
Norwich
NR2 1NH

www.norwich.gov.uk

Information for members of the public

Members of the public and the media have the right to attend meetings of full council, the cabinet and committees except where confidential information or exempt information is likely to be disclosed, and the meeting is therefore held in private.

For information about attending or speaking at meetings, please contact the committee officer above or refer to the council's website

Agenda

Page nos

1 Apologies

To receive apologies for absence

2 Public questions/petitions

To receive questions / petitions from the public

Please note that all questions must be received by the committee officer detailed on the front of the agenda by **10am on Monday, 12 March 2018**

Petitions must be received must be received by the committee officer detailed on the front of the agenda by **10am on Wednesday, 14 March 2018**

For guidance on submitting public questions or petitions please see appendix 1 of the council's constitution.

3 Declarations of interest

(Please note that it is the responsibility of individual members to declare an interest prior to the item if they arrive late for the meeting)

4 Minutes

5 - 10

To approve the accuracy of the minutes of the meeting held on 5 October 2017

5 Twinning Fund - Financial Position

11 - 12

Purpose - This report informs the committee of the income and expenditure of the committee in respect of twinning activities for the period of 22 September 2017 to 26 February 2018.

6 Reports of the Twinning Associations

To receive the reports from the twinning associations:

6(a)	Norfolk and Norwich Novi Sad Association	13 - 16
6(b)	Norfolk and Norwich - Koblenz Friendship Association	17 - 20
6(c)	Norfolk and Norwich El Viejo Friendship Link	21 - 24
6(d)	Norfolk and Norwich / Rouen Friendship Association (available at the meeting)	
7	Committee schedule 2018-19	25 - 26

Purpose - To agree the meeting schedule for twinning committee the 2018 to 2019 civic year.

Date of publication: **Thursday, 08 March 2018**

Twinning committee**16:00 to 17:05****5 October 2017**

Present: Councillors Fullman (Lord Mayor and chair), Bremner (vice chair), Peek, Raby, Schmierer and Wright; and Ralph Gayton (El Viejo), Waltraud Jarrold and Jill Noble (Koblenz); Sandra and Doug Underwood (Novi Sad) and Ann and Chris Rowe (Rouen) and Councillor John Ward (Chairman of Norfolk County Council)

Apologies: Councillors Maxwell and Ryan

1. Diana Beckley, MBE

The Lord Mayor referred to the sad news that Diana Beckley, MBE, had died and paid tribute to the contribution that she had made together with Peter, her husband, to the activities of the Norfolk and Norwich Novi Sad Association and the humanitarian support they had given to the people of Novi Sad in the 1990s.

As a mark of respect, a minutes silence was held.

2. Public questions/petitions

There were no public questions or petitions.

3. Declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest.

4. Minutes

RESOLVED to agree the accuracy of the minutes of the meeting held on 15 June 2017, subject to item 9, Reports of the Twinning Associations making the following amendments:

- (1) under the heading "The Norfolk and Norwich / Koblenz Friendship Association", making the following two amendments:
 - (a) first paragraph, first sentence, by deleting "Rouen" and replacing with "Koblenz";
 - (b) final paragraph by deleting "Norfolk and Norwich / Koblenz Friendship Association would celebrate 40 years" and replacing with "the twinning agreement between Koblenz and Norwich was signed 40 years ago";

- (2) under resolution (4) delete “Norfolk and Norwich / Koblenz Friendship Association” and replace with “the twinning agreement between Koblenz and Norwich”.

5. Twinning Fund – Financial Position

The committee officer explained that there were some outstanding financial commitments which would show in the figures at future meetings. She confirmed that she had not received any new proposals for grants and reminded members that they could apply for funding for twinning activities which would be considered at the next meeting.

Members were also advised that public liability insurance was provided by the council for the twinning associations. This did not cover travel abroad or services provided by a third party (where its insurance arrangements would apply).

RESOLVED, having considered the report of the director of business services, to note that the twinning fund closing balance (in hand) at 21 September 2017 is £3,299.69.

6. Reports of the Twinning Associations

Norfolk and Norwich / Koblenz Friendship Association

Waltraud Jarrold presented the report on behalf of the Norfolk and Norwich / Koblenz Friendship Association and paid tribute to Diana Beckley, who had acted as treasurer for the Triorca. She referred to the August version of “Kontakt”, the association’s newsletter, and said that she was pleased that the Chairman of Norfolk County Council and the Lord Mayor had attended the association’s annual birthday luncheon at Park Farm, Hethersett on Sunday, 17 September. The Advent evening would be held at the Great Hospital on 4 December and was a very popular event with over 100 people attending last year.

Members of the association had visited Koblenz in September and enjoyed a wonderful programme of events and good weather. Coincidentally, at the same time as the visit a pilgrim group from Koblenz was in Norwich as part of its pilgrimage of Catholic Cathedrals in England. The pilgrims had been very impressed with Norwich and the association would be following up contacts with the visitors from Koblenz.

The association had been pleased to be invited to apply for funding from the Anguish’s Educational Funding to encourage twinning activities with young people from Norwich. This was very important to ensure that associations and friendship links continued. The weekly German conversation group continued to flourish and was well attended. Two new members had joined other members on the visit to Koblenz in September who had attended the annual general meeting as their first contact with the association.

Waltraud Jarrold then presented a plaque to the Lord Mayor which had been presented to the Ralph Roe (Lord Mayor 1977-78) commemorating the signing of the agreement between the two cities, Koblenz and Norwich. She suggested that an appropriate venue for a special function to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the

signing of the agreement would be the Sainsbury Centre which opened 40 years ago next year. Koblenz would be celebrating the signing of the agreement in April 2018, but it would be a good idea to focus the celebrations in Norwich with the Lord Mayor's celebrations in July and perhaps to invite the new Oberbürgermeister to attend. Councillor Bremner said that the Lord Mayor and a group of people from Norwich would be attending the 40th anniversary in Koblenz in April and that twinning was about people. The Kemps Men had links with groups from Winnigen (near Koblenz) and the Netherlands. He suggested that dance/musical groups from Koblenz and its surrounding area were invited to participate in the Lord Mayor's street procession and other events, and asked for the committee's support.

During discussion, the Lord Mayor said that it was a good idea for all associations to link twinning activities with the city's events such as the annual Lord Mayor's celebrations. Cultural exchange was a key principle of twinning. Further consideration could be given to these suggestions but more information would be needed and proposals worked up. A meeting could be set up with the events team to look into the practicality of dancers or bands from Koblenz and its surrounding area participating in the Lord Mayor's procession or events as part of the weekend.

Norfolk and Norwich / Rouen Friendship Association

Chris Rowe presented the report on behalf of the Norfolk and Norwich / Rouen Friendship Association and said that a shortened version of the association's newsletter had been included in the agenda papers for the meeting. He echoed the sentiments expressed about the sad news about Diana Beckley and said that he had written to Peter Beckley to say how sorry they were.

The association's annual dinner would take place on 29 November at the Debut Restaurant, Norwich City College. 2019 would mark the 60th anniversary of the Norwich/Rouen twinning link and the bicentenary of the Storming of the Bastille. There would be an Armada of tall sailing ships in Rouen which would be moored on the banks of the Seine and a visit was planned to coincide with this and celebrate the anniversary. He hoped that there could be a party in Norwich to mark the anniversary. Norwich Rowing Club was sending a team to complete the 7 km race rowing around the Ile de Groix. He was currently looking for a placement for a young man from Rouen without much success at the moment.

Councillor Raby commented on the 60th anniversary of the city's twinning link with Rouen and said that he had been in the first group of exchange students from Norwich to visit Rouen in 1959.

In reply to a question, Chris Rowe said that no dates had been confirmed for the Armada event in Rouen. He thought it might be May 2019 but would notify the committee officer when it was confirmed. He hoped that a special event could also be held in Norwich to mark this event.

The Norfolk and Norwich Novi Sad Association

Doug Underwood said that he and members of the Norfolk and Norwich Novi Sad Association were still reeling from the shock of the sad news about Diana Beckley. He presented the association's newsletter which he had hastily put together and was circulated at the meeting. It was difficult to do justice to all that Diana Beckley had

done. Diana and Peter Beckley had been instrumental in setting up the association and twinning links with Novi Sad. They had been given hon. Novi Sad had given them honorary citizenship in recognition for arranging humanitarian aid during the 1990s. He explained that it had been difficult to ensure that all members of the association were informed of the sad news in a time of social media and where the press knew more than he did at times. The Beckley's many friends in Novi Sad had shown true friendship in their support for Peter Beckley during this difficult time. There would be a public memorial service for Diana Beckley in due course. Sandra Underwood added that Diana Beckley had loved Novi Sad and been a good and loyal friend, who would be much missed.

The Norfolk and Norwich – El Viejo Friendship Link

Ralph Gayton explained that he was unable to provide a written report on behalf of the Norfolk and Norwich El Viejo Friendship Link because there had been no contact with the Link's representative in El Viejo for over a month. This could be due to illness or that it was the wet season in Nicaragua, as the area around El Viejo is sparsely populated and served by earth roads.

He then referred to the Link's concerns about United States of America's proposed Nicaraguan Investment Conditionality Act of 2017. He said that the Act was as good as approved and the United States was already using its influence to block foreign investment into Nicaragua. There was concern about the impact that this would have on Nicaragua, which was the second poorest country in South America after Haiti, and needed better hospitals and infrastructure.

Discussion ensued in which Ralph Gayton answered members' questions. He explained that the Link employed a representative in El Viejo to work four days a month visiting the schools that it supported. Waltraud Jarrold suggested that there would be strength in a joint response to the Nicaraguan Investment Conditionality Act if the Link joined with other British groups twinned with Nicaragua to express their concerns. Ralph Gayton said that the Link was in touch with the national body and about twelve small twinning groups in the UK and one in the Netherlands.

RESOLVED to:

- (1) note the reports;
- (2) support in principle the proposal for events to celebrate 40 years since the signing of the agreement with Koblenz and Norwich to coincide with the Lord Mayor's celebrations in July 2018, subject to further information being provided by the Norfolk and Norwich / Koblenz Friendship Association;
- (3) ask the Lord Mayor to write to the Mayor of Novi Sad to express gratitude for the kindness and friendship shown to Mr Beckley and members of the Norfolk and Norwich Novi Sad Association;
- (4) note that the 60th anniversary of the Norfolk and Norwich / Rouen Friendship Link will be in 2019 and to consider holding an event in Norwich to celebrate and a visit to Rouen to coincide with the tall boats event;

- (5) note the effect that the withdrawal of foreign investment could have on Nicaragua as a result of the United States' Nicaraguan Investment Conditionality Act 2017.

CHAIR

Report to Twinning committee

Item

15 March

Report of Director of business services

5

Subject Twinning Fund – Financial Position

Purpose

This report informs the committee of the income and expenditure of the committee in respect of twinning activities for the period of 22 September 2017 to 26 February 2018.

Recommendation

To:

- (1) note the balance of the twinning fund is approximately **££2,001.50**;
- (2) ask that twinning associations and members submit requests for funding for twinning events to be funded from the 2018-19 budget as soon as possible so that these can be considered at the June meeting of the committee.

Corporate and service priorities

The report helps to meet the corporate priority to provide a prosperous and vibrant city. The twinning associations contribute to the council's service plan priority by promoting and fostering links and exchanges of all kinds between people of Norwich and the twin cities.

Financial implications

There are sufficient funds within the twinning account to cover this request.

Ward/s: Not applicable

Cabinet member: Councillor Packer, health and wellbeing

Contact officers

Stuart Guthrie, democratic and elections manager

01603 212055

Background documents

None

Report

Twinning fund – financial position

1. The transactions since 1 June 2017 are as follows: Opening balance: **£3,296.69**
2. Expenditure transactions in from 22 September 2017

Date	Transactions	£
2 November 2017	Norfolk and Norwich Novi Sad Association	250.00
5 January 2018	Civic visit to Novi Sad (Day of the City)	1,045.19

Closing balance: **£2,001.50**

3. The committee agreed to fund the expenses for the Lord Mayor's visit to the Day of the Cities in Novi Sad. The committee also granted the Norfolk and Norwich Novi Sad Association £250 to support the Annual Paul Cross Memorial Concert which is shown in the table above.
4. The Lord Mayor and consort will be attending the 40th year anniversary of the twinning agreement between Norwich and Koblenz in April. Transport arrangements and additional insurance for the civic chains have yet to be arranged.
5. A visit of leading politicians from Novi Sad is being planned for early summer. This will require funding from the twinning fund.
6. There may be also be some outstanding payments for twinning activities which have not yet been assigned to the twinning fund. These will be reported with the next statement.
7. The twinning budget for 2018-19 is £2,060.00 and will be allocated to the committee from 1 April 2018. The balance from 2017-18 will be carried over into the next financial year.
8. Members of the committee are reminded that applications for grants for twinning related activities can be made by completing a form and contacting the city council. The committee may also wish to put aside funding to support twinning associations to hold special events to celebrate anniversaries in Norwich or to visit twinned cities.
9. We recommend that all associations submit a request for funding for twinning activities in 2018-19 which can be considered at the June meeting. This way we can plan expenditure for events and ensure that there is a fair distribution of funding.



NEWSLETTER

Norfolk & Norwich Novi Sad Association

Dedicated to Friendship

Editor: G. Piccolo
e-mail: editor@nnnsa.org.uk

The Paul Cross Memorial Concert 2018

(Wendy Quinn, Social Secretary)

What a pleasure it is to report on the success of our 19th Paul Cross Memorial Concert held in January in the Music Room at the Assembly House, Norwich. Attended by a most appreciative audience, in the presence of our president, Cllr David Fullman, and our vice president, Cllr John Ward, this year's concert was not only in memory of Paul Cross, a most inspiring former chairman of our association, but a fitting tribute to Diana Beckley who always held the friendship between our twin cities close to her heart and worked tirelessly to organise the annual concerts.

Our guest performers, Milica Stojadinović, prima donna of the Serbian National Theatre and her son Boško Stojadinović, an amazing young pianist, delivered an outstanding programme of operatic arias, Serbian songs and famous piano pieces. Milica's introduction to a particularly beautiful song, "The Old Romance" by the modern Serbian composer Dušan Trbojević, touched our hearts as the composer had dedicated the song to her son at his birth. We were treated to lyrical and haunting songs by Isidor Bajić and Josif Marinković and Milica certainly brought romance and passion to her performance of well-known classical arias. As for young Boško, he amazed us all with his talented playing. As the EDP music critic Christopher Smith said in his review, he accompanied the soprano "with sympathy and aplomb" and "his technique and vigour were also admired in demanding pieces by Liszt and

Rachmaninoff." The audience certainly loved his playing of Toccata by Khachaturian and Malaguena by Ernesto Lecuona. We were privileged to have such wonderful visitors from Novi Sad.

In the four days of their visit, Milica, with her husband Miodrag and Boško, enjoyed extensive sightseeing of our city and plenty of Norfolk and Norwich hospitality.

Thanks must go to all the NNNSA committee members for their hard work and team work in designing flyers, organising and promoting the concert, and running the raffle. We must, of course, give thanks to everyone who came and supported the twinning concert, or gave donations and raffle prizes, and to all our sponsors. The proceeds from the concert will support a project for children with autism at The "Milan Petrović" School in Novi Sad.



Boško and Milica Stojadinović,
Cllr David Fullman, Cllr John Ward

Visit to Novi Sad for the Celebration of the Day of the City

Feb 1st 2018

(Peter Beckley, MBE)

It is pleasing to report that both the Lord Mayor of Norwich, Cllr. David Fullman and the Leader of Norwich City Council, Cllr. Alan Waters were able to accept the Official invitation of the Mayor of Novi Sad, Miloš Vučević and visited Novi Sad on the occasion on the Celebration of Day of the City.

For the few days the visitors were there the City was bathed in mild spring weather, although it was still wearing all its Christmas and New Year decorations.

During the short time Cllr. Alan Waters was able to be in the City, there were several visits and meetings that proved to be so useful in providing him with detailed information regarding the long association between the two cities of Novi Sad and Norwich and the significant areas of cooperation and help exchanged over that period, not only in the area of Civic support, but also in the area of cultural exchange and development initiated and maintained by the Norfolk & Norwich Novi Sad Association and Novi Sad's Honorary Citizens Diana and Peter Beckley.

The Lord Mayor David Fullman was delighted to re-visit the city where he had enjoyed in the past the hospitality that accompanied his signing of the 'Official' Twinning Document and subsequently during the troubled times when he accompanied a humanitarian aid delivery.



Presentation from Mayor of Novi Sad to Lord Mayor of Norwich

Both Cllr. Waters and Cllr. Fullman were delighted to visit the "Milan Petrović" School where they were able to see the results of the many years of support by the Association to the school through the proceeds of the Paul Cross Memorial Concert. Director Slavica Marković has retired but remains at the school as a consultant for a little while longer. A gift of money was presented to the school which was collected at Diana's Memorial Service. Slavica and the Staff had had a meeting and asked if they could name the 'School in Nature' at Čenej 'The Diana & Peter Beckley School'.

A visit was made to the Isidor Bajić Music School. The principal Radmila Rakin-Martinović and Jasna Marković-Vujanović were able to explain to their guests much of the involvement the school had with the Triorca project and the value this afforded to all the young people involved in developing international relations. Cllr. David Fullman was delighted to meet Milica Stojadinović since it had only been a week or so since he had presented her with a gift at the Paul Cross Memorial Concert in Norwich, to recognise her performance, together with that of her son Boško, and the contribution made to the fund. During the meeting the school was presented with a sum of money raised at Diana's Memorial Service for the purchase of instruments.

A formal Civic meeting was held between the Mayor of Novi Sad, Mr Miloš Vučević, The president of the City Assembly Mr. Zdravo Jelušić and Cllrs. Waters and Fullman. During the meeting Peter Beckley and Dubravka Bugarski-Alimpić (P.A. and translator) were able to provide much information about the close links, over a long period of time, that had fostered civic exchanges and cooperation as well as the cultural and social links that had proved so valuable in continuing student exchanges. There was a fruitful discussion regarding the possible future cooperation on various topics that would be followed up.



International delegates at City Hall Novi Sad

A crowded programme built into the two short days that Cllr. Waters was able to be in Novi Sad enabled all the above (and more!) to happen.

The Lord Mayor and Peter Beckley had a very useful and positive meeting with the organisers of the European Capital of Culture (2021) and the European Youth Capital (2019). An invitation was given to the Triorca Orchestra to perform in Novi Sad during both of those years. Other cultural events were discussed and it is hoped a traditional Norwich/Norfolk Folk Dance group will be able to visit Novi Sad and the possibility of a choir from Norwich/Norfolk to go to Novi Sad during the European Capital of Culture in 2021 to take part in an event called 'Singing Bridges'

Peter and The Lord Mayor were pleased to have a short meeting with H.E. the British Ambassador Denis Keefe and his wife. His Excellency expressed his keen interest in the twinning between Norwich and Novi Sad since it is one of only two that have survived, and the Norwich connection the only one to have a continuous link over a long period of time. He asked about various charity works in Serbia that Peter is connected with and showed a keen interest in Triorca which, as an international youth orchestra, strengthened international understanding among young people and was one of the few organisations that continued to foster pupil exchange between Britain and Serbia.

Visits were made to the Red Cross of Vojvodina where Adela was able to talk about the work that continues with the refugee and displaced persons situation in the region as well as all the other 'ordinary' Red Cross activities.

There was a very useful meeting with the President of the City Assembly of Novi Sad, Mr Zdravo Jelušić at the end of the visit when the events of the previous few days were discussed. It was agreed that the visit was a great success with some positive outcomes relating to the close association between the two cities which will result in helpful Civic cooperation on a practical basis in the near future.



President of City Assembly Zdravko Jelusic and Lord Mayor David Fullman cementing international relationships



The Norfolk & Norwich Novi Sad Association *Dedicated to Friendship*

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

President : The Lord Mayor of Norwich.

Vice-President: Chair Norfolk County Council

Social Events

Coffee Morning

Association members Anne Hawkes and Brenda Moffitt hold infrequent coffee mornings for their friends, while raising funds for local charities. The most recent one was in late November 2017, but this time it was held in memory of Diana Beckley, with the proceeds going to the "Milan Petrović" School, which was so dear to Diana.

About 15 -20 people attended the event in Brenda's home, enjoying the home-made scones and cakes and each other's company. Brenda said a few words about the work of the school, and of the support the Association has given it over the years, as several people did not know much about the activities of the Association.

It was a most successful morning, with the Bring-and-Buy table and the Raffle raising £163.50, and everyone went home with something.

Coming Events:

- The venue for this year's **A.G.M.** is the Central Baptist Church, Duke Street, Norwich where we will meet at 7:30 p.m. on the 12th April.
- We already have the date for the 2018 annual lunch. The venue is the Park Farm Hotel and the date is the 14th October.

Other Events:

Shortly we will start organising our annual holiday to Novi Sad. The dates are yet to be decided but, as before, it will be planned for September.

The Norfolk and Norwich Novi Sad Association.

Chairman: Doug Underwood, 14, Herb Robert Glade, Wymondham, Norwich NR18 0XS

Secretary: Sandra Underwood, 14, Herb Robert Glade, Wymondham, Norwich NR18 0XS

Tel:01953 601585 e-mail dcunderwood@btinternet.com

Treasurer: Gaetano Piccolo, 2, Thickthorn Hall, Norwich Road, Hethersett. NR9 3AT

Dept. Treasurer: Sue Prutton, 41, Waldermare Avenue, Norwich. NR6 6TB

Committee Members: Wendy Quinn (Social Secretary);

Heather Ashmore (Minutes Secretary); Dr. Brenda Moffitt (Concert Sub Committee);

John Jennings (Sub Committees); Peter Beckley MBE (Newsletter)

February 2018

Norfolk & Norwich / Koblenz Friendship Association



"Understanding and Friendship" our motto
— is more than ever relevant

Twinning 40 Years

In 2018 we have entered a very special year, the 40th anniversary of our City Twinning with Koblenz, signed on 22 April 1978, by the then Lord Mayor, Ralph Roe (his wife Muriel is still a member of NNKFA) and Oberbürgermeister Willi Hörter. Seven Years had passed since John Jarrold, when Lord Mayor, had written to Koblenz and the then Oberbürgermeister Macke was not keen because of their existing twinning with Haringey in London formed in 1969. Twinning Associations (Norfolk and Norwich Koblenz Friendship Association and Freundschaftskreis Norwich Koblenz) were founded in 1980, and links were further continued on a broad basis, including schools, sporting, cultural and radio "hams". In addition to an Annual Programme of AGM in March, Summer Outing in June, annual lunch in September and the Advent evening, on the Monday after the first Sunday in Advent. We have had bi-annual visits Koblenz, the latest of which is described below.

The Lord Mayor of Norwich, his Consort and Waltraud and Richard Jarrold have been invited to Koblenz to celebrate the 40th Anniversary of City Twinning on Sunday April 22nd

As a Twinning Association we welcome all who are interested in our link with Koblenz, and we offer free membership to family members and school pupils and students up to 18, a good opportunity to become involved in widening our twinning aims, always open to new ideas.

Koblenz Visit 2017

Saturday 2nd September saw Mark, our regular driver, this year accompanied by his wife and new NNKFA member, Emma, load the coach ready for our 2017 journey to Koblenz. A brief problem with a passport at Harwich slightly delayed our boarding of the boat, but a very kind member of the Stena staff solved the problem for us. Once disembarked in Holland, we set off for our first coffee / comfort stop, only to encounter our next problem: it was closed for refurbishment. Legs firmly crossed, we resumed our journey, trusting Mark to find an alternative, which he duly did.



with Helmut Wagner
at The Hoffnung

At the Morjan hotel in Koblenz the Welcome Party was Günter Hahn, Waltraud and Richard and Editha Pröbstle who had offered home hospitality to two of our members, and after a brief stop to unload and change, we were on our way to Winningen, where the Wine Festival was in full swing. Crowds of people, a band playing, the air full of the smell of bratwurst, and lots of places to try and to buy the lovely local wines. The system is that you buy a glass, and from then on keep refilling it! The glasses make lovely souvenirs.

Then dinner in the Weinhaus Hoffnung, some of us having the honour of sitting at the Stammtisch! An excellent meal, though no Pflaumenkuchen, unfortunately. A most fabulous firework display, with the reflections in the river Mosel, brought our first evening to a dramatic end. Due to driving time restrictions, Mark was not allowed to take us back to Koblenz, but another coach, the Moselaner, had been hired to take us back to our hotel.



On Monday morning, several of us went to the Florinskirche to light candles in memory of Alan Taylor, a member of our 2015 party and the leading member of the link between Foto Club Koblenz and the Norwich and District Photographic Society, who has since died, before we headed to the Rathaus for the reception.





The Oberbürgermeister had been summoned to Berlin, so we were welcomed instead by Frau Dr. Margit Theis-Scholz, the Kultur-Dezernentin, to whom Waltraud, replied, with everyone now looking forward to the City Twinning 40th Anniversary celebrations in 2018.

In the evening, we joined the German members of the Freundschaftskreis at the picturesque Weindorf restaurant, on the banks of the Rhein. NB, no Pflaumenkuchen!



Bernkastel was Tuesday's destination, where we appreciated the many craft shops and cafés on the steep streets, (and even found Bärbel's house), with a Mosel boat trip to Traban Trarbach after lunch. This gave us the opportunity to see the vineyards perched on the sides of the surrounding hills, which we would see closer



when we took the tractor ride from Winningen on Wednesday, which we took after enjoying lunch in the Restaurant Sonne. The tractor, powered by a huge single cylinder engine, banged and puffed its way up the steep sides through terraces of vines, including the Friendship Vineyard, towing us on a trailer behind. The seats on the trailer, which ran from front to back, were made of highly polished wood, as was the table between the two benches. Consequently, every ascent resulted in a pile of

bodies clinging for dear life so as not to be thrown out of the back, while every descent had us sliding helplessly into a scrum at the front. Great fun, especially when one is trying not to waste the delicious wine by spilling it over someone else. In the morning we



had had a truly fascinating visit to the Winningen museum, with Waltraud's sister, Siglinde, as our



excellent guide. The many artifacts were beautifully displayed, including a dress worn by Waltraud herself, when she was Wine Queen, and we were surprised to discover that a certain August Horch from the village had started a motor car company back in 1899. Initially trained by his Master blacksmith father, he had set out to build the best motor car possible; and after a very troubled few years, during which he changed the name of the company from 'Horch' to "Audi", he obviously succeeded in his ambition. In the yard outside the museum, we were able to sip our glasses of wine sitting inside one of the huge old barrels, which had been restored making two old barrels into one and was large enough to

have been converted into a very comfortable meeting room.

On Thursday, we had our last organized visit, this time a day visit to Wiesbaden, with Mark finding his way through the complicated traffic and roadworks, and a very knowledgeable English-speaking guide giving us the low down on such interesting places as the golden towers of



the Greek Orthodox church, the replica of the White House, built for the American ambassador. We had a little while to wander around Wiesbaden, which has the wonderful Marktkirche, and some super shopping streets. Unfortunately, road works and a major detour delayed our return to Koblenz, but once again, Mark coped, with his usual patience, good humour and skill.



Friday gave us the opportunity to do as we pleased, and we made the most of it by exploring the shops and sights of Koblenz, visiting Ehrenbreitstein by cable car and searching -, unsuccessfully (with the exception of some!) - for the elusive Pflaumenkuchen.

A trouble-free return to Norwich via the Hook and Harwich saw us safely home, reminding ourselves to check the validity of our passports before venturing abroad again. Many thanks are due to many people for all the organisation involved in such a pleasant and relaxing trip

ADVENT EVENING 2017

We were greeted by a spectacularly festooned Christmas tree, a roaring log fire crackling away and candlelit tables sparkling and decorated with branches of Lebanon Cedar against the white table cloths. Hot coffee and tea accompanied the Stollen and wrapped Lebkuchen (bought in Koblenz by Bärbel) and other chocolates, and the food lovingly prepared by Christa and Colin – all very tempting - said “eat me”!

The Hall was a picture of happiness with a sea of smiling faces. A lot of hard work and care had gone into preparing this warm and welcoming Birkbeck Room in the Great Hospital for us to share for the start of Advent.



Waltraud spoke of “The Quiet Time” of preparing for Christ to come bringing light into darkness as she lit the first of the Advent Candles, which she later dedicated to Diana Beckley MBE, a very strong link with Norwich’s twin city of Novi Sad, who tragically died during the NNNSA visit to that city in September. The recent “Super Moon” in the



blackness of a twinkling velvet sky reminded us of the true meaning of Christmas. We were remembering continuation of happy times in Koblenz over many years sharing all the good things NNKFA has done and will continue to do. The Koblenz group sent a card to us from their Christmas Party.

Our carols and readings from the Christmas Gospel delivered so eloquently by Christopher Mallet in English and Christa Wood in German, enhanced the enjoyment of the evening. There are some very lovely voices in our Association. Members of the Cathedral choirs under the direction of Ashley Grote filled the hall with their uplifting voices, then, after refreshments, donned Christmas hats and moved nearer to the Christmas tree and crackling fire. A grand finale of bright inspiring medleys of Christmas songs completed the Choir’s time with us. They obviously enjoyed singing as much as we enjoyed listening.

After another session of carols, led so ably and caringly by David Lancaster accompanied by Rosalind Lancaster, Waltraud thanked all those who had helped preparing for the day and also during our magical and happy Advent Evening. A donation for Cathedral Choir Fund and a box of wine were given to the Choir. Waltraud said she would donate a payment for the wine from NNKFA to one of her charities. In attendance were the Chairman of Norfolk County Council Cllr John Ward and Mrs Rita Ward (both members of NNKFA).



With our hearts uplifted remembering those who unfortunately were unable to attend we ventured in the crisp night air to be greeted by a clear sky and the lit up spire of our wonderful Cathedral.

NNKFA Anniversary Lunch 2017

Our Lunch, on 17 September, was once again held at Park Farm Hotel, Hethersett and among many members we were also pleased to welcome with a glass of Winingen Wine, The Lord Mayor of Norwich, Councillor David Fullman, his Consort, the Chairman of the County Council, Councillor John Ward and his wife, Rita.



Report of Radio Contacts with Koblenz from Malcolm Prestwood (G3PDH)

Our radio skeds with Koblenz have continued throughout 2017 despite the current poor radio propagation conditions that exist in this 'sun spot minima' period.

There has typically been a total of 6 stations taking part with 3 from each city on the second Saturday of each month. Unfortunately one of our regular Norwich members, David Catchpole (G0PFN), passed away this autumn.

We are currently seeing new members joining and we hope to increase the overall participants in 2018.

In the early summer this year we received a visit to Norwich by Marco Leicher (DM5ML) with his wife Melanie, daughter Anika and son Aaron. They made a 3 day excursion by car and stayed in Gt Yarmouth from where we were able to accompany them on a tour of Norwich. We also held a radio club BBQ as well as a combined music making session with Roger Cooke (G3LDI) on piano along with Marco on Trumpet and Piano, Anika Clarinet and Aaron also on Trumpet.

In June some of our members also met up at the annual European Friedrichshafen Radio Conference and Exhibition.



During the year Ralf (DM5RS) recovered and returned to work after a medical condition and is also hoping to visit Norwich this coming year.

A recent contact was on Sunday 14th January at which very best wishes were passed to the respective cities with information regarding plans for celebrations in Koblenz on 22nd April commemorating 40 years of the joint association.

Two pictures are attached, one from when we visited the Book Fair and one of Marco on the radio speaking back to Koblenz during the BBQ.

Programme 2018

Friday	March 9 th	7.00 pm	Annual General Meeting	County Hall
				with information and music from TRIORCA
Saturday	June 23 rd		Summer Outing to Woburn Abbey	
Friday	July 27 th	7.30 pm	TRIORCA Concert	Open Norwich
Sunday	September 16 th		Anniversary Lunch	Park Farm, Hethersett
Monday	December 3 rd		Advent Evening	Great Hospital, Norwich

President
Mrs Waltraud Jarrold MBE
53a Keswick Road
Cringleford
Norwich NR4 6UQ
01603 454799
richardjarrold@tiscali.co.uk

Chairman
Mrs Jill Noble
1 Patteson Close
Cringleford
Norwich NR4 6XX
01603 454033
noble.jill@gmail.com
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Treasurer & Membership
John & Sandra Sheppard
145 Waterworks Road
Norwich
NR2 4DF
01603 613880
se.sheppard@btinternet.com

NORFOLK AND NORWICH – EL VIEJO FRIENDSHIP LINK

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

7TH MARCH 2018

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE 2017

1. Meetings and Membership

Your Committee met on eight occasions during the year since the 2017 AGM

Attendances at the meetings were;

Anthony Bailey	7
Brenda Gayton	8
Ralph Gayton	8
Dr. Rhys Jenkins	8
Chris King	4
Cllr David Raby	4
Susan Thomas	4
Cllr Vaughan Thomas	3
Cllr Vivien Thomas	3
David Trevanion	8

We thank all members of our committee who, despite many pressures on their time, continue to attend our meetings and contribute to our activities whenever time permits.

Membership amounted to 28 individual members (a decrease of 8 since the last report) and four organisations.

The Committee thanks those individual members who remain in membership, and the four organisations, but regrets the loss of individual members. However, the Link has managed to maintain its support of 200 children from the poorest families in El Viejo by providing for their access to primary education.

The need to increase membership of the Link becomes ever more crucial if we are to continue to give support to the children and families of our twin city. Do you know anyone, friend or family, who would like to join us?

2. Carmela Hernandez

Despite a couple of periods of ill-health during the year, Carmela has continued her role as the Link representative with the eight schools in our scholarship scheme and the local Council during the year. Carmela also acts as Secretary to a committee of two teachers from each of our scholarship schools which meets every two months. A great deal of correspondence passes between our Secretary and Carmela during the year.

Carmela also sends us a report of her activities each month and she sends a quarterly record of her expenditure.

3. Translation

It is appropriate, at this point to say something about translation. In order to avoid errors and misunderstandings which can be costly and embarrassing when dealing with issues and personalities in another country where English not the common language, it is crucially important to be able to rely on ready access to accurate translation. In the past we have used a previous NSC worker from Nicaragua on occasions where an accurate translation was particularly important. However, we now have one of our committee members, Cllr David Raby who, with his wife, provides us with rapid and accurate translations. We are most grateful for the help they provide in this important area.

4. The Scholarship Project.

One of the main events of the year is the distribution of schoolbags to the 200 scholarship children. Each child in the eight schools in the project receives a school bag bearing the Link badge containing school materials; various exercise books, pens, pencils, ruler, and other items for use in class. The older children in grades 4,5, and 6 also get a geometry set, pencil sharpener, and more specialised exercise books. The schools are given US\$2 for each scholarship child in their school to buy cleaning materials or other items at the discretion of the teachers. We have received information from Carmela about how this money has been spent.

The distribution of the schoolbags and their contents usually takes place at special events at two or three of the schools, attended by the children, parents and the Mayor. they are important social occasions.

The end of the school year in December 2017 saw 50 grade six scholarship pupils graduate from the eight schools in the scheme;

Norwich school	9	Evemilda Somarriba	8
Rosario Martinez	8	Rosario Mayorga	1
Maritza Martinez	9	Amigas de Hollanda	3
El Perpetuo	5	Morazan	7

5. School Improvements

An important recent development which appears to have taken place seems to be a programme of school improvement. We have not yet had any information about this from official sources but in a recent report Carmela has mentioned that in 2018 the Francisco Morazan school will be 'improved' and that improvement had already been carried out at Rosario Martinez in 2015, and Friends of Holland in 2017. This is important news but we have not heard anything about these improvements up to now and we are asking Carmela to find out more and keep us informed about this important development.

The Committee decided to take no further action on seeking improvements to school latrines until such time as we receive information about this apparent programme of school improvement.

6. Nicaragua Solidarity Campaign.

We remain affiliated to the NSC who provide access to relevant information about events in Nicaragua, and Central America in general. The campaign keeps a watchful eye on developments, issues and problems and also provides general assistance and advice to its many affiliates.

An issue which NSC brought to our attention in November concerned political action by the US Government against Nicaragua which would have a disastrous effect on many aspects of life. Known as the US Nicaraguan Investment Conditionality Act, the US Government is attempting to block all loans to Nicaragua from the World Bank and the Inter-American Development Bank currently running at US\$250 million annually. These loans are used by the Nicaraguan Government to invest in education, social programmes, electrification, roads and other infrastructure initiatives.

Your committee has agreed to highlight this action by the US Government against the second poorest country in Central America. Your Committee will attempt to organise a public meeting with appropriate local groups to consider taking action on this important issue. We will also work with NSC to assist the Government of Nicaragua overcome this nasty action by the US. *A note prepared by NSC on the US action is attached as an appendix to this report.*

7. Office Supplies from closing of Banana Company

In March, Carmela and one of the teachers made application to a Banana Company in Chinandega which was closing down, to be considered for donation of redundant office equipment and furniture, including computers. They succeeded in their request and received a variety of desks, tables, chairs, filing cabinets and sundry other office supplies, including a number of computers, monitors and printers. These supplies were distributed round the scholarship schools and Carmela provided a list of all the items delivered to the schools. Some items of furniture were also given to the local representative of the Ministry of Education.

8. Tropical Storm Nate.

In early October Tropical Storm Nate travelled up the Caribbean Coasts of Costa Rica, Nicaragua and Honduras. The effects of the storm were felt across Nicaragua and in El Viejo very heavy rains caused schools to be closed and widespread damage was caused to roads. Some schools were also damaged. Fortunately, there were no casualties in El Viejo.

9. Fundraising events

On 8th April a music gig was organised with the 'Ougadougos' group at Norwich Arts Centre. Other groups also performed in the bar area during the evening, including our own Tony Bailey. This was an important fundraising event for the Link and raised a total of £725.00. We hope to be able to repeat this event in 2018.

Other fund raisers during the year included a Quiz Night at Micawbers Pub, organised by Tony Bailey, brought in £86.00, A Falcon Junior school event, again organised by Tony Bailey, brought in £94.00 and the Virgin Lounge Ukelele Frolic raised £231.14, again thanks to Tony Bailey and his friend and their skill on the ukulele. *(Note: a further event at the Virgin Lounge has been arranged to take place on 28th March this year – don't miss it!)*

10. New Data Protection Regulations

New legislation on data protection will come into force in May 2018 replacing the Data Protection Act 1998. It will introduce more strict controls and larger fines.

It will be necessary to thoroughly review our procedures to make sure that the Link observes the new, and much stricter, legislation. The officers are looking into the new procedures to make sure we can comply and a report will be made to the Executive Committee in due course.

11. City Council Twinning Committee.

The Link is represented on the Norwich City Council 'Twinning Committee along with the Norfolk and Norwich – Koblenz Friendship Association, the Norfolk and Norwich – Rouen Friendship Association and the Norfolk and Norwich – Novi Sad Friendship Association. The Committee meets three times a year and receives reports from each of the associations. The City Council allocates a small budget to the Committee which is used to support the various activities undertaken by the groups. We do not take a share of this budget instead we take support in kind through free use of accommodation in City Hall for our meetings and use of the Council's printing facilities. This latter point is due for review as we now make much greater use of e-mail to maintain contact with our members.

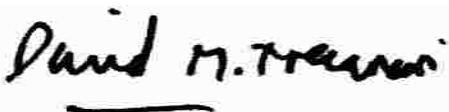
11. Acknowledgements.

As always in a voluntary organisation such as the Link, many people are involved in all sorts of ways and it is right and proper that their contribution should be recognised and acknowledged. Most important is the continued support of our own small band of members. They are the lifeblood of the whole organisation. Without their support, we could achieve nothing. We are always ready and anxious to welcome new members to boost our activity.

We particularly thank the members of our Executive Committee for their time and enthusiasm for turning up and participating in dealing with the business of the Link.

Our thanks also go to the teachers at the Scholarship Schools in El Viejo, and the staff at the Alcaldia and everyone else who has any dealings with our project under the leadership of our representative Carmela Hernandez. Thanks are also due to Gill Homes who lived in Managua for many years and gave us great support during visits to El Viejo. She has also helped us with translation from time to time.

Finally, we thank the Norwich City Council for the facilities we enjoy for our meetings at City Hall and the printing services we receive.



David Trevanion (Chairperson)



Ralph Gayton (Secretary)

Report to Twinning committee

Item

15 March 2018

Report of Director of business services

7

Subject Committee schedule 2018-19

Purpose

To agree the meeting schedule for twinning committee the 2018 to 2019 civic year.

Recommendation

That the committee agrees, subject to approval at the city council's annual council, the schedule of meetings for the civic year 2018-2019, all meetings to be at 16:00 and held at City Hall:

Thursday, 14 June 2018

Thursday, 4 October 2018

Thursday, 14 March 2019

Corporate and service priorities

The report helps to meet the corporate priority to provide value for money services and a fair city.

Financial implications

There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.

Ward/s: All Wards

Cabinet member: Councillor Kendrick - Resources

Contact officers

Jackie Rodger, senior committee officer

01603 212033

Background documents

None

Report

1. The committee usually meets three times a year at 16:00 in June, October and March.
2. It is therefore proposed to hold meetings as follows:
 - Thursday, 14 June 2018
 - Thursday, 4 October 2018
 - Thursday, 14 March 2019