

Twinning committee

Date: Thursday, 19 October 2023

Time: 16:00

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

Committee members:

Councillor Wright (Lord Mayor)
Councillor Sands (M) (vice chair)
Councillor Catt
Councillor Galvin
Councillor Peek
Councillor Thomas (Vi)

Bob Young (Koblenz)
Sandra Underwood (Novi Sad)
Doug Underwood (Novi Sad)
Bert Bremner (Rouen)
Alan Waters (Uru-Eu-Wau-Wau)
Chairman (Norfolk County Council)
(ex officio)

For further information please contact:

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



If you would like this agenda in an alternative format, such as a larger or smaller font, audio or Braille, or in a different language, please contact the committee officer above.

Agenda

	Page nos
1 Apologies	
To receive apologies for absence	
2 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)	
3 Minutes	3 - 4
To approve the accuracy of the minutes of the meeting held on 6 July 2023.	
4 Twinning fund – Update	5 - 8
Purpose - To provide a financial update to the twinning committee.	
5 Reports from the Twinning Associations	
To receive reports from the twinning associations.	
5(a) Norfolk and Norwich Koblenz Friendship Association - verbal update	
5(b) Norfolk and Norwich Novi Sad Association	9 - 14
5(c) Norfolk and Norwich Rouen Friendship Association - verbal update	
5(d) Norwich and Uru-Eu-Wau-Wau Friendship Link - verbal update	

Date of publication: **Wednesday, 11 October 2023**



Twinning committee

16:00 to 16:25

6 July 2023

Present: Councillors Wright (chair following appointment), Sands (M) (vice chair following appointment), Galvin, and Kendrick (substitute for Peek) and Bob Young (Koblenz), and Carole Kenney (Novi Sad).

Apologies: Councillors Catt, Peek and Thomas (Vi) and Bert Bremner (Rouen), Isabelle Savage (Rouen), Alan Waters (Uru-Eu-Wau-Wau), Doug Underwood (Novi Sad) and Sandra Underwood (Novi Sad)

1. Appointment of chair

RESOLVED to appoint Councillor Wright as the chair for the ensuing civic year.

2. Appointment of vice chair

RESOLVED to appoint Councillor Mike Sands as vice chair for the ensuing civic year.

3. Declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest.

4. Minutes

RESOLVED to approve the accuracy of the minutes of the meeting held on 23 March 2023.

5. Twinning fund – financial position and update

The head of legal and procurement presented the report. She highlighted the twinning fund and the ability for the twinning associations to submit grant applications to the democratic and elections manager.

RESOLVED to note the twinning fund financial position.

6. Update on the Uru-Eu-Wau-Wau Friendship Link

The chair introduced the item. The representative was unable to attend the meeting but a written report had been included. Members commented that they were looking forward to future updates to committee.

RESOLVED to note the update on the Uru-Eu-Wau-Wau Friendship Link

7. Reports of the twinning associations

Norfolk and Norwich Rouen Friendship Association

As representatives from Rouen were unable to attend the meeting, the Lord Mayor provided an update. He had been invited to visit Rouen to sign a new memorandum of understanding. This would extend the existing links with the city. Rouen was on the shortlist to be European Capital of Culture 2028.

Norfolk and Norwich Koblenz Friendship Association

Bob Young updated the committee on the activities of the Norfolk and Norwich Koblenz Friendship Association. Membership numbers were remaining fairly stable but unfortunately some members had passed away. The association was still looking at ensuring that the link in Koblenz would remain, as the current group would wind up by 2025. In response to the Lord Mayor's question, Bob Young said that a joint letter to Koblenz signed by the Lord Mayor would be appreciated. A member suggested contacting the local press in Koblenz to highlight the issue.

The Norfolk and Norwich Koblenz Friendship Association and the Norfolk and Norwich Rouen Friendship Association had been contacted by Cringleford Junior Football Club who were looking to hold an international football tournament in the summer 2024. Bob Young had reached out to school in Koblenz to find out if they would be interested in joining.

The association had hosted another Southern Comfort boat trip on the Norfolk Broads as it had done in the previous year. This had been well attended and had received positive feedback.

Norfolk and Norwich Novi Sad Association

Carole Kenney provided an update. As the widow of Paul Cross, she highlighted that the reception for the Paul Cross memorial concert had been hosted in her home, however as she no longer lived in Norwich the association was looking for an appropriate venue. As previously reported to the committee the association was also looking at moving the concert to a date in the summer. A new member had recently joined the association who was involved with the arts in Novi Sad.

The Lord Mayor said it was positive to see links with Novi Sad continuing to develop.

RESOLVED to note the updates of the associations.

CHAIR



Committee Name: Twinning

Committee Date: 19/10/2023

Report Title: Twinning fund –Update

Portfolio: Councillor Kendrick, cabinet member for resources

Report from: Democratic and elections manager

Wards: All wards

OPEN PUBLIC ITEM

Purpose:

To provide a financial update to the twinning committee.

Recommendation:

To note the report.

Policy Framework

The Council has five corporate priorities, which are:

- People live independently and well in a diverse and safe city.
- Norwich is a sustainable and healthy city.
- Norwich has the infrastructure and housing it needs to be a successful city.
- The city has an inclusive economy in which residents have equal opportunity to flourish.
- Norwich City Council is in good shape to serve the city.

This report helps to meet the corporate priorities of Norwich City Council is in good shape to serve the city and people live independently and well in a diverse and safe city.

Report

1. The balance of the Twinning Fund on 19 October 2023 will be £5,510
2. This includes the council's annual twinning contribution of £2,060 for the current financial year.
3. There have been no grant applications from twinning associations for specific events in the current financial year 2023-2024.
4. The twinning associations are encouraged to submit applications to the committee for consideration for any events planned.
5. Members of the committee are reminded that grant applications from twinning associations are made by completing a grant application form which is sent to the democratic and elections manager. Any applications are then considered by the twinning committee. The committee will recommend any agreed grants to the Interim Chief Finance Officer (Section 151 Officer) for approval.
6. At its meeting in October 2022, the twinning committee recommended using the twinning fund to purchase new twinning boards to be displayed in the civic corridor at City Hall. The cost for 5 new boards was estimated at £150 and these costs have been approved. The democratic and elections manager encourages the associations to bring forward their wording and artwork. We will start the work removing the old boards shortly.
7. The friendship link between Norwich and Uru-Eu-Wau Wau indigenous people based in Rondônia, Brazil has been established. The agreement is due to be signed by the Lord Mayor this month.
8. The council has been in contact with the Norfolk and Norwich Rouen Friendship Association about a football tournament including clubs from Rouen and Norfolk. The event is being held at Easton College. The association is very welcome to make a grant application to the committee to help support the event.

Consultation

9. There has been no consultation on this report.

Implications

Financial and Resources

10. Any decision to reduce or increase resources or alternatively increase income must be made within the context of the council's stated priorities, as set out in its Corporate Plan and Budget.
11. The report sets out the financial position of the twinning fund. Any grant applications will be considered within existing budgets.

Legal

12. There are no legal implications within this report.

Statutory Considerations

Consideration	Details of any implications and proposed measures to address:
Equality and Diversity	None
Health, Social and Economic Impact	None
Crime and Disorder	None
Children and Adults Safeguarding	None
Environmental Impact	None

Reasons for the decision/recommendation

13. The twinning committee is invited to note the financial position to enable grant applications to be considered throughout the year.

Background papers: None

Appendices: None

Contact Officer: Stuart Guthrie, democratic and elections manager

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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 Chairman

Welcome to our first Newsletter of 2023.

There have been a few changes to our Committee and we were sad to see Peter Beckley and Dr Brenda Moffit leave. When experienced people like this leave it is hard to replace them. In addition, our Vice Treasurer, Sue Prutton, sadly passed away. I am pleased that we have been able to replace them all with some excellent new faces. You can read more about them below.

Your team is working very hard to carry on the good work between our two Cities. This will see some changes, but ones we hope you find good.

Thank you for your support and we welcome new members if you know of any who wish to join us.

Doug. Underwood (Chairman)

Contents

Report on The Paul Cross Memorial Concert in January 2023.

Report on the Twinning Summer Event in July 2023.

New Faces on the Association's Committee.

Donation to the Milan Petrovic School.

The Association's Annual Lunch in October 2023.

A few memories from a long connection with the Association.



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

2023 Paul Cross Memorial Concert

Saturday 21st January 2023

Wendy Quinn

We were all delighted to welcome back to Norwich the talented young pianist Aleksandar Djermanovic to give a recital of romantic pieces in the beautiful surroundings of St Peter Mancroft Church.

We were treated to a brilliant performance, worthy of the international concert pianist Aleksandar has become since he first performed for the NNNSA in 2015. His playing of the Beethoven piano sonata for the opening of his programme was exquisite, followed by a powerful and impressionistic rendering of the ghostlike "Der Doppelgänger" by Schubert/Liszt. Our appreciation was increased by Aleksandar's helpful introduction to the story behind the piece, reading aloud the lyrics of the song.

Similarly, in the second half of the programme, the performing of the poetry of the songs set to music by Tchaikovsky and Rachmaninov, before he played the series of songs set up a haunting atmosphere. I particularly loved the Rachmaninov / Wild "Do Not Grieve" and the Tchaikovsky /Rachmaninov "Lullaby". We could only wonder at his skill in the playing of "Gargoyles" by Liebermann, his final piece, when his fingers made the keys of the grand piano sing aloud to the heights of the medieval church.

Aleksandar received much applause at the end.

The concert was mostly attended by NNNSA members and our President The Lord Mayor of Norwich, Cllr Kevin Maguire, who gave the speech of thanks to our pianist and presented him with the gift of a painting of Norwich.

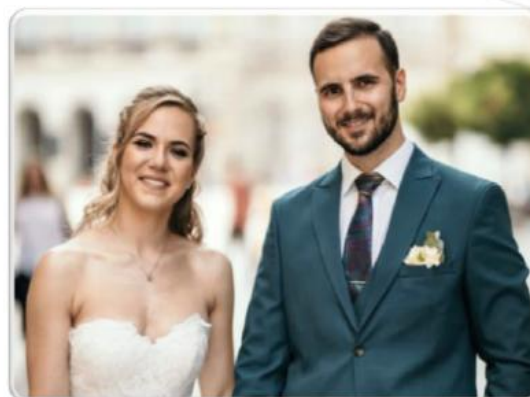
The Sheriff of Norwich, Caroline Jarrold also attended.

The concert is held annually to celebrate our twinning friendship with Novi Sad and raises funds for a project at The Milan Petrovic School for children and young people with a range of disabilities in Novi Sad.



Aleksandar had a very happy stay with Adrienne and Tony Cleary in Wattlefield during his visit, where he was able to practice and enjoy some relaxing home hospitality.

Aleksandar married Martina on 1st July 2023. We wish the lovely couple great happiness together.



2023 Twinning Summer Event

Southern Comfort Boat Trip

Sunday 2nd July 2023

Wendy Quinn

On a rather breezy summer evening members from all the Norwich Twinning Associations, as well as members from the Norwich Civic Association, set sail on board the Southern Comfort from Horning on the River Bure to travel to South Walsham Broad and back. We sat out on the upper deck to view the passing landscape of moored sailing boats and thatched bungalows with impressive waterfronts, as well as the greenery of the riverside willow and alder, geese and swans, and occasional sightings of other wildfowl.

We were treated to a running commentary from the captain and some of us spotted the heron diving into the water for fish, the fleeting flight of a marsh harrier hunting for prey and a flash of a kingfisher.

A plentiful buffet supper was provided and we enjoyed much socialising as we sailed leisurely along.

Thanks go to NNKFA Events Organiser, Sandra Sheppard for organising a most pleasant outing.



New Faces on the Committee



David Fullman
Vice Chairman

David has been a member for several years. He was Lord Mayor of Norwich in 1989/90 and again in 2017/18. In his first term he signed the twinning agreement with Novi Sad, at ceremonies first in Norwich and then in Novi Sad. He was a member of a delegation to Novi Sad in the early 2000s and also visited in 2018 for the 'Day of the City'.

Now retired from paid employment, David is a trustee of seven local charities, some of which provide funding for other charities while others provide direct services such as a training workshop for young people who do not fit into school easily and the Theatre Royal.

David loves travelling and exploring, as well as good food, solving puzzles, reading police procedurals, history and music.



Carole Kenney
Committee Member

Carole first became involved with the Association when she married her late husband, Paul Cross. Paul was an Education Officer involved in the setting up of the Association and who later became its Chairman for a number of years.

Carole accompanied Paul to Novi Sad and was very impressed with the culture and the warm hospitality of the people.

Some of you may remember the post-Memorial Concert reception hosted by Carole at her house in Grove Walk for many years.

Following her retirement, Carole started learning the piano and continues to enjoy that. Last year she bought an electric bicycle to explore rural Norfolk with Mark.



Mark Kenney
Vice Treasurer

Mark was introduced to the Association when he married Carole in 2014. (They met at classical guitar lessons!).

Mark moved to Norfolk from the Sussex coast in 1991 and continued his career as an architect until 2018 when he retired. His offices were based in Norwich and King's Lynn, but he worked on projects around the country.

Mark is a keen cyclist as part of the U3A organisation and plays table tennis weekly at his local club in Honingham.

He also enjoys swimming and painting – and continues to strive to play the classical guitar, recently branching out to learn the bass guitar (but, unfortunately, 50 years too late for the 1970s!).

Donation to the Milan Petrović School

The Association is very pleased to have transferred a sum of £1500 (1724 Euros) to the School this June, which has been safely received.

The School had planned to undertake refurbishment work to the hall over the summer holidays and the Association is delighted to be able to support this very worthwhile project. Photographs of the refurbished hall will be included in a future Newsletter.

Some memories of my time in the Association

Carole Kenney

I had a recent reminder of my early visits to Novi Sad whilst rummaging in a dresser for that 'extra' ingredient in a dish I was preparing. I alighted on an old bottle of Vinjak. It immediately took me back to the staffroom meetings with some of the teachers we were meeting in Novi Sad, where the custom of hospitality always seemed to comprise very strong black coffee and a small glass of Vinjak! The bottle was a good 30 years old now – and just as strong as I remembered. Mark insisted on sampling it too ... and much approved.



Another strong memory is of the year when Emyr Evans – a music advisor Carole knew through her work – took a group of young Norfolk musicians to Novi Sad. They combined with young Novi Sad musicians to perform together in the City. It was a lovely performance: maybe this could be repeated again one day!

A particularly warm and fond memory was a post-war return visit by children from Novi Sad who visited Norwich and stayed with local families. Entertainments and visits were arranged. One such was a trip to Wells-next-the-sea, where Carole's beach hut was the base for a very happy beach day, involving a big picnic and swimming. By coincidence, the Well's lifeboat was launched and a helicopter appeared too ... as if choreographed by Carole for the visit!

Annual Lunch

Of the Norfolk & Norwich Novi Sad Association
Sunday 15th October 2023

The Association is holding the lunch at The George Hotel. 12 noon arrival for 12:30pm. Please note this change of venue for 2023 and earlier time.

The cost of the two course meal, including coffee, tea and mints and a non-alcoholic welcome drink, is £26. The George Hotel offers a delicious Sunday lunch menu which, in our opinion, is very good value for money.

Vegetarian and gluten free options are available.



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

An invitation letter with menu has recently been sent out to all members. It requests that your menu selection and payment are returned by Friday 29th September 2023. Means of payment are provided in the letter.

Donations of prizes for the raffle to be run at the lunch would be very gratefully received. Please contact Wendy. We look forward to seeing many of you there.



The Norfolk and Norwich Novi Sad Association

Chairman: Doug Underwood. [REDACTED]

Hon. Secretary: Sandra Underwood. [REDACTED]

Vice Chairman: David Fullman. [REDACTED]

Treasurer: Gaetano Piccolo [REDACTED]

Deputy Treasurer: Mark Kenney. [REDACTED]

Committee Members: Wendy Quinn (Social Secretary). Cathy Piccolo (Sub Committees). Heather Ashmore (Minutes Secretary). Imogen Beckley-Mobbs. Carole Kenney.