

Report to	Twinning Committee	Item
	2 June 2011	8
Report of	Twinning Officer	
Subject	Koblenz BUGA 2011	

Purpose

To update members on the Norwich contribution to the Koblenz BUGA 2011.

Recommendations

To:

- (1) note the report;
- (2) thank Norwich in Bloom, the Kemps Men, Passion Productions and Access to Music (Norwich) for representing Norwich at BUGA 2011;
- (3) record the committee's thanks to the City of Koblenz and BUGA 2011 for their generous financial contributions that enabled Norwich to be represented at BUGA 2011;
- (4) To note that the chair of twinning committee authorised associated expenditure of £52.76 from the twinning fund.

Contact Officers

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Introduction

1. The Bundersgartenschau (BUGA) is the German national garden show and it goes to a different city in Germany each time it is held. In 2011 BUGA is happening in Koblenz. It opened on 15 April and will carry on until 16 October, 2011.
2. Three main sites in the city of Koblenz form the BUGA experience and in each there are incredible floral displays and cultural events. A spectacular cable car has been built to ferry people in gondolas across the Rhine to one of the sites at the Ehrenbreitstein Fortress
3. Over a year ago the twinning officer received a generous offer from the BUGA organisers and the City of Koblenz. As twin city, Norwich was invited to produce a Norwich Friendship Garden at BUGA and to put on a cultural display to represent all that is best of Norwich. In total 20,000 euros was made available.

The Garden

4. As a respected partner of the council, the Twinning Officer approached Norwich In Bloom to see if it would be willing to take on the task of planning, designing and producing the Norwich Garden. Norwich in Bloom quickly agreed to take on this role and lead by Chris Southgate, a former Lord Mayor of the City of Norwich, the project was undertaken to produce a garden designed by George Ishmael, the former landscape manager of Norwich City Council.
5. The garden, which George and Chris personally erected in Koblenz, has a church theme and contains a pew which was originally located at St John de Sepulchre Church in Finkelgate. There is an impressive gothic "window" architectural feature that includes stained glass windows produced by Sarah Bristow in her Norwich studio, off Unthank Road. The garden also includes a magnificent flower symbol sculpture which has been specially designed by Martin Pigg in his Norwich workshop. The sculpture represents "growth and new beginnings" which is particularly appropriate in the garden setting. The planting includes herbaceous perennials and grasses which should stand and remain attractive throughout the period of the BUGA. The garden also takes the opportunity to remind of the heritage of Crocosmia breeding in Norwich so from the end of May hidden containers will display a succession of Crocosmias in variety in a prominent position.
6. The garden really does look magnificent and Chris, George and all those at Norwich in Bloom should be congratulated on the magnificent effort.

Cultural Programme

7. The BUGA organisers wanted to designate a Norwich Day at which cultural performances representing all that was best about Norwich could be performed at a stage in one of the main sites. The May Bank holiday weekend was identified.
8. The Kemps Men of Norwich have a long history of links with Koblenz and were an obvious choice to be involved. Happily, the Twinning Officer's invitation was speedily accepted and their old friends in Winningen, near Koblenz, were contacted with the help and support of Waltraud and Richard Jarrold and they agreed to host the Kemps Men.

9. As an ideal contrast to the traditional dance of the Kemps Men, The Garage was approached by the Twinning Officer to see if young people could perform modern dance. The Garage suggested that Passion Productions, one of its partner groups, would be ideal young ambassadors and Scot Atkins, the leader of Passion, enthusiastically took up the challenge. He agreed to choose a group of young people and choreograph a routine of modern street/commercial dance.
10. The Twinning Officer wanted to provide a varied programme so approached Access to Music (Norwich), a charitable organisation whose aim is to develop and promote young music talent, to see if it could identify music acts that would be willing to go. Initially a Indie-pop group was identified but it was ultimately not possible to sort out travel arrangements. Instead, two female singer-songwriters, Kamilla Lovett and Phoebe York were selected by Access to Music as local artists who would do an excellent job representing young music talent from Norwich.
11. The cultural programme took place on Sunday 1st May, 2011 at a stage at the Deutches Eck (the German corner) at the confluence of the Moselle and Rhine rivers. It was a super setting and a large audience, in bright sunshine, enthusiastically received the magnificent performances of the Norwich performers.
12. Happily, Waltraud and Richard Jarrold, together with Jill Noble, were able to extend her Easter holiday and stayed in Koblenz to attend the Norwich Day. Waltraud and Gunther Hahn, of the sister association in Koblenz, explained to the audience the history of the link between Norwich and Koblenz and the exchanges that had, and continued, to be made.
13. Near to the stage on the banks of the Moselle the radio hams, who have a longstanding link, made contact with their colleagues back in Norwich during the day.
14. Norwich was the first of the twin cities to undertake a cultural programme at BUGA and all of the city of Koblenz and BUGA representatives were highly impressed and said it would be difficult for any of their other twin cities to match the Norwich programme.

Civic Party

15. Norwich City Council was represented by Councillor Steve Morphew, the Leader of the council and Andy Emms, Twinning officer. Unfortunately, due to ill health, Councillor Roy Blower, chair of Twinning committee, was unable to attend.
16. A formal civic dinner was arranged on the Saturday evening hosted by the Oberburgermeister of Koblenz. As is appropriate on these occasions, there was an exchange of gifts. The Chair of twinning committee authorised the expenditures off £52.76 from the twinning fund.

