

Number 123

June 2011

The Norfolk & Norwich Novi Sad Association

Dedicated to Friendship

Muriel.

It is always surprising that such a small person can have such a large influence on people and events. Even the measurement of her life has to be done in fractions of a century rather than in years.

News from Novi Sad.

During a recent visit Peter & Diana were able to attend an international Choir concert. A full account of this in this edition of the Newsletter and an account of an opportunity missed.

The Annual Visit

The Annual visit in May was much the same and yet so different. Something new in Novi Sad is always experienced and the extended visit to Bosnia provided a different experience.

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Dr. Muriel Heppell 26th Nov.1917– 17th June 2011



from you, her old students, and the two Associations.

Many thanks on her behalf.

Muriel was a remarkable woman. Her skills as a linguist and translator are evident in the considerable works she leaves behind. Her last great work was the translation of Dr. Mikic's book on the life and work of Dr. Katherine

MacPhail which she did in her late eighties..

She was an expert on Medieval Serbian Church Manuscripts. In the 1960/70s she spent 10 years in Novi Sad and Belgrade as a Lektor in the English faculty and was involved when the various faculties were combined into a University in Novi Sad in the 1960s. She is still remembered for the excellence of her teaching by her former pupils.

Muriel was a very dedicated Vice-President and took an active interest in the various projects of the Association. Her experience and knowledge of Novi Sad were always available—this was particularly evident in her interest in and support for the Milan Petrović School.

It is sad that she will not be able to see the results of her work regarding the English Hospital at Sremska Kamenica being restored as a memorial to Katherine MacPhail.

It is with great sadness that we announce the death of our Honorary Vice-President Dr Muriel Heppell.

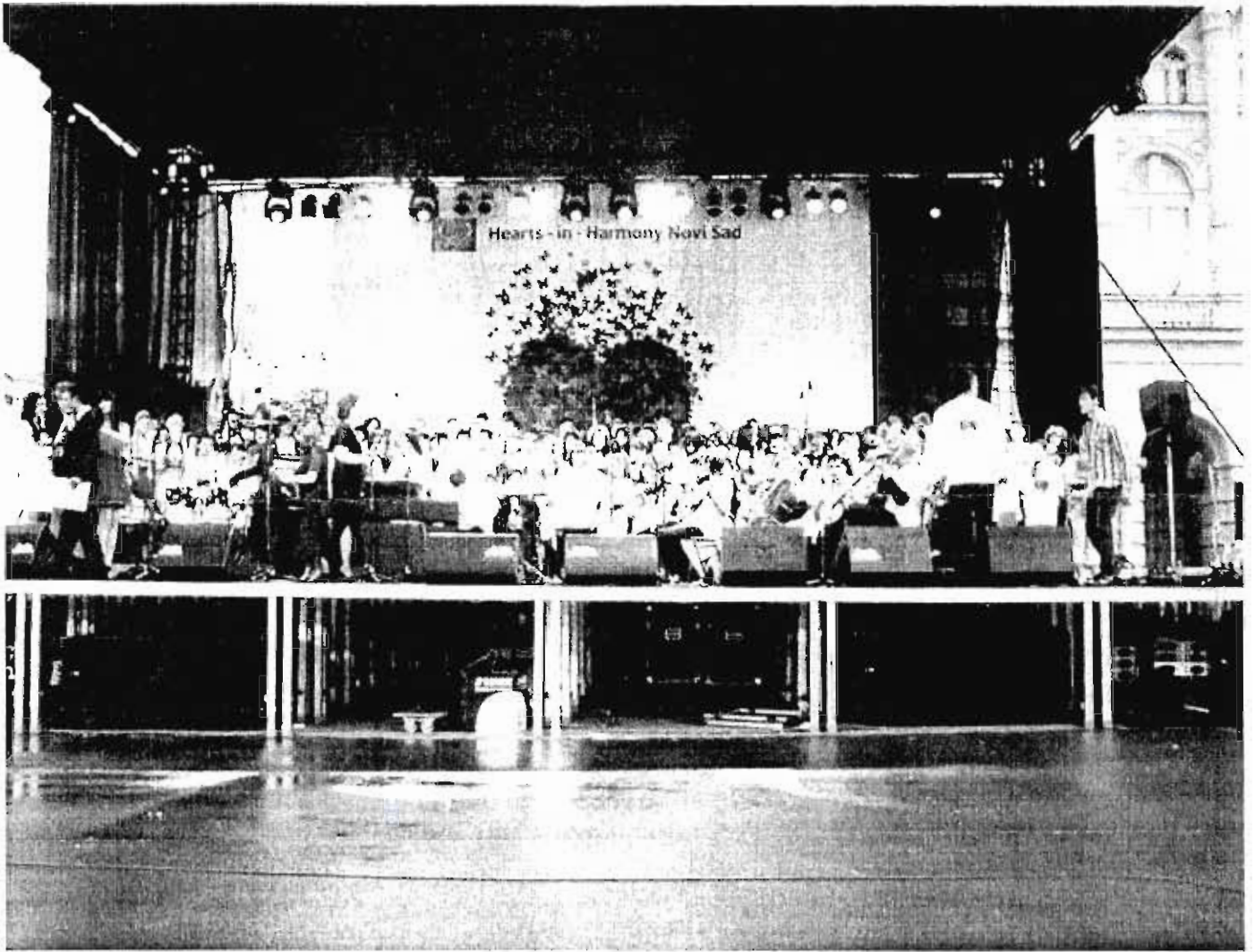
Muriel had not been well since a fall she had on holiday in early May. She was very disappointed that she could not travel to Novi Sad with the group on the annual visit as had been her habit over the last few years. They had been particularly happy visits for her as she was able to meet so many of her former students many of whom went on to be teachers and professors of English.

Muriel was being treated and looked after in the West Middlesex Hospital.

A card from the Association bearing good wishes was sent via one of her friends in London who delivered it along with other messages and letters on the 16th. Her friend wrote:

Yesterday I took to Muriel your letter and the cards which she managed to read and was indeed very touched by the kind messages and good wishes

News from Novi Sad – Hearts in Harmony – Europa Cantat



"Hearts in Harmony". An international gathering. Choirs from the Milan Petrović School; Spain; Stuttgart; Kragujevac and other Serbian school and institutes performing in the square in Novi Sad.



Members of a choir of blind people from Spain singing 'flamenco'

Many Association members who have visited the Milan Petrović School in Novi Sad will know of the school choir which was formed in 2004.

Miodrag Blizanac (Miša) was a prime mover in this initiative and continues to be conductor and organiser. Miša will be remembered for his wonderful solo singing when the St Georges Cathedral Choir sang at the Norwich Music Festival.

It is interesting to note that the choir is called "Ison Choir". Miša wrote: *'Ison' is a word from a spiritual vocabulary that indicates the first and fundamental tone sung by several singers. Symbolically 'Ison' is a child with an impairment—the child is the basic tone of our society. Only with this basic tone is it possible to achieve harmony.*

The choir was extended to include pupils from other schools in Novi Sad and their parents, teachers, professors, psychologists and other adults. This improves the inclusion and socialisation of children with disabilities.

The choir is part of in the European Federation of Youth Choirs "Europa Cantat" This organisation arranged the 'Hearts in Harmony' event that took place over four days in mid-June and choirs from Spain, Germany, France as well as other cities in Serbia enjoyed cooperative workshops and rehearsals and the culminating performance was of a very high standard and included individual, group, and massed choir sessions.

The organisation "Europa Cantat" has chosen Novi Sad this year as their European Capital for the annual Festival of choirs in Europe. This includes adult and youth choirs covering a wide range of choir types from ancient folk through to spiritual and modern jazz.

The organisation asked the Norfolk & Norwich Novi Sad Association to interest choirs from the twin town of Norwich to attend the festival which would provide a week of workshops and performances. This to follow on from the Hearts in Harmony event.

Despite the very best efforts of the Vice Chair no choir from Norwich or Norfolk felt they were able to take advantage of the prestigious event.

Triorca

How different this is from the response of the Norfolk Youth Orchestra and the Norfolk Music Service in becoming involved in a partnership with Koblenz and Novi Sad.

Together with partners in Germany and Serbia they secured European funding to form TRIORCA, a new International Youth Orchestra of 100 talented young musicians aged from 16 to 25, from three diverse European city-regions — Norfolk, Rheinland-Pfaltz in Germany and Vojvodina in Serbia.

This project will be launched at the Royal Norfolk Show on Thursday 30th June.

The Milan Petrović School

During their short visit to Novi Sad this month Diana and Peter were able to visit the Milan Petrović School. They had a very productive meeting with much information about the current projects the school is involved in.

The 'robotic' percussion instruments that were seen at the 'setting up' stage in May were much in evidence at the Choir Festival in accompanying the choirs. This collection of instruments are operated by light sensors which enables pupils with the severest physical disabilities to participate in musical performances. This 'laser classroom' is the first of its kind in Europe and P & D were pleased to meet the artist/engineer Kurt Coble from America who designed and built the facility.

The Association is grateful to the Norfolk Association for the Blind for the gift of returned equipment including illuminated magnifiers, Braille timers and watches and various tactile games which Diana and Peter were able to present to the school for their blind and partially sighted pupils.

May trip to Novi Sad.

Illness reduced the number of members going on the May trip this year. The weather vacillated between very cold and wet and very hot and dry.



Dedicated to Friendship

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President : The Lord Mayor of Norwich
Vice-President: Chair Norfolk County
Council

Committee members:

Diana Beckley MBE. (Vice Chairman); Wendy Quinn (Social Secretary); Heather Ashmore. (Minutes Secretary)
Brenda Moffitt (Concert Sub Committee); John Jennings (Sub Committees)

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.

Chairman : Doug Underwood,
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Cont. from page 3

However, the whole time spent in Novi Sad and the visits to towns and places in Vojvodina was, as always, a pleasure and an education.

After the visit to Novi Sad an opportunity was taken to visit Bosnia. The group spent a very interesting three days in Sarajevo and visited Mostar and Višegrad on the River Drina.

The road journey from Novi Sad to Bosnia, and the trips during their stay there, travelled through the mountains and provided a, somewhat, hair raising experience for those that are not used to mountain roads that disappear from time to time and the minibus has to become an 'off-road' vehicle. An experience enhanced when accompanied by a vigorous thunder storm and torrential rain!

Events

A small group of members enjoyed a very interesting and nostalgic visit to the Mechanical Music Museum at Cotton. The small concert of popular music played on a Wurlitzer organ (and, yes, it did rise out of the orchestra pit!) was very entertaining.

Future Events:

Visit to Pensthorpe Wednesday 6th July. Details from Wendy on 01603 458665.

Association Annual Lunch. Sunday 16th October. 12.30 for 01.00pm. At Park Farm Hotel.

Details to follow.

Number 124

September 2011

The Norfolk & Norwich Novi Sad Association

Dedicated to Friendship

Annual Lunch

The Annual Lunch will be held in October as usual. All the details are in the accompanying papers.

This is one of the Associations most popular events of the year providing an opportunity to meet other members in a relaxed social setting.

The Committee regrets the increase in the cost of the meal but know that members will understand the rising price of most things these days.

Association Events

Wendy sends an enthusiastic report on the visit to Pensthorpe.

Visitors to Novi Sad

Two reports on recent visits to Novi Sad both with future implications

Association Activities

July Visit to Pensthorpe



It is good to report that the outing to Pensthorpe in July went very well. Some of us already knew Pensthorpe but for most of us it was a first visit and we were rightly impressed by the landscaping of the park and the delightful walks round the lakes and through the gardens. Helpful signposting meant some of us ventured off to observe the waterfowl while others meandered happily through the Millennium and Wildlife habitat gardens. In spite of an odd heavy shower in the morning, we were able to enjoy our rambles in warm sunshine. After a sociable lunch, we met Ed the warden for a most interesting talk about the red squirrel breeding programme and the exotic cranes project, as well as learning more about our own native species such as the corncrakes.

We were taken to see a variety of

waterfowl and were impressed by the efforts to provide the best environment for both birds and insects with the planting of wild meadows. Overall, a lovely day out.

Wendy Quinn

Visitors to Novi Sad

John Jennings has just returned from a wonderful week in Novi Sad attending the summer meeting of Europa Cantat. This is an organisation of choirs from all over Europe (and beyond) which holds a gathering of choirs every year in different European cities. John has much to say about the choirs and people he met from European and other countries and he promises to give a report in full in the next newsletter.

The Beckleys were in Novi Sad in June to attend a wedding and they took the opportunity to visit the Milan Petrovic School. As always the school was pleased to see them and the staff were full of plans and ideas.

Among other things they talked at length about were ideas relating to their visually impaired pupils. The new secondary school is not only going to allow them to gather various scattered sections of the school into one place but it is also going to

Page 1 Visit to Pensthorpe

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cont.



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include a department where the public can get help and advice. This is going to be run in conjunction with the Social Services department from the local government and will provide a one-stop shop for people needing help.

They are looking at the possibility of setting up a demonstration kitchen showing special gadgets and adaptations to help people with poor or no eyesight. Another idea they are working on is the production of computer text from speech and vice-versa.

In response to this Peter and Diana attended an exhibition in Norwich by manufacturers of this sort of equipment at the Norfolk & Norwich Association for the Blind and also looked at their demonstration kitchen. They hope to report back to the school in a couple of weeks and investigate providing support for these initiatives through our concert fund-raising.

Future Events

The Annual Luncheon. Sunday 16th October
12.30 for 1.00 Park Farm Hotel, Hethersett,
Norwich.

Complimentary drinks on arrival. Returns to
Wendy by 30th September.

The Paul Cross Memorial Concert.

Our annual fund-raising concert in aid of the
Milan Petrović School will be on January 21st 2012
at the Playhouse in Norwich.

We are delighted that Rita Kinka has agreed to play for us. Rita is an internationally renowned pianist who has played for us before. She was delighted to be asked to play for us again and her programme promises to be exciting and innovative.

The Norfolk and Norwich – El Viejo Friendship Link

Founded 1986
www.norwichelviejo.org.uk



NORWICH CITY COUNCIL – TWINNING COMMITTEE – 13th October, 2011.

REPORT OF NORFOLK AND NORWICH – EL VIEJO FRIENDSHIP LINK

1. 25th Anniversary Event at Fusion in the Forum.

The principal event to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the Link took place at the Fusion facility in the Forum between 15th and 20th August, 2011. The event consisted of a 20 minute audio visual presentation covering Link activities since 1986. The presentation was on a loop that repeated every 20 minutes and was open to the public from 10.00am to 5.00 pm every day. The presentation was skilfully produced by Link Member Roger Hewins and consisted of photos, video and text. The presentation covered all five screens.

The presentation was launched at a special event with invited guests on Monday 20th August. Unfortunately this was during the main holiday period and many of 150 invited guests were unable to attend.

However, the launch was attended by 50 or so guests including 11 members of the City Council. The Chairperson the County Council, Cllr Shelagh Hutson and the Vice Chairperson of South Norfolk District Council also attended as did Peter and Diana Beckley representing the Norwich-Novi Sad Association.

Other prominent personalities present included the Rt. Rev Graham Smith, Dean of Norwich Cathedral, Fr. James Walsh, Dean of St John's Cathedral and Chloe Smith, MP for Norwich North.



Some of the audience present on 20th August.

The event was opened by the Lord Mayor, Cllr Jenny Lay, supported by the Sheriff, Chris Higgins.

2. Computers delivered to Scholarship Schools.

Each of the eight schools in the scholarship project have now been provided with a personal computer and printer together with a computer desk.

Teachers from each of the schools have received training in a comprehensive course designed and provided by the local Council. The schools will now be able to access educational material from the internet which will widen the scope of teaching material available to them and improve the general level of education.

Possible problems of security remain and are being addressed by the teachers and the council.

3. Uniforms delivered to scholarship pupils.

New uniforms were distributed to all 240 scholarship pupils during July following the mammoth logistical exercise of measuring the children and then organising the manufacture of the uniforms using local sources, mainly co-operatives. This not only provides the children with quality clothing but also provides employment for many people in the community.

This is all organised by our representative Sra Carmela Hernandez. The distribution of the uniforms is also a major social occasion in the school year and took place in two of the schools. Parents were bussed in from the outlying areas and sandwiches and cold drinks were provided.

New uniforms are provided each year and the old ones are not discarded but are passed down to younger children.

The total cost of providing a scholarship, including the schoolbag, exercise books, pens and pencils and the cash contribution to the schools of \$10 per scholarship pupil, amounts to £36 per child each year.

Ralph Gayton
Link Secretary.

Norfolk and Norwich Koblenz Friendship Association

Report to Twinning Committee 13 October 2011.

The last Twinning Committee was soon followed by our NNKFA Summer Outing, this time to **Ickworth House and Gardens**, we had visited 20 years ago without being able to step inside this now splendidly restored building. The gardens are a delight. One of our members ventured inside the new hotel and was very impressed. After visiting Ickworth we were able to go on to the Theatre Royal, Bury St. Edmunds, also owned by the National Trust, where we had an interesting guided tour of this restored Georgian theatre, before paying a short visit to the cathedral and the gardens.

On 28 June we assisted, Connections, a Jewish Charity based in London in organising a concert at The Assembly House, given by two gifted young musicians, brother and sister, from Novi Sad, raising money to support students in that region to study music. They gave us a very good concert and raised over £600.

From the 4th to 10th July many of our members helped with the **Feed the Minds Book Fair** at St. Andrew's Church, Norwich and £2600 was raised to support work in the North-West Uganda Literary Project. The books remaining at the end of the sale went to Blickling Hall and Ickworth House to help raise funds for invalid buggies for children. We were grateful to students at Norwich City College who helped with getting the books into the church with a human chain.

Norwich Rotary Club visited their twin club, Rotary Koblenz Ehrenbreitstein, with whom they have been twinned since 1989, to celebrate their 40th charter anniversary, and also to visit the Bundesgartenschau and 'Rhein in Flammen' the great firework display which takes place on the Rhine on the second Saturday each year.

The photographic exhibition '**Rhine again and again**' took place in the **Hostry of Norwich Cathedral** from 22 August to 16 September. The exhibition of photographs of the Rhine, by English photographers of the Rhine, since the start of photography to the present time, was mounted by Katrin Seidel, curator and Herr Bach, from the **Landesmuseum Koblenz**, with assistance from the Norwich and District Photographic Society, particularly our member Alan Taylor, and was opened by the Dean, The Very Reverend Graham Smith and the Deputy Director of the Landesmuseum Herr Engelskirchen, in the presence of The Sheriff, who attended for the Lord Mayor who was unwell. Canon Peter Doll from the cathedral and his staff gave much help with the exhibition. The exhibition was much admired and well visited, but unfortunately was not reported in the local press. The photos in the exhibition will be returned by Chris Southgate and George Ishmael when they go to Koblenz on 16 October, when the BUGA exhibition closes, to dismantle the Norwich Garden. BUGA has been visited by over 3 million visitors, a record for a National Garden Show in Germany.

The **NNKFA 31st Anniversary Lunch** took place at Park Farm, Hethersett on Sunday 18th September, in the presence of The Chairman of the County Council, Councillor Shelagh Hutson as our special guest. We had on display all the pictorial records of our 2011 activities, with the BUGA visits the special attraction.

Our Advent Evening, our 4th annual event, will be on Tuesday 29 November at The Great Hospital.

The Dragon Hall Twinning Centre has been a great concern, especially as it has been moved from the original rooms opened in 1996, and the destruction of our display units for which we and the Novi Sad Association had raised £2600. It was agreed to reduce the entrance fee for all twinning linked visitors to £3.50 providing the best publicity opportunity.

A member of Koblenz Police force contacted me while we were in Koblenz expressing the hope that it might be possible to restart the link between Norfolk Police and Koblenz. They gave the names of several former contacts including Patrick Nash.

DUaM, German conversation group continues to flourish, meeting each Wednesday morning.

The plaque on Augustine Steward House still contains very unfortunate mistakes in its German Translation, which ought at last to be changed!

The drain cover from Koblenz showing the Koblenz Schängel, picture of the spitting boy fountain outside the Town Hall, which was presented by the City of Koblenz, and was fixed to a dwarf wall by the taxi rank next to the Guildhall and was removed when that area was reorganised, has disappeared. Does anyone know where it is?

Waltraud Jarrold
27 September 2011

KONTAKT Newsletter

August 2011

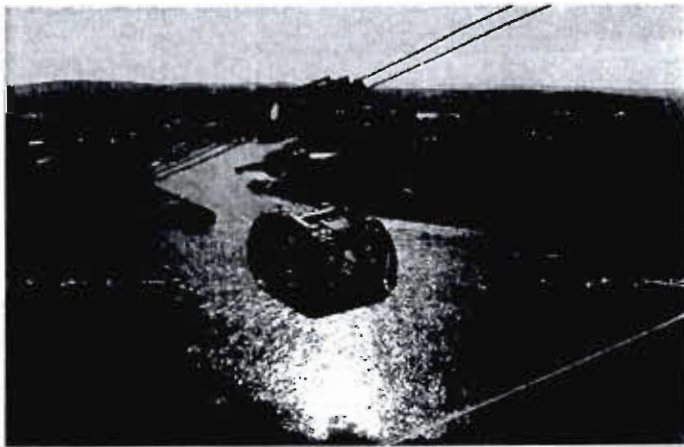
NORFOLK & NORWICH / KOBLENZ FRIENDSHIP ASSOCIATION

APPENDIX



Bundesgartenschau

This is a year of celebration in Koblenz. The Bundesgartenschau (BUGA) is a magnificent enhancement to Koblenz having completely transformed the Deutsches Eck, the Fortress Ehrenbreitstein and the Schloss and its gardens, which make a most colourful main entrance to the BUGA.



The newly built cable car over the Rhine linking the three main areas of the BUGA is an amazing feat of engineering and inspiration. People are flocking to BUGA in their hundreds of thousands and there is so much to offer to suit all ages.



Cities twinned with Koblenz received invitations to participate in this great celebration. Norwich accepted the invitation,

with the majority of the expenses paid by Koblenz, and May 1st was Norwich Day. Norwich City Council was represented by Steve Morphew (at that time leader of the city council), Maggie Wheeler and Andy Emms. Waltraud and Richard Jarrold and Jill Noble were in Winnigen for Easter and were also invited to join the official delegation for the



programme in Koblenz, combining this with planning for the NNKFA visit later in May.

A young dance group, 'The Passion' from the Garage and two singer song writers, and the 'Kemps Men' performed representing the cultural life of our city.

The young people stayed at The Kolping Haus in Koblenz, and the 23 Kemps Men were all privately hosted in Winnigen,



thanks to Waltraud's contacts, by the dance group Spätlese and friends. They received a wonderful welcome and were wined and dined in

true Winnigen style! Such generosity has to be experienced to be believed and is totally overwhelming.

All the dancers and singers performed on the stage near the Deutsches Eck and received enthusiastic applause from the large audiences, which they attracted throughout the afternoon. Snap the Dragon accompanied the Kemps Men and caused great amusement as he and a Whiffler move among the audience. The whole event was an enormous success and Norwich could be proud of all who participated.

Radio Hams connected to Norwich from BUGA



There was a fantastic live radio link between Koblenz and Norwich also on May 1st from Deutsches Eck, with Waltraud reporting to Malcolm

Prestwood in Norwich. The contact caused enthusiastic applause, with the Passion Group and soloists joining in. This unique event was recorded on film and followed up with a splendid folder sent by the Amateurfunk Koblenz and a special letter from Arno Herz, chairman of the Mittelrhein K32. His letter also referred to the founders of the link, Siegfried Jungwirth and Reg Brake, and the support of Hans-Otto Antrup.

NNKFA Visit to Koblenz May 22nd to 29th

38 people set off very early in the morning of Sunday May 22nd to catch the Sea France ferry to Calais, and then journey on to arrive in Koblenz at the Hotel Morjan on the Rhine Promenade, and enjoy a glorious sunny evening, enjoy a meal and get a first impres-



sion of the BUGA. Several friends were visiting Koblenz for the first time and were greatly impressed by all they experienced. Monday, our first full day we were able to start using our 2 day tickets to the BUGA, and starting at the main entrance to the Schloss, we saw its beautifully restored gardens, full of colour, and then later in the morning we gathered at the Norwich Garden to have an explanation from our member



Chris Southgate, who with George Ishmael had installed the garden early in April. After lunch we were welcomed by the new Oberbürgermeister, Prof. Dr Joachim Hofmann-Göttig, in the Schöffenstübchen on behalf of the city. After the reception we travelled up in the specially installed cable car to the Festung Ehrenbreitstein where there are extensive gardens and displays, which are colourful and breathtakingly beautiful, viewpoints and exhibitions in the Festung itself. Tuesday. Our 2 day ticket included a boat trip along the Rhine to Stolzenfels, entry into the castle itself as well as two days in the BUGA, with a cable car ride up and down each day. Stolzenfels proved well worth a visit as the castle and gardens have been extensively restored, although there is still work to do.

Wednesday was our Winingen 'Pauschal' day. We were warmly welcomed by Martina



and Lothar Kröber by the Vinothek and Weinbrunnen. We then went to the museum, where the granddaughter of August



Horch founder of Horch and Audi cars, and born in Winningen had placed their classic Horch car outside for us, and to be welcomed and shown round by Waltraud's sister Siglinde. Then it was time for a superb lunch in the newly refurbished 'Sonne', followed by



a 2 hour boat trip on the Moselle. The visit finished with a wine tasting at Horst Löwen-



steins which he ended with a rare Trockenbeeren- auslese of the highest quality. Thursday we were able to in-

clude an extra event and travelled to Andernach, by coach and then by boat to the site of the cold water



geyser, which erupts about every 90 minutes with a spume of water going up into the air. Thursday evening was our joint dinner organised by Günter Hahn and members of the Koblenz Freundeskreis and other friends. It was good to have such a large number of their members present.

Friday was a day on the Rhine, first visiting the rock of the Loreley high up above the river, and an opportunity to mark the special birthday of our Chairman Jill, singing 'Happy Birthday' and enjoying a Winningen speciality shortbread biscuit 'Zuckerfisch'. On the rock itself and overlooking the Rhine four



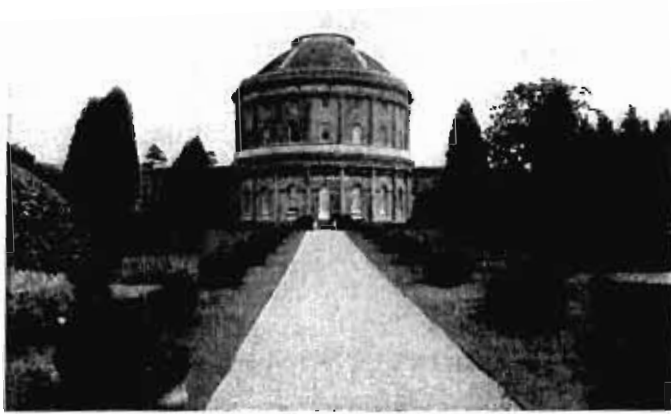
members burst into the 'Song of the Loreley' in celebration. We travelled on to Rüdesheim, where we each did what we wanted to. Several travelled by chair lift up to the enormous monument Niederwald Denkmal, with fine views over the vineyards and the Rhine valley, before taking the boat back to Koblenz.

Saturday was a free day, which also gave some of our members a chance to visit the Roman city of Trier by train.

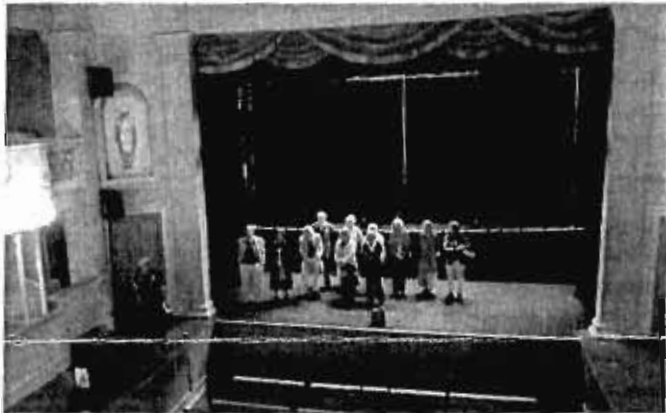
The week had passed all too quickly leaving many things still to see and experience.

Summer Outing to Ickworth House and Theatre Royal, Bury St. Edmunds On June 25th

We spent a very pleasant day visiting Ickworth House and the Theatre Royal Bury St. Edmunds.



The first port of call was Ickworth, where we were warmly welcomed by Aimee, who joined our coach at the gate and escorted us to the house forecourt. We were free to explore the house and grounds at our leisure. In the afternoon we had a guided tour of the Theatre Royal. This restored Georgian The-



atre has a long and interesting history as our guides were very enthusiastically explained to us.

We finished the day with a fleeting visit to the Cathedral and the beautiful gardens.



'The Rhine again and again' exhibition at the Cathedral Hostry from Tuesday, August 23rd

This 'Immer wieder Rhein' exhibition of photographs taken on the Rhine by British photographers since the Rhine and photography became popular, also has recent photos by members of the Norwich and District Photography Society, with our member Alan Taylor included. The exhibition was originally held in Koblenz in the Festung Ehrenbreitstein, and is well worth a visit.

More NNKFA news and events

March 11 2011 Musik Institut Koblenz Choir sang Brahms German Requiem at a sell-out concert in St Andrews Hall, with Norwich Philharmonic Choir and Orchestra, under conductor David Dunnnett.

April 2011 20 Group Norwich and AKM Koblenz took part in an exhibition in Haus Metternich in Koblenz, and in May/June AKM took part in an exhibition in the Forum, Norwich.

Norwich Philatelic Society (100 years old) is taking part in an exhibition with Koblenz Verein für Briefmarkenfreunde who are 125 years old. Chris Southgate, our committee member is promoting this.

Norwich Bridge Club is meeting with the Bridge Club in Koblenz.

Radio Hams from Koblenz and Norwich are in regular contact, on 2nd Saturdays at 10.00am. The contact is Malcolm Prestwood.

Norfolk Youth Orchestra is in touch with the Rheinland Pfalz Jugendorchester, and it is hoped to have a joint concert with young musicians from Novi Sad.

June/ July Norwich City College hosted apprentices from Handwerkskammer Koblenz for 3 weeks, as a renewal of contacts for exchange of apprentices. There were very positive comments from the students on their return to Koblenz, in the Chamber of Skilled Trades (HWK) newspaper, recommending the continuation of this programme. This programme was sponsored by "Training Bridge".

A sixth form student from Johannes Gymnasium in Lahnstein, Paul Dennis' school, worked in Jarrold's for part of June and July for Work Experience.