

Norfolk and Norwich Koblenz Friendship Association

Report to Twinning Committee 3 March 2011.

The NNKFA 30th Anniversary Year was certainly recognised in style at all our seasonal functions, with the extra visit to Ironbridge from 1 to 3 October building on the link with the Bendorf-Sayn Iron museum (Sayner Hütte) near Koblenz. Ironbridge is a UNESCO World Heritage site, and Bendorf-Sayn also hopes to achieve this.

Norwich City Town Crier, David Bullock celebrated 25 years in the post on 23 November 2010, and I was pleased to be invited to represent the NNKFA at the special City Hall reception. At many of our welcoming functions David, an honorary member of our association has added his unique contribution in his memorable style, hopefully further encouraged by a special toast with “Winningen Wine”. It would be good if he could grace the Norwich Day at the BUGA, Bundesgartenschau, (German National Garden Show) in Koblenz at the beginning of May!

Winter Event 2010 Advent Evening 30 November at the Great Hospital. This was an especially memorable event as the climax to our 30th Anniversary. Following tradition we were delighted to welcome 12 Norwich Cathedral Lay Clerks, and in recognition of their wonderful singing we were pleased to present a cheque for £100 towards the Cathedral Song School. We again had a capacity attendance and were very pleased to welcome The Chairman of Norfolk County Council, Councillor Tony Tomkinson and his wife Sheila, and, ‘incognito’, Derek James and his wife and daughter. Several city Councillors gave their apologies as they had to attend a City Council meeting.

BUGA 2011 Twin City Gardens. There will be gardens for each of the Twin cities of Koblenz at the Garden Show, and an enormous amount of work has been put into preparation, particularly by our committee member and former Lord Mayor, Chris Southgate, and George Ishmael, linked with Norwich in Bloom. Chris and George will be taking a van to Koblenz from 5 to 9 April, with plants, landscaping etc. in order to install the garden ready for the opening on 15 April.

Norwich 20 Group will be taking part in the Art exhibition in Koblenz from 3 to 17 April in Haus Metternich.

Norwich Day at BUGA Weekend 29 April to 2 May. A cultural group, including the Kemps Men, organised by Andy Emms will be visiting Koblenz to perform in the Twin City Gardens on a Norwich Day at BUGA on May 1. I hope Andy can give us more details of this at the meeting. The Lord Mayor of Norwich and an official party of 3 others have also been invited by the Oberbürgermeister of Koblenz to visit that week end. Winnigen will host the Kemps Men.

May 20 – 23 **Norwich Diocesan Ecumenical** visit to Koblenz Churches and BUGA. Bishop Graham James will preach in Koblenz Christus Kirche on Sunday 22 May.

May 22 – 29 **NNKFA visit to BUGA and Koblenz Region**, including a reception by new Oberbürgermeister, Prof. Dr. Joachim Hoffman Göttig in the Schöffentübchen at 2.00pm on Monday 23 May.

NNKFA Annual Programme 2011

Spring

AGM & Social
County Hall
18 March

Summer

Outing to
Ickworth &
Bury St Edmunds
25 June

Autumn

Anniversary
Lunch
Park Farm
18 September

Winter

Advent Evening
Great Hospital
29 November

Other Activities in 2011

Saturday 19 March **Koblenz Musik Institut Choir and Norwich Philharmonic Choir and Orchestra** perform Brahms's German Requiem together in the St. Andrew's Hall. Tickets from Prelude Records.

2 to 5 June **Koblenz Ehrenbreitstein Rotary Club** visit to Norwich.

Mid June Visit of Dr Margit Theiss former director of the Diesterweg School for Special Needs in Koblenz, with a link to the Clare School. (Also in touch with Alison Cunningham County Hall) There is also a link with Joe Sterling, a Norwich resident, regarding the Kindertransport evacuation of children from Germany in the 1930's, about which her daughter, Mairie, is writing a thesis.

12 to 15 August **Norwich Rotary Club** visit **Koblenz** for BUGA and Rhein in Flammen, fireworks over the Rhine.

Jugend Orchester Rheinland Pfalz & Norfolk Youth Orchestra. Contacts have been made with the hope of a visit to Norfolk in 2012 or 2013. Funding is being sought from the EU.

City College and Handwerkskammer Koblenz link is being reactivated, and it is expected that there will be exchanges of Apprentices. Petra Laudemann from HWK has visited City College Principal Dick Palmer.

The NNKFA DUaM German Conversation group continues to meet weekly, and has generously supported Feed the Minds and Meningitis Trust.

We would like to express our thanks to Val Hay for all her dedication and support for twinning, and wish her well for the future.

Waltraud Jarrold
22 February 2011