KONTAKT Newsletter

August 2018

Norfolk & Norwich / Koblenz Friendship Association

"Understanding and Friendship" our motto.

Welcome to the August KONTAKT reflecting on our programme of Seasonal events since the February newsletter

March 2018 The AGM at County Hall, a welcome tradition, in the presence of the Chairman of the County Council, Councillor John Wood, Mrs Rita Wood and the Lord Mayor of Norwich, David Fullman with his consort, Paul Goymer. We do value the use of the Edwards (or Cranmer) Room and gladly alter the layout to suit the event, and including the layout of the tables for the 'Buffet temptations' provided by members. The event was enhanced by musicians from the Norfolk Youth Orchestra under their Director of Music and oboist Juliet Rickard. The NNKFA donation has gone towards the Triorca in Norwich.

NNKFA Summer Outing 23 June A most memorable event. Thanks to Sandra Sheppard for organising it, and Brian and Brenda Horner for the lovely description "Vielen Dank"!

Triorca in Norwich 21 – 27 July, with a concert at OPEN in Bank Plain (the former Barclays Bank) at 7.30 pm on Friday 27 July and Saffron Walden on Saturday 28 July, before the visitors return home. We hope that as many members as possible will support this concert, given by these talented young musicians from Norfolk, and our twin cities and regions of Koblenz and Novi Sad. We are also expecting members of the Novi Sad Association to be present.

40th Anniversary of City Twinning Koblenz and Norwich

We mentioned this special event in our February Kontakt and it was celebrated in Koblenz on Sunday 22 April with a generous reception hosted by the Oberbürgermeister Pro. Dr. Hoffman-Göttig in the historic Council Chamber, Rathaussaal, of the City Hall, musically enhanced by the "Junger Chor Koblenz", a very gifted and enthusiastic young choir.

We were pleased, with Jill Noble, to be able to join the then Lord Mayor of Norwich, Cllr David Fullman and his consort, David Goymour for this special event, and it was wonderful to experience a "full house" of enthusiastic Twin Friends from not only the Koblenz-Norwich group, but also other cities with which Koblenz is twinned and many other links to Norwich through other groups and organisations.

Günter Hahn provided a big surprise with the publication of his "Tale of Twin Cities" book, accompanied by a slide show covering this period of twinning. This was a fitting 40th Anniversary present.

After the reception, which included speeches, by the Oberbürgermeister,

the Lord Mayor of Norwich and Waltraud, the Oberbürgermeister entertained the Lord Mayor and a number of us as guests to lunch, held outside in the unusually warm April weather. In the afternoon the Lord Mayor and his consort were able to visit the Festung Ehrenbreitstein and have a guided tour. On the Monday, they visited the City Library in the Koblenz Forum, and had a meeting with the Koblenz Economic Officer.

This was a truly memorable weekend and we are grateful to the Oberbürgermeister and the City of Koblenz for their amazing generosity and to Brigitte Finkemeier for all the time preparing and making sure that it ran smoothly.

The signing of the Golden Book of the City of Koblenz by the two Lord Mayors and Günter Hahn and Waltraud featured in the Koblenz Rhein Zeitung.

The NNKFA Summer Outing 23 June
NNKFA outing to Woburn Abbey a personal view.

There is a saying in Germany that "When the angels travel the sun travels with them" and so it was when our group of 48 left County Hall to head for Woburn Abbey on 23rd June. Secure in the knowledge that we were in the safe hands of our usual driver Mark we settled down for our 2 hour journey to the Palladian manor house and gardens.

We made good time and by 11am our Woburn host Lisa was welcoming us to the Abbey and gardens. When organising our outing Sandra and John Sheppard had realised that there was also a garden show in the grounds of the Abbey and so we were lucky to have an added attraction. Indeed not only were there a number of stands to explore but we had access to other parts of the estate not usually open to the public including the Sculpture gallery and the Duke and Duchess's private garden.

So after a cup of coffee in the Sculpture gallery we headed for the private gardens and the camellia house which was home to one of the most enormous bananas plants I have seen along with other impressive palms and succulents.

Walking out towards the garden show we saw a number of people sitting on large bean bags under a magnificent Cedar of Lebanon. Such a thoughtful touch I felt providing an opportunity for families to relax under the cool shade of this magnificent tree. A tour around the stands in the garden show left us with a number of decisions to make about which plants to take home given the constraints of the coach and just how many more plants we can squeeze into our garden. The choice was huge so we took the opportunity to think about it while sitting and listening to the music of the Bedford Town band who entertained us with music ranging from John Rutter to Oklahoma.

And so onto the house which has been in the ownership of the Dukes of Bedford since the time of the reformation when it was given to the family by Henry VIII. An exhibition on Humphry Repton helped us understand the way the estate has developed as did an exhibition curated by years 3 and 4 of the local school. The students had used objects from the Duke's collection to describe how the estate has changed over the centuries. Still used as a family home Woburn Abbey houses a number of collections from silver toasters (I've never seen so many different styles of toaster!) to priceless works of arts - the largest collection in private ownership. We spent some time wandering through the ornate rooms admiring the Canaletto, Velasquez and Rembrandts. While in the house we were offered the chance to hear a talk about the "Flying Duchess" and her husband the 11th Duke. The couple were great philanthropists. Examples of their generosity included building a hospital with free access and supporting the families of the soldiers who had enlisted in the Duke's Bedfordshire battalion. Indeed during WW1 the entire house was given over to the government for use by military staff. One of the rooms we saw had small holes in the Beautiful hand painted wallpaper where, we were told, the Wrens, who used the room for relaxation, had placed their dart board.

The Duchess had a range of interests including martial arts, nursing and flying. She and husband worked hard on the estate both for and with its workers and tenants until she sadly disappeared on a solo flight she was piloting to visit a friend in Norfolk. Her husband never recovered from this loss and after he died the house fell into decline. However it has since been carefully restored and is the home of the current Duke and Duchess. Alongside the splendour of the house it was good to see family photographs.

Leaving the house we had just enough time for a cream tea and, have a final look at the gardens and buy our plants before making our way back to the coach for our journey home. Safely back at County Hall we thanked Mark and Sandra and John for such an enjoyable day said farewell to our fellow travellers and set off for home with the sun still shining.

Brian and Brenda Horner

49th Feed the Minds Book Fair 13 – 16 June

This was opened by the New Lord Mayor Cllr Martin Schmierer, who was very generous with his time and showed great interest.

Thanks to all those who helped, particularly from NNKFA, we raised over 1500 pounds in aid of Burundi, which we are supporting for the second year. In Burundi, FTM and Rema Ministries are helping to reintegrate returning refugees who fled conflict. They have trained 10 church leaders from different denominations to support returnees land claims, working with current land occupants and the National Land Commission.

DUaM, Deutsche Unterhaltung continues weekly on Wednesdays from 10.30 – 12.00 noon at Mosel, 53a Keswick Road, (bus 50a from city centre), is increasingly popular. We are grateful to the group for regular contributions to Meningitis Now and Feed the Minds.

A sponsored Cycle Ride from Koblenz to Norwich.

Organised by cyclists from **AVIVA**, will leave Koblenz, Deutsches Eck, on Friday 24 August.
The city of Koblenz is providing hotel accommodation at the Morjan for the night before, and the Oberbürgermeister David Langner will launch their ride. They will visit various Football Clubs in cities on the way back to Norwich .
They are raising money for the Community Sports Foundation to help it extend its work particularly among young people with health and other disabilities. You can find more details at https://www.communitysportsfoundation.org.uk/fundraising - events/koblenz-norwich-cycle-challenge/
They will arrive in Norwich at the Sports Foundation Site behind Carrow Road Football Stadium on Monday 27 August. You can find details of sponsorship on the web page above.

BUGA Norwich Garden from Koblenz 2011 will be recreated at All Saints Church, Westlegate with the support of **Norwich n Bloom**, as a Twinning Garden with an additional contribution of Flower Planting linked to the Novi Sad and Rouen Twinning Associations. A welcome continuation indeed.

Norwich and District Photographic Society

Held their 102nd Annual Exhibition from 3 July, with a display of photos from Photoclub Koblenz. The whole show was excellent and imaginative.

Norfolk Amateur Radio Link: Malcolm Prestwood

On June 27 the chairman of the Koblenz Link, Marco (DM5ML), his wife Melanie and son and daughter joined us at DUaM while visiting Norfolk. Marco and his son also play in the "Postmusik Kapelle" Koblenz who are hoping that they can visit Norwich again from 30 May to 2 June 2019.

New Oberbürgermeister in Koblenz, David Langner was installed on May 1. He has a special link with Norwich through his English teacher at Lahnstein Johannes Gymnasium, Paul Dennis, who comes from Norwich and is an active committee member of NKFK ev, our opposite number in Koblenz.

Programme 2018

Sunday September 16th	38th Anniversary Lunch	Park Farm, Hethersett (see separate details)
Monday December 3rd	Advent Evening	Great Hospital

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

Treasurer & Membership
John & Sandra Sheppard
145 Waterworks Road
Norwich
NR2 4DF
01603 613880
se.sheppard@btimternet.com