

KONTAKT Newsletter

August 2016



NORFOLK & NORWICH / KOBLENZ FRIENDSHIP ASSOCIATION

"Understanding and Friendship" our motto.

Welcome to the August Newsletter, which covers the period from February to July 2016 and looks ahead to some of our future programme.

Friday 11 March. The 2016 programme started with the **AGM at County Hall** with 22 members present, and we were delighted to welcome our "Host", the Chairman of Norfolk County Council, Councillor Rex Parkinson-Hare and Mrs Margaret Parkinson-Hare, gratefully accepting the traditional venue, freely provided. Equally we felt very honoured by the presence of our Lord Mayor, Councillor Brenda Arthur.

The ideal facilities of the Edwards Room enabled us to display a selection of excellent enlarged photographs of Koblenz and its region taken by Alan Taylor, a prominent member of NNKFA, and also very much involved in the link between the Norwich and District Photographic Society and Foto Club Koblenz. Sadly he has since passed away, but he will be fondly remembered.



27 May, was a most welcome date in our diary of events, as it marked the visit of the Oberbürgermeister of Koblenz, Prof. Dr. Joachim Hoffmann-Göttig, accompanied by Günter Hahn, to help with translations, and his excellent driver Peter Lotak. The special NNKFA event was to welcome the group to lunch in the Cathedral Refectory, where we were pleased that Canon Andrew Bryant, who is the diocesan link with Koblenz, was able to join us. With all the extra civic activities including Mayor making and elections immediately before the visit, the visitors enthusiastically enjoyed the programme organised by the city for them, and the opportunity to be welcomed by our new Lord Mayor Councillor Marion Maxwell, and in his letter of thanks the Oberbürgermeister has invited her to make a return visit to Koblenz.

Saturday 18 June was our **Summer Outing** visit to **Wrest Park**, an English Heritage property in Bedfordshire, travelling "beyond our borders" was a memorable experience, and we were delighted that our Immediate Past Lord Mayor, Brenda Arthur-Horner and her husband Brian were able to join us. Although overcast, it remained dry, and the visit was much enjoyed by all.



The following report was compiled by Michael Salt.

Despite lowering grey skies with the promise of some rain on the journey, our party of 28 people left County Hall, our new departure point, on a Spratts coach driven by Mark.

Waltraud said, as we left, that Bedfordshire was beyond our normal Norfolk based summer expeditions but Wrest Park offered much out of the ordinary and would offer a change of scenery on the way.

Almost two hours later we arrived at Wrest Park and were able to walk directly to the house, where our Oxfordshire member, Mandy Keen, was waiting to join us.

The house had been used as a hospital during the First War. There were some fascinating displays of soldiers being nursed and convalesced. Particularly interesting was the extent of the entertainments and activities they were offered to keep up morale and speed their recovery, not least the opportunity to ride camels and ostriches! The NHS might have something to learn from that!

Unfortunately much of the house was destroyed by fire in 1916 and had to be evacuated. The last of the De Grey family, who owned the estate, was killed on the Western Front later that year. The estate was sold resulting in the loss of many artefacts that normally add to the delights of most stately homes. The most remarkable features of the house, the ceilings and pictures built into the walls have been preserved.

Earl de Grey who had rebuilt the house in the 1840's was passionately interested in design, particularly French styles and helped to produce many of the artistic features which set the house apart from others of that period. Two of the rooms that illustrate this splendour were being prepared for a Wedding so we were only able to walk through and take a brief glance.

De Grey was a practical man, too. The house had underfloor heating and beer from the brewery was piped directly into the house!!

The gardens and grounds are extensive and were designed in the eighteenth century. At that time they were managed by 24 gardeners, today there are only six, including apprentices but there are between 100 and 150 volunteers!



The magnificent vista from the veranda of the house is the Pavilion, about twenty minutes stroll away alongside a lake cum canal, a circular building where it was possible to entertain a few friends. There is an alcove which could be used as a small bedroom, with a fire and a mirror above it. There is also a large kitchen in the basement and servants quarters above, both reached by very steep, narrow staircases.

The house has had several owners over the years and came into the safe hands of English Heritage in 2006.

They are doing all they can to preserve and share this remarkable heritage with the public.

As we drove home we were able to reflect that we had indeed, as Waltraud had forecast, experienced and enjoyed a fascinating place.



July 15 to 19. To mark the **Kemps Men's 60th Anniversary**, they invited their long established friends the **Winningen "Winzer Tanz und Trachtengruppe"** to come to celebrate and dance with them and enjoy a few days in Norfolk. We welcomed them at Mosel, Keswick Road on their arrival in Norwich, as they were too early to go straight to the hotel and were fortunate to have a lovely sunny morning in the garden. On the Saturday they travelled with the Kemp's Men to Cromer by train, having first danced at Norwich Station. They were well received by visitors and residents in Cromer, and danced at various locations including in front of the pier. Our member Angela Bennett and Ian took some video film of them there. On the Sunday they joined members of the Kemp's Men for the morning service at Norwich Cathedral,



before going to the Adam and Eve in Bishopgate for lunch, and then returning to the Bishop's Garden, which was open in aid of the Lymphoma Cancer Charity, where they and the Kemp's Men took it in turn to dance on the lawn. They were greeted there by the Lord Mayor of Norwich, and were also able to enjoy the beautiful garden. In the evening they enjoyed a barbecue at the home of Kemp's Man Pip Conrad and his wife, again fortunately a fine evening. On Monday, they set off for Walberswick and Southwold, only to find themselves delayed by the heavy traffic leaving the music festival. They and the Kemp's Men enjoyed a buffet lunch at The Bell, before dancing in the garden of the pub and then on the village green and then setting off on foot and

by ferry or footbridge to the Green at Southwold, where they danced again before a large and appreciative audience. Supper and dancing again was in Oulton Broad before returning to Norwich. As they were not due to leave Norwich for Stansted until the Tuesday afternoon, they had an opportunity to enjoy the city. All the members who came to Norwich very much appreciated the hospitality and friendship, which they received. Much of the visit was organised by Peter Salt a longstanding member of the Kemp's Men.

July 21 to 27 Triorca Young Musicians, from Norwich, Norfolk and our twin cities and regions of Koblenz and Novi Sad travelled for the second time to Schloss Engers near Koblenz, for a residential course with concerts at Schloss Engers and the Görres Haus in Koblenz, the concert and practice hall used by the Rheinische Philharmonie Orchestra, and, when they visit Koblenz, the Norwich Philharmonic choir, to rehearse before their main concerts in the Rhein Mosel Halle. The visit seems to have gone extremely well and we have received an email from Juliet Rickard, organiser of music for the schools in Norfolk, with copies of very appreciative emails from Norfolk young musicians, who were invited to attend, and saying how much they felt they had gained from the visit and their time with the Norfolk Youth Orchestra, as well as musicians from other countries. It is hoped to hold the next Triorca training and concert in Novi Sad. Finance is always a problem with programmes of this Nature, but we and the Novi Sad association help with this through the Triorca Trust. We were delighted and grateful to receive £500 from the Norwich Twinning Committee towards the costs of this visit. We would like to hear of further possible sources of finance.



19 July: The Norwich and District Photographic Society Summer Exhibition was opened in the Cathedral Hostry, and included a tribute to Alan Taylor with a show of some of his old cameras and a display of four of his Koblenz pictures surrounded by pictures from members of the Fotoclub, Koblenz.

Sunday 18 September. Our annual **"Birthday Lunch"** will be at Park Farm, Hethersett, with a "welcome- Prosit" drink, this time with wine presented by the Oberbürgermeister of Koblenz.

Monday 28 November: Advent Evening will be at the Great Hospital. We hope to have members of the Cathedral Choir, as well as singing carols and enjoying German Christmas "Gebäck."

Activities. We continue with our weekly DUaM German Conversation every Wednesday 10.30 to 12.00 noon at 53a Keswick Road, Cringleford, or if that is not possible other members houses. A contribution of £1 per person is given to our chosen charities "Meningitis Now" and "Feed the Minds of Millions"

Members also contribute to and support out annual "Feed the Minds" Book Fair, which was held 8 to 11 June and graciously opened by the Lord Mayor. "£1800 has been sent to Feed the Minds"

While we are still anticipating the new Twinning Display facility at City Hall, we are delighted that both the Norwich Society and Norwich in Bloom are actively looking for a new location for the Norwich Window, which was displayed in the Norwich Garden of the Bundesgartenshau in Koblenz in 2011.

We received a most gracious reply to our Special Greetings to the Queen on her 90th birthday.

We are confident that strong Twinning Links with European Cities will continue, despite the referendum vote to leave the European Union, and hope that the United Kingdom will continue to cooperate with the EU.

2017 Provisional Dates

Friday March 10: Annual General Meeting at County Hall

Saturday 10 June: Summer Outing

Saturday 2 September to Saturday 9 September: Koblenz Visit, including Winnigen Fireworks

Sunday 17 September: Anniversary Lunch

Tuesday 5 December: Advent Evening

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NNKFA 36th Birthday Lunch

Sunday 18th September 2016 12.45pm for 1.15pm

Park Farm Hotel, Hethersett

This year's Birthday Lunch will be held at the Park Farm Hotel, Hethersett at a cost of £21.00 per person. This covers a two course meal, coffee and mints and gratuities. Drinks will be available for you to purchase from the bar.

The menu choices are:-

Main Course

- 1) Roasted Cod Loin on Curly Kale with Bur Blanc Sauce
- 2) Tarragon Roasted Norfolk Chicken with Bacon Roll, Chestnut and Apple Stuffing
- 3) Roast Sirloin of Beef with Yorkshire pudding
- 4) Potato Gnocchi with Crumbled Goats Cheese

Selection of Freshly Prepared Vegetables

Dessert

- a) Fresh Fruit Salad
- b) Chocolate Truffle Torte on a Raspberry Dressing with Tuille Biscuit
- c) Whisky and White Chocolate Croissant Bread and Butter pudding with Vanilla Seed Ice Cream
- d) Warm Bakewell Tart with Clotted Cream

Coffee and Mints

If you would like to attend please select your choices, complete the enclosed form and send with a cheque for £21.00 per person payable to NNKFA, no later than Tuesday 30 August, to:

Mrs Sandra Sheppard, 145 Waterworks Road, Norwich, NR2 4DF

Please note that no tickets will be issued for this event.



Reply slip

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Park Farm Hotel, Hethersett

	Name	Name
Main Course		
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2) Tarragon Roasted Norfolk Chicken
3) Roast Sirloin of Beef
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Dessert		
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b) Chocolate Truffle Torte
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d) Warm Bakewell Tart

Names(s)

Address

.....

Telephone

Cheque, made payable to NNKFA, enclosed for persons at £21.00 per person

Signed Date