

Report to Twinning Committee Thursday 7 July 2016

The KONTACT Newsletter is not due until August 2016 – hence this interim report.

By tradition the 2016 programme started with the AGM on Friday 11 March 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 Cranmore 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.

27th 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. 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 I 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, and a member who travelled from Oxford were able to join us. Although overcast, it remained dry, and the visit was much enjoyed by all.

July 15 to 19. To mark the Kemps Men’s 60th anniversary they have invited their long established friends the Winnigen “Winzer Tanz und Trachtengruppe” to come and dance with them and enjoy a few days in Norfolk. One of the events where they can be seen is the Charity Event in the Bishop’s Garden in aid of Lymphoma on Sunday 17 July.

July 21 to 27 the Triorca Young Musicians, from Norwich, Norfolk and our twin cities and regions of Koblenz and Novi Sad are for the second time gathering at Schloss Engers near Koblenz, for a residential course with concerts planned 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.

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

Monday 28 November Advent Evening at the Great Hospital.

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 our annual "Feed the Minds" Book Fair, which was held 8 to 11 June and graciously opened by the Lord Mayor.

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 Bundesgartenschau 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.

We very much appreciate the Annual Twinning Grant from the city to help cover our administration expenses, and are grateful for this.

Waltraud Jarrold MBE
1 July 2016