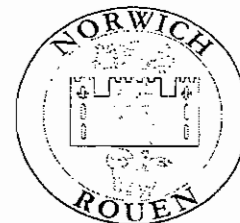




L'Amitié



*The Newsletter of the Norfolk and Norwich – Rouen
Friendship Association*

February 2012

From the Chairman

Two events are fast approaching: the Annual Dinner next week and the AGM on 22 March 2012, and I look forward to seeing you at both or either event. But more important news for you: details of the visit by our friends from Rouen at the beginning of May.

Visit: Wednesday, 2—Saturday, 5 May

This year their visit has been cut short by a day due to the second round of voting for the Presidential elections on Sunday, 6 May as they all want to be home to be able to cast their votes. The most important and pressing need is to find people who could accommodate all those seeking to stay with a family. This year their party numbers 37! It must be a record, helped largely by the fact that the visit falls within a school break so that some young people and teachers are able to come as well. Wonderful news! Many people have already arranged their accommodation with their friends **but we still need help with:**

- Young female English teacher
- Three recently retired females who are learning English (these are 3 individuals)
- A couple who have been before but cannot go to previous host
- Young retired female with senior HR background and good English
- 16 year old boy chorister and organ scholar who would like to be with a family with someone of his age and interests (nephew of a lady who is staying in the hotel)
- a retired teacher who speaks excellent

English and who usually stays with me but as I shall be at work during their visit, I don't feel able to look after her this year.

Please ask around if you know of anyone who might be able to help in providing a bed/beds for any of the above. Some can stay together.

Outline Programme for the Visit

WEDNESDAY, 2 MAY

c5.00pm Arrive at Notcutts car park to be met by hosts or onward travel to the hotel in the city

THURSDAY, 3 MAY

8.45am Coach leaves hotel
9.00am Meet at Notcutts for Kings Lynn. Morning in Kings Lynn with guided visit, with mention of Canadian connections
Lunch at Visitor Centre at Sandringham
Afternoon visit to Sandringham House
c6.00pm Arrival back at Notcutts We hope there will be space on the French coach for those of our members who wish to join the visit to do so.

Evening with hosts/at leisure for those in hotel

FRIDAY, 4 MAY

Three possibilities for the morning with everyone getting their own lunch in the city:

1. Guided visit for those for whom this is their first visit
2. Visit to a particular point of interest for those familiar with Norwich (possibly the Sainsbury Centre)
3. Free choice if preferred

The afternoon is free for our visitors to do what they (or their hosts!) would like until

5.00pm Reception at City Hall

Evening at leisure. There are some people staying at the hotel. It would be nice if they could be invited for the evening meal to members' houses. There is space on the enclosed sheet to indicate if you could offer a meal.

SATURDAY, 5 MAY

8.30am Departure from hotel

9.00am **prompt** Departure from Notcutts

Please contact me for any questions relating to the visit.

Reminder: Subscriptions for 2012

Please let Ann Rowe have your subscription for this year if you haven't already sent it in. Her address is 18 The Ramblers, Poringland, Norwich NR14 7QN.

AGM: 22 March 2012

Just to remind you that the AGM is on Thursday, 22 March at 7.30pm in the Council Chamber of City Hall.

Please consider whether you could stand for election: we urgently need a vice-chairman as our constitution requires us to have one. You may also feel that I have been chairman long enough and that you are secretly longing to step into my shoes. Don't be shy in coming forward!!

Forward Planning

Next year, 2013, it will be our turn to go to Rouen. We are hoping to coincide with the visit of the Armada—the tall sailing ships which stop at Rouen on their four-yearly trip. This promises to be very exciting, and I know some members will already have been to Rouen when the ships are in, but for those,

like me, who haven't, I think we could be in for a real treat. The tall ships are in Rouen from 6-16 June so our visit will be some time in that period.

The Summer Garden Party

Generous members have in previous years opened their gardens for our annual garden party (or homes, as last year when the heavens opened!). Is there anyone who feels able to offer their garden for a party this year? Please let me know.

Other Programme Ideas

Do you have any thoughts on what you would like to see on forthcoming programmes? We seem to be thin on the ground for ideas! Please let any member of the committee know.

Committee Contacts

Chairman: Mary Corbould: 01603 612748

Vice Chairman: vacant

Treasurer: Bob Barnard: 01603 456916

Secretary: Ann Rowe: 01508 494409

Minutes Secretary: Chris Rowe: 01508 494409

Lyn Holt: 01603 451258

Bob Gledhill: 01603 621980

Melanie Lloyd: to follow

THE Norfolk and Norwich – el Viejo Friendship link

Annual report 2011

Submitted to the annual general meeting

22nd February 2012



Some of the 57 scholarship project pupils who graduated from 6th grade in November 2011 celebrate their success

David Trevanion
Chairperson

Ralph Gayton
Secretary

Susan Thomas
Treasurer

THE NORFOLK AND NORWICH – EL VIEJO FRIENDSHIP LINK

ANNUAL REPORT 2011

1. MEETINGS AND MEMBERSHIP

Eight meetings of the Link Executive Committee took place during the year. For various reasons the meetings followed a more irregular programme than usual. Meetings were not held in February due to the 2011 AGM and there was no meeting in April because of the Link delegation to El Viejo. No meeting was held in June due to the Secretary's visit to El Viejo and, as usual there was no meeting in August. The November meeting was cancelled due to lack of business. Nevertheless 2011 was a very busy year, as will be seen from this annual report.

Attendances at meetings were as follows'

| | |
|------------------|---|
| Anthony Bailey | 7 |
| Ralph Gayton | 7 |
| Dr. Rhys Jenkins | 5 |
| Simon Nobbs | 6 |
| Jonathan Sheales | 7 |
| Sue Thomas | 5 |
| Vaughan Thomas | 4 |
| Vivien Thomas | 2 |
| David Trevanion | 5 |

Other members who attended some of the meetings were Chris and Hilary King, and Angela de Prairie. Hilary is a Spanish speaker and has taken on some of our translation work. Angela has experience in fundraising and has agreed to help in devising a fundraising strategy.

Membership has remained steady at 38 individual members and seven corporate affiliates. Arising from the Forum event for the 25th anniversary (see Section 5 below) a category of 'Link Supporter' was created. Under this category people who make regular monthly donations by way of banker's order will receive regular information about the Link through a periodic newsletter and will be invited to take part in Link activities including attending our monthly committee meetings.

The Committee always welcomes the attendance of all and any members at its meetings.

2. LINK SPONSORS

We welcome the continued interest of our sponsors in Link activities, We record with sadness the passing of the Rt. Michael Evans, Bishop of East Anglia who had been one of sponsors for several years.

Invitations to become sponsors were issued to the two Norwich MPs, Chloe Smith and Simon Wright. Ms Smith felt unable to accept the invitation due to the growing parliamentary pressures on her time which would prevent her from playing a part in the Link. Simon Wright did agree to become a sponsor and we look forward to his support.

3. FINANCE

Report by Treasurer Susan Thomas.

Another year when expenditure far outstripped income although as you can see from the annual report every penny spent was put to good use. We started the year with a total amount in all of our accounts of £44,242, received £4,435, spent £15,154 and therefore completed the year with £33,203.

During the year we opened a current account at the Cooperative bank transferring all but £25,000 from the investment account to enable this to be opened. You can see from the notes at the bottom of the balance sheet that we had some difficulties during the year, first when we tried to open this account and later when we needed to transfer some money to Nicaragua.

Enabling a new method to pay in money easily has given us some more regular income but we could do with many more people to sign up and support us this way in 2012. There are now 6 monthly and 1 annual supporters. There are of course still a number of monthly standing orders paying into the Scholarship account and we are grateful for this continued support. Members have also used standing orders to pay membership fees and many others continued their support through cheque or cash payments.

4. THE LINK REPRESENTATIVE.

Effective working in El Viejo would be nigh on impossible without the services of someone on the spot to help sort things out with the local El Viejo council and work with those involved with our projects. We have been very fortunate to have the services of our present local representative, Carmela Hernandez, who works for us four days each month. Carmela lives in Leon, some 30/40 miles from El Viejo. She lives with her two daughters and her mother.

Carmela organises and oversees our project work in the eight schools in our scholarship project and other projects as they come along from time to time. She holds regular meetings with the teachers and works very closely with them to ensure that the project runs smoothly within the terms of the agreement. Carmella is also our link with the local council in El Viejo. She has regular meetings with the Mayor and other members of the Council

Carmela keeps your committee informed by means of monthly reports and with detailed quarterly financial reports.

In order to improve Carmela's ability to provide information and keep us properly informed the Committee agreed to provide her with a scanner and a compact digital camera. As with her laptop computer, these items will remain the property of the Link.

The Committee values Carmela's enthusiasm and commitment to the Link.

5. THE LINK'S 25TH ANNIVERSARY.

The year 2011 marked the 25th anniversary of the founding of the Link and the committee sought ways of celebrating out silver jubilee.

It was decided to send a small delegation to El Viejo and in March the Chairperson, David Trevanion and Link committee member Simon Nobbs, together with Simon's wife Rosario, spent just over a week with the Mayor and other members of the El Viejo Council. The City Council Twinning Committee made a grant of £1,000 towards the expenses of the delegation. Link Secretary Ralph Gayton should have been part of the delegation but was prevented from travelling due to a sudden bereavement in his family.



Some of the audience at the launch of the audio/visual presentation on 10th August.

The principal silver jubilee event in Norwich consisted of an audio/visual presentation at the Fusion facility in the Forum. The presentation was planned and prepared by Link member Roger Hewins using information and video footage provided by the Secretary. The presentation was displayed on five linked screens and was displayed in the Forum from 15th to 20th August. It was on a continuous loop and ran for some 20 minutes continuously between 10.00am and 5.00pm each day.

The presentation was launched on Monday 10th August in front of an invited audience which included the Lord Mayor and Sheriff of Norwich, the Chairman of Norfolk County Council the Vice Chairman of South Norfolk District Council and other dignitaries including the Deans of Norwich's two cathedrals and one of our MPs Chloe Smith. Some 120 people attended and were given publicity packs about the Link and its history.

Although the middle of August was not the best time for this sort of event it was the only occasion available to us. Well over 300 members of the public visited the display during the week and the publicity we gained was very valuable.

The final event to mark the 25 years of the Link will be a Civic Reception by the Lord Mayor of Norwich which will be held at City Hall early in 2012.

6. 25th ANNIVERSARY VISIT TO EL VIEJO

In March 2011 the Chairperson, David Trevanion, and Link member, Simon Nobbs went to El Viejo to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the Link between Norwich and El Viejo. We were accompanied by Simon's wife Rosario and also by Gill Holmes who acted as a very professional guide as well as interpreter.

We initially met up with our Representative in Nicaragua, Carmela Hernandez, who lives in Leon. She accompanied us on each day we spent in El Viejo.

We were greeted, on arrival in El Viejo by the Mayor Alcides Moradel, and his wife, Julia Baca. Their courteous welcome and hospitality extended to us was exemplary.

We undertook a great deal of investigation of the scholarship scheme and our findings and observations confirmed the findings of the review, which we had undertaken in 2009. We found that the scholarship scheme is effective, good value for money and very popular with all concerned – pupils, parents, teachers, the Mayor, Councillors and the Nicaraguan Ministry of Education.

Similarly the relatively small amount of money we contribute to the school gardens scheme is highly valued by all who are involved in it and the teachers are looking forward to a computer being introduced by us into each of the eight schools which we support, in early 2012.

This was the Chairperson's second visit to El Viejo, the first being in 2001. Life does appear to have improved for many people in Nicaragua over the last ten years, but only marginally, and Nicaragua remains the second poorest in the hemisphere of the Americas – second only

to Haiti. This makes it very difficult for the government of Nicaragua to achieve the millennium goal of universal primary education by 2015; it is very unlikely to be achieved even by then.

Everywhere we went in El Viejo we were asked to continue our scholarship scheme for as long as possible – at least for the next five years. We undertook to endeavour to do so.

7. 25TH ANNIVERSARY PROJECT

At the first meeting with the Mayor we suggested there should be a 25th anniversary project. After discussion it was agreed we would contribute US\$2500 to building a new school at Campirano Norte. The community is located in an area of intense sugar cane cultivation and the original school was suffering from contamination by agro-chemicals used in the cultivation of the cane and had been abandoned for the safety of the children.

The children were being taught in a shack, which gave no protection from the wind and rain. We visited the site and compared it with another similar school, but agreed that the one at Campirano Norte was the most urgent. The Mayor agreed to cover the balance of the costs, which initially were estimated at a total of over \$5,000. The building of the school was due to be finished by March 2012. A budget for the construction was sent to us by the council and



The Temporary school at Campirano Norte.

the total cost was estimated to amount to US\$5,590. The Link Committee agreed to provide the sum of US\$2599.54 (approx £1,733) out of total cost of US\$5590.67

Although the Secretary was unable to accompany the visit in March he did visit El Viejo in May 2011. His original purpose with the delegation was to visit some of the more remote areas of the municipality and to obtain video footage to demonstrate life in EL Viejo and the Link's activities with the schools in the scholarship project. He was able to fulfil this task with his later visit and some of the video was used in the Forum presentation. Gill Holmes, a British ex-pat living in Nicaragua, accompanied and facilitated both the delegation visit and Ralph's later visit.

8. THE SCHOLARSHIP PROJECT

The Scholarship Project continues to be the Link's main activity in El Viejo, and as set out in the report of the 25th anniversary delegation to El Viejo, it is highly valued by all concerned.

Following the evidence of the review carried out in 2009 the number of scholarships was increased from 200 to 240 in 2010. The small school at El Recreo was closed early in 2011 due to lack of numbers but we have since learned that it has been re-opened and three

scholarship pupils from the Norwich School have transferred back to that school. In addition the Alcaldia provided 50 scholarships but these did not include uniforms.

The distribution of scholarships among the schools was;

| | | | Alcaldia | |
|----------------------------------|----|----|----------|---|
| | M | F | M | F |
| Nuestra Señoro del Perpetuo (28) | 12 | 16 | (10) | 5 |
| Evemilda Somarriba (29) | 13 | 16 | (10) | 6 |
| Rosario Martinez (29) | 10 | 19 | (10) | 7 |
| Rosario Mayorga (14) | 7 | 7 | | 3 |
| Amigas de Holanda (36) | 14 | 22 | | |
| Francisco Morazan (41) | 19 | 22 | (10) | 6 |
| Norwich (37) | 10 | 27 | (10) | 4 |
| Hermana Maritza (33) | 15 | 28 | | - |

The usual events of the distribution of schoolbags with exercise books, pens and pencils etc, and the distribution of uniforms took place and were attended by parents as well as members of the local council. These are very popular community events and are enthusiastically supported.

Carmela, as usual, supervised the making up of the uniforms which involves getting measurements for each child and then arranging the manufacture of the various items from local sources thus providing employment in the area. This exercise is a massive undertaking involving teachers and parents culminating in the preparation by Carmela of an individual parcel for each child.

The number of scholarship pupils who successfully graduated from Grade 6 in 2011 was the best year we have had since the inception of the project in 2004 with no less than 57 successful pupils as shown in the table below.

| | | | | | |
|----|----------------------------------|--------------|----|-----------------------------------|--------------|
| 1 | Felix Leonel Medina | | 30 | Teresa del Carmen Rodríguez | |
| 2 | Keyla Raquel Armas Tercero | | 31 | Kevin Dianer Muñoz Hernández | |
| 3 | Bayardo José Rayo | Morazan (5) | 32 | Ada Cristina García Jirón | Rosario |
| 4 | Carlos Daniel Ruis | | 33 | Mariene de Jesús Valle Pineda | Martinez (6) |
| 5 | Rebecca Marisela Gonzales | | 34 | Julia Esther Díaz Calderón | |
| 6 | Tania Virginia Duarte Castillo | | 35 | Axel Eduardo Navarrete Carrillo | |
| 7 | Dina Masiel Aguilar | | 36 | Martha Lorena Lindo Flores | |
| 8 | Luis Antonio Zavala Ulloa | | 37 | Jelson Estabán Martínez Estrada | |
| 9 | Yinathan Josue Vidaurre | Norwich (7) | 38 | Orema Yessenia Acosta Pineda | |
| 10 | Deybi Josue Aguirre Merlo | | 39 | José Armando Álvarez Martínez | |
| 11 | Rosa Cristina Rodríguez Cruz | | 40 | Ascar Danilo González | Holanda (11) |
| 12 | David Nicolas Rodríguez Castillo | | 41 | Sayda del Socorro Rodri Dolmos | |
| 13 | Melvin Adrian Campos | | 42 | Jenifer de los Angeles Rod Mungia | |
| 14 | Heidi María Suazo Altamirano | | 43 | Maricela Rodríguez | |
| 15 | Diana Vanesa Estrada Pérez | Perpetuo (6) | 44 | Jorge Isaac Rivera Paz | |
| 16 | Orlando José Rodríguez Hernandez | | 45 | José Marcos Reyes Reyes | |
| 17 | Rafael Antonio Cortéz Oconor | | 46 | Seydi Dilyedi Garcia M. | |
| 18 | Jonathan Francisco Traña Guevara | | 47 | Ilsa Daniela Martinez | |
| 19 | Ana María Martínez Martínez | | 48 | Rosibel de c Rico | |
| 20 | Katerin Marcela Medina Matamoros | | 49 | Jenifer Francisca Arriola | |
| 21 | José Leonidas Rodrigues Castillo | | 50 | Osamar Daniel Andrades | |
| 22 | Jonathan Noel Escorcía Dolmo | Evemilda (8) | 51 | Roberto Carlos Castillo | Hna |

| | | | | | |
|----|-------------------------------|-------------|----|--------------------------|--------------|
| 23 | Jordan José Robleto Tórrez | | 52 | Dujarling Isaac Carillo | Maritza (11) |
| 24 | Nely Marina Mendoza Guzmán | | 53 | Kener Bayardo Rayo | |
| 25 | María Veróbica Herrera López | | 54 | Jordan Alexander Salazar | |
| 26 | Manuel de Jesús Santana Mejía | | 55 | Marvin Antonio Vazques | |
| 27 | Tania Junieth Cruz Centeno | | 56 | MarioiRodolfo Vazques | |
| 28 | Yelman Gonzalez | Rosario | 57 | Luis Alfonso Eocha | |
| 29 | Ramón Antonio López Aguilar | Mayorga (3) | | | |

The school year finishes in November when the academic results are announced for each pupil. If they score 70% or better overall they can progress to the next grade. In the case of success in Grade 6 the pupils graduate from primary education and are eligible to go on to secondary education.



Another picture of one of the graduation ceremonies in December 2011.

9. COMPUTERS FOR SCHOOLS.

The arrangements to provide each of the scholarship schools with a computer reached fruition during the year and eight PCs have been purchased at a cost of US\$3,220.00 (approx £2,146). A small computer stand was also provided at a cost of US\$50.00 each. Each school will also be provided with a dot matrix printer. The computers provide an internet capacity, word processing and other basic programmes.

This equipment will be delivered to the schools at the beginning of the new school year in February, 2012, and will enable the teachers to access education material from the internet and improve their access to up to date material. One computer for each school may not seem like a massive development compared to the use of IT in British schools but, for El Viejo, it is a great step forward. We will try to monitor the effects of this development during the coming months.

Two teachers from each school have attended a computer course organised by the local council to train them in the use of the new equipment.

10. SCHOOL GARDEN PROJECT

The School Garden Project continued to develop during the year. Although subject to the extremes of Nicaraguan climate, ranging from drought to floods with high winds thrown in for good measure, the gardens nevertheless began to be successful during the year. Carmela pointed out that the produce was being used to supplement the meals provided by the schools and that seed beds were being created to avoid the need to buy seeds each year. These are all good signs that the project is achieving the results envisaged when it was launched.



Part of the medicinal plant nursery at the El Perpetuo school.



Part of the school garden at the Amigas de Holanda School

One school that does not have sufficient land to set up a garden showed a particular initiative by recycling old vehicle tyres to establish a nursery of medicinal plants, shown in the photograph

The Committee hopes to develop the project in the future by developing or commissioning education material about the environment to link the practical side of the gardens with appreciation and protection of the local environment. The other picture shows the very successful garden established at the Amigas de Holanda school, one of the schools in the city of El Viejo serving a very poor barrio.

11. CHARITABLE STATUS

Investigations into achieving charitable status for the Link continued during the year with the valuable help of Link member Chris King who is a local solicitor with experience in this field. It transpired that due to the fact that our annual income recently has been less than £5,000 per annum the Link does not qualify for registration as a charity with the Charity Commission. However, it is possible for such organisations to register with Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs and receive much the same benefits as registration with the Commission, including 'Gift Aid' whereby charities can claim the tax otherwise paid by donors on their donations..

With Chris King's help an application has been prepared and submitted to HMRC and their decision is awaited.

12. ANNUAL SPONSORED BIKE RIDE

Report by Simon Nobbs

This year we had another sponsored cycle ride along the Marriott's Way on the 24th of July. The weather was excellent: low winds and cloudy (not too hot). And we had done lots of hard work raising sponsors. There were three intrepid cyclists, starting at city Hall steps:



Simon Nobbs, Dr. Rhys Jenkins and David Trevanion at City Hall Norwich

We enjoyed a good fun time, and we had a well-marked route:



Simon Nobbs at Reepham Station



*The station sign at Hoveton
The last stop before heading home*

But we didn't forget our purpose. We managed to raise £856.50 for the Norfolk and Norwich-El Viejo Friendship Link. Let's hope we can raise even more in 2012!

13. NORWICH CITY COUNCIL TWINNING COMMITTEE

The Link is represented on the Norwich City Council Twinning Committee along with the other three twinning organisations in Norwich – The Novi Sad Friendship Association, the Norfolk and Norwich – Rouen Friendship Association, and the Norfolk and Norwich – Koblenz Friendship Association.

The Committee meets three times each year and receives reports from the member organisations. The Committee has a small budget and makes grants to the associations to assist their activities. Small grants are also made to other organisations which undertake supporting activities in the twin cities. The Link receives support in kind via the Committee for postage and printing costs. In 2011 the Committee made a grant to the Link of £1,000 in support of our 25th anniversary activities which made possible the visits to El Viejo reported earlier in this report.

14. NICARAGUA SOLIDARITY CAMPAIGN

The Link is affiliated to the Nicaragua Solidarity Campaign, the umbrella organisation for the various British links with Nicaragua. There are some 16 UK towns and cities with links to towns and localities in Nicaragua. We receive regular reports on human rights issues and developments in Central America as well as weekly news bulletins about the political and economic situation in Nicaragua.

The Campaign also organises a twin town meeting each year for representatives of the various twin town organisations. Unfortunately we were unable to be represented this year but a full report of our activities was sent to the meeting.

15. SPONSORS

It is with sadness that we record the death of our sponsor the Bishop of East Anglia, the Rt. Rev. Michael Evans. An invitation is to be made to Fr Walsh the Dean of St. Johns Cathedral to replace Bishop Michael.

During the year we have approached the two new MPs for Norwich, Simon Wright and Chloe Smith with invitations to become sponsors. Simon Wright agreed but Chloe Smith felt unable to accept due to the pressures on her time because of Government commitments'

Invitations to become sponsors have also been made to Richard Howitt MEP and also to Norfolk personality Stephen Fry . Replies are awaited from both.

16. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

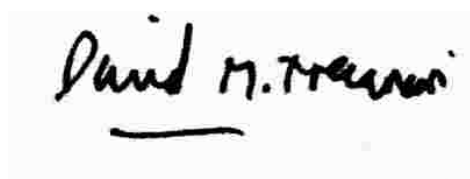
As always in a voluntary organisation such as the Link many people are involved in all sorts of ways and it is right and proper that their contribution should be recognised and acknowledged. Most important is the continued support of our own members. Without their support we could achieve very little. We are always ready and anxious to welcome new members to help us with what we do.

The ability to communicate effectively with our friends in Nicaragua means that translation from Spanish to English, and vice-versa, plays a very important part in Link activity. We have been fortunate in always having people we can call on to undertake this important job. We are most grateful to Niki Taigel, Katherine Osborne, James O'Brien, Angela de Prairie, Hilary King, and Simon and Rosario Nobbs for their help during the past year.

We are also grateful, once again, to Gill Holmes who until last August lived in Managua. Gill has accompanied and facilitated visits by the Link to El Viejo for several years. Her knowledge and experience of the country have been invaluable to us. Gill accompanied both the delegation visit to El Viejo in March and the Secretary's visit in May this year. She has now returned to the UK so that her daughter can continue her education here. We shall miss her contribution to our activity and thank her for her past help.

We particularly thank the members of the Executive Committee for their time and enthusiasm in turning up regularly for our meetings.

Finally we thank the City Council for the facilities we enjoy for our meetings at City Hall and the printing services we receive. We couple that with our gratitude for the support we receive from the Council's Twinning Officer, Andy Emms, and the Twinning Committee Officer Jackie Rodger.



Chairperson



Secretary.

February, 2012

C:/documents/msword/linkexecutive/annualreport2011.rg

Norfolk and Norwich Koblenz Friendship Association

Report to Twinning Committee 15 March 2012.

KONTAKT the NNKFA Spring Newsletter has just been sent to members and copies will be available at the committee meeting for Twinning Committee members, reporting on our recent activities.

In addition I would like to report:

Ecumenical Link:

26th – 29th September. Following the May 2011 visit of our Bishop Graham James with members of the Ecumenical Group from Norwich and Norfolk, the largest exchange group to date came with Pastor Hajo Hermes, this time from the Hunsrück –Trarbach / Mosel diocese, and stayed at Belsey Bridge. The main theme of their visit was “Working in rural areas”

Following this visit we have had a request from Pastor Wolfgang Jöst, in the group to find an exchange for his 16 year old daughter Miriam who would like to stay with a family from 11 July to 8 August, and they would offer a return visit. We have a CV if anyone knows a family who might be interested.

7th November 2012. Following the strong Kemps Men link I was invited by Canon Phillip McFadyen to take part in a “Dirty Shirt Club” discussion group at St Georges Church, Colegate, founded by the Artist John Chrome. Twinning certainly engages many facets!

Norfolk Youth Orchestra

16th to 22nd July The Youth Orchestra will participate in a joint Music Project at Schloss Engers near Koblenz, with the Landesjugendorchester Rheinland Pfalz, the Musikschule Motabauer and hopefully young musicians from Novi Sad and Serbia. This is supported by European funding.

Job Opportunity in Koblenz. Via Brigitte Finkemeier Twinning Officer with Koblenz City Council, from ‘Bilingoo’ for an English speaker qualified in childcare. Bilingoo web-site www.bilingoo.de

October – December the talented Koblenz artist EDITHA Pröbstle is planning to hold an exhibition

‘The Carisma of Figures’ at the Assembly House. Editha is also President of the Siroptomists in Koblenz and has been in touch with the Norwich club. www.editha.net

Articles in the Press

NEN article 17th January

EDP article 26th January

‘Do the city’s foreign friendships matter?’

‘Are our global friendships worth the cost to Norfolk?’

Following these articles I invited the reporter Richard Wheeler to a DUaM German conversation group to get him better informed. We had a positive time with him and were able show him pictures of BUGA and a ‘true’ picture of Koblenz and also to explain that the Civic visit to Koblenz for the Norwich Day in May had been very largely funded by BUGA and Koblenz, and The Kemps Men had been hosted and generously entertained privately in Winnigen. We also pointed out what the Novi Sad and Rouen associations

achieve, and the better understanding between people that comes from getting to know friends from our twin cities. Twinning is not only for Twinning Associations, but the contacts spread through many other clubs and organisations. We also told him of the good work done with a developing country by the elViejo Association.

Dragon Hall. I am still concerned that the Twinning Room was moved and is now tucked away and often locked in the area, which used to be the shop.

The '**Handwerksblatt**', publications of the Chamber of Skilled Trades in Koblenz (HWK) and the national edition are still displayed in the Library at the Forum. They are of interest to anyone looking for German reading or to learn more about the well established training and apprenticeship schemes which give Germany a head start in many industries and trades. This country could learn a lot from their attitudes to training and the high respect in which skilled trades are held!

Norwich City College – Handwerkskammer (HWK) link is still very strong. Partly as a result of these contacts 2 Students and their Tutor are developing a web site for NNKFA.

May 3rd-6th. A group of 5 people from Aviva are cycling from Koblenz to Norwich to raise money for 'Community Sports Foundation', Norwich City Football Club's charity which helps 50,000 of the most under-privileged people in Norfolk each year. We are trying to arrange for a good send off in Koblenz on 5th May, and it would be good to have a welcoming party in Koblenz Avenue, when they arrive back here on May 6th (?)

We are grateful to the Committee for the £200 grant which we receive for our administration.

Waltraud Jarrold
6 March 2012

Number 127

March 2012

The Norfolk & Norwich Novi Sad Association

Dedicated to Friendship

Organisational Development

2 MAR 2012

Post Room

2012

A very busy start to the year with much already achieved.

The Paul Cross Memorial Concert seems to have exceeded all previous in terms of social success.

With the help of younger members the Association moves forward into the area of Facebook

The February visit to Novi Sad achieved much and brings back many more things to do.

The Paul Cross Memorial Concert.

To say the Concert was a success the Milan Petrović School would be a masterly understatement.

The concert hall was well filled with over 40 Association members in attendance and 'the public' providing another 150 or so. With guests of the Association the audience was in excess of 200. Had there not been many other 'cultural events' going on that evening in Norwich the audience might well have been bigger.



The Lord Mayor Cll. Jenny Lay making a presentation to Rita Kinka on behalf of the Association at the end of the concert.

The presence and support of our President, Vice President and Honorary Vice Presidents is always a positive thing. The Lord Mayor, Cll. Jenny Lay, the Chairman of the Norfolk County Council, Mrs. Shelagh Hutson, and the Hon. Chloe Smith M.P. enjoyed the evening and expressed their enthusiasm for the work the Association does – particularly in relation to the support of



Marina Marković. And Rita Kinka

The Counsellor for Press and Cultural Affairs from the Serbian Embassy in London was able to attend. Marina Marković had an adventurous and rushed journey in both directions but is determined to visit Norwich in a more leisurely way soon.



Chloe's guest; John Jennings; Rob; Marijana; Maša; Zsolt and Chloe Smith MP

The Association is grateful to Rita Kinka for giving her time and talent and providing a memorable concert. The

The Norfolk & Norwich Novi Sad Association

Page 1. The Paul Cross Memorial Concert.

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musical success of her performance is best summed up in the report of the E.D.P. music critic, Christopher Smith:

An attractive blend of strength and delicacy.

At this year's Paul Cross Memorial Concert, the Norfolk & Norwich Novi Sad Association welcomed back Rita Kinka. Tall and fair haired, confident, and with an engaging stage presence, the Serbian pianist showed nimble technique and mature taste.

The first part of her programme was devoted to works by Franz Liszt. Notes fell in graceful cascades in the Hungarian composer's evocations of shimmering light on dancing water, with memories of gondoliers' melodies.

An attractive blend of strength and delicacy was equally in evidence in 'Pictures at an Exhibition'. Each section of Modeste Mussorgsky's imaginative tone poem of 1874 was given a life of its own with vivid detail and instant changes of pace and manner.

The climax came to sweep all before it, resonant with the mystic splendour of great bells pealing out the ancient faith of Russia.

Modern Serbian music also made a very welcome appearance. Mainly meditative yet not without vigour in his 'Echoes' Vasilije Mokranjac was shown to be loyal to the great tradition of deft and expressive piano playing.

The concert proved to be a financial success with in excess of £600 being raised.

Visit to Novi Sad for February 1st.

Unfortunately the Lord Mayor, because of travelling difficulties, was unable to accept an invitation from the Mayor of Novi Sad to visit the city on the occasion of the Day of the City. However, Doug Underwood, our Chairman was able to represent the Lord Mayor as well as the Association.

This regular visit to Novi Sad provides the opportunity to meet representatives from many other cities and regions that have a connection and 'twinning arrangements' with the City.

It also provides an opportunity to meet people and visit institutions that the Association has a close connection with. Due to circumstances beyond their control Diana and Peter were unable to contribute to many of these meetings so Doug did most of 'the work' this time.

The Milan Petrović School.

During his visit to the School Doug visited a workshop which they temporarily occupy which they use for young people with multiple disabilities. (They were in a smaller, unheated building which was totally impracticable). This building provides more space for, and ac-

cess by, wheelchairs. He was also shown how much progress can be made by careful assessment of those pupils who have few skills. An example he was shown of the development, over six months, of a young person drawing skills from stick-like representations to a perfectly drawn horse.

Doug then went to the new Secondary School and visited the dormitories, classrooms and sensory rooms. He was impressed by a special mat that had swimming fish printed in it and when stood on felt like standing on water. There is also a 'calm room' giving the impression of being in snow produced by rock salt. This is good for relieving stress and lowering blood pressure. He also went to most of the workshops.

During discussions it was felt that the money raised from the Rita Kinka concert could buy a 'black room' for people with visual impairment. This could be purchased in the UK for approximately 400 Euros.

The Ecumenical Humanitarian Organisation

Doug also visited the EHO. The Association has been a friend of EHO over many, many years and helps to maintain a contact between them the Norwich Churches Novi Sad Group.

Doug reports that Robert Bu is now the Deputy Director. (Some may remember that during the bad times members of the Association gave support to the Save the Children Fund to bring Roberts' baby boy to Great Ormond Street for a hole-in-the-heart operation).

The following are some of the programmes that EHO implement:

'Street Children' - providing a 'drop-in centre' for children who live and/or work on the streets.

'Disabled Group' - providing training and courses to improve employability of disabled people. (The EHO work closely with the Milan Petrović School in this regard).

'Homecare and Day Centre' - to provide support and care for the elderly

'Roma' - an on-going programme of support and training for the improvement of the living conditions and social development of the Roma.

Facebook page

Mentioned in the last Newsletter this is now up and running, thanks to the efforts of Marijana & Rob and Maša & Zsolt. It is still work in progress but has already brought us one new member. If you are able to and use <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Norfolk-Norwich-Novi-Sad-Association/334909856539104> you will get straight to the Association's page.



With the help of the above 'cool clued-up quartet' the facebook site will be expanded and a website developed.

Holiday (Annual Visit to Novi Sad)

For the last few years the Association has organised successful and enjoyable holidays based in Novi Sad. These have given members the chance to see more of Novi Sad and Vojvodina and also to have time to spend with new or old friends. We hope to be able to run a similar holiday this year and a possible programme could be along these lines:

Sunday: Lunch and time with local families

Monday: Day in Subotica with chance to go into some of the secessionist buildings there

Tuesday: Walking tour of Novi Sad churches and Synagogue (half day)

Wednesday: Visit to Milan Petrović School

Thursday: Longer outing

Friday: Free day, farewell dinner

Saturday: Home, or go on to eastern Serbia

The suggestion for eastern Serbia is that we drive straight down to Niš, see a bit more of Niš, and then work our way northwards through a beautiful region known as Homolje, returning to Belgrade along the Danube Gorge.

Costs: Last year, for a smaller group, the Novi Sad part cost about £500 double, £600 single and the

add-on trip to Bosnia about the same. The air fare is around £200. This cost includes B&B in a central hotel, one main meal per day and any entry fees, guides, transport, etc. Only drinks and snacks would be extra.

While the individual costs for hotels and meals are fairly independent of numbers, one of the major expenses for the whole holiday is the payment for the minibus and driver which has to be divided out between the members of the group. We need 15 in the group for this share to become reasonable, making the cost less than last year; with fewer people it is probably too expensive.

Dates: The week May 19th - 26th doesn't seem to clash with any major events here or in Novi Sad. A few days could then be added on before the Jubilee weekend starting on June 2nd. However it does clash with the N&N Festival!

Timing of this event is always difficult. If you would find an Autumn visit easier (say, September/October) please let me know.

However, for this Spring visit please let me know by March 17th if you are interested in coming. You are very welcome to bring friends who are not members. Do contact me if you would like further information or have any questions. My contact details are the same as Peter's! (on the back of the Newsletter).

Diana Beckley

The Norfolk Youth Orchestra

As mentioned in previous editions of the Newsletter the Youth Orchestra are preparing for their inclusion in 'Triorca' - an International Three City Youth Orchestra.

Despite financial support from the E.U. funding a large group of youngsters in this sort of endeavour is never easy.

The Friends of the Norfolk Youth Orchestra have many fund raising events and initiatives that will be reported and announced in the Newsletter. Please support them if you can.



Dedicated to Friendship

Glebelands
Star Lane
Rockland St. Mary
NORWICH
NR14 7BX
Phone: 01508 480262
Fax: 01508 480262
E-mail: diana.beckley@btconnect.com

Secretary: Peter L. Beckley MBE

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,
14, Herb Robert Glade,
Wymondham,
Norwich. NR18 0XS

Treasurer: Jack Brooksbank,
8, Glenalmond,
Norwich. NR4 6AG

Holiday Snaps



Good food. Good Companions. Historic places. New experiences

