



NEWSLETTER

Norfolk & Norwich Novi Sad Association

Dedicated to Friendship

Editorial: G. Piccolo
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EDITORIAL

In January we had another magnificent Paul Cross Memorial Concert. It was a great opportunity to listen to live classical music interpreted and performed by two very talented young artists from Novi Sad, to meet with some of our members and to celebrate our two cities with the Lord Mayor, the Sheriff and the representatives of the Serbian Consulate.

In February, Cathy and I participated to the Day of The City of Novi Sad and were warmly welcomed by both the Mayor, Miloš Vučević, and the President of the Assembly, Zdravko Jelušić.

During the visit we also went to see Sandra at Kompas. With her help we started sketching a few very interesting excursions and places to visit in September. It promises to be another great holiday. **Please register your interest in coming to Novi Sad;** this will help Sandra to organise the visit more efficiently.

2019 Paul Cross Memorial Concert *Recital for piano and flute*

The 20th Paul Cross Memorial was held on Saturday 19th January 2019 in the Georgian splendour of the Music Room at the Assembly House, Norwich. The Association was delighted to welcome back the international pianist Aleksandar Djermanović who gave a recital with another talented musician, Petar Popović on flute. They both came especially from Novi Sad to perform a wonderful programme of classical gems to



The Paul Cross Memorial Concert

celebrate the longstanding friendship with our twin city. Aleksandar opened the concert with a lyrical piece called Sanje or "dreaming" by the Serbian composer Isidor Bajić. In contrast, his rendering of Liszt's Ballade was dramatic and powerful and he amazed us with his technical prowess in two further pieces by Mozart and Scriabin. After the interval Petar's flute

playing, accompanied on piano by Aleksandar, was a joy to experience. The audience was most appreciative of his sensitive performance of a Bach sonata, a ballade by Gaubert and Karg-Elert's Sinfonische Kanzone. Overall, a magical evening. The concert was attended by the Lord Mayor and Lady



The Sheriff and the Lord Mayor (centre) with their consorts



Mrs. Marijana Ognjanović and the Serbian Embassy Representatives

Mayoress of Norwich, the Sheriff of Norwich and her consort, and the Serbian Consul from London Mrs. Marijana Ognjanović with two other representatives from the Serbian Embassy. The raffle was well supported and we also appreciated the generous donations from our sponsors and from several association members

who were unable to attend the concert. Proceeds go towards an educational project at the "Milan Petrović" School for children and young people with special needs. Our thanks go to everyone on the committee for their hard work organising and promoting the concert and also to Carole and Mark Kenney for organising the reception after the concert , and to Roger Rowe for allowing us to use the Park Lane Chapel.

Wendy Quinn



The Lord Mayor speaking at the end of the performance

February 1st visit to Novi Sad

As many of you are aware, Novi Sad has been nominated European Youth Capital 2019 and, with this in mind, the Association was as keen as ever to represent Norwich on the Day of The City of Novi Sad.

Gaetano Piccolo, our Treasurer, and his wife Cathy, a committee member, went to Novi Sad at the end of January as representatives for the Association. Unfortunately the Lord Mayor, Cllr. Martin Schmierer, was unable to travel, owing to a previous engagement.

On the 31st January they went to visit the "Milan Petrović" School. As before it was a warming and uplifting experience. Sanja Kekić (Manager) and Mirjana Isakov (Vocational Training Coordinator) showed the latest developments in the school's

activities coordinated by the staff.

Sanja and Mirjana also talked about some of their projects. In particular they mentioned one that is aimed at increasing/broadening accessibility to contemporary art (e.g. wheelchair ramps in theatres, etc.) for people with disabilities and is based on the principle of inclusiveness, i.e. "implies non-exclusion, openness to all people regardless of their sex, race, age, origin, social status, disability, etc."



Another project, called Ukrštanje (crossover), as Sanja explained, is based on the exploration of traditional music from the Vojvodina region with a contemporary interpretation.

On the official Day of The City,



Sanja Kekić

commitment to the welfare of their pupils/users.

While walking around the school there was a welcoming feeling with many friendly smiles. Everyone was busy, either weaving on the looms, paper making or any other of the many



The official presentation of gifts to the Mayor of Novi Sad, Miloš Vučević and the President of the Assembly, Zdravko Jelušić

Gaetano and Cathy gave the Mayor, Miloš Vučević, and the President of the Assembly, Zdravko Jelušić, the gifts from the Association and the official letter from the Lord Mayor of Norwich.

After the formal presentation, the 1st Feb. Award Ceremony took place at the Serbian National Theatre followed by a splendid performance of the Carmina Burana.

On Monday Mr. Jelušić received the Association's delegation in his office for a private meeting, discussing various aspects of our twinning and emphasizing the importance of maintaining the links between the two cities.

During the visit, Gaetano and Cathy also had the opportunity to meet the President of the Novi Sad Norwich Association Djordje Janović and the

performers of the 2018 and 2019 Paul Memorial Concert, Milica and Boško Stojadinović, Alexander Djermanović and Petar Popović.

It was an events packed visit which has helped keep strong the enthusiasm of all those involved in the friendship of our two Cities.



One of the paintings produced at the school

LINKS

<http://ukrstanje.rs/english/>

<https://www.inkluzivnagalerija.rs/en/>

A.G.M.

The venue for this year's **A.G.M.** is the Central Baptist Church, Duke Street, Norwich where we will meet at:

7:30 p.m. on the 11th April.

Please remember:
It's time to
renew your subscription

The Norfolk and Norwich Novi Sad Association.

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Dept. Treasurer: Sue Prutton, 41, Waldermare Avenue, Norwich. NR6 6TB

Committee Members: Wendy Quinn (Social Secretary);

Heather Ashmore (Minutes Secretary); Dr. Brenda Moffitt (Concert Sub Committee);

John Jennings (Sub Committees); Cathy Piccolo;

Peter Beckley MBE (Vice Chair, e-mail:orns@btconnect.com)

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October 2018

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THE 2018 ANNUAL TRIP TO NOVI SAD

15-22 September 2018

Peter Beckley, MBE

Continued and continuing good weather made this annual visit a pleasant and very enjoyable experience – particularly for those of the party who were visiting Novi Sad for the first time.

Gathering everyone together at Heathrow has now become commonplace and the Welsh membership (in the form of Verna), reliable as clockwork, joined the group. Two intrepid and adventurous members from Little Walsingham preceded the group by travelling ‘Wizz Air’ from Luton and survived!

The whole group in Belgrade

The many friends of the Association in Novi Sad always provide a welcome and act as hosts for the first day of the visit. This is an invaluable experience for everyone since the person to person relationships are so very important in maintaining the very strong contact between Norwich and Novi Sad.

Sandra, from Kompas, always provides us with an interesting programme which this year

included a visit to Subotica, a town in the north of Vojvodina near the Hungarian border, with splendid, well preserved buildings in the Art Nouveau (Secessionist) style. The Synagogue has recently been completely refurbished and is a fantastic example of this style of architecture; it is also one of the few ever built that is still in existence. We were privileged to be shown round since the building is not open to the public yet. The Synagogue in Novi Sad is another, but more subdued, example.

Visits to vineyards seem to be becoming a habit and regular visitors from the Association are becoming experts on the local wines with the consensus that the small, family run, vineyards beat the big vineyards hands down when it comes to hospitality and quality of wine.

A visit to the Red Cross of Vojvodina with Verna to deliver her annual gift of twelve month's worth of knitted garments – an activity that keeps two wonderful Welsh women busy all year.

A trip to the nearby Fruška Gora region, where there is a mountain (just – we are assured), where continued vinicultural research was carried out and a visit to the Monastery Ravenica.

The day in Belgrade was magical and much enhanced by a superb guide. Sandra always manages to find us guides of a very high calibre. John and Ružica White, our Belgrade members, spent the day with us and travelled to Novi Sad as part of our group on our return to be with us there for a day. Whilst in Belgrade we visited the Nikola Tesla Museum. Nothing electrical works or moves on this earth without some invention of Tesla being involved.

Every visit to Novi Sad includes a day at the "Milan Petrović" School. The visit this year proved quite exceptional.



Wine tasting



Peter at the "Milan Petrović" School

The twinnig visit to Novi Sad. Wendy's impressions

The last time we visited Novi Sad was 10 years ago, so it was a pleasure to revisit the city and renew friendships. Lazar met us all as we arrived for our first dinner together; we were also met by the lovely Nela, who writes on our Facebook Page!

As we stayed in a conveniently central location, the first thing we encountered on the warm evening was an open air concert right in the middle of Novi Sad. There were some glorious voices and orchestral music, filling the air to celebrate the upcoming City of Culture status awarded to Novi Sad; we realised what a safe, relaxed place it was, thronging with young people and families. And there, on the street, we met Dubravka with her

family and Bogdan from St George's Orthodox Choir . On the Sunday members of our group were offered hospitality by different people, and we were met by Milica Stojadinović and her son Boško who performed at our last concert in January. Her husband Miša took Rory and me on a guided tour of nearby Sremski Karlovci with its Orthodox Church, museum of religious icons and very fine grammar school. Later we sat outside, in the garden of a restaurant overlooking the Danube, and enjoyed a very good lunch together. During the week, with the group, we visited a magnificently restored synagogue in Subotica, famous for its Art Nouveau architecture, saw an exhibition of 19th century lace, tasted very fine Serbian wines at two different vineyards, and enjoyed some memorable

meals together. I particularly relished the fish dishes at an outdoor restaurant at Lake Palić, near Subotica. Throughout the week the weather was warm and sunny, ideal for sightseeing.

In the Fruška Gora Hills outside Novi Sad, we visited an Orthodox monastery and witnessed by chance the adult baptism of two ladies which gave insight into the rites of the Serbian Orthodox Church.

On our visit to Belgrade we were taken on a guided tour of the fortress, which stands near the confluence of the Sava and Danube Rivers. We also visited the Nicola Tesla Museum to learn more about the groundbreaking work done on electricity by this famous Serbian scientist.

The highlight of the week was the very moving ceremony at the "Milan Petrović" School's farm when the Principal formally dedicated the educational facility to Diana and Peter Beckley in recognition of their wonderful work and support. Peter gave a most

touching speech in response and I felt Diana would have been delighted and was definitely there in spirit. The British Ambassador had travelled from Belgrade with his wife, especially to be there, and surprised us all by speaking in fluent Serbian which Dubravka had to translate for all of us! We were also entertained by a hi-tech music presentation given by some of the students.

As ever, we were overwhelmed by the warmth of the welcome from the teachers in the school who showed us some of their facilities and resources used in teaching children with a wide range of disability. We noted the use of the swell paper we helped provide to make their specialised books and materials. It was so good to see first-hand the excellent work which is done by the school.

On the last day the twinning group was formally welcomed by the President of the Novi Sad Council before meeting up with many Novi Sad friends for a final meal together in the evening.



The British Ambassador at the "Milan Petrović" School



Miša, Wendy, Milica, Boško and Rory

NNNSA Annual Lunch

Doug Underwood, Chairman

The Association held its annual lunch on Sunday, 14th October at Park Farm Hotel, Hethersett. We had 28 Members and guests who attended. We were pleased to welcome our President, the Lord Mayor of Norwich – Councillor Martin Schmierer and the Lady Mayoress Ms Jen Cochrane to the lunch. Our Vice President, the Chairman of the County Council, Councillor Margaret Stone also attended with her partner, Councillor Barry Stone.

We also welcomed the Serbian Consul, Ms Marijana Ognjanovic and her Consular Officer, Ms Natasa Kozic from the Embassy, and were pleased they were able to attend.

Everyone agreed that the lunch was excellent and enjoyed a very sociable occasion.

Thanks has to go to Wendy Quinn for the organisation and Dr Brenda Moffitt for organising the raffle.

Events:

Coffee Morning and Book Swap *Friday 30th November 2018 10-12 noon*

A fund-raising event in aid of The Milan Petrović School for children and young people with special needs and disabilities is to be held at 6, College Road, Norwich NR2 3JJ. It is also in memory of a very dear member of the NNNSA, Mrs. Anne Hawkes who was always so supportive of the association events, and who will be sadly missed.

Let Wendy know if you will need a parking permit for a car. (Tel: 01603 458665)

A huge thank you from Brenda...

To all the kind people who, in response to a plea in the last Newsletter, donated prizes for the raffle at the annual lunch.

I was overwhelmed by the response! I think there were more prizes than people attending, so most went home with at least one gift.

As a result of your generous response, £91 was raised, and this will go to support the work of the "Milan Petrović" School.

Many, many thanks to all you kind people.

Brenda Moffitt, Raffle organizer.

Dates for your diary

The 2019 Paul Cross Memorial Concert

The date and venue for the concert are confirmed to be:

The Assembly House
Saturday 19 January 2019

The Norfolk and Norwich Novi Sad Association.

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