

Norfolk and Norwich Koblenz Friendship Association

Report to Twinning Committee 17 June 2010 .

Membership: 163 including 13 Ex Officio and 3 Honorary members.

To the outgoing Lord Mayor, Councillor Evelyn Collishaw and Sheriff Tim O'Riordan we express our thanks for their civic support to our Twinning links.

We were, of course, sorry that the Lord Mayor was unable to accept the invitation to be present at the ceremony on April 30th to mark the retirement Dr E Schulte-Wisserman and the start of the first 7 year term for the new Oberbürgermeister Dr J Hofmann-Göttig.

We welcome the new Lord Mayor Councillor Tom Dylan and the Sheriff Derek James and hope that they will continue to support Twinning, specially recognising the huge cultural contribution, which Twinning can make.

The NNKFA annual events started with the AGM at County Hall on 19 March, to which were pleased to welcome the Vice Chairman (now Chairman) of the County Council Councillor Tony Tomkinson, who also supported the Norfolk Association of Twin Communities Sponsored Walk on 18th March.

Future Events

Summer	20 June - Outing to Houghton Hall
Autumn	12 September - 30 th Anniversary Lunch at Park Farm, Hethersett
Extra Meeting	16 September - Sewell Barn, celebration for 30 years
Autumn Visit	1-3 October - Visit to Ironbridge

We previously visited Houghton 20 years ago and anticipate that there will have been a number of changes.

The meeting on 16 September will remember Roger Bamford, who as director of Administration for the City Council was the 'City Hall Link' in the twinning of Norwich and Koblenz and the founding of the NNKFA. Sadly Roger died from meningitis in 1985.

The visit to Ironbridge was inspired by the Handwerkskammer connection and the historic Iron Foundry 'Sayner-Hutte' and museum near Koblenz.

BUGA Bundes Gartenschau. The National Garden Show to be held in Koblenz in 2011. The NNKFA have booked a visit for 22-29 May 2011, and hotel reservations have been made. Norwich and all other twin cities have been invited to have a garden in this show, which lasts from April to October.

We understand that the city (through Andy Emms) has accepted May 1-2 for our twinning cultural input.

The Koblenz Euro-Office had suggested 30 May weekend for Twinning participation. We are waiting a response from them about timing.

We are most grateful to Chris Southgate for his dedicated engagement, through 'Norwich in Bloom', which has been a great help in getting our contribution to the Twinning Garden to happen.

Norwich Rotary Club will visit their twin club of Koblenz Ehrenbreitstein on the weekend 15 August 2011 to visit BUGA and see Rhein in Flammen.

We are receiving ever more requests from Koblenz Students for work and study experience to be linked to Norwich firms. It is not always easy to find placements. We also get requests for pen-friends and this is made difficult due to the reduction of language tuition in schools.

Koblenz Landau University Trust has requested contacts with UEA and other Higher Educational Establishments. Norwich City College Principal, Dick Palmer has reacted very positively.

The K-L Stiftung seeks to support lecturers and exchange students and joint programmes.

The DUaM German conversation group continues to flourish and supported the Meningitis Trust 'Coffee Break' by raising £100.

NNKFA members continue to support the 'Feed the Minds' Norwich annual Book Fair, this year 40th Anniversary. We are very grateful for this support. We use this also as a good time to select books to send to Novi Sad. The new Sheriff, Derek James, has agreed to open this event on Wednesday 7 July. The FTM project for 2011 is to support literacy in Ruanda, which has been twinned with the Rhineland Palatinate since 1982.

The joint photographic exhibition with Norwich and District Photographic Society and Foto Club Koblenz was held in the Cathedral Hostry for the first time and was well received. Plans are progressing to mount the photographic exhibition 'Rhine again and again' early in 2011

Waltraud Jarrold
10 June 2010