

Twinning committee

Date: Thursday, 12 March 2020

Time: 16:00

Venue: Mancroft room, City Hall, St Peters Street, Norwich, NR2 1NH

Committee members:

Councillor Vaughan Thomas (Lord Mayor)

Councillor Grahame

Councillor Kendrick

Councillor Oliver

Councillor Peek

Councillor Sarmezey

Councillor Vivien Thomas

Councillor Utton

Ralph Gayton (El Viejo)

Waltraud Jarrold (Koblenz)

Jill Noble (Koblenz)

Sandra Underwood (Novi Sad)

Doug Underwood (Novi Sad)

Chris Rowe (Rouen)

Ann Rowe (Rouen)

Chairman (Norfolk County Council)
(ex officio)

For further information please contact:

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Information for members of the public

Members of the public and the media have the right to attend meetings of full council, the cabinet and committees except where confidential information or exempt information is likely to be disclosed, and the meeting is therefore held in private.

For information about attending or speaking at meetings, please contact the committee officer above or refer to the council's website

Agenda

		Page nos
1	Apologies To receive apologies for absence	
2	Declarations of interest (Please note that it is the responsibility of individual members to declare an interest prior to the item if they arrive late for the meeting)	
3	Public questions/petitions To receive questions / petitions from the public Please note that all questions must be received by the committee officer detailed on the front of the agenda by 10am on Monday 9 March 2020 Petitions must be received must be received by the committee officer detailed on the front of the agenda by 10am on Wednesday 11 March 2020 For guidance on submitting public questions or petitions please see appendix 1 of the council's constitution.	
4	Minutes Purpose - To approve the accuracy of the minutes of the meeting held on 3 October 2019	5 - 8
5	Twinning Fund – Financial Position 2020 Purpose - To note the balance of the twinning fund	9 - 10
6	Reports of the twinning associations Purpose - To receive reports from the twinning associations	
6(a)	Norfolk and Norwich Rouen Friendship Association	11 - 12
6(b)	Norfolk and Norwich NoviSad Association	13 - 16
6(c)	Norfolk and Norwich El Viejo Friendship Link	17 - 18
6(d)	Norfolk and Norwich Koblenz Association (to follow)	

Date of publication: **Friday, 06 March 2020**



Twinning committee

16:00 to 17:15

3 October 2019

Present: Councillors Thomas (Va) (chair) Thomas (Vi) (vice chair following election) Grahame, Kendrick and Oliver; Christine Wilson and Isabelle Savage (Rouen) Ralph Gayton and David Raby (El Viejo), Waltraud Jarrold MBE (Koblenz); and Doug Underwood and Sandra Underwood (Novi Sad)

Apologies: Jill Noble (Koblenz) and Ann and Chris Rowe (Rouen)

1. Declarations of interest

Councillors Vaughan Thomas and Vivien Thomas declared a pecuniary interest in item 4 (below) due to the committee considering using the twinning fund to cover the Lord Mayor's travel for a twinning trip to Rouen.

Councillors Vaughan Thomas and Vivien Thomas declared an other interest in that they were members of the Norfolk and Norwich El Viejo Friendship Link.

2. Public questions and petitions

There were no public questions or petitions.

3. Minutes

RESOLVED to agree the accuracy of the minutes of the meeting held on 13 June 2019

4. Twinning fund – financial position

(Councillors Vaughan and Vivien Thomas left the room for this item. Councillor Kendrick took the chair.)

The democratic and elections manager presented the report. He reminded members that the grant application form should be submitted for any requests from the twinning fund.

The Lord Mayor had been invited to visit Rouen in November 2019 as part of the sixtieth anniversary celebrations of Norwich and Rouen being twinned. Members were asked to consider using up to £250 from the twinning fund to cover the Lord Mayor's travel expenses. The remainder of the expenses would be paid for by Rouen.

RESOLVED to:

- (1) note the twinning fund financial position; and
- (2) agree to use up to £250 from the twinning fund to pay for the Lord Mayor's travel expenses to Rouen.

(Councillors Vaughan and Vivien Thomas were readmitted to the meeting. Councillor Vaughan Thomas took the chair).

5. Reports of the Twinning Associations

Norfolk and Norwich – El Viejo Friendship Link

David Raby presented the report. He had visited Nicaragua on behalf of the link as part of a self-funded trip to Mexico. There had been a full programme of events during the four days spent in El Viejo – he had visited nine schools, attended a council meeting, attended a teacher's union meeting and had seen performances by a local choir and a youth theatre group. The link was preparing the way for exchanges and the schools were extremely grateful for the grants and scholarships provided.

Ralph Gayton said that there was still political unrest in Nicaragua although there was civil peace. The country was making progress with education and healthcare but still needed assistance to pursue policies.

A member asked if there were any links with teaching unions. Ralph Gayton said that there were no formal links but these would be an area to work on as such links would be a useful means to share information.

In response to a question around whether there were any plans to raise the profile of the link in Norwich, David Raby said that the link was always looking to recruit more members and there were some projects being worked on. The Slow Theatre Group wanted to develop an international project which would be a virtual event between the two cities screening performances in both places.

Members discussed press interest in twinning events and the Lord Mayor suggested that the Citizen magazine could have a feature on the twinning associations.

Norfolk and Norwich/Koblenz Friendship Association

Waltraud Jarrold MBE updated the committee on the activities of the Norfolk and Norwich/Koblenz Friendship Association. The Feed the Minds book fair had been well attended and had raised around £1700. Norwich was one of the first committees founded to host this event and this year had been the fiftieth book fair. The Rotary club had its 40 year anniversary trip and an anniversary lunch was held in September.

Members were encouraged to visit the twinning garden which celebrated the unity of all twinning associations. There was a memorial bench for Roy Blower in the garden as well as the historic window.

There was concern that the Guildhall was not open to the public and that both the Guildhall and Dragon Hall were unable to host a twinning centre. There was not an area to display twinning memorabilia. The Lord Mayor said that a twinning centre was needed but there could be an issue with funding. Fundraising and grant applications would need to be pursued to raise money for a centre. The democratic and elections manager agreed to make some initial enquiries around the potential use of the Guildhall.

Norfolk and Norwich/Rouen Friendship Association

Christine Wilson provided an update to the committee. The sixtieth anniversary of the link with Rouen was being celebrated this year and it had been very interesting to back through the history of link.

In November, a film festival would be held in Rouen showing a series of British made short films. These would be judged by a panel of three members of the film industry. This was all arranged and run by volunteers. Norwich received a lot of publicity in Rouen which made for a good basis for twinning events.

Isabelle Savage had been arranging family events to be held next summer and said that she would like to organise a joint event with all four twinning associations.

Christine Wilson said that there had been a terrible factory fire in Rouen. Harvests had been banned in some regions, there was poor air quality and soot everywhere. Letters had been written to friends in Rouen and the Lord Mayor was asked to send a letter to the Mayor of Rouen.

Norfolk and Norwich Novi Sad Association

Doug Underwood gave a verbal update on the activities of the association. There had been a boat trip on the Broads which was well attended by members of other associations. He said that Novi Sad would support more joint activities in the future.

A visit to Novi Sad had been constructive. Funds of around £500 had been taken to the Milan Petrovich special school which was a significant contribution to the school. A visit to Norwich had been arranged but there had been a problem with obtaining visas. The visas had to be applied for in Warsaw in advance and then an interview at the embassy had to take place. Plane tickets had to be booked in advance of this process which made it costly.

He referred to the discussion around the lack of publicity for twinning events and said that in Nov Sad, any events receive newspaper and local television coverage.

In response to a question from a member about the cleaning of the Novi Sad Friendship Bridge, Doug Underwood said that it would be the responsibility of Norfolk County Council to clean the algae so they would need to be approached. Waltraud Jarrold added that two road signs on Koblenz Avenue had been damaged which would also be the responsibility of the county council. It was agreed that the Lord Mayor would write to Norfolk County Council to request a cleaning of the Friendship Bridge and repairs to the damaged road signs on Koblenz Avenue.

RESOLVED to

- 1) receive the reports from the twinning associations
- 2) ask the democratic and elections manager to
 - a) approach the communications team to include a feature in the Citizen magazine on the twinning associations
 - b) investigate whether the Guildhall could be an appropriate venue for a twinning centre
- 3) Ask the Lord Mayor write to Norfolk County Council to request a cleaning of the Friendship Bridge and repairs to the damaged road signs on Koblenz Avenue.

CHAIR

Report to Twinning committee

12 March 2020

Report of Director of resources

Subject Twinning Fund – Financial position 2020

Item

5

Purpose

This report informs the committee of the current financial position of the twinning fund.

Recommendation

To note the balance of the twinning fund is approximately **£1429.90**

Corporate and service priorities

The report helps to meet the corporate priority of great neighbourhoods, housing and environment. The twinning associations contribute to the council's service plan priority by promoting and fostering links and exchanges of all kinds between people of Norwich and the twin cities.

Financial implications

The financial position of the twinning fund is set out in the report.

Ward/s: Not applicable

Cabinet member: Councillor Packer, health and wellbeing

Contact officers

Stuart Guthrie, democratic and elections manager

01603 212055

Background documents

None

Report

Twinning fund – financial position

1. The transactions since May 2019 are as follows: opening balance: **£1154.00**
2. The budget allocation for 2019-20 was £2060.00

Expenditure transactions in from May 2019 to October 2019 are below

Date	Transactions	£
June 2019	Norfolk & Norwich El Viejo Friendship Link	200.00
June 2019	Norfolk & Norwich Novi Sad Association	200.00
June 2019	Norfolk & Norwich Rouen Friendship Association	200.00
June 2019	Norfolk & Norwich Koblenz Friendship Association	200.00
June 2019	Norfolk & Norwich Novi Sad Association	250.00
September 2019	Mr D L Raby	550.00
October 2019	L Forster – Eurostar	109.00
October 2019	L Forster – Greater Anglia	75.10

Closing balance: The closing balance is **£1429.90**

3. The expenditure this financial year is listed above
4. Members of the committee are reminded that applications for grants for twinning related activities can be made by completing a form and contacting the city council. The committee may also wish to put aside funding to support twinning associations to hold special events to celebrate anniversaries in Norwich or to visit twinned cities.



L'Amitié

Newsletter of the Norfolk & Norwich Rouen Friendship Association

February 2020

Welcome to the first newsletter of 2020!

The year has got off well with our first event, the Epiphany Tea Party, held in Thorpe Marriot Village Hall. It was an enjoyable occasion and an opportunity to sample the Galette du Roi and also the other buffet food supplied by members, my thanks go to them, lots of good conversation and a catch up with members who attended. Thanks go to Isabelle Savage for suggesting the event and organising it so well. There are other events planned for this year and a programme will be shown in the newsletter.

My thanks go to the Committee members who have done so much and have supported me over the past year.

I look forward to giving you information regarding any planned visits this year from our friends in Rouen.

Amitiés

Chris Rowe, Chairman

AGM, Wednesday 11 March, 7.30 pm

A chance to meet new and existing members is at the AGM on Wednesday 11 March in the Council Chamber, City Hall, 7.30 pm. Drinks and snacks available from 6.45. Access is from the Bethel Street entrance and the Council Chamber is on the first floor. Parking is at the Forum. We look forward to seeing you!

If you wish to nominate yourself for the committee, please let Ann Rowe know by 20 February: ann18rowe@yahoo.co.uk

Pétanque evening, Thursday 11 June

This late afternoon event, starting 5.30 pm, is in Eaton Park. The pétanque terrain is by the tennis courts (behind the lily pond). Bring a picnic. The café will be open late. Some boules will be supplied but if you have any, please bring them. There are two table tennis tables nearby.

Parking in Eaton Park is often difficult. The two car parks are either end of the park, entrances on South Park Avenue, or you can park on permit-free roads like de Hague or George Borrow Road and walk. Bus 25 to Pettus Road, or 26 to Colman Road Shops and walk.

Garden party, Saturday 11 July

This is at the kind invitation of Beryl Blower, 26 Morello Close, off Bluebell Road. The date is nearest to France's national day, 14 July, so a French theme is encouraged. We all take a dish but more about that later.

Trip to Battle

In the last newsletter we asked if members were interested in a coach trip for two nights to Battle to meet people from the

Souvenir Normand society, see the 1066 battlefield and Battle Abbey, probably with a guide), and St Mary's Church (built by William with stone from Fecamp) which has the lovely Battle Tapestry. There would be time to visit one or more other places, as yet to be decided on. A sub-group is working on the costs etc, but the dates are likely to be Monday 20 – Wednesday 22 April and there will be a maximum of 16 places. Accommodation will be in a hotel. If you are interested, please let Chris Rowe know: 01508 494409, chrisrowe@btinternet.com

Find out what's on!

If you haven't looked at the website, it is nnrfa.co.uk and NNRFA and other local twinning or French events are posted on the 'news and events' page. There is now a members' page which is being finalised this week. When the page is ready, you will be able to post ideas and comments. The password to this members' only page is Flaubert1821.

Christine Wilson
christine5dhr@talktalk.net

Number :158
October 2019



The Norfolk & Norwich Novi Sad Association

CORPORATE RESOURCES

Dedicated to Friendship

11 OCT 2019

POST ROOM

Editor: G. Piccolo editor@nnva.org.uk Printing: nnvsat@btinternet.com

Editorial

Although the numbers were small it looks as though our visitors to Novi Sad enjoyed the usual busy and varied time there.

Visitors never go to Novi Sad without doing something. Verna delivers big bags of knitting to the Red Cross of Vojvodina. Peter has meetings with everyone about everything. Ken and Caroline attach themselves to the choir of St. George's Cathedral and Bogdan. They enjoyed an extra, peaceful, week after the others had departed.

The things the young people get up to in Novi Sad! (page 3) It is wondered if they broke any records. The piano seemed to hold up OK.

Inside this issue:

September visit to Novi Sad	1
Gastronomic delights of Vojvodina and the Milan Petrović School	2
Future project for the Milan Petrović School plus the Isidor Bajic Music School Challenge	3
Association Summer outing and forthcoming event	4

Visit to Novi Sad Sept 2019.

Although the number of people visiting Novi Sad this year was down on that of previous visits it did not prevent those who went having a wonderful time in rather hot but bearable temperatures.

As always our visit was organised by Sandra of Kompas who tailored the visits and excursions to the number who were there.



On top of the world.....

Our visits always seem to be a culinary adventure to which things are attached so it was no surprise that a visit to Bečej involving a city tour and visit to the river Tisa and the sluice control system, and a visit to the Castle Fantast and its bloodstock stud, surrounded a most wonderful venison lunch.



.....at Castle Fantast.

A visit to Belgrade has become a fixed point in the programme and this year The Royal Compound became out point of interest. It covers 331 acres and contains two palaces, a chapel, stables, cottages and other buildings. It is the home of HRH Crown Prince Alexander and HRH Princess Katherine.

As so often happens with the timetable things 'get added' - almost as they happen so there was a rush back to Novi Sad to go to a performance in the Dunav Park given by the Zagreb Philharmonic Orchestra of film music - accompanied by the films. It rained! So the performance was hurriedly put on in the Synagogue. This did, however, give two members the chance to talk to Rita Kinka who had been invited to play with the Orchestra.

Other members of the group were able to enjoy the concert in the open air the following evening.

Rita will be giving the Paul Cross Memorial Concert in Norwich in January.

An excursion to the village of Đurđevo was another delightful culinary day since the village and several in the region have combined to provide a 'cheese and honey' trail. But the focus of the visit was a whisky distillery! This unusual enterprise proved to be a most rewarding place to visit.



Cheers!

A substantial 'ethnic' lunch was followed by a visit to a village house which had been made over to a museum of the Rusyns (Ruthenian) settlers and their descendants,

T



Two very experienced ladies testing and approving the 'ethnicity' of the snack provided by two delightful Ruthenian ladies.

Another 'fixed point' in the itinerary is the visit to the Milan Petrović School with a very busy programme and wonderful hospitality.

The group were taken to the School's facility to help Autistic young people to integrate into the community.

Report Milan Petrović School.

During our visit we were taken to the school's facility for integrating Autistic young people into the community and teaching them skills for independent living at Sremska Kamenica. The young people and their mentors were off on an excursion so the group had the opportunity to see the excellent conditions provided and to receive a dissertation on the principles and practice of the initiative.



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The school looks for early diagnosis and has developed a programme for intervention at an early stage. The beneficiaries are introduced gradually into the independent living environment.

The programme and the house is supervised by staff, volunteer parents and students from the University who live in the house and act in a 'supervisory/friend/mentor' role.



Dedicated to Friendship

The Norfolk & Norwich Novi Sad Association

President: The Mayor of Norwich

Vice President: Chair, Norfolk County Council

The Association exists to promote informal links between people and organization 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.

NNNSA 2019 Summer Outing



On a beautiful July day, a small group of NNNSA members met up at Horning to enjoy a leisurely river cruise aboard the Southern Comfort Mississippi Paddle Boat down the River Bure to Ranworth Broad. It was very relaxing watching the world go by! The group also welcomed 3 members from the Norfolk & Norwich Rouen Friendship Association. Afterwards, a social lunch was enjoyed at the Swan Inn, Horning. It was suggested joint twinning activities would be a possibility for the future. *Wendy Quinn*

Forthcoming Event

The Paul Cross Memorial Concert

The Paul Cross Memorial Concert is to be held on Saturday 18th January 2020 at 7.30 in the Norwich Assembly House.

Rita Kinka will be giving a Piano Recital of classical music, including a piano sonatas by Beethoven, Chopin and Liszt.

Tickets will go on sale in December. Member who purchase tickets early benefit from a Membership discount. This also applies to tickets purchased by members for friends and relatives. Members should contact Wendy for these.

The Norfolk and Norwich Novi Sad Association.

Chairman: Doug Underwood, 14, Herb Robert Glade, Wymondham, Norwich NR18 0XS

Treasurer: Dr. Gaetano Piccolo, 2, Thickthorn Hall, Norwich Road, Hethersett NR9 3AT

Secretary: Sandra Underwood, 14, Herb Robert Glade, Wymondham, Norwich NR18 0XS

Tel: 01953 601585 email dcunderwood@btinternet.com

Committee Members: Peter L. Beckley MBE (Vice Chair); Wendy Quinn (Social Secretary);

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

John Jennings (Sub Committees); Cathy Piccolo (Sub Committees)

The school is working with the Biology Department of the University in developing an Hydroponic (soil less) system of fruit production (strawberries). This provides an environment that is structured and 'safe' for Autistic young people and also those with other disabilities – particularly those in wheelchairs. This provides experience and training for youngsters to be gardeners/florists etc. It also provides an opportunity for other students from the University (It is thought from the Psychology Department) to work alongside the beneficiaries and to study disabilities and human development.



At the Hydroponic experimental unit in the University of Novi Sad

All this is in the early stages of development and is presented to us as a possible project we could support with proceeds from the Paul Cross Memorial Concert.

As has become usual the visitors were invited by the President, Mr. Zdravko Jelušić to visit him at the Skupština. As always Dubravka was there to organise us all. The President is always interested in what the Association is doing and was delighted to hear of the 'Twinning Garden' in Norwich.

The 'farewell dinner' is always an opportunity for the visitors to entertain and show thanks to their friends in Novi Sad. It is seen as a very important occasion giving rise ideas for the future to developing and extending collective and personal relationships.

News from Novi Sad.

It has been a disappointment for the Isidor Bajić Music school that it has not been possible for the Triorca Orchestra to perform in Novi Sad this year as part of the European City of Youth. Things have not been easy for the Norfolk part of the Orchestra.

However, The Isidor Bajić School, always on the look out for a challenge, decided they would try to beat the Guinness Book of Records entry for the most people playing a piano at the same time.



....Is there room for all those fingers?

It is yet to be discovered the exact rules and regulations surrounding this challenge like 'Must they all be playing the keyboard?' and 'must they play a recognisable tune?'

Undaunted by the difficulties an attempt was made in public at a prestigious venue in the full glare of the media!



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A very active contribution to the European Year of Youth

NORWICH CITY COUNCIL**TWINNING COMMITTEE – 12th March 2020.****REPORT OF THE NORFOLK AND NORWICH – EL VIEJO FRIENDSHIP LINK****1. SCHOLARSHIP SCHEME RESULTS 2019**

We are pleased to report that 58 students (41 boys and 17 girls) from the eight schools that participate in the Link's scholarship project, successfully completed their six years of primary school education in December 2019. The Link provides 200, scholarships each year for children from some of the poorest families in EL Viejo who could not afford to send their children to school.

Since the inception of the project in 2001 we have enabled well over 700 children to benefit from the full six years of primary education.

2. WHAT WE HOPE IS A TECHNICAL HITCH!!

Things have been fairly quiet in El Viejo recently but, unfortunately, and very concerning to us, a bank transfer of US\$3,000, needed to purchase the normal education material for our 200 scholarship students, has failed to reach the bank in EL Viejo. Our bank here has put a trace on the transfer in an attempt to discover what has happened, but it appears that it could be some time before we get an answer. This is something of a disaster but We are keeping everything crossed in the meantime.

However, as a result, our 200 scholarship students, and particularly the new intake for the new school year, will have to go without the education materials we normally supply, at least for the time being. In all the years that we have been transferring funds to El Viejo, this is the first occasion where things have gone wrong.

3. LIVE CULTURAL EVENT.

A rather unique special cultural event has been arranged to take place on 28th March organised with the help of the local Slow Theatre Company. It will consist of live two way streamed entertainment between Norwich and El Viejo.

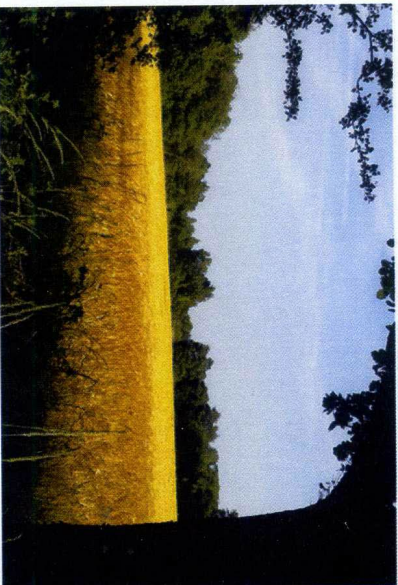
This event will take place at the Silver Road Community Centre, doors open at 6.00pm, and everyone welcome. (See flyer overleaf)

Ralph Gayton

Link Secretary

March 2020.

You are invited!



To a one off special culture night

Atlantica/Atlantic

**March 28th, doors open at 6pm
at Silver Road Community Centre**

Live streamed entertainment between Norwich & El

Viejo, Nicaragua

Hope to see you there!

www.slowtheatrecompany.co.uk/AtlanticaAtlantic