

February 2018

Norfolk & Norwich / Koblenz Friendship Association



"Understanding and Friendship" our motto
– is more than ever relevant

Twinning 40 Years

In 2018 we have entered a very special year, the 40th anniversary of our City Twinning with Koblenz, signed on 22 April 1978, by the then Lord Mayor, Ralph Roe (his wife Muriel is still a member of NNKFA) and Oberbürgermeister Willi Hörter. Seven Years had passed since John Jarrold, when Lord Mayor, had written to Koblenz and the then Oberbürgermeister Macke was not keen because of their existing twinning with Haringey in London formed in 1969. Twinning Associations (Norfolk and Norwich Koblenz Friendship Association and Freundschaftskreis Norwich Koblenz) were founded in 1980, and links were further continued on a broad basis, including schools, sporting, cultural and radio "hams". In addition to an Annual Programme of AGM in March, Summer Outing in June, annual lunch in September and the Advent evening, on the Monday after the first Sunday in Advent. We have had bi-annual visits Koblenz, the latest of which is described below.

The Lord Mayor of Norwich, his Consort and Waltraud and Richard Jarrold have been invited to Koblenz to celebrate the 40th Anniversary of City Twinning on Sunday April 22nd

As a Twinning Association we welcome all who are interested in our link with Koblenz, and we offer free membership to family members and school pupils and students up to 18, a good opportunity to become involved in widening our twinning aims, always open to new ideas.

Koblenz Visit 2017

Saturday 2nd September saw Mark, our regular driver, this year accompanied by his wife and new NNKFA member, Emma, load the coach ready for our 2017 journey to Koblenz. A brief problem with a passport at Harwich slightly delayed our boarding of the boat, but a very kind member of the Stena staff solved the problem for us. Once disembarked in Holland, we set off for our first coffee / comfort stop, only to encounter our next problem: it was closed for refurbishment. Legs firmly crossed, we resumed our journey, trusting Mark to find an alternative, which he duly did.



with Helmut Wagner
at The Hoffnung

At the Morjan hotel in Koblenz the Welcome Party was Günter Hahn, Waltraud and Richard and Editha Pröbstle who had offered home hospitality to two of our members, and after a brief stop to unload and change, we were on our way to Winingen, where the Wine Festival was in full swing. Crowds of people, a band playing, the air full of the smell of bratwurst, and lots of places to try and to buy the lovely local wines. The system is that you buy a glass, and from then on keep refilling it! The glasses make lovely souvenirs.

Then dinner in the Weinhaus Hoffnung, some of us having the honour of sitting at the Stammtisch! An excellent meal, though no Pflaumenkuchen, unfortunately. A most fabulous firework display, with the reflections in the river Mosel, brought our first evening to a dramatic end. Due to driving time restrictions, Mark was not allowed to take us back to Koblenz, but another coach, the Moselaner, had been hired to take us back to our hotel.



On Monday morning, several of us went to the Florinskirche to light candles in memory of Alan Taylor, a member of our 2015 party and the leading member of the link between Foto Club Koblenz and the Norwich and District Photographic Society, who has since died, before we headed to the Rathaus for the reception.





The Oberbürgermeister had been summoned to Berlin, so we were welcomed instead by Frau Dr. Margit Theis-Scholz, the Kultur-Dezernentin, to whom Waltraud, replied, with everyone now looking forward to the City Twinning 40th Anniversary celebrations in 2018.

In the evening, we joined the German members of the Freundschaftskreis at the picturesque Weindorf restaurant, on the banks of the Rhein. NB, no Pflaumenkuchen!



Bernkastel was Tuesday's destination, where we appreciated the many craft shops and cafés on the steep streets, (and even found Bärbel's house), with a Mosel boat trip to Traban Trarbach after lunch. This gave us the opportunity to see the vineyards perched on the sides of the surrounding hills, which we would see closer



when we took the tractor ride from Winningen on Wednesday, which we took after enjoying lunch in the Restaurant Sonne. The tractor, powered by a huge single cylinder engine, banged and puffed its way up the steep sides through terraces of vines, including the Friendship Vineyard, towing us on a trailer behind. The seats on the trailer, which ran from front to back, were made of highly polished wood, as was the table between the two benches. Consequently, every ascent resulted in a pile of



bodies clinging for dear life so as not to be thrown out of the back, while every descent had us sliding helplessly into a scrum at the front. Great fun, especially when one is trying not to waste the delicious wine by spilling it over someone else. In the morning we

had had a truly fascinating visit to the Winningen museum, with Waltraud's sister, Siglinde, as our excellent guide. The many artifacts were beautifully displayed, including a dress worn by Waltraud herself, when she was Wine Queen, and we were surprised to discover that a certain August Horch from the village had started a motor car company back in 1899. Initially trained by his Master blacksmith father, he had set out to build the best motor car possible; and after a very troubled few years, during which he changed the name of the company from 'Horch' to "Audi", he obviously succeeded in his ambition. In the yard outside the museum, we were able to sip our glasses of wine sitting inside one of the huge old barrels, which had been restored making two old barrels into one and was large enough to



have been converted into a very comfortable meeting room.

On Thursday, we had our last organized visit, this time a day visit to Wiesbaden, with Mark finding his way through the complicated traffic and roadworks, and a very knowledgeable English-speaking guide giving us the low down on such interesting places as the golden towers of



the Greek Orthodox church, the replica of the White House, built for the American ambassador. We had a little while to wander around Wiesbaden, which has the wonderful Marktkirche, and some super shopping streets. Unfortunately, road works and a major detour delayed our return to Koblenz, but once again, Mark coped, with his usual patience, good humour and skill.



Friday gave us the opportunity to do as we pleased, and we made the most of it by exploring the shops and sights of Koblenz, visiting Ehrenbreitstein by cable car and searching -, unsuccessfully (with the exception of some!) - for the elusive Pflaumenkuchen.

A trouble-free return to Norwich via the Hook and Harwich saw us safely home, reminding ourselves to check the validity of our passports before venturing abroad again. Many thanks are due to many people for all the organisation involved in such a pleasant and relaxing trip

ADVENT EVENING 2017

We were greeted by a spectacularly festooned Christmas tree, a roaring log fire crackling away and candlelit tables sparkling and decorated with branches of Lebanon Cedar against the white table cloths. Hot coffee and tea accompanied the Stollen and wrapped Lebkuchen (bought in Koblenz by Bärbel) and other chocolates, and the food lovingly prepared by Christa and Colin – all very tempting - said “eat me”!

The Hall was a picture of happiness with a sea of smiling faces. A lot of hard work and care had gone into preparing this warm and welcoming Birkbeck Room in the Great Hospital for us to share for the start of Advent.



Waltraud spoke of “The Quiet Time” of preparing for Christ to come bringing light into darkness as she lit the first of the Advent Candles, which she later dedicated to Diana Beckley MBE, a very strong link with Norwich’s twin city of Novi Sad, who tragically died during the NNNSA visit to that city in September. The recent “Super Moon” in the

blackness of a twinkling velvet sky reminded us of the true meaning of Christmas. We were remembering continuation of happy times in Koblenz over many years sharing all the good things NNKFA has done and will continue to do. The Koblenz group sent a card to us from their Christmas Party.



Our carols and readings from the Christmas Gospel delivered so eloquently by Christopher Mallet in English and Christa Wood in German, enhanced the enjoyment of the evening. There are some very lovely voices in our Association. Members of the Cathedral choirs under the direction of Ashley Grote filled the hall with their uplifting voices, then, after refreshments, donned Christmas hats and moved nearer to the Christmas tree and crackling fire. A grand finale of bright inspiring medleys of Christmas songs completed the Choir’s time with us. They obviously enjoyed singing as much as we enjoyed listening.

After another session of carols, led so ably and caringly by David Lancaster accompanied by Rosalind Lancaster, Waltraud thanked all those who had helped preparing for the day and also during our magical and happy Advent Evening. A donation for Cathedral Choir Fund and a box of wine were given to the Choir. Waltraud said she would donate a payment for the wine from NNKFA to one of her charities. In attendance were the Chairman of Norfolk County Council Cllr John Ward and Mrs Rita Ward (both members of NNKFA).



With our hearts uplifted remembering those who unfortunately were unable to attend we ventured in the crisp night air to be greeted by a clear sky and the lit up spire of our wonderful Cathedral.

John Preus

NNKFA Anniversary Lunch 2017

Our Lunch, on 17 September, was once again held at Park Farm Hotel, Hethersett and among many members we were also pleased to welcome with a glass of Winingen Wine, The Lord Mayor of Norwich, Councillor David Fullman, his Consort, the Chairman of the County Council, Councillor John Ward and his wife, Rita.



Report of Radio Contacts with Koblenz from Malcolm Prestwood (G3PDH)

Our radio skeds with Koblenz have continued throughout 2017 despite the current poor radio propagation conditions that exist in this 'sun spot minima' period.

There has typically been a total of 6 stations taking part with 3 from each city on the second Saturday of each month. Unfortunately one of our regular Norwich members, David Catchpole (G0PFN), passed away this autumn.

We are currently seeing new members joining and we hope to increase the overall participants in 2018.

In the early summer this year we received a visit to Norwich by Marco Leicher (DM5ML) with his wife Melanie, daughter Anika and son Aaron. They made a 3 day excursion by car and stayed in Gt Yarmouth from where we were able to accompany them on a tour of Norwich. We also held a radio club BBQ as well as a combined music making session with Roger Cooke (G3LDI) on piano along with Marco on Trumpet and Piano, Anika Clarinet and Aaron also on Trumpet.

In June some of our members also met up at the annual European Friedrichshafen Radio Conference and Exhibition.



During the year Ralf (DM5RS) recovered and returned to work after a medical condition and is also hoping to visit Norwich this coming year.

A recent contact was on Sunday 14th January at which very best wishes were passed to the respective cities with information regarding plans for celebrations in Koblenz on 22nd April commemorating 40 years of the joint association.

Two pictures are attached, one from when we visited the Book Fair and one of Marco on the radio speaking back to Koblenz during the BBQ.

Programme 2018

Friday	March 9 th	7.00 pm	Annual General Meeting	County Hall
				with information and music from TRIORCA
Saturday	June 23 rd		Summer Outing to Woburn Abbey	
Friday	July 27 th	7.30 pm	TRIORCA Concert	Open Norwich
Sunday	September 16 th		Anniversary Lunch	Park Farm, Hethersett
Monday	December 3 rd		Advent Evening	Great Hospital, Norwich

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