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NEWSLETTER

Norfolk & Norwich Novi Sad Association
Dedicated to Friendship

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Visit to Novi Sad

Annual visit to Novi Sad.

A very successful visit to Novi Sad is fully reported. As always the visit was full of surprises and interest.

The Newsletter is still in the process of being up-dated and its format is being regularly changed

Details of the Annual Lunch accompany the Newsletter. This is one of the most popular activities of the Association. Wendy would appreciate a prompt response as this enable her to deal with all the necessary details that accompany the event

Many things happen in Novi Sad (and here) that are not the direct 'responsibility' of the Association but nevertheless are of interest and importance. A section of the Newsletter will be devoted to these activities and will include any 'News' of interest.

Future Events:

Annual Lunch, Sunday October 20th.

Paul Cross Memorial Concert.

25th January 2014. Assembly House Norwich. A piano and cello recital by friends from Novi Sad.

The visit this year took place in September. (The usual time for a visit being May/June). The number of members was lower than usual but the eight that travelled represented the geographical spread of the membership.

Verna from Wales, John from Oxford, Roisin from Bexley in Kent were met by Diana and Peter accompanied by Tim from Norwich. For Tim Townsend (a new member) this was a first visit to our twin city. Ken and Caroline preceded the party by travelling by coach - very adventurous.



Sandra. Guide, organiser, friend and fount of all knowledge trying to keep the party in order.

St. George's Cathedral Choir. Many members of the party visited the Cathedral early on Sunday to hear the choir. Bogdan Đaković continues to expand the horizons of the choir which is now much travelled throughout Europe. Bogdan is now a Doctor of Music and much respected for his work which will please many who know him. The choir will return to Norwich - one day.

A visit to Zrenjanin provided the opportunity to be conducted round this typical Vojvodina town. The history of the region is illustrated in the buildings and their altered use as population shifts and dynamics change.



The Russian Orthodox Church in Zrenjanin now being used by the Serbian Orthodox Church

A visit to Caska Bara, a protected wetland site under the Ramsar agreement, was explored by boat. Many species of wetland birds provided interest as the boat ploughed its way through



floating 'pond' weed - a seasonal phenomenon. An opportunity to steer the boat was readily accepted.



Roisin - doing her 'African Queen' bit.

Visit to City Hall

As always when there is a visitation to Novi Sad Dubravka arranges a opportunity to meet the President Dr Siniša Sević. These meetings are useful and informative giving the opportunity to exchange news.



Dr. Siniša Sević, President of the City Assembly with the 'Norwich delegation' and Dubravka.

A pleasant evening on the Danube provided an opportunity for much discussion



An excursion to Zemun accompanied by a knowledgeable and very pleasant guide gave the group a break from the flatness of Vojvodina with an interesting walk over the small hills and slopes of this important historical town, now a 'suburb' of Belgrade.



The Milan Petrović School.

As guests of the School there was an opportunity to see much of the work they do including some of the 'outreach' projects that help to integrate handicapped people into the community.

It was good to see the kiln purchased from the proceeds of the Paul Cross Memorial Concert 'in action'. This has enabled the young people who suffer from cerebral palsy to develop motor and communication skills.

The school has a definite project for the Association's next concert fund raising activity which will be reported in full later.



Diana inspecting the kiln.

Dr. Muriel Heppell.

It was with great satisfaction that the visit included an opportunity to attend an event to honour Muriel. As many readers will know Muriel was a dedicated and supportive Honorary Vice President of the Association with long and close contacts with Novi Sad.

Muriel wanted her books and papers to go to the University of Novi Sad which she had 'helped to set up' when she was English Lektor there.

Through the kind offices of the Serbian Embassy in London her papers and books were delivered to the Faculty of Philosophy at the University. It was here that a small ceremony took place. A space has been set aside to house her legacy of manuscripts, publications and an extensive card index filing system which is on display in dedicated cabinets. All disciplines of the University are able to use the facility as Muriel's talents and scholarship encompassed mediaeval orthodox church manuscripts, many translations from Serbian into English of historical and modern books and papers, as well as significant works in Russian.





Considerable interest being shown in the display of Muriel's work..

Every visit to Novi Sad seems to include a journey of gastronomic delights:



Wild Boar and Venison at Kastel Ečka, Zrenjanin



Fish at Ribarac and Zemun



Mixed grill at Sremski Karlovci

Amongst all the celebrations and activities during the time in Novi Sad important connections between people were established and developed. The number of Serbians who contact the visitors whilst they are there and speak about the time they visited Norwich on exchanges when they were younger increases. Friendships are established and it is sometimes difficult to respond to the question "Do you know — I stayed with them when I was in Norwich?" Contact has been lost and it is often wondered "how they are?" Kristof, who speaks impeccable English and visited Norwich in 1988 has asked after his former hosts. During a conversation at the Philosophy Faculty the English Professor (who also, we think, visited in 1988) spoke of the family Rowe with whom she stayed and remained in contact with for some time

Serbian Wines at Lowestoft.

Members of the Association had been invited to a tasting of Serbian wines at the Ferini Gallery in Lowestoft. Six members enjoyed a convivial evening with the Le Plaisir Wine Society. David Ferris has worked hard over several years to bring this about. Mr Saša Uzelac, the First Counsellor for Economic Affairs at the Serbian Embassy was pleased to attend. The wines were very generously supplied by the Embassy. Sonia Boggis of Blyth Valley Wines gave an erudite and very well researched presentation and members of the wine society who are very discerning pronounced the wines to be excellent.

News from other sources.

Much goes on that is not directly the concern of the Association but has relevance to the Associations' principles of friendship and cooperation.

Triorca

The activities of this International Youth Orchestra have been covered in previous editions of the Newsletter. The first three year period of funding for the orchestra has come to an end and efforts are being made to secure the financial future of the organisation for the next three years. During the recent visit to Novi Sad discussions took place regarding the artistic plans involving the three centres of Novi Sad, Norwich and Koblenz. We will report news of their activities and of the support provided by the Norfolk Youth Orchestra which provides talented performers for Triorca.

The British-Serbian Benevolent Trust

This charity has been in existence for many years and provides support for Serbian children in need in their own country. It is pleasing to report that the charity has been able to give financial support to the Isidor Bajić Music School in Novi Sad for the purchase of instruments. This has extended their ability to support their talented pupils in Triorca.

The English Hospital at Sremska Kamenica

This hospital was built by Dr Katherine MacPhail soon after the First World War. Muriel Heppell was much concerned with the fate of the building and, together with Dr Želimir Mikić (who wrote the definitive biography of Katherine MacPhail, "Ever Yours Sincerely") decided that the proceeds of the sale of the English version, translated by Muriel, should form the basis of a fund to be used as a contribution to the refurbishment of the Hospital. During the meeting with President Siniša Sević he was able to give assurances regarding the future of the Hospital.



The Norfolk & Norwich Novi Sad Association

Dedicated to Friendship

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.

President : The Lord Mayor of Norwich.

Vice-President: Chair Norfolk County Council

The Annual Association Luncheon - Sunday 20th October

Accompanying this letter are the details of the Annual Luncheon. This is always a most popular event.

Please send in your reply a.s.a.p. As this gives Wendy time to get everything organised.

For the past few years this event has been held at the Park Farm Hotel at Hethersett. This has proved to be such a success that the Committee feels it need not look elsewhere. Ample car parking space is always a great asset and the generous space in the Hotel makes it easy for everyone to greet and talk.

Ever conscious of costs the Committee has managed to keep any increase in price well below inflation. (Perhaps Jack should be running the Treasury !).

Committee Work.

During the next few Committee Meetings the question of the Association's social activities will be discussed.

The Association does much to foster and encourage the twinning links but it is worthwhile getting together on social occasions .

It is always a problem thinking up new things to do. If you have any suggestions please contact Secretary Sandra (details below).

Note: The editor has a new printer.

The fact that it does colour printing seems to have gone to his head. In future he will be restrained from printing so many photographs!

The Association Newsletter.

If you have any comments or news please contact the Editor (email address at the heading of the newsletter).

As reported, many people in Novi Sad tell us of their visit to or contact with people in Norwich who they have lost contact with. Many Association members will have looked after visitors over the years. If you have lost contact and would like to renew it please let us know - we may be able to do something about it

The Norfolk & Norwich Novi Sad Association.

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