

### **Twinning committee**

**Date: Thursday, 02 March 2017**

**Time: 16:00**

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

#### **Committee members:**

Councillor Maxwell (Lord Mayor – ex-officio)

Councillor Bremner

Councillor Brociek-Coulton

Councillor Malik

Councillor Raby

Councillor Schmierer

Councillor Thomas (Vi)

Councillor Woollard

Councillor Wright

Ralph Gayton (El Viejo)

Waltraud Jarrold (Koblenz)

Jill Noble (Koblenz)

Sandra Underwood (Novi Sad)

Doug Underwood (Novi Sad)

Chris Rowe (Rouen)

Hilary Cox (Norfolk County Council)

Lord Mayor – ex officio chair (Norfolk County Council)

**For further information please contact:**

**Committee officer:** Andy Futter

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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



If you would like this agenda in an alternative format, such as a larger or smaller font, audio or Braille, or in a different language, please contact the committee officer above.

## AGENDA

### **1 Apologies**

To receive apologies for absence

### **2 Public questions/petitions**

To receive questions / petitions from the public (notice to be given to committee officer in advance of the meeting in accordance with appendix 1 of the council's constitution)

### **3 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)

### **4 Minutes (to follow)**

To approve the accuracy of the minutes of the meeting held on 6 October 2016

### **5 Twinning Officer (oral update)**

**Purpose** - To update the committee on staff changes

### **6 Reports of the twinning associations**

**Purpose** - To provide an update on the activities of each of the four twinning associations

- |          |   |                |
|----------|---|----------------|
| <b>a</b> | <b>Report of the Norfolk and Norwich Rouen Friendship Association</b> | <b>5 - 8</b>   |
| <b>b</b> | <b>Report of the Norfolk and Norwich Novi Sad Association</b>         | <b>9 - 12</b>  |
| <b>c</b> | <b>Report of the Norfolk and Norwich El Viejo Friendship Link</b>     | <b>13 - 20</b> |
| <b>d</b> | <b>Report of the Norfolk and Norwich Koblenz Friendship</b>           | <b>21 - 24</b> |
| <b>7</b> | <b>Twinning Fund - Financial Position</b>                             | <b>25 - 26</b> |
- Purpose** - To note that the Twinning Fund balance (in-hand) at 2 March, 2017 is £2359.74

### **8 Meeting dates for 2017 - 18**

**Purpose** - To note the dates of the twinning committee for the upcoming civic year

Thursday 29 June 2017 at 16:00

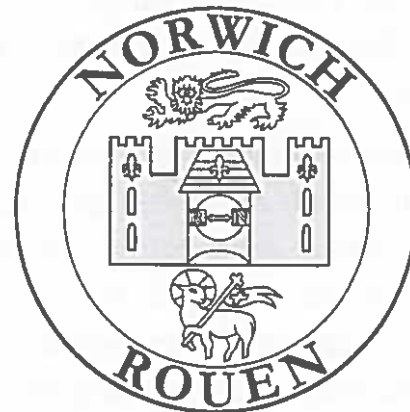
Thursday 5 October 2017 at 16:00

Thursday 15 March 2018 at 16:00

Date of publication: **Friday, 24 February 2017**

# *La Amitié*

## *Newsletter of the Norfolk & Norwich Rouen Friendship Association December 2016*



### **Joyeux Noel et Bonne Année.**

Tis the season to be jolly !

As this year draws to a close we can reflect upon what has happened. We entertained our friends from Rouen in April. They visited a traditional smoke house in Lowestoft, then on to Somerleyton Hall for a visit and lunch. There was a visit to Wymondham Abbey for visit with thanks to Ruth Bowden for her great interpretation. Lunch was then taken at the Green Dragon public house, one of the oldest inns in Norfolk. Fish and chips were requested by our visitors and we had these at Coldham Hall ph. This was followed by a visit to the Winnbirri vineyards where a tour and tasting was taken. Our visitors bought some of the wine on offer. This was a successful visit and our friends had an enjoyable time.



Outside the Green Dragon, Wymondham.

In July we held our yearly garden party, this year held at the home of Margaret and Frank Garwood, lots of good food, drinks and con-



versation. Enjoying the Sunshine

.....  
On a sadder note, most of you may remember the two tragic events that took place in Rouen this year.

The first on July 26th the murder of a priest and members of his congregation in Saint-Etienne-du-Rouvray.

And secondly the loss of lives in a fire on August 8th, at a birthday celebration in the Bar club, Cuba Libre. The association's condolences were passed on at the time.

The annual November dinner was held this year at the Inviniti Restaurant, Tombland, Norwich.

29 members gathered together for a 3 course meal, the service a bit slow and tentative but the food when it arrived at the tables was good. On the whole it was an enjoyable evening, with good conversation helped in part by the wine and warm ambience.



It doesn't seem possible we were enjoying warm weather and the pleasant conditions we had over the past few weeks. Apart from the consolation of the Autumnal colours we are enjoying, the weather has decided it's time to get colder, but please not so much rain! We are lucky in Norfolk we are not experiencing the awful conditions in the west of the country. Let's hope for a bit of settled weather in the lead up to Christmas and 2017.

Perhaps a bit of snow to decorate the festive season. I think we all spare a thought for those less fortunate than us and in our own way do what we can.

Looking to the future and our programme for 2017 as it is shaping up.

Wendy Quinn has asked me to post notice of an event: The N&N Novi Sad Association are holding the annual Paul Cross Memorial Concert on Saturday 14th January 2017 at the Assembly House, Norwich. Details can be found by going to the concert web site,

[nnnsa.org.uk](http://nnnsa.org.uk)

The AGM will be held on Wednesday 15th March 2017, at the City Hall Council Chamber 7pm. Please try to attend as your input is valuable to the committee as well as your presence, an opportunity to meet up and re-new friendships.

Our visit to Rouen in 2017, arrangements, programme and dates are falling into place.

We will go on the 10th May 2017 and return 14th May 2017. Suggested visits to Caen and the quarries, Honfleur and a trip on the River Seine with lunch included, other suggestions may be forthcoming. Bob Barnard is busy pursuing quotes from coach companies that will meet our requirements. Notcutts have informed us that it will no longer be possible to park on their premises, this is another issue we have to resolve to make it convenient for the members to park safely..

Other future events not scheduled the membership will be advised as they become known.

## SUBSCRIPTIONS

Hate to bring up the subject of money, but **Annual Subscriptions** are due on the **1st of January**, £7 single membership, £12 joint membership.

Our Treasurer Bob Barnard has asked us to include a note in this edition of *Amitie*. He would like members to pay by Standing Order. This would save both the Membership Secretary and the Treasurer a considerable amount of work each January. It would also retain members as they would not need to be reminded to pay their subscription and, of course, it would save them postage in sending a cheque to the Membership Secretary.

It is a simple process to set up a Standing Order. All that needs to be done is for the

Member to ask their bank to create a Standing Order for £7 for a single person or £12 for a couple payable to the **Norfolk and Norwich Rouen Friendship Association** quoting **Account Number 01693528** and **Sort Code 30-96-17** (Lloyds Bank)

If you are still happier to pay by cheque, we will accept them. Please make payable to NNRFA. Post to: -

Ann Rowe, Membership Secretary, NNRFA, 18 The Ramblers, Poringland, Norwich, NR14 7QN. Please try to get payments in by or near the 1st January

Thank you for your co-operation.

As with many of the other twinning groups, the committee tries to find "activities" that would interest the membership, your help in this would be useful. Please forward any ideas or thoughts to the Membership Secretary, Ann Rowe.

The same applies to our annual dinner. If people are happy we could book the Inviniti Restaurant for next year. Or a different venue could be investigated. If a different night of the week suits the membership better, let us know.

As mentioned at the beginning of the newsletter, we are coming into the celebration of Christmas.

A happy and enjoyable Christmas to you all, however you chose to celebrate it.

Committee members and contact information:

Chairman: Chris Rowe  
chrisrowe@btinternet.com  
01508494409

Membership Secretary: Ann Rowe  
ann18rowe@yahoo.uk.co  
01508494409

Treasurer: Bob Barnard  
randv.barnard@hotmail.com

Minute Secretary: Connie Forsyth

Committee members:

Beryl Blower  
beryl.blower@gmail.com

Lyn Holt  
lynholt@waitrose.com

Margaret Garwood  
margaret.garwood@outlook.co

Co-opted members.

David & Audrey Talks

We have a supply of NNRFA Badges

If you want one, contact Ann Rowe.

They are £3 each, Thank you.









# NEWSLETTER

Norfolk & Norwich Novi Sad Association

*Dedicated to Friendship*

Editorial Tel: 01508 480262 e-mail: [orns@btconnect.com](mailto:orns@btconnect.com)

## Editorial

Events happen that, although they have a very close connection to all the twinning activity, might be seen to be generated in Novi Sad.

It was thought that a section of the Newsletter being dedicated to news specifically from Novi Sad might reflect this.

Many things have happened since the last edition of the Newsletter (not least the annual visit of members to our twin city) but also the Associations Annual Lunch.

There are details of the Paul Cross Memorial Concert enclosed with a membership saving on the early purchase of tickets.

Twinning Associations endeavour to foster and support activities that genuinely develop and extend activities bringing people from different nations and cultures together. The Triorca Youth Orchestra which brings together youngster from Norwich, Novi Sad and Koblenz does just this.

## Visit to Novi Sad September 2016

This annual visit continues to be a most worthwhile and interesting activity.

Eight days of visits, journeys, meetings and events proved to be as popular as ever and the programme arranged by Sandra of Kompas in Novi Sad, in collaboration with Diana, provided for a wide range of interests and activities that suited everyone.

New members to this 'holiday experience' found their days full and, sometimes, a little frantic. There was, however, plenty of time in the programme to meet old friends and make new ones.



Enjoying local food always seems to feature large in the itinerary of the visit.



*As does visiting local vineyards to test the wine.*

There was an opportunity to visit the village of Indjia for a member to find his ancestral home. This was a successful mission. (Although the ancestral home seemed to have developed into a night club of dubious repute!).

As visitors from Norwich the group is always greeted by the President of the City Assembly. This provides an opportunity for the President to be kept up-to-date with the Association activities. The President was fulsome in his appreciation of the contact between the two cities which means so much to Novi Sad.

No visit to Novi Sad would be complete without a visit to the Milan Petrović School where members were shown the sensory garden which is much appreciated by the children, parents and staff. The Director, Slavica Marković, was presented with money, which was the residue from last year's concert, for their present project.

The visit to Novi Sad is always celebrated with an evening meal on the last day to which friends in the city are invited. This year, with so much going on it was with regret that several of our close friends were missed out which is much to be regretted. However, next year we will be much more organised.



*Dining with friends*

### **The Association Annual Lunch**

Thirty three members and guests enjoyed a pleasant meal and a friendly social occasion.

Guests were greeted with a large and colourful display of photographs organised by George Pfeiffer from some of the many he took during the visit to Novi Sad. George will bring these to the AGM next year which will be most appropriate since many of them feature the Milan Petrović School.

After the meal Our President, the Lord Mayor of Norwich Cll. Marion Maxwell, said how much the twinning activities organised by the Association are appreciated by the Council. It was pleasing that the President was accompanied by Andy Futter, secretary to the City Council Twinning Committee.

The Vice President, Cll. David Collis, Chairman of Norfolk County Council was accompanied by his daughter Eli, who comes

from London and was most intrigued by the Association and its activities.

It was pleasing that Margaret, one of our members from London, was also able to be with us.

Brenda and Anne, always making good of every opportunity, organised a raffle and raised £88 for the Association funds.

### **News from Novi Sad.**

The City has been awarded the honour of being the European City of Culture for the year 2021.

This is a tremendous 'vote of confidence' for a city that prides itself on its cultural inheritance and commitment.

The city is the home of the Serbian National Theatre and has a well respected centre for the encouragement and development of music in all its forms as well as drama and dance. It could also be considered the guardian of Serbian culture, its history and development, through the organisation "Matica Serbska".

Norwich had some input in the success of this award by giving a member of the application team, when they visited Norwich, access to documents and advice about Norwich's own bid for a previous 'City of Culture' award. None of this support from Norwich would have taken place but for the dedication and persistence our Chairman and Vice-chair Doug and Diana who encouraged our City authorities to be involved.

### **The Paul Cross Memorial Concert**

The Association has been in existence for some time now and as the years pass its activities have taken on an annual 'rhythm'. So if the visit to Novi Sad is passed and the Annual Lunch has taken place it must be time to prepare for the Concert.

During the visit to the Milan Petrović School it was seen there is a need for more equipment in the 'Sensory Garden' and it was agreed the proceeds from the concert in January would go towards this.

The Committee is pleased that, again, two talented artists from Novi Sad will be giving the concert.

It is some time since a 'voice' performed at the concert and it is pleasing that the soprano Radoslava Vorgić will be performing. She will be accompanied by pianist Julija Bal who will also be playing some solo pieces. Full detail are contained in the accompanying 'flyer'. Remember - early purchase of tickets from Wendy come at 'members rate'.



## The Triorca (International) Youth Orchestra.

News of the activities of this orchestra have appeared in recent editions of our Newsletter.

Although the twinning associations have no direct responsibility towards the orchestra and its activities the support and advice they have been able to supply to the organisers has been of inestimable value in the development of this very real twinning link as it directly involves talented young musicians from the cities of Novi Sad and its region of Vojvodina, Koblenz and the Rhineland Palatinate and Norwich/Norfolk.

Thirty young musicians from each region take part in playing and performing together in each city. This year they performed in Koblenz. Next year they will perform in Novi Sad and it is projected they will perform in Norwich in 1918.

Although the music, and the experience training and playing together is the reason for the existence of the orchestra the importance of the development of international understanding among the youngsters cannot be underestimated.

As can be imagined funding such an activity is a considerable factor in the orchestra's ability to carry on and the Association has been pleased to support individuals from Norwich/Norfolk from the Paddy Goldring Fund.

Is the work the Associations do to foster good international relationships worthwhile? Has all the effort put in by the coordinators in the three countries achieved their aims? Perhaps an indication of such is expressed in what the young people themselves say:

Joe, from Norwich: *I just wanted to say a massive 'thank you' for giving me the opportunity to play in Triorca. It has been the best experience of my life. I made lots of new English, German and Serbian friends.*

*Triorca also gave me a boost on my music playing. Seeing how good everyone else is has really inspired me.*

*I can't wait for next year in Serbia. It's going to be amazing. I've already started to learn some Serbian.*

The coordinators and tutors were equally enthusiastic reporting:

*Although all the young musicians were quite well prepared individually, at first it seemed that the programme could be a little too difficult. However, as time was going by, literally with each rehearsal, everything sounded better and better. The sound was quite exquisite and special - as all the coordinators have noticed. There was something very, very different from*

*the sound that each of these groups has on its own.*



*Young people of three nations performing - conducted by Nicholas Daniel*

The following is taken from a piece written by Anja from Novi Sad:

*At first everyone was hanging out in smaller groups. I was worried that these groups were a "done deed" with no additions needed or wanted. Later I discovered that, as expected, everyone was rather friendly and welcoming so I had no trouble communicating and making friends with foreign members. I think the first time you sit down in a big room full of strangers all speaking different languages can sometimes be terrifying. ....But, the moment the conductor raises his hands and signals the beginning you start to catch up with everything that is going on. ....All the strangers in the room are no longer strangers, as you are all now a part of the same conversation, using the same language with no barriers. ...One of my favourite things about being part of an orchestra is witnessing how the sound of your music drastically improves with every rehearsal. Seeing how it goes from a complete disaster to a concert performance worth buying tickets for. The first time we played Korsakov's Spanish Caprice it was nearly horrible. Us strings were out of tune and winds, brass and percussion played at the wrong time. As we went through some serious hard work this became quite wonderful. Our relationships with each other improved along with our relationships with the music.*

This report has been included in the Newsletter as we think it gives a good account of what proper twinning activities should achieve. Of course none of it happens without the dedication of people willing to give of their time a talents supported by association members with their membership.

The City and Norfolk Councils play their part through the support they give via the Twinning Committee.



## 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

### Future Events

Of course the concert on Saturday January 14<sup>th</sup> 2017 at 7.30 p.m. in the Music Room of the Assembly House. Norwich NR2 1RQ.

Subscriptions are due at the start of the year but we won't worry about that now. After Christmas there will be another newsletter with all the usual paperwork and a little brown envelope.

The Annual General Meeting will take place on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> April at 7.00 pm at the Central Baptist Church (St. Mary's) Duke Street. Norwich. The Committee is pleased that this event is often well attended. St. Mary's was the venue of the last AGM. It proved to be very comfortable and the parking easy.



*More holiday snaps at Obedska bara nature reserve*

#### The Norfolk and Norwich Novi Sad Association.

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

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

Tel: 01953 601585 email [dcunderwood@btinternet.com](mailto:dcunderwood@btinternet.com)

**Treasurer:** Gaetano Piccolo, 2, Thickthorne Hall, Norwich Road, Hethersett. NR9 3AT

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

**Committee Members:** Diana Beckley MBE (Vice Chair); Wendy Quinn (Social Secretary);

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

John Jennings (Sub Committees); Mike Poulton (Sub Committees); Peter Beckley MBE (Newsletter)



# Norfolk & Norwich - El Viejo Friendship Link

*Registered Charity No 11567878*



## ANNUAL REPORT 2016

Submitted to the Annual General Meeting 28<sup>th</sup> February 2017



Dilapidated state of latrines at Rosario Mayorga School (See report Para 3)

Chairperson  
**David Trevanion**

Secretary  
**Ralph Gayton**

Treasurer  
**Susan Thomas**

# NORFOLK AND NORWICH – EL VIEJO FRIENDSHIP LINK

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

28<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY, 2017

## ANNUAL REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

### 1. Meetings and membership

Your Committee met on eight occasions during the year since the 2016 AGM.

Attendances at the meetings were;

Anthony Bailey	4
Brenda Gayton	8
Ralph Gayton	8
Dr. Rhys Jenkins	7
Chris King	5
Cllr David Raby	5
Cllr. Vaughan Thomas	2
Cllr Vivien Thomas	2
Sue Thomas	7
David Trevanion	6

Membership amounted to 34 individual members and 4 organisations.

The Committee thanks all the individual members of the Link, and the four organisation members, for their continued support of our activity in providing access to education of children from some of the poorest families in our twin city. The importance of this support was demonstrated recently in written expressions of gratitude from each of the nine schools. (Note; we would like to circulate more of this sort of information we receive from El Viejo to our members but, unfortunately, we don't have the resources to provide reliable translation.)

We do need to try to increase our membership base to enable us to continue our activity in El Viejo. For example there is a Special School for handicapped children which we have supported in the past. Your committee will continue to encourage new members to join us.

Finally, in this section, we were delighted to welcome City Councillor David Raby into membership of the Committee. Cllr Raby represents the Green Party and he does have some personal experience of Latin America.

### 2. Carmela Hernandez

Carmela Hernandez has continued her role as our representative in El Viejo and has overseen the changes in funding the scholarship scheme as reported to the 2016 AGM. The changes, designed to save Link funds, were agreed by the Teachers' Committee in El Viejo. They were principally concerned with ceasing to provide school uniforms and to introduce changes in the contents of the schoolbags to reflect changes in students' educational requirements as they progress through the curriculum, as suggested by the teachers.

In April Carmela took time out to visit her daughter who lives in Iceland. Quite a change from the Nicaraguan climate! She also combined that trip with a visit to friends in Spain.

Carmela did suffer from some health problems during the year, and her mother also had a period of health issues. However, both now appear to have recovered. We are grateful to Carmela for her enthusiastic approach to the demands of the scholarship project.

### **3. School Latrines.**

Your Committee has become increasingly concerned and alarmed since 2015 about the poor state of latrines at the schools in the scholarship programme. Approaches have been made to the Alcaldia about our fears but, to date, we have not had any response to our concerns

In March 2016, Carmela once again drew the Committee's attention to the poor state of the latrines at the schools. The Committee grew even more concerned by Carmela's report and agreed to further investigate how the situation might be improved.

It became clear during the year that, astonishingly, it seems there is no one system, or organisation, and no civic or government agency which provides a clear and consistent approach to this problem.

An approach to the Nicaraguan Embassy in London for information about where responsibility for providing and maintaining school latrines failed to elicit any information about the problem.



The Dutch Group, teachers and pupils, at the completion of the new latrine at the El Recreo School

The matter gained added impetus through Carmela's report to the Committee in November when she reported on a visit by a small Dutch Group to the school at El Recreo, one of our scholarship schools, where the latrine was in such a poor condition that the group paid for a replacement (see photo) also see photo on the title page of this report of latrines at the Rosario Mayorga school. The group also commented on the threats to health and hygiene, as well as possible moral problems for the girl pupils, which the Link had previously brought to the attention of the local council. The Dutch group also stressed that there was a need for a minimum of two latrines at each school, one for boys and one for girls.

The situation appears to be that no-one at municipal, Regional, or indeed, Government, level seem to have any responsibility for providing or maintaining proper healthy and efficient latrines at schools.

This topic has continued to be considered by the Committee during 2016 when our concerns about the unsanitary conditions of school latrines were referred to the Alcaldia and information sought from other twin town groups but without securing any remedy or progress.

On this occasion the Committee decided that it was necessary to make a formal approach to the authorities in El Viejo and, also to the Nicaraguan Government about this unacceptable situation and as a start, and in order to get consistent information across our nine schools, the Committee designed a questionnaire seeking detailed information about the situation at each of our schools, to be

completed by the teachers, as a basis for an informed and researched approach to the authorities in Nicaragua about this important health and moral issue. The completed questionnaires are awaited and should be returned shortly following the start of the new school year.

#### **4. The Scholarship Project.**

The Scholarship Project, the Link's flagship project since its inception some eleven years ago, was the subject of much discussion during the year arising from rising costs and pressure on Link funds.

A special 'all member meeting' took place in September 2015 to discuss the future of the scholarship project and 2016 saw the cessation of the provision of school uniforms and changes in the contents of the schoolbags provided to each scholarship pupil. These changes were introduced following discussions with the Teachers Committee where agreement was reached for a total budget of US\$ 3000.00 for 200 schoolbags with three elements.

First, a standard set of basic contents for all 200 pupils. (Cost US\$ 1191.00)

Second, a sum of US\$ 2 00 per scholarship pupil for the schools to use at their discretion. (cost US\$ 400.00)

Third, the balance of the total amount of US\$ 3,000.00 – (US\$ 1409.00) but - to be available to the Teachers' Committee to purchase additional items for the schoolbags at their discretion but particularly for more specialised non consumable items needed for students in grades 4 to 6 .

This arrangement appears to have operated very successfully during 2016. It has benefits to the schools because it permits some necessary flexibility in the content of the schoolbags to reflect changing demands as pupils' progress through the grades. It also allows the Link to control its budget more effectively.

At the end of the School Year in December, the Link received details of the performance of all 200 scholarship pupils during 2016 from grades one to six across all subjects – mathematics, language and literature, knowledge of my world, natural sciences, social studies, coexistence and citizenship, cultural and artistic expression, technical and vocational orientation (Grade 6 only). The reports also included a score on students conduct, generally 'good' or 'very good'.

The Committee also decided to seek information from the schools about the future of the grade 6 students who had now completed their primary education. There is only one secondary school in El Viejo, the Instituto, in the city of El Viejo itself which is in the far south of the municipality. Daily access to this school would be very difficult for children from the rural settlements where six of the scholarship schools are located.

The Scholarship Project is administered by a committee of teachers comprised of two teachers from each of the schools, a representative of the local council, the local representative of the Ministry of Education and the Link Representative, Carmela Hernandez, who acts as Chair of the Committee. The Committee meets every two months and their meetings are reported as part of Carmela's reports to our committee.

The Committee agreed, as usual, to provide the members of the Teachers' Committee with a 'Canasta Basica', the national standard basic basket of foodstuffs and household goods, in recognition of their work on the Committee.



The Committee also agreed to provide framed copies of the graduation certificate to all the successful scholarship project graduates.

## **5. Guest Speaker – Jamie-Louise Morrison – 21<sup>st</sup> September, 2016.**

Ms Jamie Lee-Morrison from Ipswich attended the Link Executive meeting on 21<sup>st</sup> September, 2016 to speak to members about a project she had been involved in organised by a UK Charity called 'Progressio'. She was one of six UK volunteers involved in a small project in a small village called Parcilla, a small agricultural community in northern Nicaragua near the town of Esteli. The team was partnered by seven volunteers from the local community. The community was very isolated. There were no cars and agriculture was the main occupation. The village had a small primary school.

The main purpose of the project was to work with 17 families to build eco-stoves and provide information and education on climate change. A Nicaragua Charity provided the materials for constructing the eco-stoves – breeze blocks, red bricks, cement and iron plates. The stoves provided a safer and healthier way of cooking food. Instead of open fires within the homes the eco-stoves had a chimney to take smoke away from the houses. The stoves contained the heat and were also more fuel efficient and saved wood. Although they only provided a small number of the stoves, Jamie said that the locals could carry on with the project subject to getting the materials.

The team also introduced a system of water filters for 26 families because the ground water was contaminated with arsenic from gold mining in the area. The filters contained rusty nails which absorbed the arsenic. They also taught the villagers to deal with rubbish, which is a serious problem in rural Nicaragua, by using sacks and they managed to get a truck into the village from a nearby community to take the rubbish away. The group also gave talks on deforestation.

The team lived with families in the community. Jamie said that it was a simple life which she enjoyed but water supply was unreliable.

The project was organised by the UK Charity Progresio and Jamie had raised £800 to help with the costs of the visit. Unfortunately, the British Government doesn't want to continue to work in Central America and it was likely that Progresio would be closing down. She also said that young people in Nicaragua tended to leave the country and go to Costa Rica and the US.

## **6. Fund Raising Activities.**

### **(a) Virgin Lounge Event 27<sup>th</sup> October, 2016.**

This event was organised by Link Treasurer Sue Thomas with the Virgin Money Lounge in Davey Place. It was in the form of a musical evening organised by the Link Treasurer and Trustee Tony Bailey with the help of staff at the Lounge. The performers were ukulele duo 'Himasaz' consisting of Link member Tony Bailey and friend. They also provided ukulele lessons during the evening that attracted several participants from the audience.

Refreshments were provided, including a welcome drink on arrival. About 50 people attended the event which raised £231.14 for Link funds.

### **(b) Link Bike Ride**

The long standing Link Bike Ride organised by Link member Preston Thomas took place on 24<sup>th</sup> September starting from the Earlham Park Cafe. There were three routes – 1 to Intwood, Carleton Rode to the Bird in Hand Pub, Wrenningham – 7.5 miles. 2, Back to Earlham Park, reverse of route 1 – 15 miles. 3. taking in Tharston, Wacton, and Hethel returning to Earlham Park via Cringleford -. 30 miles

The hardy cyclists consisted of Link Chair David Trevanion, Rhys and Sam Jenkins, Simon Nobbs, Preston Thomas and Cllr Richard Bearman. Between them they raised the magnificent sum of £1,568.03.

The opportunity was taken to join Virgin Money Giving which allowed widespread participation in sponsorship for the participants. The Virgin Lounge undertook a raffle for the Link which offset the cost of joining the electronic fund raising scheme.

(c) A quiz night, a school event and a generous donation from a performance by the Worstead Choir added to our funds thanks to Committee member Tony Bailey

## **7. Link Member Michael MacNeil**

Long Standing Link member Michael MacNeil joined the Link many years ago following a visit to Nicaragua following the Sandinista revolution. Although he now works and lives in London he is taking a 12 month sabbatical to take his family around the world. His first stop is in Leon in Nicaragua, about 25 miles from El Viejo and he has offered to meet up with our representative, Carmela Hernandez, who also lives in Leon, to arrange a visit to El Viejo on our behalf and report back with his impressions and possible suggestions.

We welcome Michael's volunteering to give his impressions of the scholarship project at work and look forward to his comments as well as what he has to say about his family's experience of life in Nicaragua.

## **8. Nicaragua Solidarity Campaign.**

The Link continues its affiliation to the Nicaragua Solidarity Campaign which is the national voluntary organisation linked with Nicaragua. Other Town Twinnings and solidarity links with Nicaragua are; Bristol Link with Nicaragua (twinned with Puerto Morazan, the next door municipality to El Viejo), Islington Managua Friendship Association, Leicester - Masaya Link, Maria Zunilda Perez Brigade (Linked with Achuapa), Nicaragua Education, Culture and Arts Trust (Linked with Leon), Oxford Leon Association, Reading – San Francisco Libre Association, The Santa Rosa Fund (Twinned with the Santa Rosa School in Managua), Swindon Ocotol Link, Sheffield Esteli Society, There is also the Wales Nicaragua Solidarity Group.

INSC organises an annual meeting with all twinning and solidarity groups. This year the meeting took place in London on 11<sup>th</sup> February. Unfortunately, our Secretary was unable to attend due to the weekend rail travel problems between Norwich and London

Attached to this report is a message from HM Ambassador to Nicaragua to the NSC Twin Towns meeting setting out his views of the value and importance of the work of the British twin towns activity in Nicaragua.

The Campaign does publish a magazine four times a year about the political situation in Nicaragua and major development issues such as the proposed new shipping canal between the Atlantic and

Pacific oceans. The magazine also carries news about the town twinnings and other solidarity organisations.

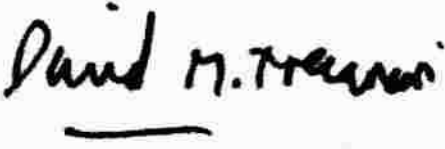
## **9. Acknowledgements.**

As always in a voluntary organisation such as the Link, many people are involved in all sorts of ways and it is right and proper that their contribution should be recognised and acknowledged. Most important is the continued support of our own small band of members. They are the lifeblood of the whole organisation. Without their support, we could achieve nothing. We are always ready and anxious to welcome new members to boost our activity.

We particularly thank the members of our Executive Committee for their time and enthusiasm for turning up and participating in dealing with the business of the Link.

Our thanks also go to the teachers at the Scholarship Schools in El Viejo, and the staff at the Alcaldia and everyone else who has any dealings with our project under the leadership of our representative Carmela Hernandez.

Finally, we thank the Norwich City Council for the facilities we enjoy for our meetings at City Hall and the printing services we receive. We couple that with our gratitude for the supper we receive from the Council's Twinning Officer Andy Emms, and we particularly give him our thanks and best wishes on his retirement in February. Our thanks also go to the Twinning Committee officer, Andy Futter.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "David M. Treanor". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath the name.

Chairperson

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Ralph Corke". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath the name.

Secretary.

**Message from His Excellency Ross Denny, Ambassador to Nicaragua  
to attendees at the Nicaragua Solidarity Campaign Twin Towns Meeting  
11 February 2017**

Good day everyone!

I am pleased to be able to address you today, albeit by proxy, at your annual UK-Nicaragua Twin Towns meeting.

I am struck by the fact that the town twinning movement has endured so many decades. What began as a powerful symbol of unity, promoting deeper understanding of the social, cultural and political values espoused by very dissimilar communities, has grown into a movement, managed largely by volunteers like you, that emphasises the development of links that address more pressing issues like sustainable development, local economic development and social inclusion.

The twinning movement has always been, at heart, about people meeting people where they are, both literally and figuratively, and cultivating meaningful international partnerships to the benefit everyone involved.

Although I have not been able to visit many of the towns that are the focus of your energies in Nicaragua, I have heard of and been impressed by the breadth and the impact of your work there, from community development projects and student exchanges to education support programmes.

Over the years, our Embassy in San Jose has been involved in numerous initiatives aimed at supporting economic growth in rural communities, reducing teenage pregnancy rates and preventing domestic and sexual violence, particularly in indigenous communities. We are always looking for ways to do more with less, as our budget for programmes like these is always quite limited, so for the 2017/2018 financial year, it is likely that our focus in Nicaragua will remain on supporting the rights of indigenous peoples.

In closing, I would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to each of you, for the tremendous work that you do in canvassing for donations, organising raffles and marathons, and hosting speaker tours and other sponsored events.

I am blown away by the generosity of spirit and commitment that is evident in the work that you carry out, and the tangible, positive impacts on the communities involved, both in Nicaragua and in the UK.

I wish you a successful meeting today and a productive year ahead.

Thank you.

# KONTAKT Newsletter

February 2017

Norfolk & Norwich / Koblenz Friendship Association



"Understanding and Friendship" our motto.

Welcome to the February Newsletter, which covers the period from August 2016 to January 2017 and looks ahead to some of our future programme.

At this time, leading up to Brexit, it is more important than ever to foster the contacts and let Twinning Shine!

**36<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Lunch, Sunday 18 September.** We celebrated at Park Farm Hotel, the "Prosit Welcome" with wine from Koblenz City, presented to us by the Oberbürgermeister, Prof. Dr. Joachim Hofmann-Göttig, during his civic visit in May. Vine and Fig leaves decorated the tables, much appreciated by all members, especially by the Lord Mayor Councillor Marion Maxwell and her consort for the day Andy Futter, from the office responsible for Twinning in the City Hall. We were also pleased to welcome the Chairman of Norfolk County Council, Councillor and Mrs David Collis.

A special guest of the President was "Apprentice-Carpenter" (Schreiner Geselle), Philip Hendgen, from Koblenz-Güls, this time visiting Norwich on his own, having participated in 2015 in the long established Apprentices Exchange between Norwich City College and the Handwerkskammer Koblenz. His excellent conversation partner at the lunch was Peter Mackness. We were pleased to have round tables, which help to enhance conversation all round.

As usual, we had no speeches, just an opportunity to look back on the 46<sup>th</sup> Feed the Minds Book Fair, which was well supported by members, and in total we have been able to give £2000 in aid of the chosen Education Programme in Cameroon, further enhanced by a £200 Christmas gift from DUaM so much appreciated – Habet Dank!



Other news:

The Wensum Junior School approached us for a contact school in Koblenz to work with them on a project to find out about people from Koblenz and Norwich, who died in the First World War and their relatives. Through our twinning contact in Koblenz, Brigitte Finkemeier and the Kulturdirektor Dr Margit Theiss-Scholtz, a contact has been made, and it would be good if this can develop further.

### Radio Hams in Norfolk and Koblenz, a report from Malcolm Prestwood

Norfolk Amateur Radio Club and the Koblenz Radio Club have continued their monthly contacts on the second Saturday of the month. On the 14<sup>th</sup> January we held the first contact for 2017 in which 7 individual radio stations took part.

Fortunately radio propagation was good following a period where ionospheric conditions have been difficult in these times of very low sun spots and ionization of the reflective layers. This should improve towards summer time.

Information was exchanged on respective club activities and in particular the possibility of exchange visits by various members this coming year. Marco, callsign DM5ML, is planning to come to UK in June with his family and Ralf DM5RS is also considering doing the same. I may try to visit Koblenz later in the year with our Motorhome depending on our plans. During the visit by Marco and family the idea of a small music session was also discussed as his children play instruments and Roger, G3LDI, here in Norwich is a professional keyboard player with his own quartet. This would be an Amateur Radio first!

Attached is a picture taken live at CNS during the International Space Station (ISS) contact with Tim Peake and the link below will take you to our club photo gallery ISS section for more pictures. Our club involvement was to assist CNS along with Norwich School and Reepham Academy in bidding to hold the event as well as other technical presentations and a live Amateur Radio Station during the event. Communication with the ISS on the

day was provided by a specialised team from the Radio Society of Great Britain to which we are affiliated.

<http://www.norfolkamateurradio.org/index.php/on-line/photo-gallery#nanogallery/nanogallery/62555649951258436097>



Triorca, the Student Music Partnership between Norwich/Norfolk, Koblenz and Novi Sad, will be rehearsing and playing in concerts together in Novi Sad this year from 25 July to 1 August, again with Nicholas Daniel, the Oboist and Conductor, who has trained them each year, including last year at Schloss Engers, near Koblenz, and with a concert in Koblenz. The Norwich Philharmonic Choir will be singing "The Seasons" by Haydn, with the Musik Institut in Koblenz, Rhein Mosel Halle, on Friday 28 April. If you would like to hear this oratorio in Norwich, it will be performed by the Norwich Philharmonic Orchestra and Choir on Saturday 18 March in St. Andrews Hall.

**Norwich Rotary Club** will welcome members from their Twin Club, **Koblenz Ehrenbreitstein** for the week end Friday 28 April to Monday 1 May. Part of their programme will be to visit some of the historic churches in Norwich, which will be open that week end for "Flintspiration". Most of the 32 remaining mediaeval churches in Norwich will be open. We have more mediaeval churches than any other city in Northern Europe.

We note with sadness the passing of **Graham Hemmings**, Rotarian and former County Council Chairman and Member of NNKFA, **Wilf Jay**, husband of Stella, both very active Sewell Barn supporters also members of NNKFA, and **Valerie Glauert**, former Head Teacher at the Blyth-Jex (now Sewell Park Academy) and the inspiration behind the Sewell Barn Theatre, where NNKFA had its Inaugural Meeting in 1980. She strongly fostered the School link with the Max von Laue Gymnasium in Koblenz, where Günter Hahn taught.

### **Koblenz Visit 2 to 9 September 2017**

At the time of writing, we do not yet have the economic minimum to travel by Coach and Ferry to Koblenz, and if you are planning to join us, please let us know as soon as possible, as we need to confirm the Coach, the Ferry and the Hotel Morjan. We still have a very few double rooms facing the Rhine.

It is planned to visit Winningen on the day of arrival 3 September, for the end of the Wine Festival, and to see the spectacular fireworks across the Mosel River, which is always a highlight of the festival.

If we do not get the necessary numbers, we will look at alternative means of travel, possibly flying from Stansted and hiring a coach locally when we need it. We will publish a detailed programme later.

Members will have already received the details and Booking Form, but if you need more information, please contact Richard Jarrold on 01603 454799 [richardjarrold@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:richardjarrold@tiscali.co.uk) or Sandra Sheppard on 01603 613880 [sheppardsandra7@gmail.com](mailto:sheppardsandra7@gmail.com)



### **Future Events:**

10 March	AGM at County Hall
10 June	Summer Outing to Audley End
2 to 9 September	Visit to Koblenz
17 September	Anniversary Lunch at Park Farm
4 November	Advent Evening at the Great Hospital



Having welcomed the New Year, we strongly trust that 2017 will be a truly uplifting one for all our precious Twinning endeavours, and peaceful harmony will embrace us all.

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**Programme**  
Mrs Christa Wood  
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01603 451754



Duam at "Moselle", our weekly German Conversation, on Wednesdays has been much enjoyed, without breaks, when necessary hosted by our Chairman Jill Noble.



Advent Evening, Monday 28<sup>th</sup> November, attracted more members than ever. Our preparation at mid-day was a real joy, round tables again decorated with "extra-noble-pine" used also for the traditional Advent-Kranz, wound round the prunings from Riesling vines.

Bob Young reports on the Advent evening:

Once again, the beautiful and historic Birkbeck Hall at the Great Hospital played host to our Advent Evening, on Monday 28<sup>th</sup> November. Tables had been delightfully decorated by committee members, garnished as usual with Christa and Colin Wood's Advent Tuten and precisely sliced Stollen, while the first candle on the traditional Advent Kranz added to the festive atmosphere.

Among the guests, who were warmly welcomed by Waitraud, were the Lord Mayor of Norwich, Councillor Marion Maxwell and her Consort, Andy Futter. Due to the unfortunate illness of the Chairman of Norfolk County Council, the Vice-Chairman, Councillor John Ward attended, with his consort, Mrs Rita Ward.

David Lancaster took the role of MC, with his wife Ros providing the music as we sang English and German carols for the first part of the evening. Members of the Cathedral Choir then joined us, and delighted us with their beautiful singing of traditional carols, joyfully conducted by Ashley Grote, Master of Music, which included a very moving arrangement of "Silent Night".

The evening finished with readings in English and German, and we set off into the night, well-prepared for the start of the Christmas season.





**Report of :** Twinning officer

**Item**

**To :** Twinning Committee – 3 March 2017

**Subject :** Twinning Fund - Financial Position

7

## Report

A summary of income and expenditure of the committee in respect of twinning activities for the period of 06/10/16 to 02/03/2017 as set out below:

### TWINNING FUND

<b>Twinning Activities</b>	<b>General Twinning £</b>
<b>Balance (In-hand) b/f 6 October 2016</b>	<b>1,577.55</b>

### Movements

#### *Outgoing:-*

Cost re hosting Koblenz Oberburgermeister May 2016 (hotel, meals etc)	<b>(577.81)</b>
Annual grant to twinning association - Koblenz	<b>(200.00)</b>
Annual grant to twinning association – Novi Sad	<b>(200.00)</b>
Annual grant to twinning association – Rouen	<b>(200.00)</b>

#### *Income:-*

Annual grant received from Norwich City Council	<b>2060.00</b>
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<b>Balance (In-hand) c/f 2 March 2017</b>	<b>2359.74</b>
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### Recommendation

To note that the Twinning Fund balance (in-hand) at 2 March, 2017 is £2359.74

Andy Futter  
Senior committee officer  
City Hall  
Norwich

Contact Officer : Andy Futter 01603 212029

