

February 2019

Norfolk & Norwich / Koblenz Friendship Association



“Understanding and Friendship” our motto.

Welcome to the February KONTAKT reflecting on our recently past events since the August newsletter, and since April 22<sup>nd</sup> 2018 in our 40<sup>th</sup> City Twinning Anniversary year enhancing our regular programme.

## AUTUMN 2018

38th Anniversary Lunch, this time on the date of our inauguration on Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> September, starting with a glass of the traditional “Winningen Brückstuck” Riesling wine as welcome to Park Farm Hotel, Hethersett and the so inviting and beautifully set round tables, encouraging good conversations, while being served the pre-ordered menu by the efficient young members of staff, and not forgetting the traditional German “Tischgebet” (Segne Vater diese Speise uns zur Kraft und Dir zum Preise, Amen), followed by the holding of hands and wishing “Guten Appetit”. We were delighted to welcome all members present and especially the Lord Mayor of Norwich, Councillor Martin Schmierer with his consort, the Chairman of the County Council, Councillor Margaret Stone and her husband Councillor Barry Stone, as well as some past Lord Mayors, Sheriffs and Chairmen of the County Council, who were with us as members. Waltraud presented Christa Wood with a Garden Planter on behalf of the Association as a mark of our thanks for all her splendid service over so many years.

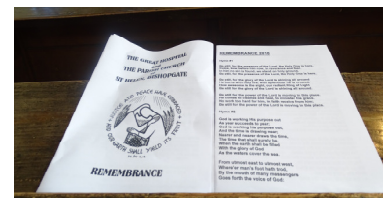


## 8<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> November 2018 Remembrance Weekend

Marked 100 years since Armistice Day 1918 and members of Koblenz Churches, through the Diocesan Link were invited to Norwich Cathedral, and were led by the senior protestant in Koblenz, Superintendent Ralf Stahl, who also participated in the Cathedral remembrance service. They arrived early to meet the Archbishop of Canterbury, who was in Norwich at the same time.



Bishop Graham James and his wife Julie, most generously gave a memorable lunch party for the guest from Koblenz and friends from Norwich. It was good to see that the party from Koblenz included three students from the University of Koblenz, who, we hope, will continue to be involved with the precious link between our two cities and regions.



**50 Years ago** in the Autumn the first visit of the “Winningen Winzer Tanz und Trachtengruppe” took place in 1968, made possible through the then Chief Education Officer, Dr. Lincoln Ralphs (later Sir Lincoln Ralphs) offering accommodation at Wymondham College, and with the excellent planning of his then PA Gillian Shepherd (now Baroness Shepherd), who organised visits to various major schools in Norfolk, a truly memorable experience, leading to several more visits, especially during the Norfolk Show and leading to the “Kemps Men” Morris Dancers becoming regular British representatives at the Winningen International Folklore Festival and developing strong friendships there.



First visit 1968 - 2018 50th Anniversary to Norfolk

## WINTER 2018

### ADVENT EVENING 2018 Monday December 3rd

This report is by Alan Metcalfe, a new member, who was attending for the first time with his wife Ellen.

The Birkbeck Hall at the Great Hospital was again the venue for our Advent evening with the usual spectacular Christmas tree beautifully decorated to welcome us. The tables were decorated with branches of holly and larch, the former revealing what a wonderful year it had been with the red berries almost unnaturally large and cheerfully red. The lit candles on each table reminded us that a German Advent is unthinkable without their warm, flickering light and for each table there was a large platter of Stollen. There were also individual bags of Lebkuchen, organised by Christa Wood, to accompany the tea and coffee which were provided. The large, round tables offered ample opportunity to engage in conversation and make new acquaintances.



Waltraud greeted us and spoke of the association's four meetings per year, of which the advent get-together is certainly the loveliest. She said that each of us should make sure that the serenity connected with advent enters our lives, despite all the work that preparing for Christmas brings. She had made a most impressive wreath out of greenery taken from her garden and she offered us all cuttings from her Riesling vines.



She mentioned that our friends in Koblenz had had their Advent celebration the week before with a quiz containing questions about British Christmas. They are in our thoughts and we look forward to seeing them in 2019.

David and Rosalind Lancaster then lovingly led us in the customary carol singing, a mixture of German and English carols, which we all enjoyed singing enormously with the keyboard kindly loaned by Jane Burton. That was just a foretaste of wonders to come.

A group of fourteen choir members from the cathedral, under the direction of Ashley Grote, arrived and regaled us with the superb sound of their voices, which filled the large hall to the rafters.



The Rev. Christopher Mallet read the Christmas story beautifully from the English Bible and Christa Wood gave us the German version with equal clarity, after which the choir members, now wearing Santa Claus hats, sang an amusing medley of Christmas songs, which combined carols with well-known hits and made everyone feel that the season of joy had really begun. Before they left us, they were presented with "a little something" to help them finance their choir visits to other countries. This year they sang in Koblenz and next year are due to sing in Regensburg. In addition, Waltraud handed over the wherewithal to "oil their throats", *"die Kehle ölen"*!

Great thanks are due to everyone who helped with decorating the hall and organising the whole evening including the staff that looked after us replenishing the tables with coffee and tea. Thanks also to the Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress who lent support to our association with their presence. All who attended left feeling uplifted. *"Advent, Advent, ein Lichtlein brennt."*





## Report on joint activities between Norfolk Amateur Radio Club and Koblenz Amateur Radio Club during 2018

Our radio schedules have continued throughout the year on the second Saturday of the month. Unfortunately radio propagation conditions have been poor for some time due to the lack of sun spots but we have generally been able to make contact even if not always at the best quality. Typically we have around 6 or 7 stations each time on the meet-up.

Marco recently carried out major works on his antenna system as per the attached picture.



During the year we received two sets of visitors from Koblenz. Firstly the Leicher family (DM5ML) came over in June during the period of very hot weather and staying in Great Yarmouth after first visiting London and Cambridge. During their stay they hired a day boat on the Broads and we enjoyed lunch at the Fur & Feather pub at Woodbastwick sitting outside in the beautiful weather and countryside surroundings. They also visited the Norfolk Club meeting and met up with many of our members and our Chairman David Palmer (G7URP). They also attended the Association meeting at the home of Mr & Mrs Jarrold.

In October we then received a visit by Arno Herz (DL1PBC), President of the Koblenz Club, along with a new member to the group Harald Fuchs (DK6PD). During this visit site seeing tours were made around Norwich and North Norfolk and they also visited the Association during the Wednesday morning meeting. Opportunity was taken to contact some amateur radio stations back in Germany and other areas from my radio station. After visiting Norwich they went on to North Wales and Portsmouth before returning home.



Malcolm Prestwood (G3PDH)  
President Norfolk Amateur Radio Club

“Vielen Dank” for all the Christmas Greetings from members including especially from Günter Hahn Advent event, and the “Weihnachts quiz”, tempting us at DUaM to find the answers.

2019 Congratulations to Norwich in Bloom, who won a National Silver Medal and a Regional Gold .

Recently we were pleased to hear that Norwich Market had been voted the Best in the country, well deserved and well reported on Radio Norfolk BBC East.

### **DUaM (Deutsche Unterhaltung am Morgen),**

Mittwochs 1030 to 1200 noon continues to be popular, and gives support to Meningitis Now and Feed the Minds, which is so much appreciated.



## FUTURE EVENTS

Friday 15<sup>th</sup> March 7.00 pm Annual General Meeting County Hall

Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> March at 7.30 pm Verdi Requiem. The Musik Institut Choir from Koblenz will sing with the Norwich Philharmonic Choir and Orchestra at St Andrews Hall. Tickets from St. Georges Music Shop.

Summer 2019

Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> June Outing to Venue to be confirmed, but please put it in your diary!

Wednesday to Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> to 22<sup>nd</sup> June Feed the Minds, 50th Book Fair. St Andrews Church, Norwich *(Please note: The date of the book fair has subsequently been changed from 19 to 22 June to **10 to 13 July 2019**)*  
Helping Friends most warmly welcome.

Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> to Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> September NNKFA visit to Koblenz. .



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