



NEWSLETTER

Norfolk & Norwich Novi Sad Association

Dedicated to Friendship

Editorial Tel: 01508 480262 e-mail: 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 14th 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 6th 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

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)