

Twinning committee

Date: Thursday, 03 October 2019

Time: 16:00

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

Committee members:

Councillor Vaughan Thomas (Lord Mayor)

Councillor Grahame

Councillor Kendrick

Councillor Oliver

Councillor Peek

Councillor Sarmezey

Councillor Vivien Thomas

Councillor Utton

Ralph Gayton (El Viejo)

Waltraud Jarrold (Koblenz)

Jill Noble (Koblenz)

Sandra Underwood (Novi Sad)

Doug Underwood (Novi Sad)

Chris Rowe (Rouen)

Ann Rowe (Rouen)

Chairman (Norfolk County Council)
(ex officio)

For further information please contact:

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Democratic services

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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

Agenda

		Page nos
1	Apologies	
	To receive apologies for absence	
2	Public questions/petitions	
	To receive questions / petitions from the public	
	Please note that all questions must be received by the committee officer detailed on the front of the agenda by 10am on Monday 30 September 2019.	
	Petitions must be received must be received by the committee officer detailed on the front of the agenda by 10am on Wednesday 2 October 2019	
	For guidance on submitting public questions or petitions please see 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	5 - 8
	To agree the accuracy of the minutes of the meeting held on 13 June 2019	
5	Twinning Fund – Financial Position	9 - 10
	Purpose - To note the balance of the twinning fund	
6	Reports of the Twinning Associations	
	Purpose - To receive reports from the Twinning Associations	
6(a)	Norfolk and Norwich El Viejo Friendship Link	11 - 14
6(b)	Norfolk and Norwich Koblenz Association	15 - 18
6(c)	Norfolk and Norwich Rouen Friendship Association	19 - 22
6(d)	Norfolk and Norwich Novi Sad Association (to follow)	

Date of publication: **Wednesday, 25 September 2019**

Twinning committee**16:00 to 16:50****13 June 2019**

Present: Councillors Thomas (Va) (chair following election) Thomas (Vi) (vice chair following election) Grahame, Kendrick and Oliver,; Ralph Gayton (El Viejo), Waltraud Jarrold MBE and Jill Noble (Koblenz); and Doug Underwood and Sandra Underwood (Novi Sad)

Apologies: Councillors Peek, Sarmezey and Utton (other council business)
Ann and Chris Rowe (Rouen)

1. Appointment of chair

RESOLVED to appoint Councillor Vaughan Thomas as chair for the ensuing civic year.

2. Appointment of vice chair

RESOLVED to appoint Councillor Vivien Thomas as vice chair for the ensuing civic year.

3. Declarations of interest

Councillors Vaughan Thomas and Vivien Thomas declared that they were members of the Norfolk and Norwich El Viejo Friendship Link.

4. Minutes

RESOLVED to agree the accuracy of the minutes of the meeting held on 14 March 2019

5. Twinning fund – financial position

The democratic and elections manager presented the report. He reminded members of the grant application process. Applications would be considered at the next available committee but if a decision was needed between meetings, the chair and vice chair would be contacted by email.

RESOLVED to note the twinning fund financial position.

6. Annual grants for the twinning associations

The democratic and elections manager presented the report. Doug Underwood said that the grant of £200 was invaluable to the associations.

RESOLVED to grant £200 to each of the twinning associations, El Viejo, Koblenz, Novi Sad and Rouen.

7. Twinning fund grant applications

The democratic and elections manager presented the report. The committee would be considering two grants, one to the Norfolk and Norwich El Viejo Friendship Link and one to the Norfolk and Norwich Novi Sad Association.

Ralph Gayton (El Viejo) said that the grant for £550 could be subject to change as it included a flight but the claim would not be for more than £550. A member commented that the council had a policy of trying to find alternative transport other than flights but the committee noted that other forms of transport were not feasible in this case.

RESOLVED to approve the grant of:

- (1) Up to £550 to the Norfolk and Norwich El Viejo Friendship Link to reimburse the chair's flight expenses to Nicaragua for a ten day visit in June 2019 and the purchase of a gift for the association's representative; and
- (2) £250 towards the Paul Cross Memorial Concert to promote the friendship between Novi Sad and Norwich.

8. Reports of the Twinning Associations

Norfolk and Norwich Novi Sad Association

Doug Underwood presented the report.

Repairs had been completed on the Novi Sad Friendship Bridge and the contractor had replaced the plaque.

Paul Billing had passed away and Doug Underwood said a few words in remembrance. Paul had been actively involved with the Norfolk and Norwich Novi Sad Association for many years and would be sadly missed.

A visit to Novi Sad was being planned for September 2019 and the annual concert would be held in January 2020.

The online system for requesting the Lord Mayor to attend an event was found to be difficult to use. The form often timed out before all the details could be entered.

Norfolk and Norwich/Koblenz Friendship Association

Waltraud Jarrold MBE updated the committee on the activities of the Norfolk and Norwich/Koblenz Friendship Association.

The Feed the Minds book fair had been moved to July.

The twinning garden was progressing and plants had been chosen to represent the twinned cities. The weather had prevented planting from taking place but it would start imminently.

Waltraud paid tribute to Roy Blower who had recently passed away. Roy had been a great support to the twinning associations and many other organisations.

The twinning centre was no longer available at Dragon Hall and there were concerns that tourists and visitors should be able to access the twinning information easily.

Norfolk and Norwich/Rouen Friendship Association

Chris and Anne Rowe had sent apologies to the meeting and a written update was circulated.

Norfolk and Norwich – El Viejo Friendship Link

Ralph Gayton presented the report. The chair of the Friendship Link had visited El Viejo and Nicaragua and a full report would be brought to the next meeting. The association was looking forward to a n optimistic outcome of talks around the situation in Nicaragua.

RESOLVED to receive the reports from the twinning associations.

CHAIR

Report to Twinning committee

Item

3 October 2019

Report of Director of resources

5

Subject Twinning Fund – Financial Position

Purpose

This report informs the committee of the current financial position of the twinning fund.

Recommendation

To note the balance of the twinning fund is approximately **£1614.00**

Corporate and service priorities

The report helps to meet the corporate priority of people living well. The twinning associations contribute to the council's service plan priority by promoting and fostering links and exchanges of all kinds between people of Norwich and the twin cities.

Financial implications

There are sufficient funds within the twinning account to cover this request.

Ward/s: Not applicable

Cabinet member: Councillor Packer, health and wellbeing

Contact officers

Stuart Guthrie, democratic and elections manager

01603 212055

Background documents

None

Report

Twinning fund – financial position

1. The transactions since June 2019 are as follows:

Opening balance: **£3214.07**

Transactions in from June 2019 to October 2019 are below

Date	Transactions	£
Norfolk & Norwich El Viejo Friendship Link	TWINNING GRANT	200.00
Norfolk & Norwich Novi Sad Association	TWINNING GRANT	200.00
Norfolk & Norwich Rouen Friendship Association	TWINNING GRANT	200.00
Norfolk & Norwich Koblenz Friendship Ass	TWINNING GRANT	200.00
Norfolk & Norwich Novi Sad Association	TWINNING GRANT	250.00
Mr D L Raby	TWINNING GRANT	550.00

Closing balance: **£1614.07**

2. Members of the committee are reminded that applications for grants for twinning related activities can be made by completing a form and contacting the city council. The committee may also wish to put aside funding to support twinning associations to hold special events to celebrate anniversaries in Norwich or to visit twinned cities.

NORWICH CITY COUNCIL

TWINNING COMMITTEE – 3rd October, 2019.

REPORT OF NORFOLK AND NORWICH – EL VIEJO FRIENDSHIP LINK

1. REPORT OF VISIT TO NICARGUA BY DAVID RABY - LINK CHAIRPERSON 8 – 18 June, 2019

I visited Nicaragua for ten days in June 2019, travelling by air from Mexico City to Managua on June 8th and returning on June 18th. A very full programme was arranged with the help primarily of **the Ambassador in London, Guisell Morales Echaverry**, and of our Link representative, **Carmela**. This included four days in El Viejo with visits to 9 schools, and a VIP programme in Managua including meetings with trade union leaders, the President of the National Assembly, the Director of the National Theatre, the Minister of Municipal Affairs, the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs and the Sandinista Youth.

El Viejo. Since this was the main purpose of the visit I will report first on activities in our twin city. Carmela (who seems to be known to most people there as Magdalena) had made most of the arrangements, with the help of **the Alcaldesa (Mayor) Maria Guevara** and her staff. We arrived in El Viejo on the afternoon of Monday 10th June, having first had a meeting with the Alcaldesa of **Chinandega**. This had been arranged by the Ambassador on the grounds that Chinandega is the capital of the Department (province) and is right next door to El Viejo. We had a very good discussion with the Alcaldesa of Chinandega, Aura Lyla Padilla, and her secretary Jessica Cruz, who would like the twinning to include their city (but I made it clear that it is only with El Viejo, although any support from the departmental capital is welcome). They stressed the importance of the Peace & Reconciliation Process and of supporting small & medium enterprises.

After a very good restaurant lunch provided by the Chinandega authorities we were taken to **El Viejo** where we met the Alcaldesa Maria Guevara and Carmela/Magdalena. They had very positive words for the Link and gave us a very warm welcome, taking us right away to visit a luxury tourist hotel on the coast and an inland tourist hostel where we had another meal. They emphasised the importance of tourism for the economy.

On Tuesday 11th June we began with a visit to the **Francisco Morazán School** where we were greeted by the teachers and 70 or 80 young students, with speeches and dance performances and then a hearty lunch (at 10 am!) The overall conditions of the school seemed good and they participate in a national environmental programme. Then we went on to the **Norwich Inglaterra School** where of course the welcome was particularly warm, and one teacher remembers Ralph and his family very well. Here we had three separate meetings, one in each classroom; the school and the community clearly had less resources than Francisco Morazán. Again there were speeches and dance performances, and a snack. Then we continued to number three on our list, **El Recreo School**, a small school but again an enthusiastic welcome with speeches and dancing and another snack. School number four was **Amigos de Holanda**, a larger institution with 550 students; maybe 100 attended the open-air event with speeches, dancing and poetry (to which I contributed my own doggerel). School number 5 (and the last one in a very long day) was **Hermana Maria Martinez Manso Ruiz**, also a large school: it was too late for a formal event (3:30 pm) but we saw the students hard at work clearing the school garden for new planting. After this we were given a fine performance in the municipal videoconference room by a young group who perform local traditional dances. Later we visited the Basilica and then had a delicious restaurant meal.

Wednesday 12th June: three schools, **Perpetuo Socorro, Hermana Maritza Legarreta and Evemilda Samarriba**. Again, meetings with speeches, dancing and snacks. At Perpetuo

Socorro which is quite large and well equipped they did make a request for help with repairing the roof (see my general comments below), they also gave us a great reception outside in the playground. We then had a restaurant meal followed by a meeting with several teachers from rural schools (including some we had already met) in the videoconference room which has a/c and is often used for meetings. Then in the same room we were treated to a performance by the Municipal Choir which is a recent creation but has already achieved a high level of performance.

Thursday 13th June: visited one school, **Rosario Mayorga**. Then a meeting in the videoconference room with the entire City Council including councillors, officials and union reps. One councillor who is also a historian pointed out that El Viejo has 1,000 years of history and stressed the importance of the Sandinista Revolution and also of the 30 years' cooperation with Norwich. Others such as the Deputy Mayor, Boanerges Espinoza, spoke of the poverty of the area and the importance of the Norwich twinning. Several speakers mentioned the impact of US hostility and the damage inflicted by last year's attempted coup, when the rioters almost set fire to the City Hall. After this we attended an event at the city market place commemorating the 40th anniversary of the assassination of Elisabeth Mendez, a young woman who with others was killed shortly before the revolutionary victory. We then set off by car for Managua with the Alcaldesa and a chauffeur, and Carmela/Magdalena whom we left in Leon (where we also had lunch).

General observations about the schools: the enthusiasm and dedication of the teachers and students left an unforgettable impression. They are all extremely grateful for the support provided by the Link. In all cases I assured them that our work will continue and also spoke about the cultural exchange project. I emphasised that the twinning is a two-way process of solidarity, and although we provide material assistance we also receive inspiration from their work and the example of free public education. I also asked what they know about Norwich and England/UK, it was clear that they don't know much, but we had some good conversations with students on the subject. From talks with the Alcaldesa, Carmela, the teachers and the local rep of the Ministry of Education (MinEd) I was able to clarify that the schools are built and in principle maintained by the MinEd, but resources are lacking and so the municipality and the communities (parents) also contribute. This also applies to the toilets, some of which I inspected; some are better than others but they are mostly latrines. There is no piped water in some rural areas, hence the poor conditions. All of those I spoke to (including later in Managua the Director of INOFOM, in effect the Minister for Local Government), recognised that this is a serious problem. As for specific requests like that from Perpetuo Socorro for help with repairing the roof, the authorities said this is not really our problem, our support for the students is greatly appreciated but they don't expect us to solve the overall problem of school maintenance.

There is a Committee of Teachers participating in the Twinning which meets every two months with Carmela/Magdalena and the Alcaldesa. They stressed the positive contribution of Carmela.

Cultural exchange project: everyone was enthusiastic about this. They say they have all the necessary equipment, and certainly the videoconference room is quite impressive. The head of the IT Team is Juan Carlos Herrera B. and his contact info is herrerabjc@gmail.com, tel (with WhatsApp) is +505 8265 4473. Also he speaks English which will be a great help.

Managua. On the day of our arrival, Saturday June 8th, we had a meeting with **trade union leaders:** Domingo Pérez, National Secretary of UNE public sector workers, José Bermudez, General Secretary of the FNT (equivalent to UNISON) and one other from the Water Workers. JB pointed out that the conflict in Nicaragua is not new, imperialist aggression began with the Contreras in the 1980s, and this external hostility remains their biggest

problem. Today they are united in struggle with the ALBA countries, notably Cuba and Venezuela. In education he mentioned that in 1979 there were 6,000 teachers, today there are 52,000. It's not that we support the Government, it is our Government. The work of the Link is greatly appreciated and he particularly mentioned that Ralph has been supporting Nicaragua for 40 years. DP said that he could if we like write a report on the work of the Link as they see it; he recognised the work of NSC, particularly Louise Richards and Ralph. He pointed out that the GINI index for the country was 0.63 in 2006 and only 0.29 in the latest UN report, indicating a big reduction in inequality.

After the trip to El Viejo we arrived in Managua again on the evening of Thursday 13th June. At 9 am on Friday 14th we had a meeting with the Director of INIFOM (the **Nicaraguan Institute for Municipal Promotion**, more or less the Department for Local Government), Guiomar Irias and her team. She outlined their work supporting and coordinating municipalities in education, health, environment and infrastructure. An interesting project they have developed is the CDIs, Centres for Infant Development, somewhat like Sure Start. Until recently they had monthly meetings in Managua with all mayors, but this took up a lot of time for the mayors with travelling, and now (in the last two months) they have started having these meetings online.

Later that morning we had a meeting at **the HQ of the teachers' union ANDEN/GCTEN**, with Pedro Cortedano (Labour Affairs officer) and Bernarda López (Organisational secretary). They talked about their contact with the NUT/NEU in Britain, especially Julia Lamin. They emphasised positive achievements in education: school lunches & milk for students, the spread of IT facilities, and the MinEd's decision to start teaching English from the first year of primary school from this year onwards. The union helps teachers with mortgages and also with transport. They have continued to recruit new members (average 500 a month) even during last year's violence.

On the Friday afternoon we were received by the **President of the National Assembly, Dr Gustavo Porras**, and its First Secretary, Raquel Dixon (a bilingual English & Spanish speaking MP for the North Atlantic Coast constituency). They stressed the importance of the fight for Peace with three new laws: (1) Creating Reconciliation, Justice & Peace Committees in more than 2,000 localities; (2) a law for Assistance to Victims; and (3) the Amnesty Law. In all this they follow the Belfast Guidelines including no repetition of amnestied offences. They are optimistic despite the difficulties. Dr Porras sends greetings to Ralph and to Louise Richards.

Finally at 4 pm on Friday 14th we had a meeting with the **Sandinista Youth** in the Japanese Park. There were about 80 of them present, along with the media. I talked about the Link, about NSC and solidarity in general and how it is a two-way street: that their efforts to build a just society in Nicaragua are an inspiration for us in the UK. They were shocked and very interested to learn that in a rich country like Britain there are people living on the street and children who go to school without breakfast: this made them all the more committed to working with us and combatting media falsehoods.

On Saturday 15th and Sunday 16th we visited friends (a Swiss-Colombian couple working on a rural environmental project) in **Matagalpa**, returning to Managua on the Sunday evening.

On Monday 17th we had a brief but very positive meeting with the **Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, Arlette Marengo**. She pointed out the need to overcome misleading media reports and that the country is at peace. She praised the work of the Ambassador in London.

Later that morning we visited the **National Theatre** and its Director **Ramón Rodríguez** and several of his colleagues. They showed us all round the theatre and described its very varied

work, including work in Colleges of Education. They were very interested in our cultural exchange project and in Slow Theatre, although I had to stress that our primary interest is in exchange with El Viejo rather than national projects.

In all of these activities we were accompanied by officials of the Foreign Ministry who were very helpful and who drove us around in an official car. On the Monday afternoon they took us on a tourist trip to Masaya and Granada and up to the crater of the Masaya Volcano. Finally on Tuesday June 18th we flew back from Managua to Mexico City.

David Raby
Link Chairperson.

2. FUTURE VISIT TO EL VIEJO – NORWICH YOUTH PROJECTS

The Committee has agreed to support a proposal for a visit to El Viejo, probably in 2001 by a group of young people organised by Norwich Youth Projects. The group will consist of approximately 25 young people from Norwich aged 15 to 25 accompanied by up to five adults. The project is in a very early stage of development at present but it is likely to involve the group in undertaking small development type projects suggested by the El Viejo Alcaldia, as yet undetermined, but possibly involving the schools in the Link's scholarship scheme.

The next stage will involve discussions with the El Viejo local council to consider and agree the activities to be undertaken by the group.

We will keep the Committee informed of progress.

3. THE SLOW THEATRE GROUP

Based in Norwich and founded on an ethos of cooperation and team building, Slow Theatre combines laughter and fun with concentration and group work to help people develop in confidence and communication skills either in community projects, bespoke workshops or in our weekly classes. Slow Theatre teaches the techniques of stage craft and communication. We strive to be inclusive, tolerant and always treat people with respect.

The Group works with social purpose, initiating, and working with community projects for people both young and old. They state that It is important for us that we feed our profits back into the local community, The Slow Theatre Group is a not-for-profit theatre company.

The Group proposes to create a project entitled 'Bridging the Atlantic' using multimedia technology to create sustainable ways for twinning projects such the Norwich - El Viejo to engage diverse younger generations by creating both digital and live spaces which offer local people in both cities the potential to explore and connect current issues and histories through performance and production art.

The Link Committee has agreed to support this project which is innovative in its user of modern electronic facilities in linking our two communities. The total cost of the project is estimated to be £3,500 and the Group is applying for financial support from the Norwich Freeman's Charity.



KONTAKT Newsletter

August 2019

Norfolk & Norwich / Koblenz Friendship Association



"Understanding and Friendship" our motto.

Welcome to our 2019 August Edition, with the "Twinning Garden" a shining highlight.

Twinning Garden at All Saints Church, Westlegate.

This re-creation is truly a most welcome continuation of the original "Norwich Garden", one of six "Gardens of Friendship" created as part of the twinning contribution for the Bundes Gartenschau, BUGA, Federal Garden Show in Koblenz in 2011. All the Twin Cities were invited to create a garden representing their unique city character.

Norwich responded with a garden designed by George Ishmael, on behalf of "Friends of Norwich in Bloom," a garden with a theme of the city churches with a stunning "church window" sculpture in wood with stained glass designed and made by Sarah Bristow, a small pew and a lectern, with Norwich linked flower beds. This was a huge undertaking, which George and Chris Southgate installed in Koblenz, with dedicated planting by Jeanne Southgate.



Now a unique re-creation here in Norwich has been installed with the "Twinning Garden", representing all the Norwich Twin Cities (and Regions in some cases).

The stained glass panels have been put between panels of plain glass to protect them, and an extra glass panel has been added showing the twin cities logos, and those of the sponsors, with the Norwich in Bloom logo at the top. The 10th May was the "planting day" with chosen flowers representing each Twin City. Koblenz is represented by two grapevines from Waltraud's garden planted to climb up the structure from each side to meet on the top, as suggested by George Ishmael. Representative flowers are Norwich: Crocosmia, Rouen: Iris, Novi Sad: Sun Flower, El Viejo: Plumeria.



A most welcome surprise was the Fig Tree spotted, well established, nearby on the outer wall, completing the promise in Scripture (Micha 4.4) "and they shall live under their Vine and Fig Tree and none shall be afraid" truly a fitting verse for the unique Twinning Garden. The garden is also enhanced by a wooden garden bench donated by past Lord Mayor, Roy Blower and his wife Beryl. Roy, a true Norwich man and member of NNKFA, sadly passed away on May 26th.

The garden was opened on July 5th, by the Deputy Lord Mayor, in the presence of the Anglia in Bloom judges, who were in Norwich on this special day. Waltraud, as President of Norwich in Bloom, also spoke to welcome this unique Twinning Garden.

The AGM took place on Friday, March 15th 2019, in the Edwards Room at County Hall, and Jill Noble has provided this account.

There was a good attendance and Waltraud welcomed and thanked the Leader of Norfolk County Council, Cllr Margaret Stone and her husband Barry, and Cllr Roger Ryan from Norwich City Council who represented the Lord Mayor of Norwich, Cllr Vaughan Thomas. Before the meeting began, Cllr Margaret Stone walked round the room to greet each member of the Association personally. A gesture greatly appreciated.

In recent years, after the business part of the evening, we have had a guest item. This year we were pleased to welcome Waltraud's sister, Siglinde Krumme, who had arrived from Koblenz earlier in the day, with members and friends of the Koblenz Musik Institut Choir, who spoke to us after the formal part of the meeting.



Siglinde emphasised the need for, and positive benefits of friendship and understanding between our two cities, which are needed more than ever in the present uncertain situation as the country moves towards leaving the EU.

Siglinde summed up her feelings with a beautiful and heart felt recitation of the poem "Daffodils" by William Wordsworth. She had been inspired to do so after walking round Waltraud and Richard's garden earlier in the day. We sat spellbound as Siglinde recited the complete poem in perfect English!

The evening finished with refreshments kindly supplied by members of the Association.

Norwich Philharmonic Choir and Orchestra and Koblenz Musik Institut Choir held their bi-annual joint concert on Saturday March 16, "Verdi Requiem" with a full audience in the St. Andrews Hall. A very high standard, radiating true friendship – too brief the visit, returning on Sunday already, but the memory shines on.

NNKFA Summer Outing Saturday 15th June 2019

Report by Christopher Mallett. Photos by Rachel Mallett.

First, I would like to say thank you to Sandra Sheppard for the organising of the day. Sandra had written to at least two stately homes from which she had received no reply. Consequently it was suggested a trip on the Bure Valley Railway from Aylsham, followed by a boat trip from Wroxham, with a return railway trip to Aylsham and a celebrated afternoon tea. Andrew and his wife Susan form the professional and friendly management team of the Bure Valley Railway and are supported by a group of volunteers, including John Sheppard, who is the Chairman of the Friends of the Railway.

Page 16 of 22



Every effort by the volunteers on the Bure Valley Railway was made to ensure the safety and comfort of their passengers. Much of this related to the careful planning by Sandra and Susan to ensure that there were appropriate facilities for everyone, which included wheelchair-friendly carriages plus a taxi journey at Wroxham.

It would appear a childhood enthusiasm for the travelling on a steam train was evident, as everyone had arrived early!

We travelled by steam train to Wroxham through the beautiful undulating Norfolk countryside. The crops of sugar beet, potatoes and spring wheat had benefited from the recent rain, in contrast to the ripening winter barley, where much had been devastatingly flattened by the rain, which will increase the difficulty in its harvesting.



On arrival at the berth of the 'Belle of the Broads', we were welcomed, first by Sandra, in the handing out of the yellow disc (boarding card/ticket) and subsequently by the crew. A boarding chair lift was activated for those in need, prior to those in the rest of the party. The captain gave a very interesting commentary on the various waterfront houses, the coppiced alder trees and also the wildlife, pointing out a white-crested grebe and chick, plus two swans with a very young cygnet.



Additionally, the captain indicated various boats and rivercraft, including one of five original working wherries and two pleasure wherries. Further attention was drawn to the small sailing boats, which were being used for teaching the craft of sailing to young people. We sailed on the River Bure and visited both Wroxham and Salhouse Broads. The proliferation of water lilies at the side of the river indicated how much cleaner the river was now than its polluted period of the 60s, 70s and 80s.



Although there were a few clouds in the sky, we enjoyed a sunny voyage and the shower held off until we had boarded the train for the return trip to Aylsham, where the sun was shining again on arrival for our delicious afternoon tea, organised and provided by Susan, and her team. After tea, Andrew, the owner of the Bure Valley Railway, gave a very interesting talk about the creation of the railway, its turbulent history and its present-day success as a major tourist attraction for the area and the UK.



Waltraud thanked Andrew Barnes for his talk.

Thank you Sandra and John for a very enjoyable, interesting and informative Summer Outing!



Feed the Minds 50th Book Fair was held again at St. Andrews Church

We had been helped the previous Friday by a "Living Chain" of students learning English, from Holy Trinity Church, to get the donated books into the Church, with on the Monday and Tuesday preparing and then on Wednesday 10th July the Opening by The Lord Mayor, Councillor Vaughan Thomas attended by the Lady Mayoress and the Sheriff Dr. Marian Prinsley with her husband, who extended their originally planned stay with us. We are very grateful to members and all others, who helped us. We raised £1750, which will be used in the Mara Region of Tanzania, where FTM is training Church leaders to help break the stigma of HIV/Aids.

DUaM continues to meet weekly on Wednesday mornings with growing numbers, enjoying conversation, mainly in German together and makes annual donations to FTM and Meningitis Now.

Autumn Programme 2019

September 4 - 11 Koblenz Bi-Annual Visit 2019.

A group of 28 members will be visiting Koblenz. The programme will include a reception by the Oberbürgermeister, a visit to Sayn to see the recently restored Sayner Hutte, a former steelworks building, our link with Ironbridge, which is an architectural masterpiece, and the Butterfly Park, a visit to Winningen for the Wine Festival, a tractor ride through the vineyards and the Fireworks over the Mosel, and a visit to Trier.

September 22: 39th Anniversary Lunch at Park Farm, Hethersett

December 2: NNKFA Advent Evening at the Great Hospital, Norwich.

Jugend und Jazz Chor Koblenz :

We are still looking for a link for this choir of young voices who entertained us so well at the 40th Anniversary Celebrations of the City Twinning of Norwich and Koblenz, in the Rathaus in Koblenz in April last year.

More than ever we need to grow Twinning connections as the Uk separates itself from the European Union. An example of ties between cities is Triorca, a combined Youth Orchestra between Norwich, Koblenz and Novi Sad.

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L'Amitié

Newsletter of the Norfolk & Norwich Rouen Friendship Association

August 2019

Bonjour à tous!

Chris and Ann are on a well-deserved holiday but here's a report about the visit of the Rouen-Norwich-Club members in early July and some news about forthcoming events.

On Friday 5 July thirty members of the Rouen-Norwich-Club arrived in Norwich a bit late owing to traffic, but they had enjoyed their visit to Chartwell. Twenty members had not been to Norwich before and every effort had been made to ensure that they took away very good impressions!

Christophe (RNC President), Martine, Nathalie and Chantal had been invited to the opening of the *Norwich in '59* exhibition at the Museum of Norwich and although they arrived late the speeches by the Museums Director and the Sheriff, Dr Alison Prinsley, were made again - in French translation by two students from UEA. The exhibition had some of the photos taken in Rouen by Stefan Ebelewicz and we do recommend going to have a look if you haven't been already.

On Saturday morning we met at the twinning garden in the churchyard of All Saints Westlegate before the RNC went to the Castle for a tour. The twinning garden, an idea originated by Beryl Blower, has resulted in a most attractive feature in the middle of Norwich. You can read more about it on the website, www.nnrfa.co.uk, or better still, go and see it if you haven't done so.

In the afternoon, Christophe, Martine, Nathalie and Chantal were invited to meet the Lord Mayor and join in the Lord Mayor's procession.

On Sunday Beryl Blower very kindly hosted a garden party which the Lord Mayor attended. NNRFA members took food and helped with setting up. It was a very nice, relaxed occasion and much enjoyed by the RNC members who then went off to Ranworth for a visit to the church, the conservation centre and the broad.

On Monday the group and some NNRFA members went to see the seals and have fish and chips at Blakeney. They returned about 7pm to go straight to another garden party kindly offered by Mihail (Michael to some!) in the Bear Shop garden on Elm Hill. Mihail had invited his students of French to the party and many had brought food so it was another very convivial evening - which the Lord Mayor and his consort also attended. Our French friends clearly enjoyed the relaxed informality of both garden parties and we are most grateful to Beryl and Mihail for hosting them.

The visit went extremely well despite a few hitches in the 'route planning' but there is no doubt that the atmosphere was very good - everyone enjoyed themselves and there was a very real sense that our twinning will carry on.

Please note: I have added some photos of the twinning sculpture/garden on the website in the gallery section. There is one of the board describing the people involved and the many sponsors - thank you to all of them! *Christine Wilson*



Christophe Thierry, RNC President, Martine Commessie, Vice-President, Nathalie Le Gendre and Chantal Féron, waiting to join the Lord Mayor's procession

Reviving cultural links between Rouen and Norwich

These have existed in many forms over the decades but it is timely to start new initiatives. Nathalie Le Gendre is talking to representatives of some of Norwich's arts organisations and has invited them to the *This is England* film festival in Rouen in November. She met some of them at the Museum of Norwich, thanks to Jenny Caynes, curator, for hosting a meeting.



L - r: Jenny Caynes, curator of the Museum of Norwich and the *Norwich in '59* exhibition, Béatrice Hennessey and Nathalie Le Gendre of the RNC, Anna McCarthy of the Castle Museum, and Marion Catlin, Creative and Culture Consultant in Norwich

Publicity

Despite an initially rather negative comment by Steve Downes in the EDP, the visits received positive publicity during June and July. Here are some of the links: Chris Rowe talking to Talk TV Norfolk:

www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZJVwTiDRsZ4

About the twinning garden:

www.edp24.co.uk/news/politics/norwich-twinning-garden-first-touches-1-6110177

An interview on French radio station RCF with Christophe Thierry, Martine Commessie and Nathalie Le Gendre:

www.rouen-norwich-club.com/a-la-decouverte-des-liens-entre-norwich-et-rouen/

And finally an article in *The Guardian* about twinning which features the Norwich-Novi Sad link:

www.theguardian.com/cities/2019/aug/19/brexit-wont-influence-our-friendship-twinning-towns

Stefan Ebelewicz's photos can be seen on his website:

www.instagram.com/s_ebelewicz/?hl=en

Now to introduce two new members who have already made a mark in shaping future events for the NNRFA

Isabelle Savage



Despite my East Anglian surname, I am French. I was brought up in a village near Annecy in the Alps. When I married Michael in the 70s, we settled in East Anglia where we brought up our

four children. Sadly I lost my husband very early on. So once my children were grown up, I decided to return to France. I settled in Lyon and for around 10 years, I work for the WHO Cancer Research Agency. My job was to organize annual events all over the world to train scientists in the collection of data.

When I retired, I chose to come back to the UK to be closer to my children and grandchildren and in October 2018 I moved to Norwich.

My first priority was to stay connected with France and when I found out that Norwich was twinned with Rouen I was delighted. It is a part of France I don't know very well, but I have always been fascinated with the historical connections between England and Normandy. So I joined the association in March.

The Association primarily works to encourage links with Rouen. But I feel that twinning should also be about putting the 'French touch' here in Norwich. It is so lovely to meet and share our common interest in what France is all about and I thought it would be fun to organize a few French events throughout the year. The Committee agreed and I was co-opted as social secretary to put a programme in place with the help of some committed members of the Association.

It will of course include the very successful annual dinner in the autumn but we plan to organize other social events a like pot luck lunch/supper, a picnic and petanque, a summer party around 14 July and wine-tasting etc. From January 2020 we will be offering something once a month, daytime or evening, with varying costs. I am also planning to organize light-hearted conversation around activities like French cooking, or just an evening at the pub sharing ideas on a topic.

The programme will be presented at the annual dinner. Should you have any comments or ideas, please do hesitate to contact me: imhsavage52@gmail.com

Mihail Vlasiu (Michael)

Martin H. Fischer: «All the world is a laboratory to the inquiring mind»

'Sometimes you just need to take a trip somewhere to inspire and motivate yourself and those around you. As a new

NNRFA member, I just wanted to write a few lines to thank the French and the British (Scots included) groups for the wonderful visits this year. The visit to Rouen did not feel like a holiday but rather like a student exchange, was busy at all times, crossing the city on foot from one end to the other. This gave me the opportunity to discover for the first time the streets, the museums, the parks of Rouen, <City of Art and History>. A beautiful learning experience was the trip on the 9th June to Giverny....What a treat! Thank you! Claude Monet lived for forty-three years in this house where his passion for gardening as well as for colours is obvious - flowers and foliage in a seemingly limitless array of shades, textures, forms and fragrances. Included in the visit to Giverny was a convivial lunch at <Les Nymphéas>. The restaurant has the label «Normandie Qualité Tourisme» and invites you to discover once more the world of Claude Monet by offering menus made of a starter, main course and dessert which were served at the Claude Monet's table - recipes are selected from the book «La cuisine selon Monet» by Claire Joyes. That same day, I also had time to visit the Giverny Museum of Impressionism which focuses on the history of the art movement, its origins, its geographic diversity and its development into other art movements. We were lucky to be in Rouen to see the Armada. Organised every five years on the quays of the Seine, in the heart of Rouen, the Rouen Armada is one of the most significant sailing events in the world. I had a bit of time to go and see the boats and the ships and took lots of pictures. But one must not forget that one is not on holiday. We had to get ready to meet the mayor of Rouen and there were speeches to be made. Another enjoyable 'task' was to translate Chris Rowe's speech (from English to French) celebrating 60 years of twinning of these two marvellous

cities, one of which has been my home for more than 20 years.

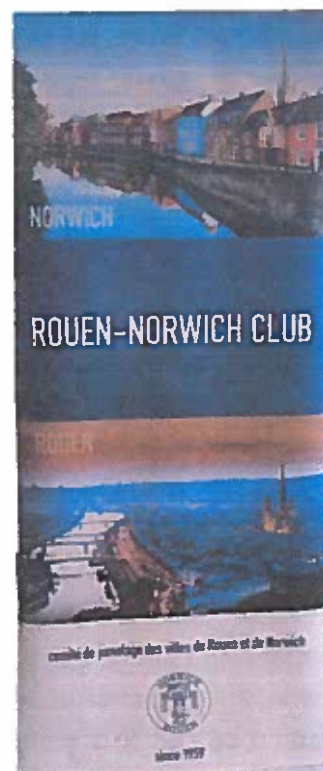
Best things: speaking French, my wonderful hosts and friends, Bea, Nat and Bob, no queueing at Giverny's restaurant and gardens and a pleasant and comfortable trip on the coach. Thank you to organisers on both sides!

And for those interested, Mihail is a professional teacher of French and runs French classes. You can contact him via his website: learnfrenchnorwich.co.uk

Dates for diaries

NNRFA annual dinner: Thursday 28 November - Côte restaurant on Exchange Street, Norwich, 6.45 for 7 pm. After recommendations, Penny and I also tried The Last Wine Bar but the room wasn't satisfactory and in any case is being turned into a 'brasserie'. The early start at Côte is to take advantage of the lower prices when ordered beforehand. Menus and reservation forms will be sent out in mid October. The cost is likely to be around £22. Parking is in the Duke Street or St Giles car parks. Any comments please to Christine, christine5dhr@talktalk.net

16 - 24 November, Rouen: *This is England* film festival. 2019 is the 8th year that members of the Rouen-Norwich-Club are organising this festival of British-made short films. It runs over a week although they have worked for months on the organisation, selection and sub-titling. A short list of 30 films are chosen from some 1500 entries and are shown in a Rouen cinema. Several thousand students from *lycées* and *collèges* are invited and awards are made by each group, by the audience, and of course, by the jury. The jury of three this year will be from the British film industry. See www.thisisengland-festival.com/



Publicity for Norwich in Rouen: the banner at the Mayor of Rouen's reception

NNRFA committee

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Vice-Chairman and website: Christine Wilson, 01603 451015/07779 843977, christine5dhr@talktalk.net

Membership Secretary: Ann Rowe, 01508 494409, anniarowe@yahoo.co.uk

Hon. Treasurer: Bob Barnard, 01603 456916

Minutes Secretary: Connie Forsyth

Members: Margaret Garwood, Beryl Blower, Lyn Holt

