



# NEWSLETTER

Norfolk & Norwich Novi Sad Association

*Dedicated to Friendship*

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## The Paul Cross Memorial Concert 2018

*(Wendy Quinn, Social Secretary)*

What a pleasure it is to report on the success of our 19th Paul Cross Memorial Concert held in January in the Music Room at the Assembly House, Norwich. Attended by a most appreciative audience, in the presence of our president, Cllr David Fullman, and our vice president, Cllr John Ward, this year's concert was not only in memory of Paul Cross, a most inspiring former chairman of our association, but a fitting tribute to Diana Beckley who always held the friendship between our twin cities close to her heart and worked tirelessly to organise the annual concerts.

Our guest performers, Milica Stojadinović, prima donna of the Serbian National Theatre and her son Boško Stojadinović, an amazing young pianist, delivered an outstanding programme of operatic arias, Serbian songs and famous piano pieces. Milica's introduction to a particularly beautiful song, "The Old Romance" by the modern Serbian composer Dušan Trbojević, touched our hearts as the composer had dedicated the song to her son at his birth. We were treated to lyrical and haunting songs by Isidor Bajić and Josif Marinković and Milica certainly brought romance and passion to her performance of well-known classical arias. As for young Boško, he amazed us all with his talented playing. As the EDP music critic Christopher Smith said in his review, he accompanied the soprano "with sympathy and aplomb" and "his technique and vigour were also admired in demanding pieces by Liszt and

Rachmaninoff." The audience certainly loved his playing of Toccata by Khachaturian and Malaguena by Ernesto Lecuona. We were privileged to have such wonderful visitors from Novi Sad.

In the four days of their visit, Milica, with her husband Miodrag and Boško, enjoyed extensive sightseeing of our city and plenty of Norfolk and Norwich hospitality.

Thanks must go to all the NNNSA committee members for their hard work and team work in designing flyers, organising and promoting the concert, and running the raffle. We must, of course, give thanks to everyone who came and supported the twinning concert, or gave donations and raffle prizes, and to all our sponsors. The proceeds from the concert will support a project for children with autism at The "Milan Petrović" School in Novi Sad.



Boško and Milica Stojadinović,  
Cllr David Fullman, Cllr John Ward

# Visit to Novi Sad for the Celebration of the Day of the City

Feb 1<sup>st</sup> 2018

(Peter Beckley, MBE)

It is pleasing to report that both the Lord Mayor of Norwich, Cllr. David Fullman and the Leader of Norwich City Council, Cllr. Alan Waters were able to accept the Official invitation of the Mayor of Novi Sad, Miloš Vučević and visited Novi Sad on the occasion on the Celebration of Day of the City.

For the few days the visitors were there the City was bathed in mild spring weather, although it was still wearing all its Christmas and New Year decorations.

During the short time Cllr. Alan Waters was able to be in the City, there were several visits and meetings that proved to be so useful in providing him with detailed information regarding the long association between the two cities of Novi Sad and Norwich and the significant areas of cooperation and help exchanged over that period, not only in the area of Civic support, but also in the area of cultural exchange and development initiated and maintained by the Norfolk & Norwich Novi Sad Association and Novi Sad's Honorary Citizens Diana and Peter Beckley.

The Lord Mayor David Fullman was delighted to re-visit the city where he had enjoyed in the past the hospitality that accompanied his signing of the 'Official' Twinning Document and subsequently during the troubled times when he accompanied a humanitarian aid delivery.



Presentation from Mayor of Novi Sad to Lord Mayor of Norwich

Both Cllr. Waters and Cllr. Fullman were delighted to visit the "Milan Petrović" School where they were able to see the results of the many years of support by the Association to the school through the proceeds of the Paul Cross Memorial Concert. Director Slavica Marković has retired but remains at the school as a consultant for a little while longer. A gift of money was presented to the school which was collected at Diana's Memorial Service. Slavica and the Staff had had a meeting and asked if they could name the 'School in Nature' at Čenej 'The Diana & Peter Beckley School'.

A visit was made to the Isidor Bajić Music School. The principal Radmila Rakin-Martinović and Jasna Marković-Vujanović were able to explain to their guests much of the involvement the school had with the Triorca project and the value this afforded to all the young people involved in developing international relations. Cllr. David Fullman was delighted to meet Milica Stojadinović since it had only been a week or so since he had presented her with a gift at the Paul Cross Memorial Concert in Norwich, to recognise her performance, together with that of her son Boško, and the contribution made to the fund. During the meeting the school was presented with a sum of money raised at Diana's Memorial Service for the purchase of instruments.

A formal Civic meeting was held between the Mayor of Novi Sad, Mr Miloš Vučević, The president of the City Assembly Mr. Zdravo Jelušić and Cllrs. Waters and Fullman. During the meeting Peter Beckley and Dubravka Bugarski-Alimpić (P.A. and translator) were able to provide much information about the close links, over a long period of time, that had fostered civic exchanges and cooperation as well as the cultural and social links that had proved so valuable in continuing student exchanges. There was a fruitful discussion regarding the possible future cooperation on various topics that would be followed up.



International delegates at City Hall Novi Sad

A crowded programme built into the two short days that Cllr. Waters was able to be in Novi Sad enabled all the above (and more!) to happen.

The Lord Mayor and Peter Beckley had a very useful and positive meeting with the organisers of the European Capital of Culture (2021) and the European Youth Capital (2019). An invitation was given to the Triorca Orchestra to perform in Novi Sad during both of those years. Other cultural events were discussed and it is hoped a traditional Norwich/Norfolk Folk Dance group will be able to visit Novi Sad and the possibility of a choir from Norwich/Norfolk to go to Novi Sad during the European Capital of Culture in 2021 to take part in an event called 'Singing Bridges'

Peter and The Lord Mayor were pleased to have a short meeting with H.E. the British Ambassador Denis Keefe and his wife. His Excellency expressed his keen interest in the twinning between Norwich and Novi Sad since it is one of only two that have survived, and the Norwich connection the only one to have a continuous link over a long period of time. He asked about various charity works in Serbia that Peter is connected with and showed a keen interest in Triorca which, as an international youth orchestra, strengthened international understanding among young people and was one of the few organisations that continued to foster pupil exchange between Britain and Serbia.

Visits were made to the Red Cross of Vojvodina where Adela was able to talk about the work that continues with the refugee and displaced persons situation in the region as well as all the other 'ordinary' Red Cross activities.

There was a very useful meeting with the President of the City Assembly of Novi Sad, Mr Zdravo Jelušić at the end of the visit when the events of the previous few days were discussed. It was agreed that the visit was a great success with some positive outcomes relating to the close association between the two cities which will result in helpful Civic cooperation on a practical basis in the near future.



President of City Assembly Zdravko Jelusic and Lord Mayor David Fullman cementing international relationships



## 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**

### Social Events

#### **Coffee Morning**

Association members Anne Hawkes and Brenda Moffitt hold infrequent coffee mornings for their friends, while raising funds for local charities. The most recent one was in late November 2017, but this time it was held in memory of Diana Beckley, with the proceeds going to the "Milan Petrović" School, which was so dear to Diana.

About 15 -20 people attended the event in Brenda's home, enjoying the home-made scones and cakes and each other's company. Brenda said a few words about the work of the school, and of the support the Association has given it over the years, as several people did not know much about the activities of the Association.

It was a most successful morning, with the Bring-and-Buy table and the Raffle raising £163.50, and everyone went home with something.

#### **Coming Events:**

- The venue for this year's **A.G.M.** is the Central Baptist Church, Duke Street, Norwich where we will meet at 7:30 p.m. on the 12th April.
- We already have the date for the 2018 annual lunch. The venue is the Park Farm Hotel and the date is the 14th October.

#### **Other Events:**

Shortly we will start organising our annual holiday to Novi Sad. The dates are yet to be decided but, as before, it will be planned for September.

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

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**Committee Members:** Wendy Quinn (Social Secretary);

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

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