



Norfolk Polish Heritage Group (NPHG)

Press Release

The UK National Polish Folk Choir (Chór Echo Doliny with Leśna Polana dancers) made a triumphant visit to Norwich on Sunday, 19th May 2019 to perform before an audience of close to 200 members of the local and Polish communities. The choir was hosted by the Norfolk Polish Heritage Group whose aims are to research and celebrate Norfolk's Polish heritage and culture. The event was supported by the Embassy of the Republic of Poland in London as part of its "Polish Heritage Days" project and in recognition of the 250th Anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Poland and Britain.

Led by their director, Ula Weber, Chór Echo Doliny and the Dolinki Ensemble performed an exciting programme of traditional folk songs while Leśna Polana danced the Polonez and Krakowiak. All who attended were enthralled by the vivid regional and national costumes. At the conclusion of the concert the entire audience rose to give the performers a standing ovation, so inspired had they been by what they had heard and seen.

The Sheriff of Norwich, the Worshipful Ms. Ros Brown and her Consort Mr. Brian Smith, were guests of honour representing the City of Norwich while Ms. Clarinda Calma represented the Polish Embassy. Other special guests were the Komada family with their daughter Victoria who, following fundraising by local communities in Poland and Norfolk, was able to have successful and life-changing surgery in the USA.

The Chair of Norfolk Heritage Group, Adrian (Żółkowski)-O'dell, said that the afternoon's performance had been the best-attended and most well-received event since the group was founded in 2016. "We were delighted by the enthusiastic response given by local Norfolk people, most of whom had never experienced any aspect of Polish culture". He also felt that, "by showcasing the values which are important to us, such as openness, tolerance, civic engagement and friendliness to our neighbours, we can challenge stereotypes and demonstrate to our local communities how much active civic participation is important to both nations".

Adrian (Żółkowski)-O'dell

Chair NPHG

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