



Czech
National
Trust



New meaning to old values
Nový smysl starým hodnotám

CNT 2017 Newsletter

A successful fundraiser and great evening at the Austrian Embassy in Prague (May)

HE Dr Grubmayr, the Austrian Ambassador to Czech Republic hosted at his splendid residence a fundraiser for CNT and its pilot project: Tomb and chapel of Moravian/Austrian writer, poet, philanthropist Duchess Maria von Ebner-Eschenbach. Over 90 attendees, patrons, donors and volunteers came to wish us well ... and show their support. Guests of honour



included the English Ambassador Jan Thomson, Catherine Leonard of INTO, Eda Kucera of Avast, Magda Soucek of E&Y, Milan Simonovsky of Sigma, Zlin Municipality representatives. The evening raised over 400 000 Czech Crowns in cash, project monies, help in kind etc. A splendid evening organised in cooperation with London support charity CNTA (Czech National Trust Abroad). Special thanks go to all our generous donors!

Endangered Beniesova villa and Cibulka submitted to the World Monument Fund (WMF, March)

Every 2 years WMF calls international attention to unique places around the world that are at risk from the forces of nature, or impact of social, political and economic change. CNT answered the 2018 call in the category of “Modern Century and the Watch” by submitting the privately owned Beniesova villa, cubist masterpiece of architect Kralicek in Lysa nad Labem and Cibulka, a 19th



century English style park complex in the outskirts of Prague with a rich history dating back to 14th century. Although the projects were not in the end chosen, it raised their profile substantially. CNT continues its existing help and cooperation with the local groups and the owner of the Beniesova villa to achieve a full restoration.

“JustGiving“ campaign to build a Visitors’ Centre at Zdislavice and partnership with School of Architecture in Prague

Our support organisation CNTA in London ran a successful fundraiser to rebuild a turn of the last century glasshouse found in the undergrowth of our pilot project grounds as a small Visitors’ Centre. We raised over half of the money needed and hope to find the rest locally. **Thank you for all for your support.** The project work is to be undertaken as a graduation work by a group of students from the School of Architecture (VSUT) in Prague– as part of their existing project to deal with the 2 hectares of the former English park (destroyed during the communist times).



CNTA brought an exhibition of Czech Architectural Cubism to London (June)

to celebrate the 3rd anniversary of its launch with an exhibition and talk on Czech cubist art and architecture by Prof Zdenek Lukes, together with a jazz band and Italian nibbles and wine (provided by restaurant Portobello, one of our sponsors). The event was supported by the Czech Embassy and the Czech travel organisation CzechTourism – many thanks!



Good time was had by over 90 attendees. A helpful sum was raised to support the new Prague office’s projects.

CNT at INTO Congress in Bali (September)

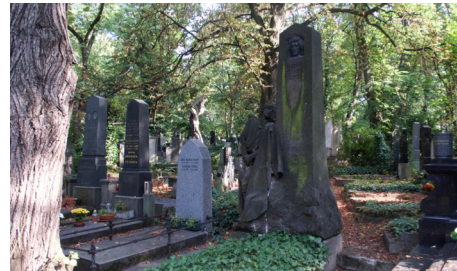
Irena Edwards (Chair) and Eva Heyd (Director) attended the bi-annual Congress of International National Trusts Organisation (INTO) hosted by the Indonesian Government in Bali. CNT was participating for the first time as a full member. 110 participants from 70 member countries discussed and offered practical workshops on issues of cultural heritage, business planning, fundraising, growing the family of members, support of newly established trusts, heritage advocacy, sustainability and climate change. But also networked, offered support, help and concrete cooperation on projects, internships and shared know-how. Our Chairman Irena Edwards was elected as one of the Trustees and a Director of INTO.



NEWS from PRAGUE

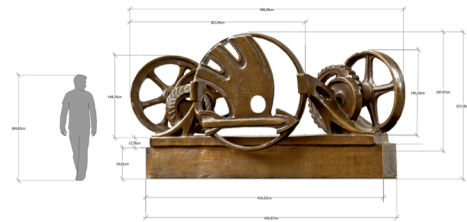
An adoption with a difference (July)

This project is a result of cooperation with a Czech charity which administers and offers for adoption the graves of key Czech historical personalities and artists who are buried at the famous Olsany cemetery. Some of the graves are in serious disrepair. CNT adopted a beautiful grave of the Czech painter Marie Dostálová (1877-1903) including its gravestone - a work of the famous Czech sculptor Stanislav Sucharda (1866–1916). The volunteers have already cleaned up the grave and the statues, the full restoration will commence next year.



Gutfreund's Sculpture back on the roof of Škoda Palace (August)

CNT is working hard at creating a replica of the Škoda sign, a sculpture by the known Czech sculptor Otto Gutfreund (1889-1927) which had been destroyed in the 1960s and is planning to return the artwork to its original location on the roof of the Škoda Palace in Prague. Challenging negotiations with the foreign owners of the building took place, followed by finding the original Gutfreund's drawings, taking photographs of the existing model and making a visualisation of the sculpture to determine the dimensions, material and weight of the new object. The artist has been commissioned and we are costing the project.



Working Holidays in the splendid Strahov Monastery of Prague Castle (August)

CNT welcomed a group of 10 volunteers from England and Ireland who together with our local volunteers joined our Working Holidays programme. The group did a fabulous job of clearing the sandstone hermitages and surrounding land of invasive vegetation and widening the paths - paving the way for the Monastery to open this part of the woodland park to the public. A pleasant surprise for everybody was a discovery of ancient seats carved into the limestone which have been hidden until now! Our hosts - the Strahov Monastery was hugely complimentary of our efforts, so were the



participants who enjoyed Prague and the extensive extra curriculum programme we prepared for them.

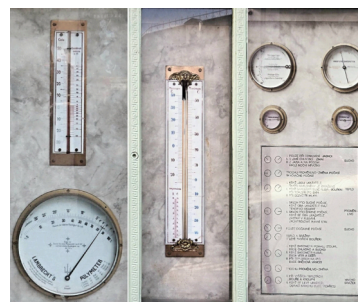
Partnership with the Prague College (September)

CNT entered into a partnership with the Prague College, a prestigious Prague based international private school which offers British study programmes. The students from the art and design department are helping the CNT with its marketing strategy using the new online tools such as videos, blogs and microsites. In the next phase they will focus on the website structure and a campaign to build the brand awareness with the help of effective copywriting, slogans, taglines, and promotional videos.



Meteorological posts put back to work

This project is set to return two street based meteorological posts of architectural interest (dating from around 1910) to their original function - to display meteorological information and the time to the public. They are located in Havlíčkova Street and Vítězné Square in Prague and are in a state of disrepair. In cooperation with CNT, the Prague City Hall produced a repair plan for the exterior of the posts and to reconnect the electricity supply. CNT with the financial support of Penta Investments is dealing with the replacement of the meteorological devices and has commissioned production of their replicas. The Meteorological Institute has agreed to provide the necessary data. CNT has also played a part in the preparation of a book about over 50 meteorological posts countrywide to be published by Czech Academy of Sciences.



Focus on Prague fountains

CNT is involved with the restoration of a number of fountains in Prague. The fountain adjoining the Holy Trinity Church in Spalena Street which is adjoining a CNT project, the cubist surround of a baroque statue, both are works by the Czech architect Kralicek. Another fountain is at Jiráskovo Square where the owner has finally been traced and the reconstruction can begin next year. Lastly, the CNT is working with the Association of Citizens and Friends of Malá Strana in trying to locate either the original fountain or the drawings of the fountain which once stood in the lower part of Mala Strana Square. CNT supports its reinstatement on the Square.



The Ládví Geodetic Tower - a view from the top

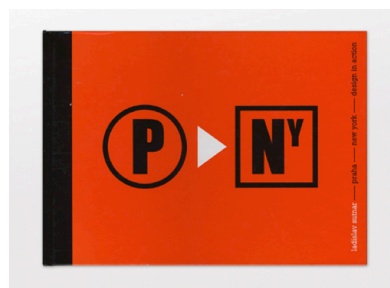
In cooperation with the group Neolokator.cz and the municipality of Prague 8, CNT are working to restore the geodetic tower in Prague's Ládví Park and make it accessible to the public. The building is one of nine brick geodetic towers in the Czech Republic dating from the 1930s. By allowing public access visitors will be able to admire not only the architectural design of this unique building, but also the extraordinary and far reaching view of Prague outskirts. At present negotiations are ongoing with the Ministry of Interior, who is the leaseholder of the tower, about the removal of some of the equipment housed in the tower which prevents it from being open to the public.



"Ticket to The New World"

is a project instigated by CNT to trace the extraordinary lives and activities of Czech artists who were forced to emigrate to the USA at the beginning of the Second World War and who significantly influenced the cultural scene there. Amongst these are actors and playwrights George Voskovec (1905-1981) and Jan Werich (1905-1981), as well as many artists, architects, film makers and journalists.

A series of exhibitions, lectures, screenings and concerts will take place in different venues around the Lesser Quarter (Mala Strana) and the Old Town in late September and early October 2018. The project is supported by the US Embassy in Prague and a number of Czech and American institutions are involved in the preparation. The project is part of the celebrations of the 100th year anniversary of the Czech State and 100th anniversary of the Czech American relationship.



NEWS from MORAVIA

Restoration works on the pilot project in Zdislavice continue

Since the beginning of the year CNT have been working on the reconstruction of the terrace and disabled access to the building of the tomb and chapel of Maria von Ebner-Eschenbach in Zdislavice, Moravia. It involves the restoration and replacement of stone elements and paving. The work is carried out by the local stonecutter and sculptor Petr Novák. We managed to find most of the original sandstone pillars scattered around the park, as well as part of the original paving blocks. Everything that can be used is being restored and will be returned back to its place; the irreversibly damaged stone elements will be replaced by newly produced replicas. Forged



metal bars will complete the original look of the terrace for a beautiful and finally safe access to the tomb and chapel. The work is carried out thanks to the generous support of the Avast Foundation who kindly contributed CZK 1 million towards the reconstruction.

Hortus Magicus (September)

CNT had organized this year's 4th installment of the baroque festival Hortus Magicus which took place in the beautiful UNESCO Flower Garden in Kroměříž. Hundreds of visitors enjoyed the restored pleasure gardens, period games and performances, concerts, horse ballet and dressing up in historical costumes. The highlight was the dance performance of the ensemble Plaisirs de Musique concluded by spectacular baroque fireworks. The Festival was backed by the Ministry of Culture's programme of support for the UNESCO Monuments.



Zdislavice project is open and is attracting visitors

We had about 500 people visit the place this year during the selected weekends between May and September. There were goodies for sale, such as souvenirs, tourist stamps, etc. Although the admission was free – visitors' contributions go directly to the charity account established to support the reconstruction of the place. Over 80 people visited the Zdislavice park and tomb mid July during the traditional Open Gardens Weekend. On both days we were taking people on guided tours of the chapel, the tomb, and the park of Marie von Ebner-Eschenbach with a bonus guided tour of the ornamental garden of the nearby Zdislavice chateau kindly allowed by the new owner. It was a lovely and successful weekend with many of local people coming in and telling their stories related to the chateau and both gardens.



Zdislavice Park maintenance heroes

This year we had the opportunity to use the wonderful Starjet Goliath mulcher that was kindly loaned to us from our sponsor, a Czech company SECO Group from Jičín. It is a sturdy little tractor that can handle any terrain and mows and shreds all the unwanted growth with incredible force. Regular mowing and mulching helps naturally restore the grass and control weed and the self-seeded trees that keep sprawling around the park from the surrounding countryside. We are also grateful for the help of our volunteers – we organised several working weekends with the volunteers from among our local supporters and high school students. We also have a fantastic support of international corporates such as Ebay, who use the weekends as their teambuilding exercise regularly twice a year with loads of positive energy. All are



helping us to gradually transform the overgrown bushes into a park again. This year we made good progress clearing the perimeter fence and opening up the steep slopes in the lower part of the garden.

Slow TV production

CNT is developing a literary trail to commemorate the literary works of Marie Ebner- Eschenbach and her life in Moravia. Out of this a special programme was made for the internet Slow TV called “Behind the greenery of Hřiběcí Mountains”. Our Moravian volunteers walked through the countryside around Zdislavice telling stories connected with the life of Marie Ebner-Eschenbach. This was captured on camera by the moderator who accompanied them and broadcast live on 1.11.2017.



Public collections are ongoing

We are proactively raising funds by setting up public collections for the projects which the CNT supports. For such projects as saving the Chinese pavilion in the Chateau Garden in Kroměříž, a UNESCO World Heritage site, over CZK 30,000 has been collected this year. For the project to restore the valuable music manuscript of the composer Georges Muffat in the Kroměříž Music Archive, a sum of CZK 10,000 has been collected. The account assigned for the restoration of the tomb with the chapel and the reconstruction of the Marie von Ebner Eschenbach monument in Zdislavice has received more than CZK110,000 - most of the funds coming from direct donations and voluntary admissions. This is in addition to the generous 1 million CZK gift from the Avast Foundation.



Czech Radio features CNT

Interview with Irena Edwards about CNT activities was broadcast on Czech Radio on 14 November. You can read the transcript [here](#) or if you would like to hear the entire feature, it can be downloaded from the Czech Radio archive on the same page.

Please continue to support us and our projects - you can do so financially, professionally or with your own hands!

Our bank details are as follows:

In the Czech Republic

General CNT account # 261324687

or you can choose projects according to your preference:

Tomb & Chapel in Zdislavice - account # 270781337/0300

Chinese Pavillion - account # 270472892/0300

Kroměříž Music Archive - account # 274955736/0300

Prague projects - account # 280495094/0300

Visitors' Centre - account # 280495377/0300

In the UK

CNTA account - sort code: 20-96-55, account # 43240568

Barclays Bank Plc (Willesden Green Branch), 1 Walm Lane, London NW2 5SN

or send a cheque payable to Czech National Trust Abroad (CNTA) to our registered office c/o Irena Edwards, 26 Clarendon Court, Sidmouth Rd., London NW2 5HB

or donate online via **PayPal** by **clicking** on Donate below
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