

Formerly, the village of Neratov (then “Bärnwald”) was home to a number of 1800 Germans. This “Bärnwald” used to be part of the former state of Silesia of Germany, and so-called “Sudetenland”, situated close to the Polish border. In the aftermath of the Second World War, the “Sudeten Germans” were driven out of their homeland. Their village was heavily destroyed including its beautiful pilgrimage church "Assumption of the Virgin Mary" at the heart of the village.



During the subsequent communist times, Josef Suchár (born in Brno 1959) was secretly ordained as a catholic priest in 1984. At those times, he used to work as an electrician at various Brno companies, in parallel. And, he organized recreational youth camps and hiking trips with pioneer children in the beautiful countryside of Neratov.



Following the "Velvet Revolution", in spring 1990, the priest Josef Suchár was sent to the parish of Rokitz with his vision of restoring the place of pilgrimage as well as the pilgrimage church of the „Assumption of the Virgin Mary” in Neratov. Already on August 15th 1990, the first pilgrimage took place - still on the meadow in front of the church. Only a year later, pilgrims gathered inside of the well cleaned-up church. A new tradition begun- the masses were celebrated inside the church under the open sky: the church still lacking any kind of rooftop. Since, the main pilgrimage event annually takes place on the day of the “Assumption of the Virgin Mary” as to date.

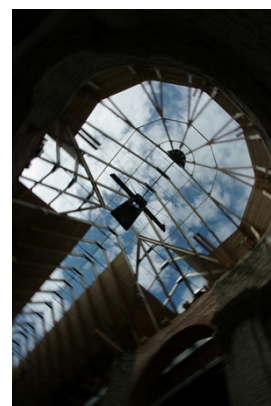
Further, the premises of the former „Acksteiner Gasthaus“ at the village were converted into a hotel, the “Hotel Lilie”. There it was, eventually, that “Neratov union” was founded which later evolved to “Neratov Foundation” (the “Sdružení Neratov”).

Going forward, this foundation acquired the former premises of the schoolhouse from the municipality of Bartošovice. Presently, they still envisage to acquire further premises on an ongoing basis. By this, the foundation is working significantly towards their goal of securing a good life-standard for even more needy people and provide a home at the village.

As a matter of fact, Neratov is also the only village of the former Rokitz dominion "over the crest" which actually had a chance to survive. In 1992, there were nine permanent residents registered at the village, including four pensioners. On December 31st 1992 then, four houses were registered as permanently inhabited at the village and 66 houses with the purpose of individual recreation.

A community had developed with the aim to help the homeless. They founded a citizens' association “Neratov”. Firstly, the village Neratov was a place of shelter to the homeless, former prisoners

and people with alcohol problems. As though not everyone could, on top of this, liaise with regards to children at nursing homes or foster families, any assistance or care in these respects had been fairly limited to people with various handicaps or disabilities. Usually, young people raised at an orphanage were the ones to be happy to find a family background and also jobs according to their interests at Neratov.



Neratov today / at the Ascension Day 2007 a new church roof was completed. This has a special cruciform glass shape that spans the church ship so that the sky remains visible. The restoration works ongoing.

In the meantime, the church has been indeed largely restored and, nowadays, 65 people are living at the village, 25 of which are handicapped (disabled). There are a 170 employees altogether of which 110 are handicapped people from the region. Likewise, the inhabitants as also the employees of Neratov are striving to be self-sufficient thus also cultivating fruit, vegetables and grains on their own farmyards and plots of land on a day-to-day basis. The main aim is to generate their own funds by selling the products of the harvest or their own productions, by fundamentally combining all team-working efforts. Since 3 years, they are running a school with three classrooms for handicapped children aged 6 - 26 years. In 2018/19, the first student will be finishing his education at this school.



Truly, there is no lack of new ideas for expansion. In summer this year, the citizens' association's own brewery is going to open their doors. Just in time for the 25th anniversary of „Sdružení Neratov“.

Last summer, a major milestone was reached. In cooperation with the employment office Hradec Kralove and the German company „Siemens“ (a large employer in the region), 50 handicapped people were employed at Siemens. The foundation hopes for further success and development in this direction.

Due to ageing process of some inhabitants, the factual need for consideration appears in terms of expanding their accommodation for future retirees. Thus they would require age-appropriate houses or old people's homes.

Also, thought is given to innovative therapeutic workshops to be established in the near future. For this purpose, the respective premises would need to be acquired or built and, of course, adequately equipped.

Another project is the ongoing restoration of the church. Two towers and, presently, also the bell are still missing. However, the bell is to be installed again in the church tower in 2018.

Considering all of the above simply makes Neratov (www.neratov.cz) the unique social project which is close to our hearts. Thus, we will be supporting this fantastic project and the outstanding and caring entrepreneurs of Neratov with all our commitment to organize various charitable events.

Last but not least: we do hope you will support us to support them! Its always worth it ❤️



Donation :

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