

# WGC

## Wharfedale German Circle

### NEWSLETTER AUTUMN 2023

#### Monthly Meetings

Our monthly meetings are held at the Salem Hall, Main Street, Burley in Wharfedale, LS29 7DG.

This Autumn each meeting has a different start and finish time so please ensure you check the time for the event in question before you set off.

#### Sunday 15 October 2023, 7 - 9pm - Games evening

Due to popular demand an evening of German-based fun and games has been planned. It will be hosted by WGC members **Chris and Fiona Farquhar**.

#### Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> November 2023, 3-5pm - The Weimar Republic revisited

WGC members **Alison and John Harris** will tell us about this fascinating period in German history. The Weimar Republic is blamed today as the political and constitutional failure which opened the door to Hitler - but it was not without achievement against daunting odds. The talk will be in English with German summaries.

#### Sunday, 17th December 2023, 2.30-4.30pm - Weihnachtsfeier

German-style refreshments will be provided, and we are putting together a series of festive activities for this event. They are likely to include readings, games, a film extract, a quiz and musical items. If you have any suggestions or would like to do a turn, please contact Chris and Fiona Farquhar or Peter Lodge. A fun afternoon is guaranteed!

#### Future meetings:

Sunday, 14<sup>th</sup> January 2024, 3-5pm - tbc

Sunday, 18<sup>th</sup> February 2024, 3-5pm - tbc

#### Other activities.

**Kaffee und Kuchen:** These conversation sessions, held on **Zoom**, are open to all members and their friends who would like to practise speaking German. The first half of each session is for general conversation and news, and during the second half a specific topic (e.g., a holiday in Germany, memories of schooldays, a favourite museum or gallery etc.) is considered. Participants are split into smaller groups as and when appropriate. Kaffee und Kuchen takes place twice a month on Friday afternoons from 4.00 until 5.30 pm. The next sessions will be on the 13<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> October.

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**Beginners' German lessons:** The eighth series of 8 weekly lessons on **Zoom** will start towards the end of November. They take place on Thursdays from 5.30 to 6.30 pm and are free to all existing and new members. We are also willing to run a few **advanced sessions** at times to be arranged with participants. Contact Peter if you're interested in either of the above.

**Student events:** These events are organised by the *WGC* alone or in conjunction with the Foreign Language Assistants Committee at Leeds University. On 18<sup>th</sup> November our *WGC* member Sheila Clark will lead the students in a tour of Skipton. Any student or FLA who would like to be involved should contact Marilyn at [wgcircle@gmail.com](mailto:wgcircle@gmail.com). *WGC* members wishing to help with activities should contact Marilyn or Peter.

**Zoom meetings for *WGC* members and our German contacts:** In our quest to strengthen and re-establish links between the *WGC* and our contacts in Germany, for the past year, once per quarter, we have been running evening meetings with them using Zoom. We discuss what's topical and anything else that takes our fancy. Participants can speak in English or German, whichever they feel most comfortable with. We follow the "Kaffee und Kuchen" format, i.e., some whole-group discussion and then smaller break-out groups of 4 or 5 people. We'd like more *WGC* members to take part. Also, if you have a friend in Germany, Austria or Switzerland who'd like to be involved, please encourage them to join us. If you have not yet contacted Marilyn about this Anglo-German Zoom meeting, but feel you'd like to take part, please get in touch with her at [wgcircle@gmail.com](mailto:wgcircle@gmail.com). The next meeting will be on Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> November, 7pm in the UK 8pm in Germany.

**The Sprachcafé/Language Café,** run by the Leeds Anglo German Club, takes place at the Lawnswood Arms, Otley Road, Leeds, LS16 7PH from 10 am until 12 noon on the first Monday of the month. The next session will be on 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2023.

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**Mainz trip, May 2024.** Peter and Dominique will be at the **Ibis Mainz City Hotel** (Holzhofstraße 2, 55166 Mainz) from 9<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> May 2024. The hotel is very close to the Römisches Theater railway station, and only 10 minutes walk on the level to the historic city centre with its medieval cathedral and busy market. Peter and Dominique are happy to arrange activities in and near Mainz, including contact with German friends in the area, for any WGC members wishing to join them for some or all of the above period. Members taking part will need to arrange their own transport and accommodation (either online or through a travel agent) and let Peter or Dominique know the precise dates of their stay in Mainz.

**Events organised by other local German groups**, e.g., the Leeds Anglo German Club and the Calderdale German Circle, are frequently available to our members. Some of these are on **Zoom**, others in person, and invitations are forwarded before each meeting.

**Contact:** Information on all our activities can be found at [www.germancircle.ilkley.org](http://www.germancircle.ilkley.org), Our website includes a "hot off the press" page with recommendations for items in the media relating to the German speaking world. Our email address is [wgcircle@gmail.com](mailto:wgcircle@gmail.com)