

WGC

Wharfedale German Circle

NEWSLETTER SPRING 2025

Monthly Meetings

Our monthly meetings are held at the Salem Hall, Main Street, Burley in Wharfedale, LS29 7DG. Please ensure you check the individual meeting times for the event in question. We start with refreshments and a chat at the times indicated below, and the welcome and main item begin half an hour later.

Sunday 16th February 2025, 3-5pm - German popular culture

WGC members Chris and Fiona Farquhar will entertain us with an interactive session on different aspects of German popular culture. The session will be held mainly in English.

Sunday 16th March 2025, 3-5pm - Hamburg and its surroundings

Our February presentation will be given by committee members Marion and Geoff Lawson and will be something of a travelogue focusing on Hamburg but also including the surrounding areas of Lubeck, Travemunde, Cuxhaven, Bremen and the Lüneburg Heath. The talk will be in German with English summaries.

Sunday 13th April 2025, 7.30-9.30pm - Annual General Meeting

As well as the formal business this is an opportunity for members to have their say in the running of the WGC. The meeting will conclude with a short presentation from one of the members.

Sunday 18th May 2025, 7.30-9.30pm - Topic to be confirmed

Sunday 22nd June 2024, 3-5pm - Sommerfest (Summer party)

Our summer party, for members and invited guests only, will take place at the Salem Hall. This year we will also be hosting 6 friends from the Mainz area. Some of our members visited them in Mainz in 2024 and our Sommerfest coincides with the last full day of their return visit. So instead of serving German delicacies we'll be providing English-style cakes to give them a flavour of our country. There will also be a game, a quiz, and plenty of time to catch up with friends. **If you can make a cake for this event, please let us know by 2nd June.**

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Sunday 13th July 2024, 7.30–9.30pm – Politische Systeme und Strukturen in Deutschland

Former lecturer in German and friend of the WGC Wolfgang Keinhorst will give us a talk in German, with English summaries, on this fascinating topic. He will cover the foundation of the Federal Republic of Germany, the main political institutions, the voting system and the major political parties.

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 part of each session is for general conversation and news, and during the second half a specific topic (e.g., a holiday in Germany, a current issue, a favourite book/film) is considered. Participants are split into smaller groups as and when appropriate. K und K takes place twice a month on Friday afternoons from 4.00 until 5.30 pm. The next sessions will be on 31st January and 14th February.

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, we run evening meetings with them once per quarter on Zoom. We discuss what's topical and anything else that takes our fancy, and participants can speak in English or German, whichever they feel most comfortable with. We follow the "K und K" 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. The next meeting will be on Wednesday 26th February, at 7pm in the UK, 8pm in Germany.

Student events: These events are organised by the WGC alone or in conjunction with the Foreign Language Assistants Committee at Leeds University. On the afternoon of 25th January there will be a trip to the Ilkley Upstagers' Pantomime Dick Whittington. We will be visiting Skipton with the foreign language assistants (FLAs) on Sat. 1st March. A baking day and Ilkley moor walk is planned for 29th March. Any student or FLA who

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would like to be involved should contact Marilyn at wgcircle@gmail.com.
WGC members wishing to help with activities should contact Marilyn or Peter.

German lessons: The next series of 8 weekly **beginners' lessons** on **Zoom** will start in February. They will be held on Thursdays from 5.30 to 6.30 pm and are free to all existing and new members. We are also running a few **advanced sessions** at times agreed with participants. Contact Peter if you're interested in either of the above.

The Sprachcafé/Language Café, run by the Leeds Anglo German Club, takes place at the Toby Carvery, Harrogate Road, Chapel Allerton, Leeds, LS7 3PT from 10 am until 12 noon on the first Monday of the month. The next session will be on 3rd February 2025.

Visit from German friends from Alsheim: Last May a group from the WGC spent a very enjoyable few days in Mainz and the surrounding area in SW Germany. 6 friends from Alsheim, near Mainz, will be making a return visit to Yorkshire from 18th to 23rd June, staying in a hotel in Shipley. Any members of the WGC who would like to help organise and run a programme of activities for them should contact Peter.

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. 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