

WGC

Wharfedale German Circle

NEWSLETTER SPRING 2023

Monthly Meetings.

These are held at the Salem Hall, Main Street, Burley in Wharfedale, LS29 7DG, starting at 7.30 for 8 pm unless stated. Our June event will start at 3 pm.

Sunday 12th March 2023 - Friedensreich Hundertwasser

WGC member **Marilyn Heron** will tell us about the Austrian-born 20th century artist and architect Friedensreich Hundertwasser, known for his abhorrence of the straight line. Some of his artworks will be mentioned but the main feature of the talk will be his unusual architecture. The talk will be in German but with on-screen notes in English.

Sunday 16th April 2023 - AGM

The agenda will be issued to members well in advance of the meeting. Following the conclusion of business there will be a short presentation and, if time allows, a word game. Please let any committee member know if you would like to stand for election to this dedicated team. Committee meetings take place online every 2-3 months.

Sunday 14th May 2023 - The fate of the Sudeten Germans

Helga Adams, whose mother was originally from the Sudetenland, will talk about the Sudeten Germans, who in the aftermath of the Second World War were expelled almost overnight from their homelands in what became Czechoslovakia. The talk will be in English.

Sunday 18th June 2023 - Sommerfest (Summer party) 3-5 pm.

Our summer party - for members and invited guests only - will take place at the Salem Hall from 3pm to 5pm. Coffee (or tea) and German-style cakes will be served, and there will be a game, a quiz, and plenty of time to catch up with friends. **If you can make a German-style cake for this event, that would be very welcome, as would prizes for the raffle!** Please let us know by the end of April.

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Sunday 16th July 2023 Unsere Eltern kamen aus Deutschland/Österreich (Teil 2)

Following the success of the equivalent event in January, 2 or 3 WGC members and friends will tell us about the circumstances and events which led their German- or Austrian-born parents to come and live in the UK. The talks will be in English or in German with English summaries.

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 (eg 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.

Beginners' German lessons: The fifth series of 8 weekly lessons on ZOOM has just begun. 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: Events this year organised by the WGC alone or in conjunction with the Foreign Language Assistants Committee at Leeds University have included a pantomime visit and a talk about British food. Four events are planned for March - a visit to the mining museum, trips to Whitby and Halifax, and a baking day combined with an Ilkley Moor walk. Any student or FLA who would like to be involved should contact Marilyn at wgcircle@gmail.com. WGC members wishing to help with activities should contact Marilyn or Peter.

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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, but remembering that some WGC members cannot speak much German and some of our German friends cannot speak much English! It still works remarkably well! 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. The next meeting will be on Wednesday 31st May.

Trip to Germany in 2024. The committee discussed the possibility of a trip to the Mainz area of western Germany, where we have contacts, in May 2024. Mainz itself is a lively and attractive city, and is within easy reach of Frankfurt, Wiesbaden, Heidelberg and the most picturesque parts of the Rhine valley. The trip would be flight and hotel based and would be for about 4 or 5 nights. If you might be interested, please let any member of the committee know by 16th April (the date of our AGM). There is no need for a FIRM commitment at this stage.

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 sessions will be on 6th March and 3rd April.

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 of the press" page with recommendations for items in the media relating to the German speaking world. Our email address is wgcircle@gmail.com